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# Brutal juvenile treatment detailed

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move contraband, and to minimize violations of pupils' dignity.

The emergency interim order of a year ago prohibited brutality, use of tear gas and long periods of solitary confinement with no visitors. It also prohibited the assignment of some boys to homosexual dormitories.

The opinion released Tuesday recounts numerous instances of boys being "racked" or beaten by corrections officers, being forced to perform work such as pulling grass for several hours without bending their

knees and being confined in their cells and tear-gassed after suicide attempts.

"The frequent use of certain forms of brutality have given rise to a jargon peculiar to the Gatesville inmates and staff," the opinion said. "A 'peel' is administered by forcing a boy to bend over, striking him hard on the back with a fist or open hand; a 'tight' is applied by forcing a boy to bend down to hold his ankles and toes and then striking him on the buttocks with the handle or straw end of a broom. A boy is sub-

jected to 'brogueing' when he is kicked in the shins. Such punishment has been meted for 'wearing pants too low, losing a baseball game, leaving shoes out or leaving cards.'"

Extra duty at Gatesville includes forcing a boy to work in the "R.D.," a sewage or garbage ditch.

"After working in this ditch up to the waist in garbage and stench for four hours, a boy would then be required to go to lunch without changing clothes or bathing," the opinion said.

The boys in the Mountain View institution were assigned grass-pulling as an extra duty. "For as much as two hours at a time, without a break and for as long as six hours a day, boys were required to pull grass from the ground. In fulfilling this task, they pull grass from the ground, bending at the waist, knees straight, without looking at or talking with other boys. Boys bending their knees were racked, kicked in the teeth, punched and beaten," the opinion said.

"Boys were put on this duty for

talking back, talking in the chow line, not finishing all the food on their plate, wearing shoes in the dormitory, not changing their pants, irritating a correctional officer, or going to the peach orchard without permission," the judge said.

Sen. Chet Brooks, D-Pasadena, chairman of the Joint Committee on Prison Reform, said the ruling "could have very encouraging effects in the long run of moving Texas correctional programs toward community-based corrections."

He said facilities at the Gatesville State School "are in fine shape" and might be converted into institutions for the mentally ill or the retarded.

The nearby Mountain View State School could be converted into a medium-security unit of the state prison system, Brooks added.

## Study forms cost-benefit comparisons

Roadside safety improvements are compared on a cost-benefit basis in the first of a series of highway safety projects conducted by the TAMU Texas Transportation Institute.

This study allows safety engineers to make improvements yielding efficient return on each safety dollar spent on freeways. The report states that single-vehicle accidents represent one-half of fatal accidents on freeways. Most of these are caused by such obstacles as bridge rails, signposts, utility poles, steep side slopes and guardrails.

The research complements existing ways of selecting locations for spot improvements. The study can identify probable locations of high accident potential. Accident records identify known high accident spots.

The report points out that such safety improvement programs compete with other programs, such as new construction, operational and other safety improvements.

"The cost-effective approach is a powerful tool in selling roadside safety improvements. For example, some improvements will cost less than \$20 per prevented injury accident, is a convincing argument for funding a program to effect these improvements," the report said.

The Transportation Research Board said the report, hopefully, will provide the incentive for individual states or other highway agencies to enlarge on present data. State or local cost, accident and traffic operational data is included in the model to analyze improvements for specific highways.

Grane Weaver, principal investigator of the study, said the computerized procedure has undergone extensive field testing during the past year and will be put into practice statewide during the coming year by the Texas Highway Department.

## Jet injection research gains large grant

Texas Agricultural Experiment Station received \$24,299 for research of "jet injection" equipment for veterinary medicine.

Jet injection is the theory of medicine applied painlessly by blowing a thin stream of fluid through the skin.

Dr. Steward McConnell, Veterinary Microbiology Department, directed this research. Modifications made the injection equipment effective for a number of animals. It is also available for large scale disease control programs.

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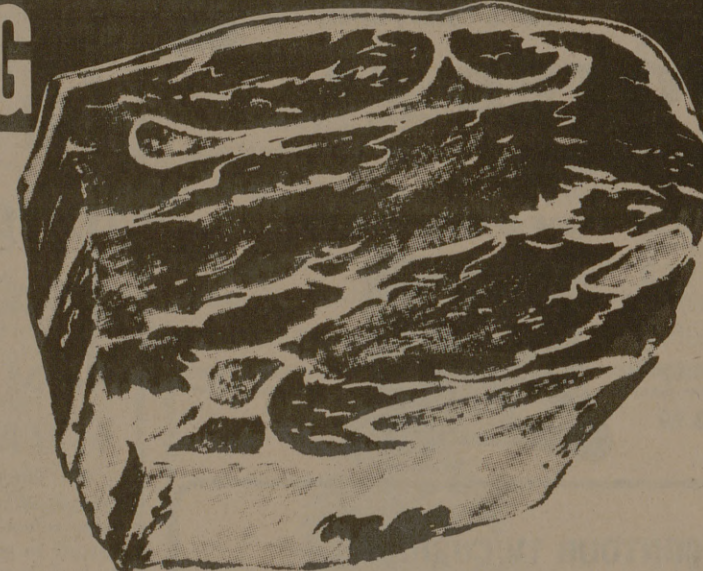
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