

# state

## Bill to give option in drunk arrests

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — The Senate will consider a bill that gives police the option to take non-disorderly drunks to treatment centers rather than to jail.

With public drunkenness accounting for roughly one-third of all arrests in the state, Sen. Chet Brooks, D-Pasadena, said treatment facilities must be established to deal with drunks.

"If we're going to enhance penalties for DWI and give judges treatment options, we

need this bill to start developing the community treatment centers," Brooks said.

"We have evolved now to the question of what is the appropriate place for treatment. Is it through the revolving doors of a jail or in an appropriate treatment center?"

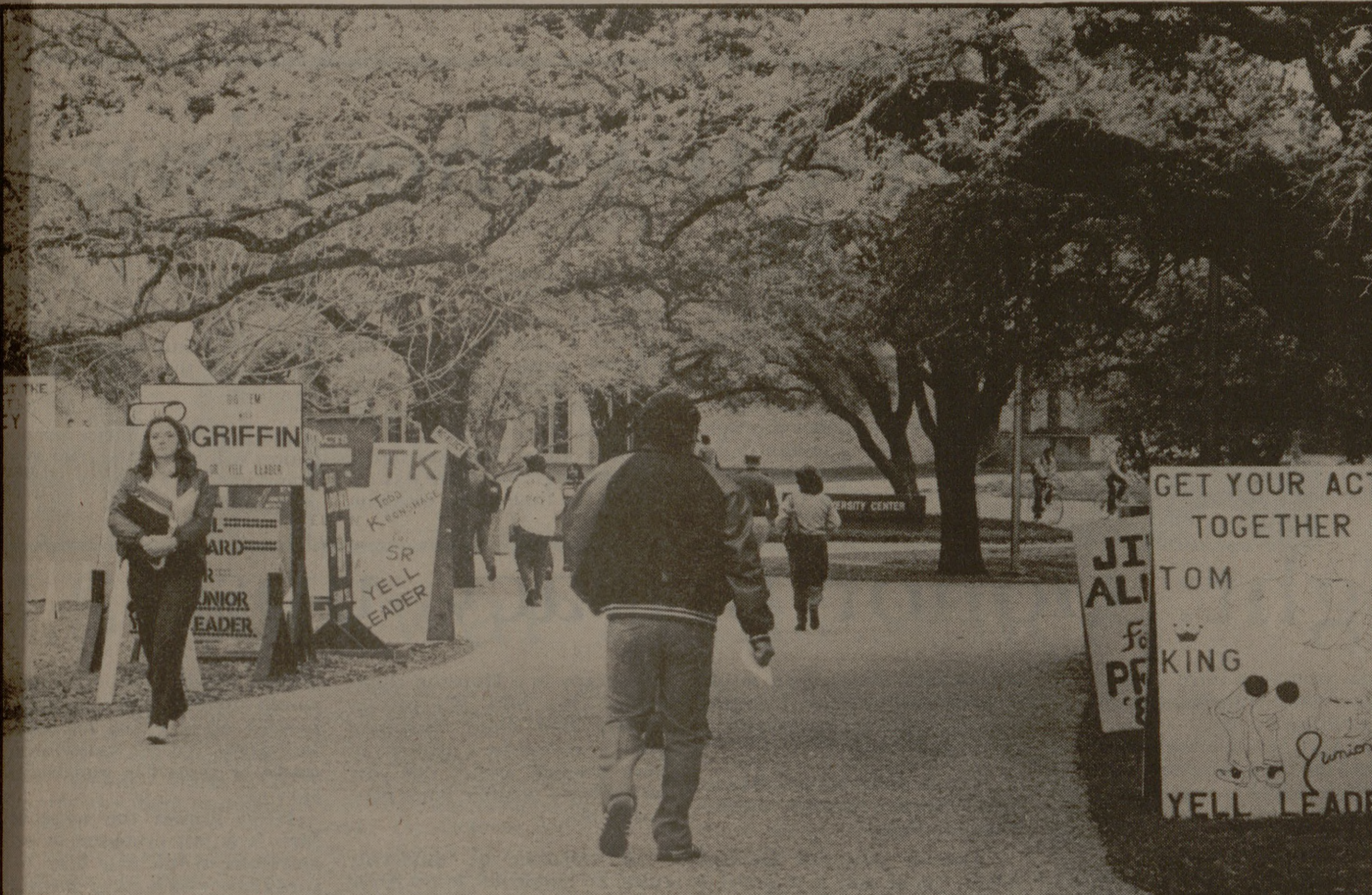
Brooks sponsored the measure which won unanimous support from the Health and Human Resources Committee. The committee sent the bill to the full Senate. A similar bill is under

consideration in the House.

Ross Newby, executive director of the Texas Commission on Alcoholism, has termed the bill a divergence rather than a decriminalization measure.

"The only real difference is one word," Newby said. "Under decriminalization, it would say an arresting officer shall take an offender to a place of treatment."

"Under divergence, it says the officer can take an offender to a place of treatment. Divergence does not mandate anything."



Billboard boulevard

staff photo by Irene Mees

Campaign signs like these by the Memorial Student Center have sprouted all over campus. Elections for student government positions and yell leaders are March 29 and 30.

### Lead smelters suspected

## Tests show brain damage

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — Independent medical tests show evidence of organic brain damage in the first 21 young people examined because they lived near two controversial lead smelters, an attorney revealed.

The development Monday came as a Georgia congressman charged that acting Environmental Protection Agency Administrator John Hernandez rejected a 1981 plan to clean up lead-contaminated soils near the two smelters.

Attorney Jane Saginaw said extensive medical and psychological examinations of the young people, ranging from six to 16-years-old, showed evidence of neurological problems related to lead exposure. She said she expects to find similar results in older people as they are tested.

Saginaw represents more than 200 young people, ranging from one to 18-years-old, who charge that lead pollution from the smelters caused them to suffer neurological damage, learning disabilities and other health

problems.

Meanwhile, Bill H. McAnalley, an EPA toxicologist from 1979 to 1982, said he and Dr. Norman Dyer, chief of toxic substances, sought cleanup of the lead-tainted soil but were rebuffed by superiors.

"This was the worst case I know of in the region for a potential and imminent hazard," said McAnalley.

On Feb. 1, the EPA, the city of Dallas and the federal Center for Disease Control in Atlanta released a study that found

potentially harmful lead levels in 14 preschool children — 5.6 percent — living within half a mile of RSR Corp. in West Dallas.

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## Prison employee files million dollar sex suit

**United Press International**  
SAN ANTONIO — A former Bexar County jail employee has filed a \$1 million sexual harassment lawsuit against Sheriff Joe Neaves and four other jail officials.

Alma Rios, 31, a divorced mother of four, charged in a suit filed Monday that she was fired last September for failing to submit to sexual advances from jail employees.

Rios said the suit was filed after the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission failed to act on her charges of sexual harassment.

Neaves denied the charges, saying "I haven't been served with the papers yet, but from what I know, she's a disgruntled fired employee, and I think there's something wrong with her."

The official reasons given for Rios' firing were abusing sick leave and refusing to abide by rules and regulations. She was, however, fired just two days after a television station aired her allegations.

Rios claimed in the suit that sexual harassment caused her to suffer a nervous breakdown, which required hospitalization.

"I couldn't take it any more. I had to kick one guy where it hurts because I refused to be his woman," Rios told a San Antonio newspaper.

The suit claims that former jail Commander Manuel Arcos and Sgt. Michael McClure

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