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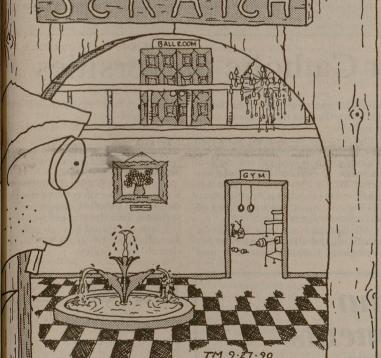
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Nerd House by Tom A. Madison







LOOKING IN THE DOGHOUSE, HERBERT DISCOVERS THE FATE OF HIS MISSING CHECKBOOK.

Morbid' curiosity purs record sales

ALLAS (AP) — Fans are flood-Texas record stores for copies of ast album by Stevie Ray Vaugwhose Grammy-winning blues ar riffs were silenced by a fatal copter crash last month.

res across the state reported sales of Family Style, a collaboon between Vaughan and ther Jimmie Vaughan, founder I former member of The Fabus Thunderbirds.

Many store managers said the al-man had sold out by nightfall Tuesthe first day of its release.

It's doing great," Kerry Tartack, buyer for Antone's Records in stin, said. "You've got to remem-this record is probably one of the awaited releases, especially in more sold. neck of the woods."

Vaughan died Aug. 27 at the age 35 in a Wisconsin helicopter crash ing a show. The Dallas native recently completed Family Style. artack says "morbid" curiosity is ring rapid sales.

It stimulates and touches a lot of rent nerves and emotions," tack says. "It's hard to explain." one's Records is affiliated with one's night club, where Vaughan his start after moving to Austin

This is where he basically made a part of his name," Tartack said. oe Benito, owner of The Record in San Antonio, said the 25 he had ordered didn't last

The interest is pretty high," Besaid. "I've been getting a lot of

ans want to keep the album as a ento, he said.

"They're upset, and some of them more so with themselves that they didn't appreciate him while he was alive," Benito said.

Family Style was selling briskly at Houston's Soundwaves, Manager Steven Shoemaker said.

"It's the best seller we've had so far this year in a day," he said. "People were talking about it right after he died. That's exactly why it's selling so much."

Buyers were "real excited" about the album, Jill Schurr, a store clerk with Hastings Records & Tapes in Dallas, said.

"We have had a lot of requests for it," she said. "We got in a real big shipment and we expect to have a lot

Longtime Vaughan friend Ray Hennig of Austin said that although he had not listened to the album, The word I get from people that

have heard it is it's great."

"I don't think it would be much question about its success," Hennig

Vaughan died after appearing at a concert with Eric Clapton and blues guitarist Robert Cray. Vaughan and four others aboard the heli-copter were killed when it crashed into a hill near East Troy, Wis.

The blues musician and his band, Double Trouble, made their national debut in 1983 with the album Texas Flood.

Vaughan and the band had a platinum album in Couldn't Stand the Weather, released in 1984. That same year he won a Grammy for best traditional blues recording for the song "Texas Flood."

Companies say oil, gas market unpredictable

HOUSTON (AP) — Some oil and gas companies are rushing to take advantage of higher oil prices to increase drilling, but many say they've learned the hard way that it's better to wait out the latest Persian Gulf cri-

Two companies, Arkla Exploration of Shreveport, La., and Houston-based Conoco, a DuPont subsidiary, announced this month they were boosting their domestic exploration budgets.

But independent producers and other oil and gas companies said in interviews Wednesday they don't believe prices are going to stay high enough long enough for them to risk millions of dollars in new drilling.

"A lack of trust in the pricing situation keeps us in place until we stop staring at each other across the Kuwait border," said Julian Martin, executive vice president of the Texas Independent Producers and Royalty Owners Association in Austin.

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- Julian Martin, executive vice-president,__

Oil prices have been rising since Iraq invaded Kuwait Aug. 2. Light sweet crude was trading up 27 cents at \$37.80 per barrel for November delivery contracts on the New York Mercantile Exchange at midday

Conoco announced earlier this month it was boosting its domestic exploration budget by \$10 million, the first major energy company to respond to the recent price increases with more spending. Officials said the money would cover the cost of five new wells in the Gulf of Mexico.

"With the literal dismantling of the exploration infrastructure in the U.S. during recent years, this country can't expect to see a significant increase in exploratory activity right away," said Max Pitcher, Conoco's executive vice president for worldwide exploration.

"But while this single effort will not lessen U.S. dependence on overseas oil right away, it is a step in the right direction," he said.

Arkla, which drills primarily for natural gas, announced last week it has increased its capital budget for the remainder of 1990 from \$55 million to \$70 million, a nearly 30 percent jump over what it originally planned to spend this year.

"We are doing something aggressive," company spokesman Louis Resweber said. "The industry has to step up to the plate and assist in finding a domestic energy source when we're being threatened by the Mid-

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