

State

Houston officials consider 'midnight school'

HOUSTON — Night people — instead of watching television or roaming the streets — may be able to channel their energies in the classrooms of a midnight high school.

For biological, personality or financial reasons, some people are night people and Houston Independent School District officials considering midnight high school classes say those students might be lost to the system without special service.

"Some people have different rhythms," says psychiatrist Harvey Rosenstock, who suggests that students given the opportunity of night class "will opt for school rather than roam the streets."

Rosenstock said he has worked with teenagers who are night people for biological reasons. One girl went from being an A student to failing because she stayed awake at night and had trouble going to school.

HISD officials say other students are night

people by preference or because they work. Both often sleep through classes and eventually fail or drop out.

The HISD has used enriched program "magnet" schools to attract white students into minority schools, and officials are studying a possible midnight magnet school.

They will need school board approval, but they suggest classes from 11 p. m. to 7 a. m. might keep more students in school and even reduce vandalism.

"We have some involved in drugs ... others involved in minor transgressions ... (we) even had some fire-setting," Rosenstock said. "Let's see if a number of these kids couldn't be helped."

Faye Bryant, assistant HISD superintendent for magnet schools, pointed out HISD has one of the largest magnet school programs in the country, operating 61 magnet programs as part of its desegregation effort.

"We constantly try to find ways to get them (students) back into the system," she said.

Rosenstock said HISD suffered \$750,000 worth of vandalism last year and might reduce the figure if some of the "roamers" were in class at night. The HISD might also increase average daily attendance — increasing state funds, he said.

Rosenstock, who has volunteered to be a consultant, said the program should be tested with about 25 students. If it proves out, it might attract several hundred students, he said.

Party leader says Gramm 'falls short of promise'

AUSTIN — A leading Texas Democrat says Rep. Phil Gramm, D-Texas, the point man in President Reagan's battle of the budget, is failing to act like a Democrat.

State Democratic chairman Bob Slagle said Monday other Texas Democrats who voted for Reagan's budget cuts should not be criticized, but Gramm deserves the heat he's getting for promoting the Reagan program.

Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, is calling for party sanctions against Gramm, and Reps. Kent Hance, Charles Steinhilber and others who supported Reagan.

Slagle said Gramm once promised to vote and act like a Democrat in exchange for an appointment to the House Budget Committee.

"While many Texas Democrats are distressed that a number of the Democratic congressmen from our state did not vote with the majority of House Democrats on the budget last week, I would point out that it merely reflects our diversity as a party and that there are important distinctions to be drawn in judging each Democratic congressman's vote and role," Slagle said in a statement.

Although not naming Gramm, Slagle said all but one of the Democratic congressmen from Texas had

openly supported and campaigned for the party's ticket in 1980, and all but one had cooperated in party events and fund raisers.

Slagle said Stenholm, Hance, and Reps. Jack Hightower and Richard White, who voted for the Reagan budget cuts, all participated in a Democratic fundraiser in Abilene in April.

"This is typical of all of our Democratic congressmen but one," Slagle said. "That one is being lionized in the press and media for being a leader of Republican causes. I, for one, find this media attention offensive as he is the one who received his post on the Budget Committee of Congress by giving his word to the majority leader, Jim Wright of Texas, that he would vote and act as a Democrat in Congress."

He said the average businessman in Texas, when he agrees to a transaction, keeps his word.

"A businessman in Texas usually refuses to have further dealings with a fellow who welsches on his word," Slagle said.

"But we in the Texas Democratic party can decide whether we believe Majority Leader Jim Wright, as to receiving such a pledge of conduct from Phil Gramm. And we can decide whether Congressman Gramm's subsequent conduct fulfills that pledge. I believe that most Texas Democrats will conclude that Gramm's conduct falls far short of his promise."

\$1 million bond set for Texan held in cocaine smuggling case

SEVIERVILLE, Tenn. — A Texas man is being held under \$1 million bond on charges he piloted a plane loaded with 600 pounds of South American cocaine to the Sevierville airport. He was arraigned Monday before a circuit court judge and ordered moved to a nearby jail.

Clarence Dennis Newell, 51, of Kemah waived the reading of his indictment and entered a plea of not guilty.

The \$200 million in cocaine was seized in March by federal, state and local law officers. The plane was found abandoned at the airport, which is located about 25 miles from Knoxville.

Newell was moved from Texas to Tennessee last week after waiving extradition. He is charged with possession of cocaine for resale.

No trial date was set. The former Texas International Airlines pilot was ordered moved to Jefferson County on a request by District Attorney General Al Schmutzer. The attorney

general sought the move because Sevier County Sheriff Carman Townsend said he was having difficulty keeping Newell separated from inmate Charles Leslie Kageler Jr., 24, a Lubbock man also charged in the case.

Due to the construction of the jail, it was impossible to keep the men separated, Townsend said.

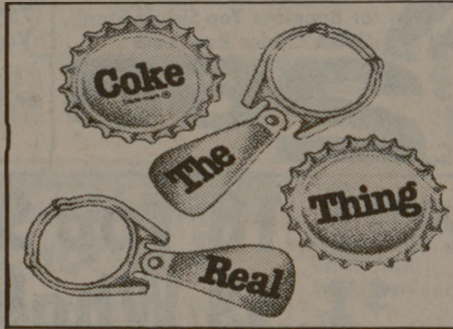
Judge Ken Porter first refused, then granted the motion on the move. Porter had denied the motion because Newell's attorney was reportedly en route to the hearing and not able to speak for his client. But, following a discussion with Schmutzer, the judge reversed himself.

Newell, arrested in Houston May 18 on a Tennessee warrant issued in Sevier County, was moved to Jefferson County about 10:30 a. m.

Two others have been charged in sealed indictments returned by a grand jury, but their names have not been released.

Kageler, whose father also is being sought in the case, is charged with possession of cocaine for resale and with conspiracy to distribute cocaine.

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First female police chief takes office

RED OAK — Texas' lone female police chief took office Monday, climaxing a meteoric rise in her 2-year-old police career.

Chief Judy Ransom — 37-year-old mother of two, who technically outranks her husband, a police corporal in nearby DeSoto — says she is supported by most of Red Oak's 1,800 residents.

"I'm sure there are people who don't think I can handle the job," she said. "But 90 percent of the people back me."

Ransom, who served as a reserve officer nine months before joining the department as a regular in September 1980, said she grew interested in police work through her husband, and struck out on a new career "as soon as the kids were old enough to make sandwiches for themselves."

Mayor Lester Watkins said Ransom was picked for the job because "she's a leader, and she's been doing a good job."

"Being a woman really didn't enter into our decision to select her," Watkins said.

Not that the new chief's gender goes unnoticed, however.

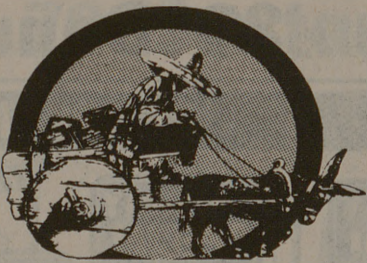
"People expect some big old husky broad," Watkins said. "They didn't know they were getting a trim, good-looking woman."

But from her four-man department, responsible for patrolling the town's 36-mile stretch of highways, the support is strictly cop-to-cop.

"She's a professional," one officer said. "She runs the department just like any other chief."



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