



Young, intrepid reporter

photo by Colette Hutchings

Nancy Weatherley, a senior journalism major from Irving, a TV news anchor on KAMU-TV, was taping a segment for 15 Magazine. The piece will air the last week in August. A production assistant at KAMU-TV, Weatherley was taping a segment for 15 Magazine. The piece will air the last week in August.

New Orleans possible site of 1984 Demo convention

United Press International
NEW ORLEANS — City leaders are teaming with 1984 World's Fair officials to take a look at making a bid for the 1984 Democratic National Convention.

New Orleans became a candidate for the political meeting when the National Organization for Women and other women's groups dropped a boycott of the city, organized after New Orleans and several other cities did not endorse the Equal Rights Amendment.

"Now, the National Political Women's Caucus and other pro-ERA groups have quietly dropped a boycott that virtually put New Orleans off limits to a national Democratic convention," said Kathy Vick, vice chairman of the Louisiana Democratic Party.

As a result, if the tourism industry can accommodate the world's fair and the Democratic convention simultaneously for one week in August, 1984, New Orleans is very much a possibility.

The world's fair is designed to accommodate the needs of simultaneous events like the national political convention, said fair general manager Petr Spurney.

A Democratic National Committee spokesman in Washington said convention planners believe New Orleans, Chicago, Miami and Atlanta are major cities in anti-ERA states that now are possible sites for the 1984 convention.

City officials also stress the Superdome would be a prime

facility to house the convention.

Edward McNeill, vice president and executive director of the Greater New Orleans Tourist and Convention Commission, said even with the world's fair here, there is a chance that a sufficient number of hotel rooms could be made available for the convention, provided the planning is done far enough in advance.

The Republicans already have chosen Dallas as the site of their 1984 national convention.

Headphone's connected to earbones; laws pending

United Press International
City and state governments nationwide are imposing laws with strict fines to keep a growing number of Americans from walking, jogging and driving in the "never, never land" of stereo headsets.

Woodbridge, N.J., recently became the first city to ban the use of the earphone-cassette players by drivers of cars, motorcycles and mopeds, as well as joggers on roadways. When the ordinance takes effect Aug. 29, even pedestrians will have to remove the headsets to cross the street.

But Chicago Alderman Louis Farino said Wednesday he was the first lawmaker to propose such a measure. The idea came to him after a near-miss with a cyclist wired to a personal stereo.

"One day I was driving my car and a cyclist was in front of me," Farino said. "I saw him with his headset on, blew my horn and tried to pass him. He damn near hit me. He said he was sorry, he was listening to music and couldn't hear me."

He said a young suburban woman was killed recently because she didn't hear a car coming.

Farino's headset ban was passed in a City Council committee but never made it to the full council, evidently because of pressure from the electronics industry.

No headsets while driving, motorcycling or biking would be allowed. Joggers and pedestrians would have to remove the earphones while crossing streets.

"I've noticed a higher and higher degree of people riding cars, motorcycles and bikes with these things on," Councilman William K. Collins said. "I term that a hazard simply because people using personal stereo units cannot hear oncoming cars. It's really getting out of hand."

Collins, 30, a Brown University geologist, said a headset-equipped jogger recently walked in front of his car at an intersection:

"I watched this guy bebopping across the street cutting me off, and he didn't know where he was. He was in never, never land."

Politicians — able to hear a bandwagon from miles away, with or without headphones — are proposing more laws on the subject and harsher fines.

The Woodbridge, N.J., law carries a \$50 fine and 15 days in jail and several bills are pending in other cities.

One measure, sponsored by New Jersey Sen. John Gregorio, would impose a \$75 fine for a first offense for anyone found wearing the earphones on a highway, whether on foot or in a vehicle. A second violation would be \$150.

In Massachusetts, it is illegal to operate a motor vehicle while wearing a stereo headset. The fine is \$25 for a first offense and

can go as high as \$100 for subsequent violations.

"The reason for this law is obvious," Public Safety Director

George A. Luciano said. "Next to sight, hearing is the most important sense used when driving."

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