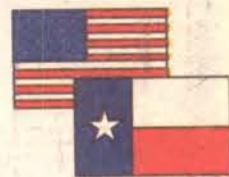


Weather
 Showers of blessings.
 Cloudy, chance of rain.
 High 79. Low 63.
 Details, page A-18

The Houston Post

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MONDAY, May 7, 1990

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FINAL EDITION

Crack-related calls squeeze EMS dollars

By S.K. BARDWELL
 OF THE HOUSTON POST STAFF

Federal dollars help pay the soldiers and buy the ammunition in Houston's war on drugs, but provide no help for the medics who pick up and patch up the war's casualties.

Police point to 1985 as the year crack hit Houston in a big way, and blame the drug directly or indirectly for whopping increases each year since in burglaries, robberies,

assaults, homicides and even traffic accidents.

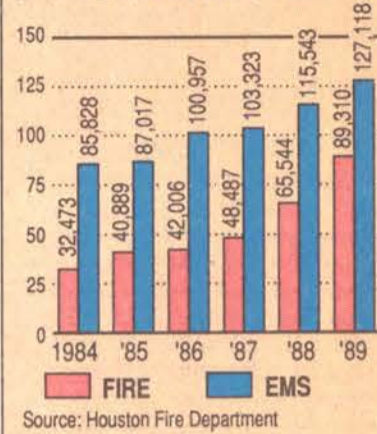
Increases in the number of calls for emergency medical assistance responded to by the Houston Fire Department's emergency medical services division are just as significant, although less publicized.

In 1989, the fire department responded to 127,118 calls for emergency medical assistance. It is a record high most department offi-

Please see DRUGS, A-9

HFD CALLS

Number of calls dispatched by the Houston Fire Department for fires and for emergency services are on the rise. Scale is in thousands.



Official to urge Trinity evacuation

7,000 live in plain of swelling river

By LESLIE LODDEKE
 OF THE HOUSTON POST STAFF

The Liberty County emergency management coordinator will recommend today the beginning of a massive, voluntary evacuation of low-lying homes along the rain-swollen Trinity River in preparation for "the worst flood since 1908."

About 7,000 people living in the flood plain near the Trinity ultimately will be affected to some degree by floodwater, said Jim Mitchum, Liberty County emergency management coordinator. Residents of two Liberty County subdivisions and the city of Dayton Lakes already have problems due to rising floodwater.

"We're looking for the bulk of the water to get here between the 16th and 19th of May," said Mitchum. "We're talking about some serious water."

Mitchum said he planned to ask the county judge to issue the evacuation order at a commissioners' court meeting today to prompt about 300-400 people to leave their homes. He said he expected to make recommendations for additional evacuations later this week as the threat affects a greater number of people.

Plans have been made with the American Red Cross to operate two shelters converted from fire stations on the east and west sides of the Trinity, said Mitchum.

From a helicopter hovering over the Lake Livingston dam, Mitchum surveyed the extraordinary amount of water released Sunday due to

Please see FLOODING, A-9

John Paul beatifies 5 in Mexico

Salinas welcomes pontiff on first day of 8-day tour

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MEXICO CITY — Pope John Paul II, beginning a mission to strengthen his church and improve relations with Mexico, beatified the country's most revered Indian on Sunday and urged Mexicans to emulate him in their fight to improve society.

"You cannot... remain indifferent before the suffering of your brothers, before poverty, corruption, the outrages against truth and human rights," said the pontiff at a Mass.

The eight-day visit to Mexico is John Paul's 47th trip outside Italy as pope, his 10th to Latin America and his second to Mexico.

At the modern, tent-shaped Sanctuary of the Virgin of Guadalupe, the pope beatified Juan Diego, a humble Indian honored as the man to whom the Virgin appeared in 1531.

John Paul also beatified a 19th-century priest and three Indians known as the Child Martyrs of Tlaxcala, who died almost 450 years ago. Beatification is a step toward possible sainthood.

During the flight from Rome to Mexico, the pope told reporters that he urges

Please see POPE, A-9



Pope John Paul II was greeted by Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari shortly after the pontiff's arrival in Mexico City for an eight-day visit Sunday afternoon.

Reed tells of savage beatings

Former hostage recalls failed escape attempts

ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARLINGTON, Va. — Freed hostage Frank Reed said Sunday his Islamic kidnappers beat him so savagely that they broke his nose, jaw and ribs and tried to break his feet with iron rods after he tried unsuccessfully to escape twice. He was put in solitary confinement for more than two years.

"Thank God they didn't kill me," he said. "I was one of their pet whackers."

He said his guards hit him more than 200 times in the head, body and feet after his first attempt to gain freedom and that he suffered minor fractures in his feet.

"They tried to break my feet," he said. "They hit my feet many times with iron rods and my feet had been slightly broken."

Two days later, he tried to escape again and was hit in the back with such force that his kidneys bled, he said.

"This kind of treatment went on and on and on for a long time," he said.

"Then sometime about a year later, one pig of a man who constantly haggled me broke my ribs, kicked my ribs in on the right side. I'd managed somehow to push them back lying on my back."

Despite the pain and "hell" he went through, he said, "I did everything in my power not to cry out and not let them think they were ever going to get a single advantage on me. And I didn't."

Reed said he was chained either to a wall or radiator and that the first time he sat up on his own was when he was released after 44 months in captivity. He said he and other hostages slept on thin foam rubber mattresses.

Reed said he lay on his back for the more than 3½ years except when he was exercising, eating or making trips to the toilet.

"We were blindfolded 24 hours a day. We slept with our blindfolds on because if we had any collateral with our keepers, we didn't want to lose it by letting them see our eyes."

"We were kept in very familiar places to you, apartment houses for the most part, in bedrooms. Our bed-

"Thank God they didn't kill me. I was one of their pet whackers."

— Frank Reed

Group of 7 agrees to boost IMF by 50%

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Economic chiefs from the world's richest nations agreed Sunday to boost the capacity of the International Monetary Fund to meet growing demand for its loans in Eastern Europe and continue its longstanding commitment to developing nations in the Third World.

Officials "agreed that a 50 percent increase in IMF (resources) would provide the fund with the resources to fulfill its central responsibilities in the world economy," the Group of Seven said in a communique released after a day-long meet-

ing in the Capitol.

The group is composed of finance ministers and central bank heads of the world's seven leading industrial nations: the United States, Japan, West Germany, Great Britain, France, Canada and Italy.

Currency markets, often the focus of Group of Seven gatherings, received less attention. Exchange rates have been relatively stable since the ministers' last meeting, April 7 in Paris.

At that time, the group expressed concern about the "undesirable consequences" of the declining yen, which had

fallen more than 10 percent against the dollar from the start of the year.

In Sunday's statement, the officials said they "noted with satisfaction the recent stability of exchange markets" but in a passage similar to the April communique, they said they "remained of the view that the present level may have undesirable consequences for the global adjustment process."

A weak yen helps boost the U.S. trade deficit by making American goods more expensive in Japan and Japanese prod-

Please see IMF, A-8



Welcome mat out at Phoebe's Place

If you missed it yesterday, don't worry. Our new comic strip, Phoebe's Place, begins its daily run today — and it's a real hoot. Comics, D-8.

HSA official fuming over group's anti-smoking literature at Dome

By PETE BREWTON
 OF THE HOUSTON POST STAFF

A Houston City Council member and a local doctor were stopped by the Houston Sports Association from handing out anti-smoking literature at a Cinco de Mayo event on the Astrodome parking lot Sunday.

Michael Coakley, director of customer service and security for HSA, threatened to have City Councilman Dale Gorczynski and Dr. Alan Blum, a family practitioner and chairman of an anti-smoking group known as Doctors Ought to Care, arrested for trespassing on "private property."

HSA, whose principal owner is New Jersey businessman John McMullen, leases the Astrodome complex from Harris County. HSA was subleasing part of its parking lot for the

Cinco de Mayo event to Rincon Productions, according to Coakley. The three products whose logos and posters were displayed around the event were Camel cigarettes, which are made by R.J. Reynolds tobacco company, Miller Lite beer, which is produced by a subsidiary of Philip Morris, and Pepsi Cola.

Coakley said he was told by a Rincon official that Rincon had no comment about the matter.

Blum, Gorczynski, and several others were handing out anti-smoking literature outside the gates of the event, but inside the Astrodome parking lot. They were stopped by Coakley after they had been doing so for less



Michael Boddy/The Houston Post

Dr. Alan Blum crusades against smoking at Cinco de Mayo festivities in the Astrodome Sunday.

Please see DOME, A-9

Good morning . . .

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TOM KENNEDY SAYS . . .

To make things even worse, tires are like rabbits. They multiply. A-17.

Classified ads 940-0000

POPE'S TRIP TO MEXICO



EMS director says crack's impact on operations was unanticipated

By S.K. BARDWELL
OF THE HOUSTON POST STAFF

Crack cocaine has affected the city emergency medical system in ways no one anticipated, said Dr. Paul Pepe, director of the Houston Fire Department's emergency medical services division.

In an April report on the problem Pepe said, "the fact of the matter is that crack cocaine led to dramatic increases in all types of EMS responses."

Following are some of the categories of calls for emergency medical assistance that have increased as a result of crack usage, with Pepe's comments.

Chest pain/heart problem: Pepe called the increased number of cocaine-related chest pain syndrome calls in Houston over the last three years "epidemic" and said in 1989, for the first time in its 30-year history, Ben Taub Hospital closed its medical critical care units because they were full. "During that month," Pepe said, "nearly a third of the 70 cardiac critical care patient admissions were critical cocaine-related cases."

Cardiac arrest/arrhythmias: Because cardiac arrest calls require more equipment, manpower and time than other types of calls, Pepe said the increase in drug-related cases, especially prevalent in patients under 40, has placed "special new demands on the EMS system, significantly diminishing the availability of ambulances and pumper companies."

Abdominal pain, sick calls, unknown medical emergencies: Pepe calls these the grab-bag terms used by dispatchers when a caller is unable to clearly state a specific problem. These calls often turn out to be drug related, he said, and are so categorized because the caller did not want to admit to drug use or notices only vague symptoms attributable to drug use and/or AIDS from past drug use.

Difficulty breathing: The number of such calls has increased dramatically, Pepe said, especially among patients under 30. Most of those young patients' problems are drug-related, he said.

Stroke, seizures: The department is seeing what Pepe called a surprising number of strokes in young people who subsequently are found to have cocaine in their system. He outlines a typical chain of events he calls "predictable, dra-

matic and irreversible: The patient suffers a seizure or cardiac arrest followed by a difficult resuscitation. If resuscitated, the patient has temperature over 105 degrees and over the next four hours develops respiratory distress syndrome, total cardiovascular collapse and death.

Psychiatric behavior problems: Simply using cocaine can make one act "crazy," Pepe said. Other problems such as delusions, paranoia, erratic emotions and desperation develop over a period of usage, and during withdrawal, he said.

Overdose: "Simply put, over the last five years our increases in overdoses have not been due to heroin, suicide with pills or 'ice,'" Pepe said. "It's been crack cocaine."

Trauma: Not only are they ris-

ing dramatically, Pepe said the trauma cases the department sees now "are different than ever before. We saw patients who were purposefully run over after they had been shot, slashed and beaten. We began to see children caught in the crossfire and ... teens with guns fighting over turf and drug deals."

In addition, Pepe said, a large number of accident victims seen by paramedics in the last few years have had cocaine in their systems, and the numbers of gunshot wounds and "dead on arrival" calls have increased dramatically.

In concluding his report Pepe wrote that beyond the human tragedy represented by the increase in drug-related calls, "it has outstripped our ability to meet the day-to-day needs of the public for emergency care."

POPE: John Paul II beatifies 5 in Mexico

From A-1
the three Baltic republics — Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia — to negotiate with Moscow in their efforts to gain independence.

The Polish-born pope said the rights of the republics must be balanced against the damage that Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev's policies of economic and political liberalization could suffer.

"Things must be resolved by a dialogue, but by an effective dialogue," the pope said. "One cannot go beyond this at this time."

In a last-minute change of plans, Mexican President Carlos Salinas de Gortari welcomed the pope at the airport, instead of the foreign minister. The move emphasized recent warming of relations between the Vatican and Mexico, which has some of the harshest anti-clerical laws outside the Communist bloc despite being overwhelmingly Roman Catholic.

In his homily, the pope said Catholics "cannot in fact refrain from participation in politics, that is, the multiple and various economic, social, legislative, administrative and cultural actions destined to promote ... the common good."

The pope appeared to be indirectly challenging Mexico's laws against participation by the church in politics. The 1917 constitution, written after years of revolutionary upheaval, denies recognition to the church and bars priests from

speaking about politics from the pulpit.

Despite the restrictions, the pope received a rousing welcome as he began his tour. More than 200,000 people lined the nine-mile route through the city to the Basilica of Guadalupe, waving flags in the Vatican colors of yellow and white.

Spanish tenor Placido Domingo, who lives in Mexico City, sang parts of the Mass.

The crowds were smaller than predicted, possibly due to a light rain. The giant courtyard at the basilica was less than half full with about 30,000 people when the pope arrived.

"I come as a herald of faith and peace, in hopes of boosting the energy of ecclesiastical communities so that they can be of service to their brothers," John Paul said at the airport after a 13-hour flight from Rome.

He was welcomed by a mariachi band playing "Cielito Lindo," or "Little Beautiful Skies," one of Mexico's unofficial anthems.

Salinas, greeting the pope, said: "Your visit is a new encounter with the generosity of a nation of many cultures, plural visions and deep religious sentiments."

The president's presence was part of his two-year initiative to improve relations with the church. Mexico broke diplomatic ties in 1926, after the church sided with conservatives during the Mexican

Revolution. "This is something new and very important," the pope told a news conference during the flight aboard the papal plane. "We are making efforts to improve relations between the state and the church."

Salinas named a personal representative to the Vatican in February, considered a step toward a possible resumption of diplomatic relations.

The beatification of Juan Diego came during a campaign by the pope to strengthen the church in Latin America, home to nearly half the world's 850 million Roman Catholics.

Beatification is a step toward sainthood and means Masses can be celebrated in the person's honor.

According to legend, Juan Diego carried out-of-season roses to his bishop from the hill where the Virgin of Guadalupe appeared. When he opened his white cloak, the image of the Virgin appeared on it. The Virgin was named patron of the Americas by the church in 1910.

The beatification emphasized the church's recent efforts to appeal to the poor and the Indian minority. In the past, the church backed the ruling classes in repressing Mexico's native population, which is why restrictions on the church were written into the constitution after the 1910-1920 Mexican Revolution.



Pope John Paul II waves to crowd on his way to the Basilica in Mexico City.

FLOODING: Official to urge major evacuation

From A-1
the heavy rains that soaked the Dallas area, which has taken in more than 27 inches of rain so far this year — nearly three times the normal amount.

"They are releasing 31,700 cubic feet per second — that's twice the normal amount — at this point," he said. "They're talking about going quite a bit higher than that" early this week.

About 40 homes in the Trinity River Plaza subdivision near Kenefick and 15-20 homes in the Trinity River Triple Estate near Liberty have experienced difficulties due to the flooding, said Mitchum. Many were evacuating their homes, while others were boating in and out of the area.

About 200 people living in Dayton Lakes probably won't be able to reach their homes in the next day or two when water, now rising over the main road, will drown it in 4-6 feet and make it impassable, Mitchum predicted.

Mitchum said officials were gearing up for the fruition of the Trinity River Authority's dire prediction of "the worst flood since 1908."

"We certainly hope for the best. We expect the worst," he said.

National Guardsmen helped sandbag against rising streams Sunday in Arkansas and a reservoir on the Texas-Oklahoma border that flooded shoreline homes reached a record height and kept rising. The worst of the flooding was expected to be more apparent today in the Little Rock area, about 24 hours before the Arkansas River is predicted to crest 5 feet above flood stage, said officials.

On the Oklahoma-Texas border, Lake Texoma topped the old record of 643 feet above sea level Saturday, nearly 27 feet above normal, and continued rising Sunday to 644.8 feet. The lake was expected to crest today at about 645 feet, or 5 feet above the overflow spillways.

At Trinidad, about 60 miles southeast of Dallas, the Trinity was 47.5 feet deep on Sunday, far above the 28-foot flood stage. About 150 people were evacuated from their flooded homes in the area.

The American Red Cross said it

had completed surveys in 28 counties and was continuing to work around the clock to assess damages in Anderson, Dallas, Denton, Fannin, Grayson, Harrison, Henderson, Kaufman and Tarrant counties. The latest figures showed 723 dwellings destroyed and more than 2,000 others damaged from the flooding.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

DOME: HSA official fumes over anti-smoking literature at event

From A-1

than an hour. "You know where you're supposed to be — outside the (parking lot) gate," Coakley said. "You're blocking my entrance. I'm going to file trespassing charges against you and you can go downtown (to jail) and call your lawyer."

"I can't believe it," Gorczynski said. "There are about 10 security personnel here and just five of us.

Moscow drops NATO as issue blocking German reunification

By Tom Heneghan
REUTERS NEWS SERVICE

BONN, West Germany — The Soviet Union has cleared the path to rapid German unity, avoiding a stubborn dispute over NATO membership and prompting West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl to speak Sunday of a "historic event for Germany and Europe."

Moscow's opposition to Western demands that a united Germany be anchored in NATO was the main stumbling block at talks

here between both Germans and the four World War II victors — the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France.

But a West German official said Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze had told the "two-plus-four" talks Saturday that Moscow no longer insisted the new state's military status be defined before East and West Germany merge.

Its unexpected consent to unification before the thorny NATO issue is resolved means that the Germans, already well on their way to fusing their economies on July 2, are now free to decide when and how they finally end four decades of division.

"There are no more hurdles along the way to the realization of the right of all Germans to self-determination," Kohl said in a triumphant statement Sunday.

"After 40 years of painful separation, the fervent wish of all Ger-

mans to unite in one country is being fulfilled."

Shevardnadze, who had suggested united German membership in both NATO and the Warsaw Pact to keep the new state from tilting totally to the West, made the crucial concession at the first session of the talks whose aim is to end Germany's postwar division and restore full sovereignty to the German people.

The West German official quoted him as telling the closed-door session the external aspects, which include the NATO issue, need not be solved as quickly as the internal questions left for the Germans to decide.

The wartime Allies' current rights could continue as a special transitional measure until the alliance question was solved and Germany could be given full sovereignty, he said.

Foreign ministers at the talks, the first high-level bid to solve the German question since 1959, all left the session expressing confidence they could find a compromise by this autumn but left journalists guessing what it could be.

"This means a decoupling," the Bonn official, who asked not to be identified, explained Sunday. "The internal aspects of German unity can now be settled rapidly."

"The Soviet Union now wants to delay a final settlement of the external aspects in order to defuse its own domestic political doubts (about unity)," he said.

Shevardnadze appealed to his Western colleagues Saturday not to

embarrass the Kremlin, which had long hailed the 1945 triumph over the Nazi Reich as an epochal victory for the Soviet Union, by snatching the united country for NATO.

"Emotions (could) boil in our country, raising ghosts of the past, raising national complexes rooted in tragic pages of our history," he said. "The Soviet people must see that a line is being drawn under the past in a just and worthy fashion."

The others reassured Shevardnadze that they sought a deal that eased Moscow's security concerns. As British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd put it: "No one wanted to rub Soviet noses in any kind of humiliation."

A political source said the Soviet concession meant Kohl now had no reason to wait until the late 1991 date he has set for all-German elections, the crowning act of the rapid unity drive unleashed when the Berlin Wall was breached last November.

But a senior government official cautioned that it was too early to say whether Bonn would scrap its own general election, due on Dec. 2, in favor of polls soon for all Germans.

Bonn's Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, who said Sunday the Germans were now "holding unification in their own hands," cited further European disarmament and a more active role for the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe as key elements in any new security structure.

DRUGS: Related calls causing crunch for emergency services

From A-1

Emergency calls to the department jumped 48 percent between 1984 to 1989, and Houston fire Chief Robert Clayton and EMS director Dr. Paul Pepe estimate 30 percent of the department's EMS dollars are used in the care of illness or injury either directly or indirectly related to drug abuse.

An ambitious \$7.9 billion national anti-drug strategy unveiled in September by President Bush contained funds to help law enforcement agencies, judicial systems, correctional institutions, health clinics, treatment centers, schools and even foreign governments fight the drug war.

But the plan contained neither hope nor help for the Houston Fire Department and others like it in the nation's major cities, all taxed to their limits by drug-related medical calls.

In 1989, Houston got \$700,000 in federal anti-drug law enforcement funds. The Houston Police Department got millions more as its share of profits from the seizure of property and cash during federal drug raids in which it participated.

"We're all on the same side, af-

ter all," he said.

Right now the city cannot give the fire department any of the federal anti-drug funds it receives through the state. The federal legislation making the funds available also restricts their use, earmarking them specifically for law enforcement, education or other efforts.

Clayton said he "started the ball rolling" at a Washington, D.C. function last week when he buttonholed U.S. congressmen Bill Archer and Jack Fields as well as aides from the offices of U.S. congressmen Tom DeLay and Craig Washington.

Clayton said all those he spoke with expressed some surprise at the impact crack cocaine use has had on EMS providers, and agreed that ways of allowing them to share in the distribution of federal anti-drug funds should be explored.

He took the project a step further last weekend at a Baltimore meeting of the metropolitan division of the International Association of Fire Chiefs.

His proposal to that group, that a way be found to make federal anti-drug funds available to EMS providers, will be taken through the ranks of the fire chiefs association and eventually to the Fire Caucus of Congress, Clayton said.

Blum said he estimated about 1,000 Houston Hispanics would die this year from lung cancer as a result of smoking.

After HSA personnel stopped the group from handing out their literature, its members bought tickets to the event and walked around taking pictures of the activities sponsored by Camel cigarettes.

"Today our objective was to kill the camel," Blum said. "Maybe we wounded him a little. He sure smelled bad anyway."

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