state

Tank rupture pours acid onto freeway

United Press International BEAUMONT— The tank of a tractor-trailer truck split open on an interstate highway early today spilling several thousand gallons of hydrochloric acid onto the freeway and access roads and injuring the driver and a policeman, officials said. The hydrochloric acid vapo-

rized and formed a cloud of gas up to 40 yards wide and 200 yards long along Interstate 10, Beaumont police Capt. Joe Crutchfield said.

Part of U.S. 69, which was closed when the spill occurred about 12:30 a.m., was reopened east on Interstate 10.

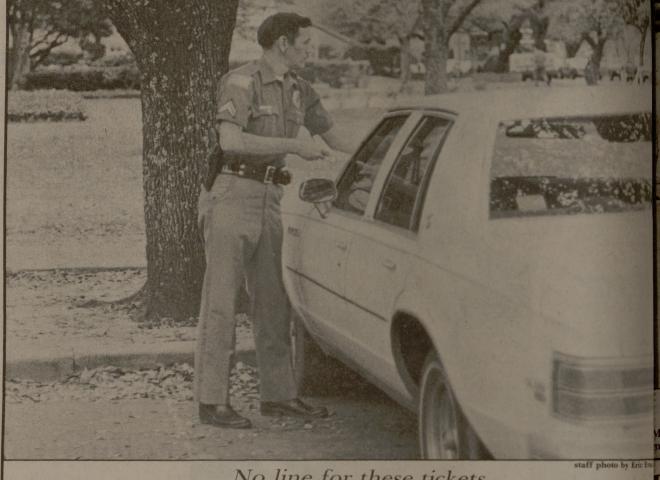
Crutchfield said about 500 people were evacuated from Cardi's, a nearby nightclub, and the gas threatened several homes and a housing project along the freeway.

Firefighters, however, were able to neutralize the acid before it reached the residential area. Authorities had not determined what caused the tank which was carrying several thousand gallons of the chemical, to split as the truck traveled

early today, police said. But southbound traffic to Port covered both sides of the free-way and the access roads, prompting authorities to close a one-fourth mile stretch on both

> The driver, an unidentified independent trucker, was injured as well as a Beaumont policeman, who both came in contact with the chemical. The his hand and feet.

Hydrochloric acid is a highly corrosive chemical used in ore processing and in cleaning met-als. Its fumes are irritable to the



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University Police officer Russell Kline writes out a ticket Tuesday afternoon. This lot, between the

Coke Building and the YMCA Building, is three or four times a day

Detective says bathtub deaths are unrelated

United Press International HOUSTON — Early ques-tioning of a suspect gave police a "stronger feeling" the deaths of three women found in bathtubs, including the wife of former Arkansas Gov. Orval Faubus,

were unrelated, a detective said.
"It's a stronger feeling today than it has been but it was always strong," Detective J.C. Mosier said. "There's always a possibil-ity until we talk to him further." Mosier said a 29-year-old man arrested in San Antonio

Houston late Tuesday for further questioning in the deaths. Mosier said the arrest came as

a result of an anonymous tip and disputed reports the man was linked with a car seen leaving the scene of one of the killings.

"We got an anonymous tip, just I guess in answer to some of the publicity," Mosier said. "Somebody called in and said you might check this guy out. He possibly could have been involved in a murder of a woman

Monday was brought back to in one of these cases

'We did a little checking and found out he had a burglary warrant on him early in February. We found out where he might be after doing some inves-tigative work. We contacted the sheriff in San Antonio.

Reports had indicated the man was a suspect in the strangulation of Bertie Eakins, 74, whose battered body was found in her bathtub March 1. Ruth Kottler, 61, was found beaten and strangled in her bathtub the

On Thursday Elizabeth Faubus, 44, who was awaiting finalization of divorce from the former Arkansas governor, was found dead in her bathtub. Her death was ruled asphyxiation because of some unidentified object pressed on her throat.

Although all three women were found in bathtubs in their homes and all had been separated from their husbands, there were differences in the cases. Eakins and Kottler were found clothed. Faubus' body

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United Press International MARSHALL — A jury will decide later this month whether a woman whose four infant children died is mentally competent to be tried in the beating death

of her 3-month-old daughter.
District Judge Ben Z. Grant
Tuesday scheduled the competency hearing for the week of

Sherry Allman, 24, is charged with murder and injury to a child in the Nov. 9, 1982, beating death of Sherry Lynn Allman. She also is charged in Kansas City, Mo., with second degree murder in the 1976 death of her 4 months old son Marrin of her 4-month-old son, Marvin

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A third Allman child, Joseph, died in 1978 at the age of one month, but that death has been attributed to Sudden Infant Death Syndrome. A fourth child died after a premature birth.

All four deaths initially were attributed to SIDS, but an autopsy on Sherry Lynn disclosed she suffered a fractured skull, broken neck, three broken ribs and an arm injury. That inquiry reopened investigations into the other babies' deaths.

Mrs. Allman earlier underwent a court-ordered mental examination at Rusk State Hospital and was found not competent stand trial. However,

improve if committed to Rusk for treatment. The woman will undergo tests

this week in Shreveport by her own doctors, said attorney James Wedding. He said it was likely a 12-person jury would commit Mrs. Allman to Rusk.

'Since the state's own doctors said she was incompetent, think the state will join us in that motion (to commit her)," Wed-ding said. "If the jury finds her incompetent, she can be sent to

Mrs. Allman could be committed to Rusk for not less than six months and not longer than

psychiatrist concluded she could 18 months, Wedding of Does a then would be given de death o

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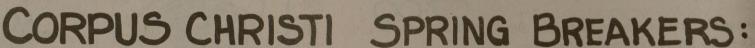
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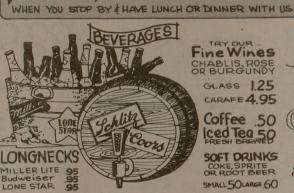
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