



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

'Morbid' curiosity spurs record sales

DALLAS (AP) — Fans are flooding Texas record stores for copies of the last album by Stevie Ray Vaughan, whose Grammy-winning blues guitar riffs were silenced by a fatal helicopter crash last month.

"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.

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 crisis.

"A lack of trust in the pricing situation keeps us in place until we stop staring at each other across the Kuwait border."

— 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 Wednesday.

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.

"We're 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 Middle East."

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