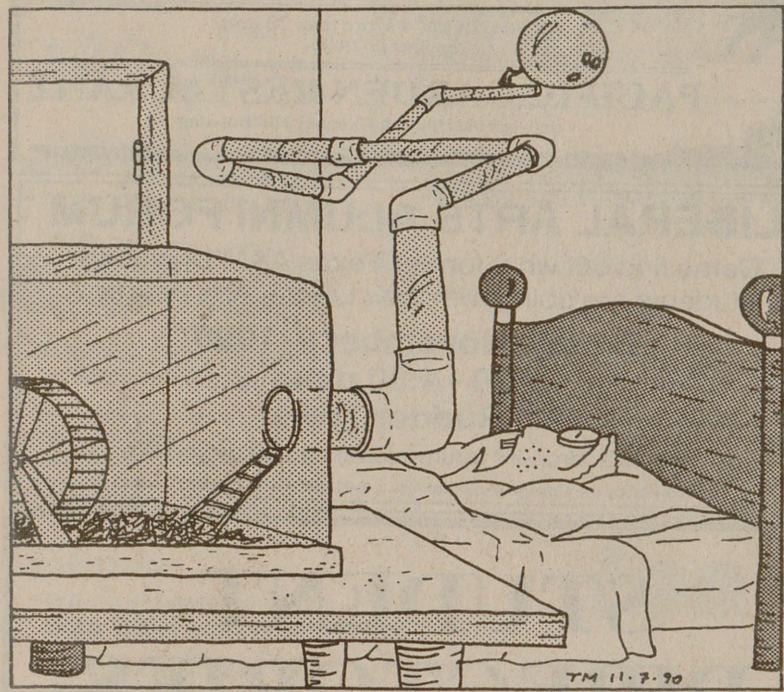


Nerd House

by Tom A. Madison



HERBERT IS INFORMED THAT HIS PET HAMSTER, CHESTER, IS OUT OF WATER.

Earthquake in southern Iran injures 100

RESTON, Va. (AP) — A major earthquake struck a mountainous area in southern Iran on Tuesday night, the U.S. Geological Survey said. One preliminary report indicated there were about 100 casualties in 20 seriously damaged villages.

The survey's earthquake-monitoring facility in Golden, Colo., said the quake tentatively registered 7.0 on the open-ended Richter scale.

Spokeswoman Rebecca Phipps said that the epicenter was about 550 miles south of Tehran and that the quake struck about 12:46 p.m. CST.

Early reports from the region told of 100 casualties — dead and injured — counted an hour after the quake struck, said Alirez Jafarzadeh, the Washington, D.C.-based spokesman for The People's Mujahedeen of Iran.

The Mujahedeen seeks to overthrow the Tehran regime.

FDIC sues defunct S&Ls for real estate transactions

AUSTIN (AP) — The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. has sued the owners of two defunct Austin savings institutions, claiming the thrifts were involved in fraudulent real estate transactions.

A law firm that represented Franklin Savings and CreditBanc Savings also is being sued by federal regulators, who contend the lawyers helped the thrifts break the law.

The lawsuit, filed in federal court in Austin last week, seeks at least \$149 million in damages from Cleveland-based Jones, Day, Reavis & Pogue, the nation's second-largest law firm, and the five owners of the two failed thrifts.

The FDIC alleges that Franklin, CreditBanc and their owners were involved in an elaborate chain of sham transactions to bolster the financial standing of the institutions and allow them to pay dividends to shareholders.

The thrift owners named in the lawsuit were: J. Scott Mann, who owned CreditBanc; and William Moore, Peter Gallaher, Clifford Alsup and Charles Christensen, former owners of Franklin Savings from 1983 to 1988.

The lawsuit also names Carey Brennan, the Jones, Day lawyer who first represented Franklin and CreditBanc and later became chief executive officer of CreditBanc.

Those transactions, the lawsuit claims, included improper real estate sales to companies owned by Dallas

real estate developer Louis Reese and a company owned by Austin developer Ben Barnes, former lieutenant governor of Texas.

Reese, Barnes and Barnes' partner, former Texas Gov. John Connally, were involved in a series of interlocking transactions in late 1985 that the lawsuit refers to as "the Christmas transactions" because they were concluded shortly before the holiday.

None of the three was named as a defendant in the lawsuit.

Franklin and CreditBanc were closed by regulators and merged with a third institution in September 1988 to form Franklin Federal Bancorp, which operates under new ownership.

The lawsuit claims that Brennan acted with the owners of the thrifts to set up the fraudulent transactions in 1984, 1985 and 1986. In addition, it claims that Jones, Day committed professional negligence by allowing the transactions and by cooperating with Brennan and the thrift owners to breach their fiduciary duties to the institutions.

Richard Pogue, managing partner of the massive Jones, Day firm, which has 1,200 lawyers working in 21 U.S. and international offices, said his firm disputes the allegations of the lawsuit "and we intend to contest them vigorously."

"The government is bringing a series of lawsuits against law firms and we got caught up in that movement," Pogue said.

Polls Continued from page 1

Beeler said people voting by affidavit were not upset for the most part. About 40 people voted by affidavit in Precinct 35.

Most people signed the affidavit with no problem after the situation was explained to them, he said. Only one person decided not to vote by affidavit.

Students voting by affidavit could

face perjury charges if problems arise with legality of the affidavits.

Although election officials were concerned the possibility of signing affidavits might hinder voter turnout, almost 50 percent of voters registered in Brazos County turned out for the election.

Of the 70,628 registered voters in Brazos County, 33,807 — or 47 percent — cast ballots.

Affidavits Continued from page 1

that Lewis accused Gerald "Buddy" Winn, Brazos County voter registrar and a Democrat, of hindering about 1,800 Aggie's votes by not contacting students and asking them in which county they intended to vote.

But House Bill 1563 states voter registrars have two days to send applications with a different county listed as the permanent address to that other county. The bill also prohibits voter registrars from trying to guess the person's intent if they listed another county.

McGuire said although Lewis knew four weeks ago there was a problem with a large number of students' voter registration cards, he failed to do anything about the situation.

McGuire said Lewis "conveniently waited to tell students of the possible

problem until it was too late" for students to make other voting arrangements.

Had students known of potential problems, they could have made arrangements to go home to vote absentee by mail.

"They had plenty of time to let the students know and they didn't do it," McGuire said.

Ty Clevenger, Texas A&M student body president, was "appalled" at the problem with student registration cards and the marking of the lots.

He said he will be in contact with the Texas secretary of state to let him about the confusion.

"The people responsible for this can rest assured they will hear from me," Clevenger said.

Williams Continued from page 1

Kenyon, however, said Williams' Spanish-language radio advertisements angered Republicans who favor an amendment to the state constitution making English the official language.

Kenyon said one good thing about Williams is he has been successful in many endeavors and brings a sense of equilibrium to politics — he knows what's important and what isn't.

"He's been under enormous stress in his lifetime," Kenyon said. "Clayton's been \$500 million in debt when oil went from \$30 to \$10 a barrel and seen a son through drug addiction. He's a strong person."

Williams said he always will be grateful for his supporters' faith in him.

"I don't know what the future holds for Clayton Williams, but I hope I can be of service to our Republican Party."

The defeated candidate said he has no plans to seek the governor's office in 1994 or later.

"I may be an Aggie, but I'm not stupid," Williams said.

Kenyon said that of the estimated \$20 million spent for Williams' campaign, the Republican spent about \$10 million of his own money.

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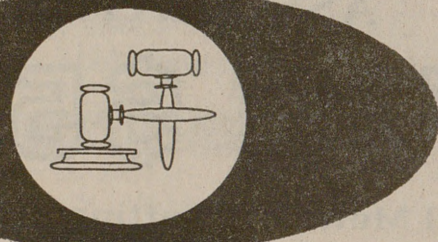
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