

C'mon, please buy a ticket!

staff photo by Sumanesh Agrawal

Chris Fields, a freshman business major from Houston, calls out to passerby trying to convince them to buy a

ticket for the annual suitcase party sponsored by the Puryear Playboys.

## Redistricting plans explained to court

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — The U.S. Supreme Court, which is considering an appeal by a Texas Republican group, is getting the full explanation of why a three-judge federal panel imposed certain House and Senate redistricting lines.

The panel issued a 73-page opinion and 25 pages of footnotes Wednesday explaining its March 5 imposition of temporary redistricting plans for the May 1 primary and all elections until Dec. 31, 1983, "unless valid reapportionment plans are sooner acted."

The high court had received the panel's summary opinion earlier, but has given no indica-

tion when it will rule on the appeal by the Associated Republicans of Texas, a non-profit, Austin-based fund-raising group, to block the panel's decision.

ART is opposing the decision to institute the basic plans drawn up by the Legislative Redistricting Board.

The panel was hearing a challenge to the LRB plans when the Justice Department threw them out on grounds they did not accurately reflect minority voting strengths.

The judges, in imposing the temporary boundaries, said they felt the importance of holding the May 1 primary on time superseded Justice Department

objections. ART financed the original challenge to the LRB plans on grounds they discriminated against Republicans, minorities and urban residents. The panel has made no ruling yet on the merits of the case.

The LRB was forced to draw up the plans after Gov. Bill Clements vetoed the Senate plan passed by the Legislature and an Austin judge ruled the Legislature's House plan was unconstitutional.

A three-judge panel in Austin was forced to redraw Texas congressional lines after the Justice Department also declared the state's plan unconstitutional.

## To return or not to return: the \$3.4 million question

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — Vicki Pannell — and a bank teller's negligence — parlayed a \$23.80 phone bill into a \$3.4 million dollar fortune. But, honesty finally triumphed and Pannell's living on an executive secretary's salary once again.

This week, Pannell bought a small money order from First National Bank to pay a telephone bill she left when she moved from Indiana five weeks ago.

When she got home and took a second look, she held a negotiable instrument for \$3,400,023.80.

However, there was a drawback: the money order was inscribed "Not valid for over \$500."

So, the next day, Pannell took the money back to the bank. "They didn't make a big deal

of it," she said. "It seemed like a normal, everyday thing that they go through."

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## Budget cuts force station closings

**United Press International**  
NEW ORLEANS — Federal budget cuts are forcing the closure of more than a dozen Coast Guard stations in five states, including offices that register large recreational and commercial vessels, officials say.

Coast Guard Senior Chief Jim Kosch said 13 Vessel Documentation Offices and some recruiting offices will be closed and aides to navigation teams at Apalachicola, Fla., and Dulac, La., will be reassigned to other operations.

"They are planning on closing them," Kosch said. "We don't have a schedule for the date of closure."

The Vessel Documentation Offices primarily deal with the registration of commercial vessels, but also register some large recreational vessels. A lack of funds was responsible for the shutdowns, he said.

If the documentation offices close, Kosch said the paperwork that has been administered at those offices would be shifted to a Marine Inspection Office in New Orleans.

The closure could be an inconvenience to the shipping industry, Kosch said, especially shipbuilders along the Louisiana coast who would have to travel to New Orleans to register their vessels.

"Some of the people that will

be involved or their companies, from what we've heard, will consider it at least a nuisance," he said.

"They've been exploring ways of streamlining the process so more of it can be done by mail. Some of it requires a personal appearance now and some by delivery as opposed to mail so they can be certified."

The U.S. House of Representatives is considering a supplemental appropriation to provide \$48 million needed by the Coast Guard for operations this year.

About \$1.5 million has been earmarked to continue operation of the Vessel Traffic Systems in New Orleans, New York and San Francisco. The VTS in New Orleans, which monitored ship traffic and warned of impending collisions on the Mississippi River, was terminated last week.

"The funding that the House has been discussing ... is a supplemental appropriation not necessarily directed at a particular unit," Kosch said. "I don't know right now where the money will go."

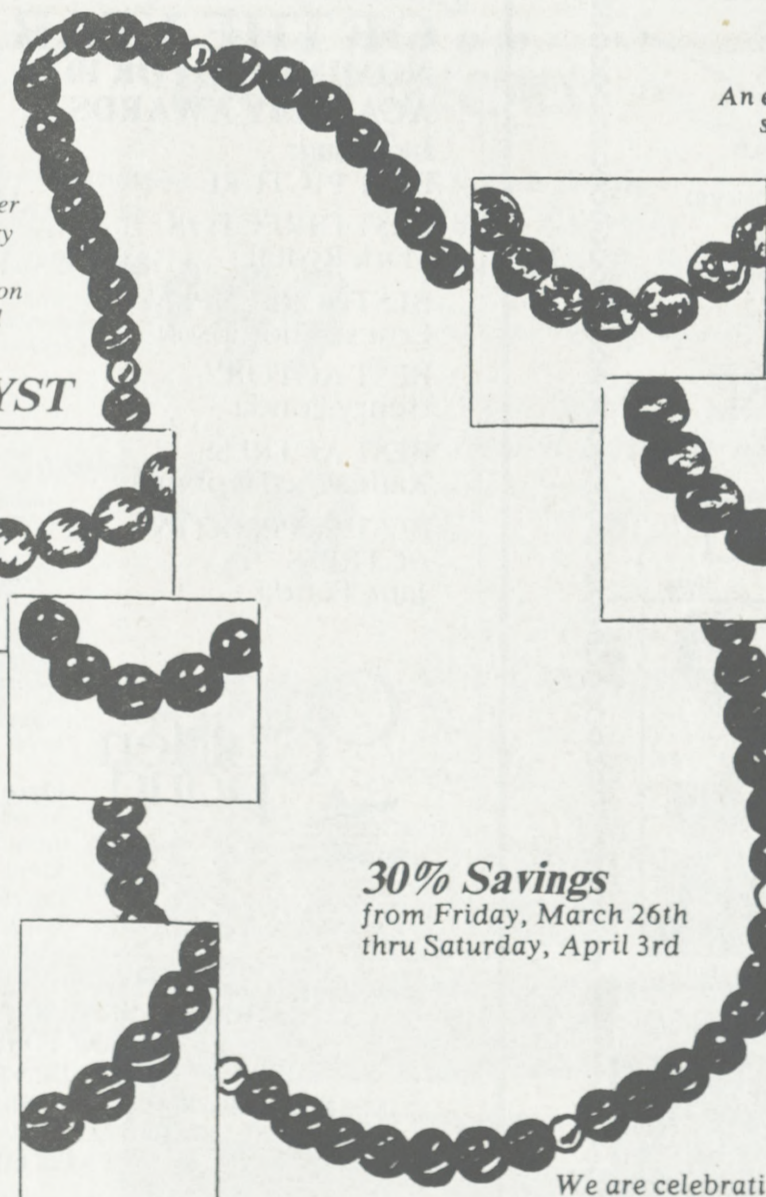
Approximately 100 workers displaced in the shutdowns will be transferred to other units.

Texas documentation offices scheduled to close are in Brownsville, Galveston, Corpus Christi, Houston and Port

Arthur. Other offices scheduled to close are in Baton Rouge, La.; Biloxi, Miss.; Morgan City, La.;

Mobile, Ala.; Pensacola, Fla.; Apalachicola; and Lake Charles, La.

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