

Friday, June 15, 1990

## Foiled again



Photo by Jeanne M. Serio

Jeannie Huff, a senior political science major smiles as her hairstylist begins foiling her hair. Foiling is a relatively new process used to highlight hair. The aluminum foil intensifies the body heat from the head causing the hair to absorb

the coloring faster and creating a more even tone. Though the foiling must be repeated about every six to eight weeks, Huff says she loves the natural look it gives her hair. Highlighting hair this way usually costs between \$45 and \$60.

## Oil-eating bacteria in plans as crews battle Gulf oil spill

**GALVESTON (AP)** — Crews in the Gulf of Mexico used conventional methods to battle a 30-mile oil slick from the still-burning supertanker Mega Borg as state officials geared up to unleash oil-eating bacteria on the crude.

Six days after an explosion ripped through the pump and engine room area, a small fire continued to burn aboard the Norwegian vessel crippled some 57 miles in the Gulf.

"It looks like the fire is being contained to a very small area in the engine room," Coast Guard spokesman Gene Maestas said.

Flames could be seen on the deck's rear section, and four fireboats showered the Mega Borg with water cannons. The rear section, shrouded in smoke which alternated from gray to brown, continued to be awash.

Oil escaping from a hole in the crippled vessel's 5.5 million-gallon center tank apparently was spilling at a lesser rate, although Coast Guard officials did not have any specifics. No other leaks have been found.

The 886-foot Mega Borg, which is carrying 38 million gallons of light African crude oil, already has lost about 3 million gallons of oil since the Friday night explosion, but most of it has burned off or evaporated.

About 12,000 gallons remained on the water Thursday, Coast Guard Capt. Thomas Greene said.

An oil slick stretched about 12 miles northwest of the ship, with scattered patches extending another 18 miles. It varied in width, but Coast Guard officials said they did not have any specific figures Thursday.

The previous day, the Coast Guard said the width of the slick stretched to 10 miles in spots.

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A cargo plane spread up to 2,000 gallons of chemical dispersant on sections near the ship Thursday, while at least a dozen skimmers and several booms were used to suck oil off the water's surface. Five of the booms were working in the vicinity of the ship.

Texas officials also worked Thursday on a plan to apply bacteria to parts of the slick to eat the oil. The experimental process, called bioremediation, would be used as a demonstration and is not considered a major part of the cleanup effort.

The dispersant works by breaking up the oil, creating a light sheen and tar balls — a rather common sight on Texas beaches.

"Tar balls are ugly, but they're not that environmentally damaging," said B. J. "Buck" Wynne III, chairman of the Texas Water Commission.

Coast Guard officials said the slick was about 30 miles from Galveston, but they declined to give any predictions about where the oil might reach the shore, if it does.

Sharon Christopherson of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration said some of the tar balls could hit the Texas shoreline as early as Friday.

Also on Thursday, a board of inquiry by the government of Norway learned that the Mega Borg passed a Coast Guard inspection two months ago.

Two of the 41 crew members died in the blast, two were missing and presumed dead and 17 were injured, none seriously.

## Record store owner promises to defy local law officers by continuing to sell rap album labeled obscene by police

**SAN ANTONIO (AP)** — A record store owner says he'll defy police and keep selling a controversial 2 Live Crew rap album that law officers claim is obscene.

As the flap continued over the album "As Nasty As They Wanna Be," and record stores in nearby cities pulled it from their shelves, a San Antonio City Council member expressed "serious First Amendment concerns" about the police deciding the album is obscene.

San Antonio police started calling on 84 local record stores Tuesday to tell them the album lyrics were ruled obscene by a federal judge in Florida and may violate Texas obscenity laws. Officers reportedly asked that stores voluntarily remove the album.

Lt. Jerry Pitman, commander of the police department's vice squad, said if his office receives complaints

in the next few days about the album, officers will go out, buy the album and press charges.

"Then we will get a judge to make a determination about whether it is obscene," he said.

Police and prosecutors in Dallas say they intend to follow suit.

"I have not heard the record," David Pickett, chief prosecutor of the Dallas County district attorney's organized crime division, said. "But if it's as bad as indicated, we'll act forcefully to remove the albums."

Dallas Police Lt. R. A. Sanders, who has listened to portions of the album purchased by the department, said he thinks it is obscene.

"It contains explicit language of a sexual nature and what I consider to be obscene language," Sanders said. Police said store owners have not yet been warned to remove the album,

but officers may be sent out by Friday.

Dallas attorney Bruce Lollar on Thursday offered free legal assistance to anyone arrested in Dallas for selling the controversial album.

"We think it's a serious infringement on First Amendment rights," Lollar said.

Dave Risher, owner of Hogwild Records and Tapes in San Antonio, said he's not complying with the police request either.

"I'm willing to sell the album to adults who wish to purchase it, just as I am willing to sell any of the records in my store to adults who wish to purchase them," Risher said Wednesday.

Risher said vice officers called on his shop with a transcript of the lyrics of three songs on the album.

## Priceless stolen art rumors siege town

**WHITEWRIGHT (AP)** — Word that a local hardware and farm tool vendor may have pulled off one of the biggest art thefts of the century as a U.S. soldier in Germany during World War II was the talk of this town of 1,760 Thursday.

There were more reporters than residents on the town's main drag, about 60 miles north of Dallas.

"Not much happens here," said Carolyn Slaughter, "You see cameramen walking up and down the street. You just don't see that every day."

A New York Times report said Joe T. Meador transported the priceless pieces to Texas from Quedlinburg, an ancient castle town in what is now East Germany.

The Army investigated the theft but dropped the matter in 1949 when Quedlinburg became part of East Germany. An unidentified source told the newspaper that the treasures are in the vault of the First National Bank of Whitewright,

reportedly as collateral for a loan.

Bank officials on Thursday declined comment on the reports. Harrell Stowers, bank executive vice president, told the Associated Press he "could not confirm" if the treasures are or ever have been in his bank's vault.

A similar no-comment came from Meador's brother, Jack, and his sister-in-law, Jean.

The Times based its report on interviews with art experts, lawyers and neighbors of Meador's.

The treasures include a small silver reliquary, inlaid with enamels and precious stones, with side panels of carved ivory; a liturgical ivory comb; a manuscript dated 1513; several rock crystal flasks and gold and silver crucifixes.

Some of the treasures were gifts from kings and emperors who ruled German states in the ninth and 10th centuries.

Meador was an officer with the 87th Armored Field Artillery, the unit that occupied Quedlinburg and guarded the mine shaft where the trea-

sures reportedly were kept. They disappeared a few days after American troops took over the area in 1945, the newspaper said.

How they got to Texas is a secret that may have died with Meador in 1980.

Three years after Meador died, his brother-in-law, Dr. Don H. Cook, of Mesquite, Texas, sought to have two medieval manuscripts evaluated, John Carroll Collins, a Dallas estate appraiser, told the newspaper.

A former employee of Meador's, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Meador reportedly showed his employees richly bound gold and silver manuscripts.

But three longtime Meador employees said Thursday they'd never known their boss to show off any art works when they were around. The three declined to give their names.

Most of the people interviewed Thursday said they didn't know Meador had even been in the Army or in World War II.

## Company attempts to enter stock market

**HOUSTON (AP)** — They looked like trash or just another marketing gimmick to some.

But they turned out to be more than that. They were free stock certificates, sent out by an electronics company to more than 1,500 graduate students and faculty members in the company's attempt to gain a seat on the New York Stock Exchange.

It worked, too. Kent Electronics Corp. mailed the shares recently to 1,518 unsuspecting graduate students and faculty

### Free certificates sent to 1,500 faculty members, grad students

members at the University of Houston's College of Business Administration.

The shares, each valued at \$11.63 on the American Stock Exchange Wednesday, were given away to satisfy the shareholder requirement for a listing on the Big Board, Morrie Abramson, chairman of the electronics products distributing company

in Houston, said.

Kent, a 17-year-old company with annual revenues of about \$40 million, met all but one of the standards for listing on the exchange — the one requiring at least 2,200 shareholders. Kent had only 1,200.

So the company bought 1,518 shares of its stock on the open market for more than \$17,000. Using a

mailing list supplied by the university, Kent sent a certificate for one share to each graduate student and faculty member in the business school.

Abramson figures it was an appropriate way to show his appreciation to the school he graduated from.

He graduated from the University of Houston in 1965, with a bachelor's degree in business administration and now serves on the Dean's Executive Advisory Board, a group of about 50 Houston business leaders.

## What's Up

### Friday

**STUDENTS OVER TRADITIONAL AGE:** will have a supper club at Mama's Pizza at 6 p.m. Call Donielle at 845-1741 for more information.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** will have a general discussion at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.

### Saturday

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION:** will have international radio hour at 9 p.m. at KAMU-FM. The music will be Latin Jazz. There also will be a party from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. at Sneakers. No cover.

**AIDS FOUNDATION OF THE BRAZOS VALLEY:** will have a training session for the Brazos Valley's AIDS/Crisis Helpline from 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. For more information, call the Helpline at 690-AIDS and leave a message.

### Monday

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS:** will have a general discussion at noon. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.

**COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS:** will have the Humana Hospital-Brazos Valley Texas Music Festival at 7:30 p.m. at Rudder. Call Rebecca at 845-3355 for more information.

### Tuesday

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS:** will have a general discussion at 8:30 p.m. Call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280 for more information.

**FRIENDS OF THE CORPS:** will have an informational meeting at 5 p.m. in 203 Harrington. Call 690-9480 for more information.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

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