

WARD



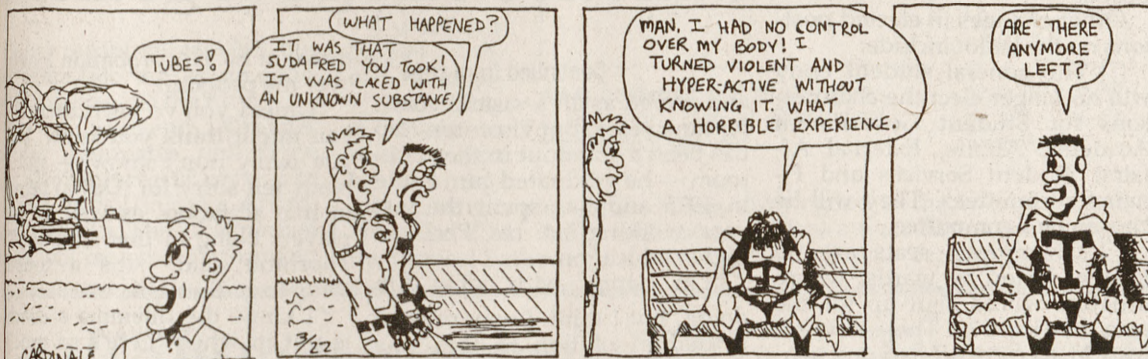
Spade Phillips, P.I.

by Matt Kowalski



Tubularman

by Boomer Cardinale



U.S. awards asylum to Jordanian

DALLAS (AP) — A Jordanian citizen who helped a Texas man escape from Iraqi-occupied Kuwait last year was granted political asylum in the United States this week.

Nizar Ibrahim, 21, will be eligible for permanent resident status in one year and could apply for U.S. citizenship at that time.

"We owe this gentleman a great debt," said Ronald Chandler, district director of the Dallas Immigration and Naturalization Service office.

The federal agency granted Ibrahim asylum five months ahead of schedule, officials said. He applied last month.

"I don't have the words to explain my feelings," Ibrahim said during a ceremony Wednesday. "It is a great feeling. These people have helped me too much. I am very grateful to them."

Ibrahim came to Dallas in September after helping Dallas resident Jimmy Hawkins, 31, escape

from occupied Kuwait. Hawkins, who was working in Kuwait as a petroleum engineer, had met Ibrahim only twice before the Aug. 2 Iraqi invasion.

As a resistance fighter in Kuwait, Ibrahim helped hide Hawkins in his own apartment's air-conditioning system for three weeks. They then headed to Jordan but were imprisoned by Iraqi police and later turned back at the Jordanian border. Finally, they made their way across the desert to safety, with Hawkins disguised as a deaf, mute Arab.

Although Ibrahim was born in Kuwait, his father was a Palestinian from Jordan and so the son also is considered Jordanian. And with only a Jordanian passport, he had no chance of going back to Kuwait.

But he feared for his life should he return to Jordan because of what he had done for Hawkins.

Richards requests disaster status for county hit by fire

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Ann Richards on Thursday requested that the U.S. Small Business Administration declare Hutchinson County a disaster area after a March 5 range fire destroyed 20 homes and damaged 51 more in the city of Stinnett. Three businesses also were destroyed.

"It was imperative that we take immediate action to help the city of Stinnett," Richards said. "The state will do everything it can to get Hutchinson County all the help it needs."

County Judge David Willard had requested assistance from state and federal agencies.

If approved, the disaster declaration would allow homeowners, renters and small business owners to seek low-interest loans through the SBA to repair and replace real estate, personal property and business damage not covered by insurance.

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STATE BRIEFS

Senator calls SSC project biased

AUSTIN - Sen. Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Dallas, charged Thursday that minorities are being locked out of job and educational opportunities in development of the multibillion-dollar superconducting super collider research project.

Richards replaces Rains with Gilmore

AUSTIN - Gov. Ann Richards appointed Vanessa Gilmore to the Texas Department of Commerce board to replace Jack Rains, whose nomination by former Gov. Bill Clements was rejected by the Senate.

Dallas attorneys ask for \$200,000

DALLAS - Attorneys for Dallas have asked the City Council to pay a lawyer and a lobbyist up to \$200,000 to help persuade the U.S. Justice Department to approve a 10-4-1 redistricting plan.

Negotiators agree on finance plan

AUSTIN - Legislative negotiators on school finance reform agreed Thursday on a plan that would shift hundreds of millions of dollars in local property tax money from wealthier to poorer school districts.

House approves bill setting sales tax

AUSTIN - A bill allowing Arlington to impose a voter-approved 0.5 percent sales tax for a Texas Rangers stadium complex won final House approval, 121-0, and was sent to Gov. Ann Richards. Arlington voters approved the sales tax in January.

Continental reports fourth quarter loss

HOUSTON - Continental Airlines Holdings Inc., parent company of Continental Airlines, on Thursday reported a record fourth quarter loss of \$2.2 billion, nearly half of which came from advance write-offs stemming from the Eastern Air Lines liquidation.

Falling pole kills one, injures three

FORT WORTH - One person was killed and three others were injured Thursday at the Fort Worth Water Gardens when a light pole toppled onto a retaining wall, police said.

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