Wednesday • November 29, 1995

Page 5 • THE BATTALION

Dubble Bubble Gum Boy sold to drug dealer to settle debt, police say factory shuts down

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PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The company that manufactured the irst batch of bubble gum ever wold is closing the plant that has turned out the gooey pink stuff mown as Dubble Bubble Gum or more than 65 years.

The Fleer Corp. becomes the atest in a string of companies that have abandoned factories and towns they called home for decades and moved their produco longer tion elsewhere.

Just last month, Unilever, a Netherlands-based conglomer-10,000 ate, closed the Breyer's ice cream plant in Philadelphia, where William A. Breyer handchurned his first batch of ice tt Mer. cream. And many in the city still mourn the loss of the Whitman's Chocolate factory, which closed in 1993 after a competitor bought the name and moved the operation to Kansas.

Fleer employees reporting for work Monday found the North Philadelphia plant roped off and locked up, said Barry Fields, secretary-treasurer of Local 6 of the Bakery Confectionery and Tobacco Workers International Union.

Fleer executive vice president William H. Hardie said the company decided to close the plant which also cut and packaged sports and collectible trading cards - to focus its effort on the marketing of the cards.

The company sold \$38 million worth of gum and candy in 1994, but it sold \$245 million worth of trading cards. Dubble Bubble and other can-

dy will be made in an existing Fleer factory in Byhalia, Miss. Moyer said. Its workforce of 70 will not be expanded.

The Philadelphia workers will be paid through January, Moyer said.

Two snack machines were

forcibly entered, and the snack

Burglary of Habitation Walton Hall - A Magnavox CD player and a MCI pager were

Aston Hall - An unknown in-

dividual set fire to a fourth floor

door decoration resulting in ap-

proximately \$115 in damage. Bus Stop Snack Bar - The

distributor of a local newspaper

reported his wooden newspaper

boxes were being damaged by

the hood of her 1993 Honda Civic.

items and cash were stolen.

stolen from the victim's room.

DETROIT (AP) - A 15-year-old boy who was missing for at least six months had been handed by his mother over to a drug dealer to settle her \$1,000 crack cocaine debt, police said after finding the boy Tuesday.

Investigators sorted through conflicting accounts of whether he went voluntarily, sold drugs, was used as a sex slave or was forced to smoke crack himself when he was hungry so his captors could save on food.

Acting on an anonymous tip, police found the boy in a small, rundown house in a neighborhood thick with drug dealers and prostitutes.

His grandmother said he appeared addicted to crack. He had lost a lot of weight but seemed otherwise OK, she said.

Inspector Michael Hall said although police believed the boy was sold to settle his mother's debt, "We have an indication that at some point, he became a willing partner in drug dealing.

The boy appeared in juvenile court and was charged with delivery of cocaine, possession of cocaine with intent to deliver and tru-ancy. His next court appearance was scheduled for Dec. 13.

The 33-year-old mother was already in jail on an unrelated burglary charge and could face charges over her son.

A man found with the teen-ager, described by police as a drug dealer with a long record, was arrested. He wasn't identified by authorities, but police said the mother gave her son to a different dealer, who was being sought.

The boy denied his mother sold him to settle a \$1,000 crack debt, but other evidence indicated it was true, Hall said.

The boy had been living with his grandmother until he disappeared, but the mother had custody. The grandmother said she planned to ask the juvenile court to give custody to her. Foy said the whereabouts of the boy's father were unknown.

POLICE BEAT

Criminal Mischief

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department between Nov. 20-27:

Misdemeanor Theft

Two bicycles were stolen from various locations.

Burglary of Vehicle

Parking Area 88 - A compact disc case containing 15 CDs was stolen from the victim's 1991 Nissan pickup truck. Parking Area 62 - The pas-senger's side window of the vic-

tim's 1990 Nissan Sentra was shattered and a Pioneer, Model 305, CD stereo player and three compact discs were stolen.

Burglary of Coin Operated Ma-

False Alarm or Report

Zachry Engineering Center An unknown person activated a second floor fire alarm pull station. No evidence of fire or

smoke was found. Various Campus Locations

An anonymous caller advised that he heard an individual say that six bombs were going to be detonated at six different locations on campus. Three of the locations were identified by the caller. The areas were checked and no explosive devices were found.

Driving While License Suspended

Wellborn Road - A motorist people stapling fliers to them. Parking area 96 or 32 - The stopped for a defective headlamp was found to be operating a motor victim discovered a large dent in vehicle with a suspended license.

Harassment

Spence Hall - The victim was the recipient of an obscene telephone call.

Driving While Intoxicated

Wellborn Road - An intoxicated motorist was arrested and incarcerated in the Brazos county Jail.

Public Intoxication

Parking Area 32 - An intoxicated individual was arrested and incarcerated in the Brazos County Jail.

Burglary of Building

Langford Architecture Center A Silicon Graphics, Indigo, Model R4000, computer was stolen from a fourth floor computer laboratory.

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