

Program results unknown

Turtles take the test

United Press International
GALVESTON — Although Kemp's Ridley baby turtles have a 90 percent survival rate at a National Marine Fisheries greenhouse, it may be 1983 before scientists know if their program to save the endangered turtles is a success.

Scientist Jim McBey said the 1,700 turtles segregated in aerated plastic buckets suspended in water are what is left of the fourth group of hatchlings whose eggs were airlifted in July from a Mexican beach to Padre Island in July.

The Ridelys must be segregated in captivity because of their aggressiveness. Almost 40

percent of McBey's first group in 1978 died because they injured each other.

Scientists are conducting an experiment to see if the hatchlings "imprinted" on Padre Island will return to a safer nesting area than Rancho Nuevo, Mexico, when they mature.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service undertook the program to try and save the Ridelys and experiment with imprinting because in the 1970s the population was reduced to 2,000. Eggs laid at Rancho Nuevo were being stolen by people who believed them to be aphrodisiacs.

McBey said Thursday: "There's no return yet of turtles

we released (in 1978) and I don't expect any for at least five years after birth."

That means the first evidence the million-dollar project is working may come in spring 1983.

Each year, when a group of turtles reaches the age of 1 and weighs about one pound, they are banded and released. Turtles from the last group, released off Padre Island last summer, have been observed from the Louisiana coast to the Bay of Campeche off Mexico, McBey said.

The current group will be the second released in the water out of Padre. Previous releases were

in Florida, and scientists found from there the turtles were harder to track.

Last summer, the Mexican government delayed issuing a permit for U.S. scientists to take about 2,000 of the eggs laid from Rancho Nuevo. When the permit came through, a plane-load of eggs packed in paper was flown to Padre Island.

The hatchlings were released at the top of the Padre beach and allowed to walk into the surf before being scooped up for shipment to Galveston. Scientists believe Ridelys may return to the beach they first touch and remember.



Jailhouse blues

photo by Rose D...

Douglas Britz, an electrical engineering junior from Houston, is imprisoned in a mock prison camp as part of MSC All Nite Fair.

Stink raised over pollution

United Press International
HOUSTON — A Texas Air Control Board member recommends the state sue Houston Lighting & Power Co. over coal particulate pollution escaping from three coal power plants near Richmond.

Cecil Bradford, TACB enforcement officer, said efforts to negotiate with HL&P have failed and that filing a lawsuit will force the power company to develop a compliance schedule

for reducing pollution from the W.A. Parish Station.

"We think this is the best way to go," Bradford said Thursday. His suggestion would have to be approved by two higher air board officials and then be submitted to the attorney general's office.

HL&P spokesman Graham Painter expressed surprise at Bradford's suggestion and said the company "has been trying in

good faith to solve the problem." He acknowledged high particulate emissions were being caused by the burning of coal from Western states and because emission control technology is not well developed.

Painter said the three coal-fired plants each have a \$25 million electrostatic precipitator to control the pollution.

HL&P went to the coal plants for environmental reasons and

Painter said he found it ironic to be having pollution problems with them.

HL&P was cited by the TACB five times since the first of the coal-burning plants began operating in 1978 and was called to a TACB hearing in Austin Nov. 12 over the matter. HL&P reported after the meeting it had hired Bechtel Power Corp. to study the problem and recommend a solution.

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Judge refuses to stop GM 'Let's Get Moving' rebates

United Press International
AUSTIN — General Motors will be able to continue offering its "Let's Get Moving" rebate program allowing customers up to \$2,000 refunds under a judge's ruling.

But the state of Texas intends to appeal the ruling.

General Motors' rebate program, which began Feb. 1, had been halted by a temporary restraining order requested by Attorney General Mark White.

White contended that the car buyer was not getting the full rebate promised in advertise-

ments, since dealers were forced to pass on their 25 percent share of the rebate to the customer. He said General Motors was therefore violating the Deceptive Trade Act.

But District Judge Herman Jones angrily refused Thursday to enjoin General Motors from continuing the rebate program and dissolved the restraining order. Jones said General Motors had contracted with its dealers to pay for 75 percent of the rebates, ranging from \$500 to \$2,000, and that contract must be observed.

"I'm not in the business of tel-

ling business people how to contract with each other," Jones said angrily. "I will require that the parties live under that contract until March 31."

Jones cautioned that the automobile industry needs financial help but he said the manufacturer and the automobile dealers should not haggle over contracts they freely sign with each other.

"The automobile industry needs a lot of things. But one thing it does not need is a feud between it and its dealers," the judge said.

Assistant Attorney General

Jack Ayres, who presented state's case, said he would appeal Jones' ruling immediately.

Ayres argued that General Motors should pay the rebate to the consumer and prohibit the company from taking from the dealers for a portion of the rebate.

"All the dealers wanted a hook," Ayres said.

Jimmy Perkins, General Motors' assistant national manager, said the company would continue the program in Texas until the March 31 expiration.

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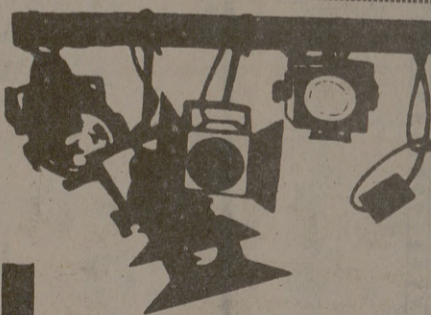
Dallas Hispanics blast school board

United Press International
DALLAS — Mexican-American leaders and classroom teachers have attacked the Dallas school board, claiming board policies discriminate against Hispanics.

Representatives of 10 Hispanic organizations Thursday protested the board's decision to appeal the recent court desegregation order that requires the

Dallas Independent School District to double the number of Hispanic teachers in the five years.

The Mexican-American representatives said it is possible to hire enough Mexican-American teachers and noted more than 2,000 teaching certificates issued to Hispanics in the last year.



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