

WARD



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Spade Phillips, P.I.



by Matt Kowalski

Tubularman



by Boomer Cardinale

Houston poor lose subsidies due to error

HOUSTON (AP) — The city Housing Authority, switching to an automated system, discovered it had deprived about 1,000 poor Houston families of federal rent subsidies because of a record-keeping error. Housing Authority officials believed 95 percent of the available housing subsidies were being used when the actual number was 85 percent.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development this month cited the authority for failing to use at least 95 percent of its subsidies.

HUD recently showed Austin at 100 percent utilization; Dallas at 98.5 percent; San Antonio at 100 percent; Little Rock, Ark., at 100 percent; and New Orleans at 84 percent.

Housing officials have launched a drive to increase the number of families receiving rent subsidies and to correct other problems cited by HUD.

The subsidy program is financed by HUD and is managed by the Housing Authority. The program is considered one of the fastest and easiest ways to make housing available to low-income families.

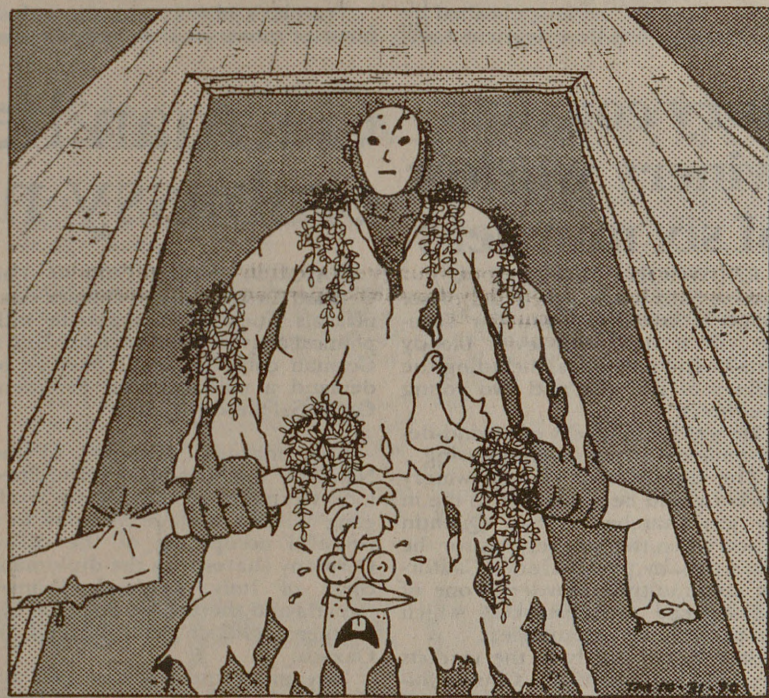
To qualify, a family of four cannot earn more than \$19,200 a year.

Under the program, no more than 30 percent of a family's income can be spent on rent payments. The subsidy covers the difference between the family's share of the rent and the amount charged by the landlord.

The authority is scrambling to use as many of the subsidies as possible.

In October 1985, the Housing Authority had 17,000 families on a waiting list for rent subsidies.

Nerd House by Tom A. Madison



County commissioner ends his hunger strike

SINTON (AP) — County Commissioner Pedro G. "Pete" Rodriguez has ended a four-day hunger strike he began to protest a dispute with the county auditor.

Rodriguez began his hunger strike Thursday morning on the front lawn of the San Patricio County Courthouse. That was after County Auditor Michael Weisman

refused to pay overtime to some of Rodriguez's employees or to allow the commissioner to transfer money within his budget.

The county commissioner ended his fast Monday afternoon, following a meeting between Weisman, Rodriguez, County Commissioner Nina Trevino and 36th District Judge Ronald Yeager.

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