NEWS

THE BATTALION

News in Brief

Border patrol rescues seven

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A 14-year-old girl found floating face-down in the Rio Grande was one of seven people the U.S. Border Patrol rescued from weekend flood waters, the agency said Monday.

At least nine people died across the border in Juarez and several families in central El Paso were left homeless by Saturday's rising waters, the *El Paso Times* reported.

The girl, who was discovered around 2 a.m. Sunday, was resuscitated by an EMT-trained agent.

The Juarez, Mexico, teen was apparently a passenger in a van that was washed into the river by strong currents, the agency said. Her grandfather apparently drowned while her sister escaped. The girl, whose name was not immediately released, is listed in critical but stable condition at Providence Hospital in El Paso, the Border Patrol said.

1,500 pounds of marijuana found in Mexican mango truck

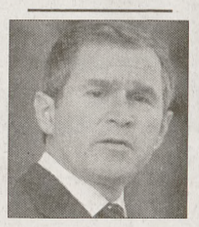
PHARR, Texas (AP) — A gamma-ray sweep of a tractor-trailer carrying mangoes helped U.S. Customs inspectors find 1,561 pounds of marijuana.

After the tractor-trailer was pulled over Saturday for a secondary examination, inspectors ran it through Customs' Vehicle And Cargo Imaging System, officials said in a news release. The gamma-ray scan showed discrepancies in the floor, and a Customs dog alerted officials to the same area.

Inspectors found 306 bundles of marijuana. Customs officials estimated the load had a street value of $1.5 million.

The driver, 35-year-old Jose Segura Martinez from Reynosa, Tamaulipas, Mexico, was arrested on state drug charges.

Group asks Bush to fight global warming in Texas



Environmental groups are pressuring Bush to curb growing emissions and monitor greenhouse gases.

DALLAS (AP) — Five groups of environmentalists are calling on Gov. George W. Bush to fight global warming in Texas, a process that scientists say could heat up North Texas during the next century.

The groups, who filed papers Monday with the state's environmental agency, have formally asked the state to devise a plan for curbing emissions in Texas. They also are asking state officials to monitor carbon dioxide and methane, commonly called greenhouse gases.

Texas has about 7 percent of the nation's population, leads the nation in greenhouse-gas emissions and accounts for 14 percent of the annual U.S. total, according to a report prepared this year for the World Wildlife Fund.

Additionally, environmentalists say that Texas' coast is threatened especially by rising sea levels, higher storm surges and disruptions in fisheries.

"Not only are we the largest emitter in the United States, but we have a special vulnerability," said Tom "Smitty" Smith, Texas director of environmental lobbyist group Public Citizen.

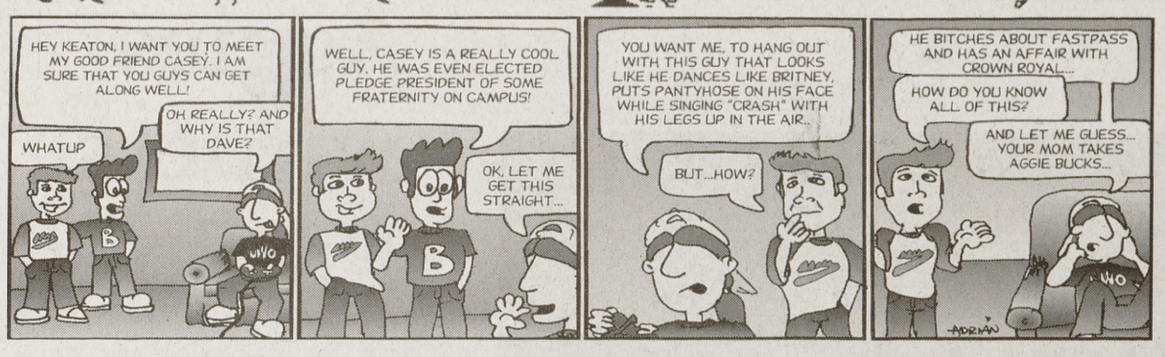
The Texas Natural Resource Conservation, which has 60 days to respond to the groups' request, has no formal plan to address global warming, a spokesman said. Bush appoints the agency's commissioners.

Groups who filed the petition include Public Citizen, the Sierra Club, the Texas Campaign for the Environment, the Sustainable Energy and Economic Developmental Coalition and Clean Water Action. Smith said his group plans to file additional petitions seeking state action on cleaner cars, homes and energy.

Star-spangled banner

Painter Tom Bates of Tempe gets into the spirit of Independence Day at the Rockport Art Festival in Rockport, Texas, on Saturday. Bates was one of many artists to attend the event, which featured art and live music.

the Wuss Cookie — byAdrian



THE FANTASTICO CHRONICLES — BY J. GOLDFLU

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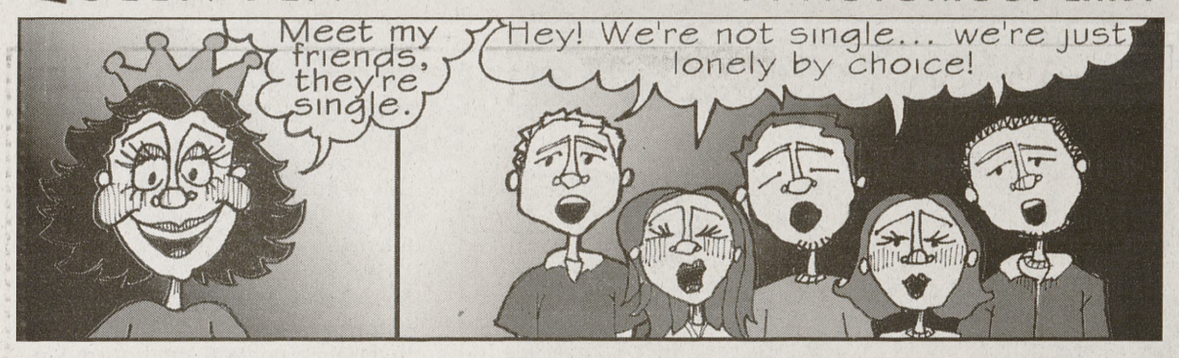

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