

State

KKK fish fry and rally may be 'like going to church'

United Press International
SANTA FE, Texas (UPI) — The Ku Klux Klan plans a fish fry and cross burning Saturday on private land to protest commercial fishing operations by Vietnamese along the Texas coast.

"It's to draw attention to the problem of the white American fisherman due to the invasion of our country by the VIET Cong," said James Stanfield, who signed the permit application.

Stanfield said the rally on private property from noon to 6 p.m. Saturday will include a fish

fry, speeches and a cross burning. Klansmen also will burn "the U.S.S. Vietnamese," a dinghy symbolizing Vietnamese fishing boats.

"I guess you could call it something like going to church and having good fellowship with your fellow white Americans," Stanfield said.

"We're not expecting any trouble of any kind from any one, not even our own people. We're gonna be on private property. We've been in cooperation with the chief of police. We're abiding by the

city ordinance completely."

The rally-regulating ordinance, passed when the city council learned of Klan plans to hold the rally on 30 acres belonging to Joe Collins, required the posting of a 20-cent public safety bond for each person expected to attend.

The rally organizers contributed \$300, although they said they expect no more than 300 or 400 persons.

Collins, who offered his land for the rally, said he is not a member of the Klan. He said he is simply a fisherman angry about the incur-

sion of Vietnamese on his livelihood and inadequate government action to help him.

"Who else is there left to turn to?" Collins said. "The Klan's just showing support of American fishermen. It's just a friendly rally — nothing racial — to show the federal government support of the American fishermen."

Police Chief Bryan Lamb said his entire force of six regular officers, including himself, and eight reservists will be on duty. He said the Galveston County sheriff's department was contributing two

cars for traffic control.

"It's been low key," Lamb said. "I just don't feel like it's gonna be a problem. I think we're gonna get them in and out without any trouble."

"I was concerned, but these people have gone to a lot of trouble to work with me and the other agencies and that indicates to me they're trying to abide by the law."

The ordinance also required liability insurance totaling \$100,000 for property damage and \$300,000 for personal injuries. The name of the insurance com-

pany was withheld.

Spokesmen said the organizers talked to every agency they believed might be interested in regulating the rally — even asking the Texas Air Control Board if a permit was required for outdoor

burning of a cross. It was not.

The Klan received a city permit Wednesday for a weekend rally in support of American fishermen angry about the influx of Vietnamese refugees into their industry.

Valley crops escape freeze damage

United Press International
Rio Grande Valley growers escaped a predicted hard freeze Wednesday night that could have severely damaged this year's citrus and vegetable crops as well as diminished next year's fields.

Cautious growers placed heaters in citrus fields to ward off the 26 degree temperatures that were predicted. Growers say citrus damage occurs when the temperature holds at 26 for two hours.

But Agriculture Commissioner Brown Reagan said today his department had surveyed growers all night long and determined that the temperatures for the most part never fell below 34 degrees.

"The Rio Grande citrus crop is safe," Reagan said.

Bill Weeks, executive vice president of the Texas Citrus and Vegetable and Shippers Association in Harlingen, said a cloud cover moved in and kept temperatures warmer than expected.

"It didn't even freeze," he said. "There are no problems whatsoever. A cloud cover moved in and the wind stayed up. The mid and upper Valley had been predicted to have a hard freeze but it didn't materialize."

A hard freeze could have proved expensive to consumers all over the county, since a bad mid-January freeze in Florida cut

sharply into orange juice supplies. California crops have been hurt by a fruit fly infestation.

The troubles in Florida and California have proved a boon to Texas citrus growers, who are drawing top dollar for their crops, which have escaped major damage this year.

Weeks said growers were lucky to have escaped the freeze not

only because of the importance of this year's Texas crop to the national citrus supply but also because the citrus fields could have been damaged.

"We have a lot of fresh new growth and some blooms (already)," Weeks said. "It could have given us a problem with next year's yield."

The only Valley town where

temperatures dropped below freezing was Rio Grande City, where a 31 degree reading was registered.

The Arctic front that swept through Texas beginning Tuesday contributed to nine deaths statewide and forced utilities to curtail power output. The front left clear skies behind and the hope of rapidly warming weather.

Governor's program to use state finances

United Press International
AUSTIN — The Senate voted 25-0 Thursday to save the governor's Criminal Justice Division, a popular source of extra money for local law enforcement, by converting it from a federally-funded to a state-financed, state-run program.

The program will die if the state doesn't take it over, because the federal funds for it are being terminated.

The debate in the Senate, the longest of this session, came not over the continued existence of the division but over who would control it. As a federally-financed project, the division has been under the governor's control, with the usual collection of federal strings tied to the money.

But with the federal money and strings gone, Senate Democrats were unwilling to let the governor fill the power vacuum by himself.

Sens. Chet Brooks, D-Pasadena, and Peyton McKnight, D-Tyler, led a revolt against the governor's bill, sponsored by Sen. Bill Meier, D-Eules. The Clements-Meier bill gave the last word on awarding grants to the governor and a board appointed by the governor without Senate confirmation.

"The question is whether the bill amounted to the funds being totally controlled by the governor," Meier said as he explained the first of a series of compromises.

The final compromise, passed and sent to the House Thursday, forced the governor to share the power with the Democrats. When applications for grants are made, they would be reviewed by a board appointed by the governor, the lieutenant governor and the speaker.

Final approval of the grants would be made by a committee consisting of the governor, the comptroller of public accounts (Democrat Bob Bullock) and the lieutenant governor (Democrat Bill Hobby).

The House passed and sent to the Senate a bill by Rep. Gibson Lewis, D-Fort Worth, changing the minimum number of petition signatures needed for cities to call an election to ratify or overturn the award of a cable television franchise.

Only 500 signatures from voters are now required for cities to call an election. The bill was amended to require signatures from 10 percent of the registered voters rather than the 20 percent originally called for.

Rep. Al Luna, D-Houston, attached an amendment exempting Houston from having to gather petitions from 10 percent of the number of registered voters.

"The city of Houston has a population of 1.2 million people and 65,000 signatures would be needed in Houston. That's too much," he said.

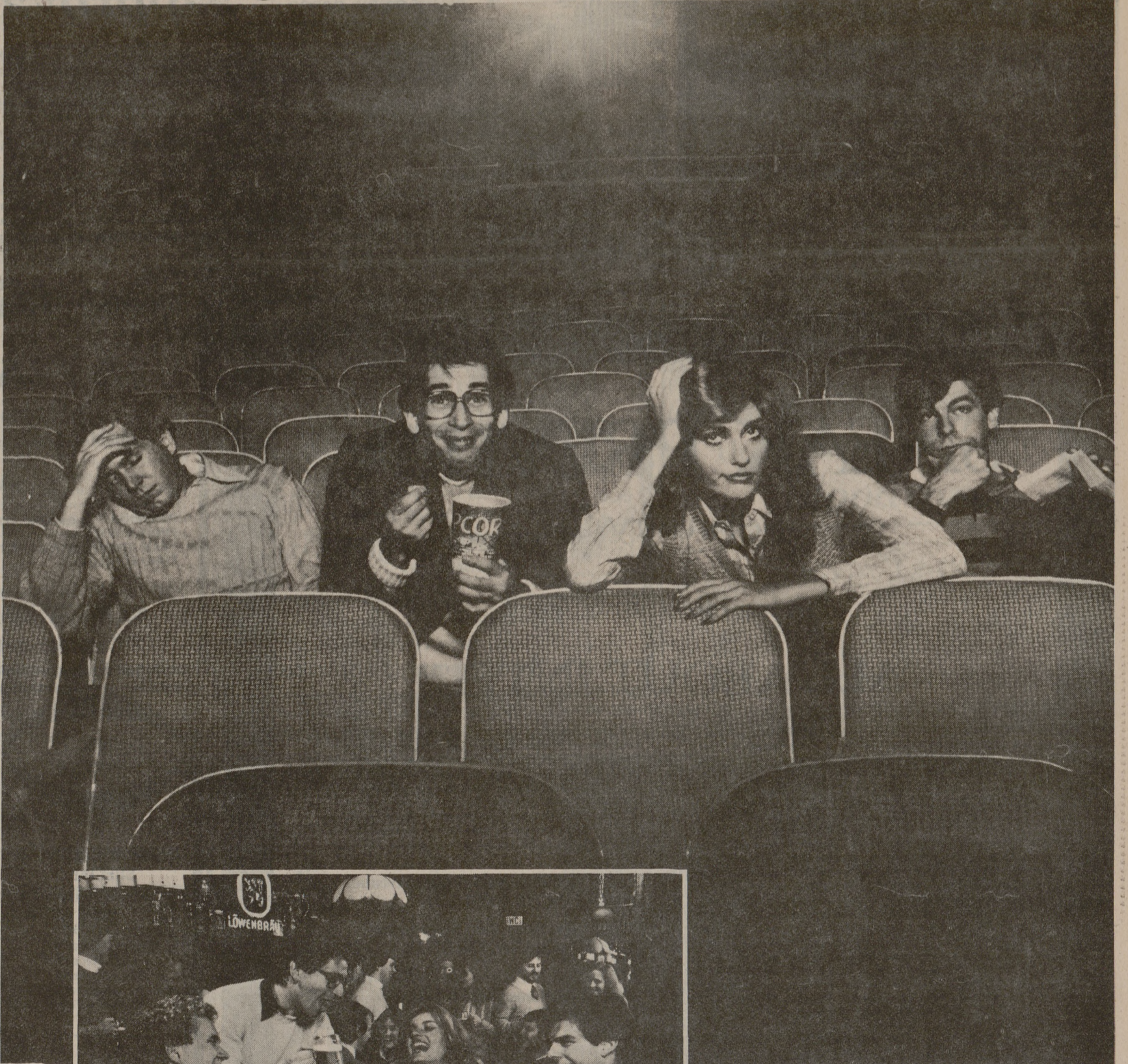
The House also passed a bill by Rep. Doyle Willis, D-Fort Worth, allowing the Texas Department of Mental Health and Retardation to transfer funds from the Rusk State Hospitals to the Fort Worth State School to pay for services being rendered to several mentally retarded juvenile offenders.

U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice last December ordered juvenile offenders transferred from Rusk to Fort Worth because the former facility was not equipped to provide adequate care for them.

Rep. Buck Florence, D-Hughes Springs, argued against the transfer, saying Justice again was meddling in state affairs.

"I'm sick and tired of the judiciary making decisions usurping the powers of the state," he said before the House approved the bill 122-8.

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