

# Texas health care costs skyrocket

AUSTIN (AP) — Family spending on health care in Texas has more than doubled over the last 10 years, and the prognosis calls for a similar increase over the next 10 years, according to a report Wednesday by the state comptroller's office.

"The skyrocketing cost of health care in Texas is akin to a runaway elevator that threatens to fly through the roof," State Comptroller John Sharp said.

"Escalating costs to business to provide health insurance for employees is so serious that many employers view it as one of the

major survival tests of the 1990s," he said. "The family picture is certainly not rosy either."

The March issue of "Fiscal Notes," a monthly publication of the comptroller's office, is devoted to analyzing health care in Texas.

The study concludes that a typical family of four in Texas with an annual income of \$34,000 paid \$5,349 for health care coverage in 1991, while the family's employer paid \$3,693, for a total bill of \$9,042.

In addition, about one in four non-elderly Texans, more than 3.6 million, have no health insurance.

That is the highest rate of non-coverage in the nation except for New Mexico, the report said.

Most of those not covered are working, disabled or retirees under 65 years old, the report stated.

From 1980 to 1991, family health care costs increased by 128 percent. Those costs are projected to double again by the end of the decade.

Meanwhile, wage increases have lagged far behind; rising 74 percent for the typical Texas family over the last decade, and projected to increase 55 percent by 2000, the report said.

# Bad-check writer releases banking records

WASHINGTON (AP) — West Texas Congressman Charles Stenholm on Wednesday released banking records showing he wrote 88 overdrafts at the House bank over a 39-month period.

But Stenholm, D-Stamford, contested 42 of the overdrafts and offered documents to prove that

he made deposits on the same day to cover those checks.

Stenholm said he never deliberately took advantage of House bank rules.

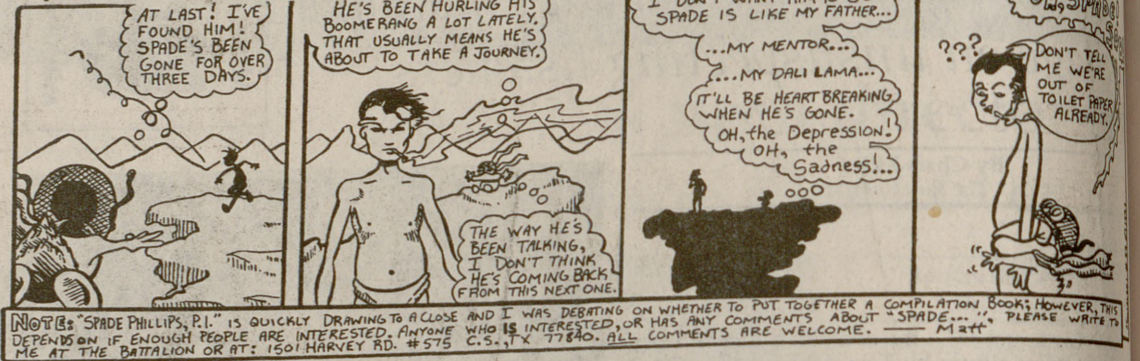
The rules, in effect, allowed members to write themselves interest-free loans.

He acknowledged the political

damage would be "horrendous" whether he acknowledged 88 overdrafts or 46, but said he had promised his constituents full disclosure.

"I'd like for the people of the 17th District to know exactly what their member of Congress has done," he said.

# Spade Phillips, P.I.



NOTE: "Spade Phillips, P.I." is quickly drawing to a close and I was debating on whether to put together a compilation book. However, this depends on if enough people are interested. Anyone who is interested, or has any comments about "Spade..." please write me at THE BATTALION OR AT: 1501 HARVEY RD. #275 C-2, TX 77660. ALL COMMENTS ARE WELCOME. — Matt

(the story so far...)



by Thomas Deeny

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# Lost & Found

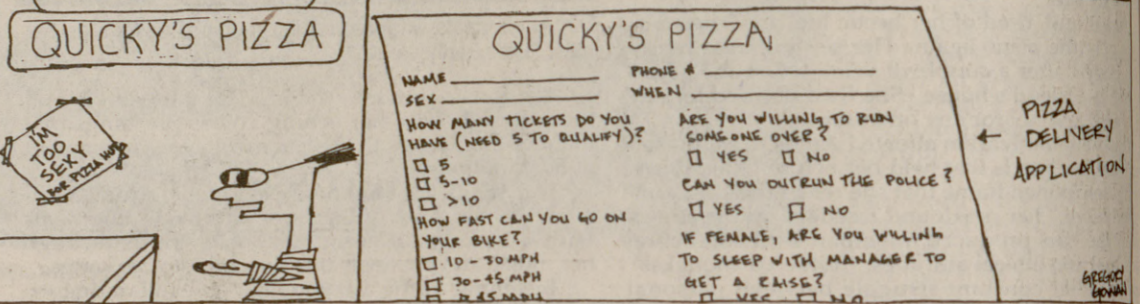
Reward for return of red rimmed trifocal eyeglasses lost in MSC or Rudder weekend of Feb. 29, March 1st and 2nd. 693-2741.

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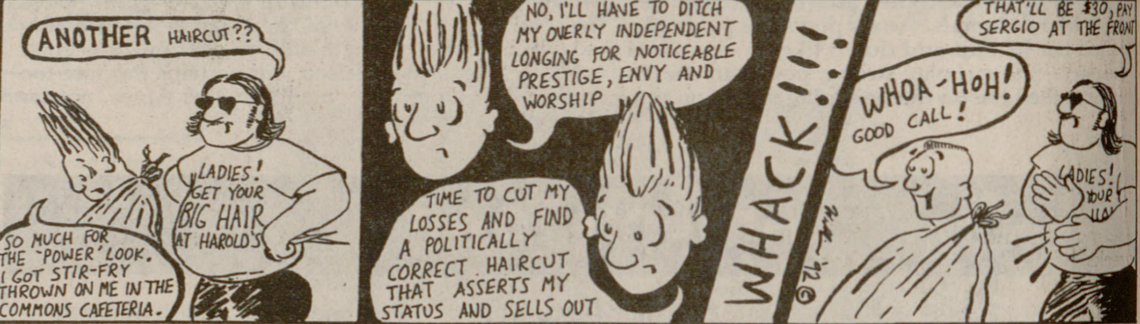
# FISH OUT OF WATER

by GREGORY GOWAN



# whoop

by William



# Law prohibits roadside signs

Continued from Page 2

any outdoor sign, display, light device, figure, painting, drawing, message, plaque, poster or other thing that is designed, intended or used to advertise or inform. This covers not only business signs, but signs for garage sales, political announcements and flea markets.

Boriskie said the law, which went into effect September 1, after being passed during the regular session of the 72nd Legislature, mainly affects businesses who advertise along the highway, espe-

cially vendors.

"We were supporting a law to remove vendors," he said. "They do damage to the right-of-ways and often pose quite a safety problem, especially on freeways."

That law was defeated by the Legislature.

Boriskie said large billboards along the highway are covered by a different law, and the department has not had any problems with them.

Nelda Riley, administrative technician at the Bryan district office, said the law means there

should be no signs along road right-of-ways unless signs belong to the highway department.

Right-of-ways include the road itself, the shoulder, and any property on the side of the roads up to the property lines of private citizens.

"The right-of-ways are for the use of the highway department," she said. "Signs or anything else are to be approved."

Inside the city limits, it is the city's responsibility to remove unauthorized signs, Riley said.

# Convention highlights science fiction, future

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val Artist and Kerry O'Quinn, former editor of Starlog Magazine and Media Expert.

Topics such as science fiction and the future will be addressed in discussion panels, Seitz said.

"Authors will read part of their new work, and artists will show their art in the art show," Seitz said.

Science fiction and fantasy books and collectibles can be purchased from dealers in room 212 of the MSC during the convention.

"Over 35 dealers will be in the dealing room with items ranging from old paperback books and comics to Star Trek paraphernalia," said senior Will Rogers, the Dealers' Room director.

He said artists, guests and writers also will be present in the room.

Students can gather "around

the campfire" in the MSC Flagroom at 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday to hear original ghost stories told by their authors or attend a Miss AggieCon Contest at the Masquerade Ball Saturday night. Seitz said unusual characters usually win the event.

"Last year's contest was won by a boa constrictor," she said.

The Rocky Horror Picture Show, co-sponsored with Aggie Cinema will be shown at the Grove at midnight on Friday and Saturday.

Aggie Cinema is selling kits with all the supplies for the movie, and people from Houston will be acting out the show as the movie plays, Seitz said.

Several other movies will be shown in Rudder during the weekend including Alien, Aliens, The Black Cauldron and Gremlins II. Tickets are available at the MSC box office.

# Cadets ask community to pledge in fundraiser

Continued from Page 2

"It is used to pass down staff and outfit positions," Shelton said. "Seniors don't march back with the Corps. It is a chance for the juniors to take over."

In order to raise the money, cadets go out and ask for pledges from family and friends in the community.

Forty percent of the money raised by the Brazos Valley Division of the March of Dimes stays in the area, while the rest goes to research around the world, Fish said.

"Forty percent stays in the area due to our affiliation with Texas A&M," she said. "A lot of divisions don't have these same kinds of figures. The money goes to such things as the Brazos Prenatal Clinic and a scholarship to the top A&M Medical School graduate."

Corps of Cadet member Timothy Burke, a sophomore history major, has been nominated by the Brazos Valley Division to be a member of the March of Dimes National Youth Organization.

Fish said being nominated is a real honor for Burke.

"There are only 15 members and it is very prestigious," she said. "None of the representatives have been from Texas for the last 20 years. I'd like to see not only someone from Texas, but someone from Texas A&M."

The Corps should be very proud of their efforts, Fish said.

"They set a goal for themselves and go after it with an unselfish attitude," she said. "That makes them pretty special."

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