

Bill would create one agency

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate on Thursday approved a bill to place environmental enforcement under one new agency and bring the state in compliance with recent federal clean-air legislation.

"This bill represents real progress in the direction we ought to go," the bill's sponsor, Sen. Carl Parker, D-Port Arthur, said.

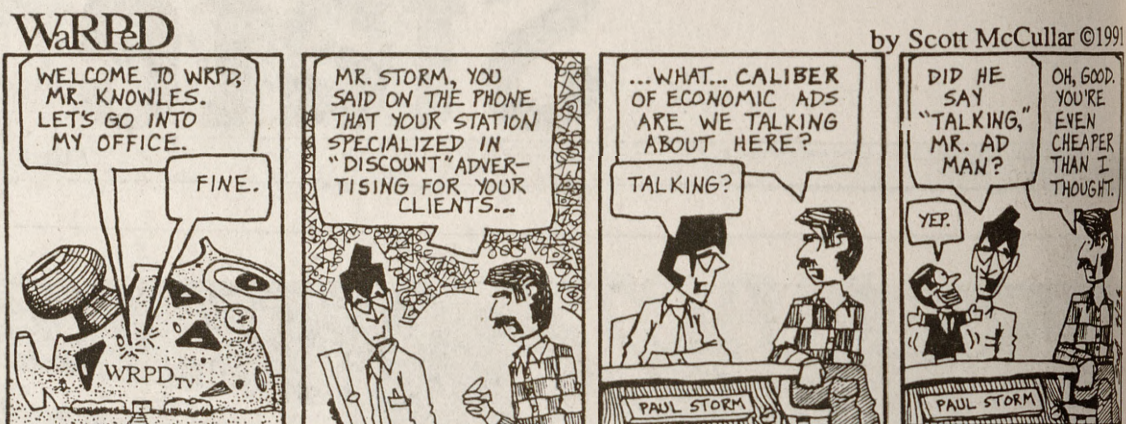
He said the measure was a compromise between business interests and environmentalists.

"It just makes good sense to head in that direction of consolidation, efficiency, oversight ... trying to stop things from being duplicated and falling through the cracks," he said.

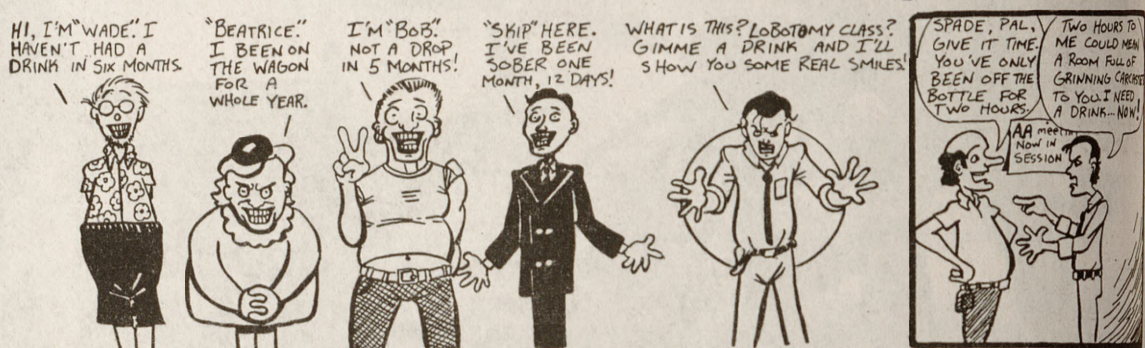
"Basically, it's a good bill," Ken Kramer, director of the Lone

Star chapter of the Sierra Club, said.

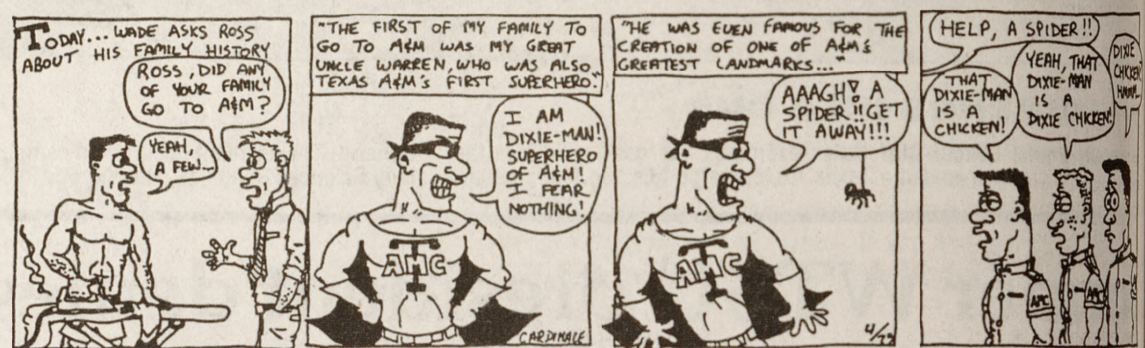
The clean-air portion of the bill calls for increased monitoring of industrial pollution and creates criminal penalties for pollution violators. The changes are needed to ensure that Texas meets higher federal pollution standards passed last year.



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Board warns of fraudulent sales of oil, gas by 'boiler room' firms

AUSTIN (AP) — Texans were warned Thursday to beware of fraudulent telephone marketing investment schemes, particularly those offering shares in oil and gas ventures.

"These individuals are opportunists," a statement issued by the State Securities Board said. "Today's oil and gas promoter may have been yesterday's penny stock broker or bogus gold mine operator."

The warning came at the same time authorities in Los Angeles announced raids on 32 businesses that sold bogus oil and gas investments with a promise of big profits from the Persian Gulf War.

More than 3,500 people may have invested \$50 million in programs sold through the "boiler room" sales firms in Los Angeles, Dallas and Salt Lake City, said the North American Securities Administrators Association, a watchdog group of state regulators.

Officials reported 10 arrests in 16 states, including Texas, over the last 10 days. They said they expect another 20 arrests as the investigation continues.

The State Securities Board issued a bulletin warning Texas consumers of illicit phone promotions of horizontal oil and gas drilling programs, pyramid sales schemes, loan brokers, the wire-

less cable television lottery and international investments.

"The rise of new technology and the recent recession have spurred the activities of phone swindlers to new heights," the board said.

The board said it has identified 42 Texas-based "boiler room" operations that are marketing interests in horizontal drilling ventures to consumers in Texas and across the country.

"Many are controlled by repeat securities law violators who know little or nothing about oil and gas in general or horizontal drilling in particular," the bulletin said.

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For sale: Refrigerator \$150 and dryer \$150. Call 696-9127.

10-speed bike excellent condition with chain and padlock \$100 260-1155.

81 RX-7 GSL sun/moon roof, many extras, good condition. \$2500. Dave 846-8385.

ZZ Top tickets. April 26, need to sell, cheap. Call Scott 693-2448.

Garage sale Saturday April 27, 10-2 p.m. Assorted items for all ages. 407 Chimney Hill Drive, C.S. Texas 77840, 846-9778.

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Students needed from the following cities to observe seat belt use for the Texas Transportation Institute in late May or early June: Abilene, Amarillo, Austin, Beaumont, Corpus Christi, Dallas, El Paso, Laredo, Lubbock, Midland, Tyler, Waco, and Wichita Falls. Apprx. 3 days work, \$125 plus gas allowance; 845-2736 between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. for interview.

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