

Examiners board may be dissolved

Attorney favors medical act

United Press International
AUSTIN — A good dose of preventive medicine rather than the mere treatment of symptoms would enhance the quality of medical practice in Texas, a former assistant attorney general suffering from multiple sclerosis advised a House committee.

Bill Morse Jr. of Houston, testifying Monday before the House Government Organization, which is considering legislation to establish a state Medical Act, said too often physicians only treat symptoms.

As an example, he said, doctors took years to diagnose his multiple sclerosis and then insisted it was a disease.

Morse, representing the Health Freedom Council, said patients should not be precluded from utilizing preventive medicine.

He said doctors were "completely ignorant" of multiple sclerosis.

"They don't know what it is. Multiple sclerosis is a condition," he said. "I started getting progressively better once I began proper exercise, a proper diet and a stress reduction program."

"The medical profession could not help me at all. You're not familiar with preventive medicine because doctors only treat symptoms and they don't get to the root of a problem."

The committee also is considering whether to continue the State Board of Medical Examiners. The board will be dissolved on Sept. 1 if the Legislature does not vote to continue it.

Others testifying before the panel included Dr. Dan Dotson of Graham, the only physician

to successfully appeal revocation of his medical license by the board, who said physicians should have better guidelines concerning non-therapeutic practices.

"Non-therapeutic practices should be spelled out by the board and doctors should be told what they are in writing," he said. "This system seems to penalize the physician for giving the patient the benefit of a doubt."

Ann Chamberlain told the committee she had a masters degree in mental health nursing but would not be able to continue counseling services under the Medical Practice Act.

"The problem is what is nursing and what is the practice of medicine," she said. "Those of us who are practitioners must be able to practice legally."

Institute charged with issuing fake degrees

United Press International
DALLAS — A group of Texas colleges and universities has filed suit against what authorities charge was a "diploma mill" that awarded fraudulent college degrees for a fee.

Named in the State District Court suit filed Monday were Dr. S. Barnett Haynes, Raul Aceves and the Continuing Career Institute.

The suit, filed on behalf of the State College and University Coordinating Board, Texas A&M University and Prairie View A&M University, seeks an injunction to prohibit the defendants from violating Texas Education Code standards.

"The institute holds itself out as a private institution of higher education that can provide credits applicable to a degree, but it is operating without a certificate of authority from the Coordinating Board to grant degrees," the lawsuit said.

The suit specifically charges the institute awarded Lorenzo Holland of Dallas a fake bachelor of science degree in electrical technology along with a copy of a transcript containing the forged signature of four Prairie View A&M officials.

After paying \$175 for the degree, Holland learned Prairie View had no record of his transcript, said assistant attorney general Nancy Lynch. She said the institute solicited people like Holland, promising a combination of previous school credit and "life experience" could qualify for a degree.

Ms. Lynch said no additional classroom time was required — just money.

Dallas County assistant district attorney Marshall Gandy said it was likely criminal charges would be filed.

Texas Briefs

Demonstration

United Press International
HOUSTON — A demonstration against Israeli attacks on Lebanon ended in a fistfight between pro-Palestinian demonstrators and construction workers on their lunch break, officials said.

Sgt. Henry Pressley said a group of about 50 construction workers confronted the group of 20 demonstrators, representing groups called the General Union of Palestinian Students and Friends of Lebanon, shortly after noon Monday outside the Israeli Consulate.

Pressley said no one was seriously hurt and there were no arrests. He declined to say who prevailed in the struggle but a consulate official said: "The Arabs lost."

Tax revision

United Press International
AUSTIN — The Senate has given tentative approval to a proposed revision of the Property Tax Code, approving four controversial changes in the plan.

Sen. Grant Jones, D-Abilene, unsuccessfully pleaded with senators at the start of debate to leave controversy out of the proposal that has been labeled a "fine tuning" of the Property Tax Code passed two years ago. The bill faces one more Senate vote before being sent to the House.

The changes approved Monday include election of county tax appraisal board members from individual governmental units within the county, allowing counties to delay until 1985 implementation of 100 percent market valuations on taxable property, exempting implements of farming and ranching from property taxes and abolishing a requirement for a 25 percent voter turnout in elections to roll back local property tax increases of more than 5 percent.

Tax evasion

United Press International
FORT WORTH — A July 31 sentencing date has been set for a 2-year-old bookkeeper who pleaded guilty to two counts of income tax evasion for failing to report more than \$463,000 she allegedly embezzled from a drilling company.

Prosecutors said Monday that during 1978 and 1979, Thelma Jackson worked as a bookkeeper or Baker and Taylor Drilling Co. in Amarillo, Texas, and diverted, or her personal use, more than \$463,000 in company funds and failed to report any of the diverted funds on her tax returns. The government also said she failed to report gains from stock transactions she made with the diverted funds.

She is awaiting state trial on the embezzlement charges.

Kidnapping

United Press International
HOUSTON — A Vidor, Texas, man has been charged with kidnapping in the abduction and laying of a 19-year-old woman whose body was found in the San Jacinto River.

Police said Danny Dean Thomas, 25, was charged in the abduction of Sylvia Elaine Harrison. Her body was found Sunday in the San Jacinto River near Interstate 45. Bond for Thomas was set at \$100,000.

Harris County authorities believe the victim had car trouble, a man stopped to help and she invited the man into her home for a beer. She was abducted from her home, shot in the head and dumped in the river, investigators said.

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