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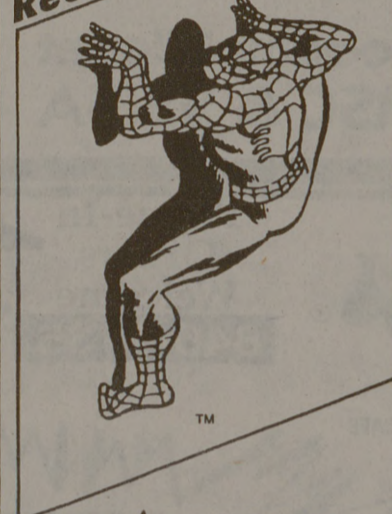
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Mayor fires official over deluge

CHICAGO (AP) - Mayor Richard Daley on Tuesday fired an official he said failed to heed a warning that probably could have prevented the flooding that has paralyzed much of Chicago's business district.

"This morning I have requested and received the resignation of acting Transportation Commissioner John LaPlante," Daley said at a news conference at city hall.

LaPlante denied any wrongdoing. Daley said he ignored a memo April 2 warning him to immediately repair a crack in a tunnel under the Chicago River.

"The memo said the wall should be immediately repaired,

Commissioner failed to heed memo urging tunnel repair

citing the danger of flooding the entire freight tunnel system," Daley said.

On Monday, the tunnel burst, sending water through the tunnel network and flooding basements under the city's Loop district with millions of gallons of water. Electricity had to be turned off in the area.

Much of the Loop remained closed Tuesday, as city workers struggled to plug the leak and

drain the water that stood more than 40-feet deep in the bowels of some highrises.

The mayor for the first time gave an indication of what may have caused the leak, saying new pilings installed last summer to protect a bridge on the river could have "added pressure on the wall of the tunnel and ultimately led to the collapse."

Daley said cable television company workers discovered a

20-foot by 6-foot crack in the tunnel in January, in subsequent inspections city's chief bridge engineer Koncza, to write a memo to LaPlante that the wall should be replaced immediately.

Daley said that after the came in, LaPlante's department began getting cost estimates from a couple of construction firms. They decided they were high and were weighing action when the collapse occurred.

Referring to LaPlante, "The problem was brought to attention, but he failed to act, resulting in a major problem that could have been avoided."

Street corner entrepreneurs rent guns to teens

HOUSTON (AP) - Need some temporary fire power? Street corner entrepreneurs are renting guns by the hour, day or weekend to Houston teen-agers, police say.

Houston Police Lt. Greg Neely says the trend began in New York and Los Angeles and has spread to Houston.

A 15-year-old boy who calls himself "Shadow" told The Houston Post he rents guns to younger kids who usually take the weapons to school to impress their friends.

"Most of them ain't going to do nothing with a gun but show it," he said.

"They're just kids. They carry it around,

they show it, they get themselves a name."

Shadow made a deal with one customer recently, who told the entrepreneur, "I need a little noise for the weekend."

But when Shadow fished out a .25-caliber pistol from his jacket pocket, the young boy turned up his nose. "Man, I don't want no pop gun. I need me a big noise."

The two haggle over the price on a 9mm semiautomatic until the younger boy forks over \$30 in five- and one-dollar bills to keep it over the weekend.

Most of Shadow's customers pay \$5 to \$10

to borrow a gun for the day.

Shadow, who says he "finds" the guns in his small arsenal, is not concerned about the kids do with the guns after they get them because it "ain't nothing to me."

"What's scary about it is that through (Shadow), everybody in the neighborhood has a gun now," said Neely, a homicide officer.

Kids are willing to pay for a handgun, Neely said, because they are young to buy one and paying someone else to handle it is easier and safer than trying to do it themselves.

Stubborn apartment dweller dies

Famous New York 'holdout' surrenders

NEW YORK (AP) - Jean Herman, the stubborn apartment dweller who turned down a \$750,000 buyout offer and forced a skyscraper to be built around her two-room flat, finally surrendered her lease last month. She died.

That, Herman promised, was the only way she would ever lose her home of three decades. And on the day of her funeral, the land-

lord changed the locks.

But Herman has her monument: 134 E. 60th St., a four-story brownstone built in 1865 that juts from the base of a 31-story glass, granite and steel office tower built in 1988.

"She was the ultimate holdout," said Seymour Durst, the developer who wrote "Holdouts," a book about such personalities.

Herman's death at age 69 returned to her landlord the rent-controlled, fourth-floor walkup for which she paid \$200 a month in a neighborhood where rents can easily reach four times that amount. But she left unanswered why she had not taken the money and moved.

"I honestly do not know," said her brother, Harold Herman. "She

liked the publicity; she liked the neighborhood. Did she think she could get more (money) from a developer?"

Her lawyer, Joseph R. ... added two more motives: she had a principled opposition to overdevelopment. And she was eccentric."

Whatever her reasons, she made Herman famous.

Owner calls club 'eclectic'

Continued from Page 1

money because of the condition of the economy.

Ganter said although the club will have a Southwestern-style decor, it will not be another Dixie Chicken, referring to another Northgate establishment he owns just down the street.

He said the "Opry House" will feature live bands, including rhythm and blues and jazz acts.

"We're not going to be stuck in the mud," Ganter said, using the term "eclectic" to describe the new business.

Ganter said that although the parking lot in back of the theater contains more than twice the parking spaces the city requires in order to open the new establishment, it will not be adequate. He said he may have to buy additional property for customer parking.

Electronic deposit changes upset faculty

Continued from Page 1

they will not have a direct deposit account. Many people just don't want to sign, she said.

"There are a lot of people who do not agree with it," Wilson said.

If University employees send

the form back unsigned, payroll will simply place it in a file for auditing purposes and their paychecks will not be deposited directly into their account, Wilson said.

Wilson said the old direct deposit system will remain in effect until the transfer to the new sys-

tem is completed in July.

If people have questions on the rules concerning the forms and system, they can call Thomas Taylor, controller of the fiscal department, Wilson said.

Taylor was in Galveston on Tuesday and unavailable for comment.

Kidnapping attempts worry police

Continued from Page 1

year-old boys.

"Based on what we've got, it could easily be the same person," said Walling. "It's uncommon to have these reports within such a short period of time in the same area."

A third report in the same neighborhood was received Monday afternoon and is presently being investigated, he said.

"It's probably a fair assumption that both were legitimate attempts at kidnapping," Walling said. "Parents are concerned, but they should always be."

Walling said police are always concerned with educating both children and parents about the dangers of kidnapping. Fortunately, he said, the children did

what they were supposed to.

"At every age, you can be a victim of something Walling said. "You need to prepare yourself to handle the risks."

Walling described the area as "a fairly nice neighborhood." He said parents in all residential areas should be cautious.

"It happens enough nationwide that you should tell your kids and caution them," he said. "It's a daily occurrence."

The Bryan Police Department uses MacGruff Crime Dog to warn young children about strangers and abductions. Walling said that Bryan school teachers employ MacGruff puppets in the classroom.

"Apparently, the messages are working, but parents are still alarmed," he said.

Aggie Wranglers Tryouts!

MANDATORY INFORMATIONAL MEETING:

MSC Room 228 April 16 (Thurs.) or April 17 (Fri.) 7 p.m.

Aggie Wrangler Tryouts: St. Mary's Student Center (Northgate) May 2 (Sat.) 2 p.m.

For more information, call: Leslie Fisher (President) 847-0670



Two Hours of Great Comedy Just For You!

Thursday, April 16

Take a Break Laugh a Little Come to Garfield's Thursday Nite Live and with this coupon you can have the best two hours of comedy with Charlie Shannon and Terry McGrath for only

\$3.00

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Tickets are \$4 at the door

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SPRING ALLERGY STUDY

Individuals 18 and older with spring allergy symptoms to participate in a two-week long research study (4 visits) with a medication in nasal spray form. \$100 incentive for those who complete the study.

IMPETIGO STUDY

Individuals of any age with symptoms of impetigo (bacterial infection of the skin) to participate in an investigational drug research study using a cream with drug in it. \$150 for those chosen and completing the study.

TENSION HEADACHE?

Individuals with moderate to severe Tension Headaches wanted to participate in a 4-hour headache relief research study with an investigational medication in tablet form. Flexible hours. \$75 incentive for individuals who are chosen and complete the study. Daily, till 6:30 776-0400.

ASTHMA STUDY

WANTED: Individuals, age 12-65, with mild to moderate asthma to participate in a clinical research study for 6 weeks with an investigational medication in inhaler form. Individuals must be using inhaled steroids and bronchodilators daily to qualify. \$400 incentive paid to those completing the study.

SKIN INFECTION STUDY

Individuals age 13 and older wanted to participate in a research study for bacterial skin infections such as: infected wounds, infected burns, boils, infected hair follicles, impetigo, infected ingrown toenails and others. Investigational oral antibiotic in capsule form. \$100 incentive for those chosen who complete the study.

For more information call: BIOPHARMA, INC. 776-0400