state

Houstonians should ignore Klan rally, police chief says

United Press International

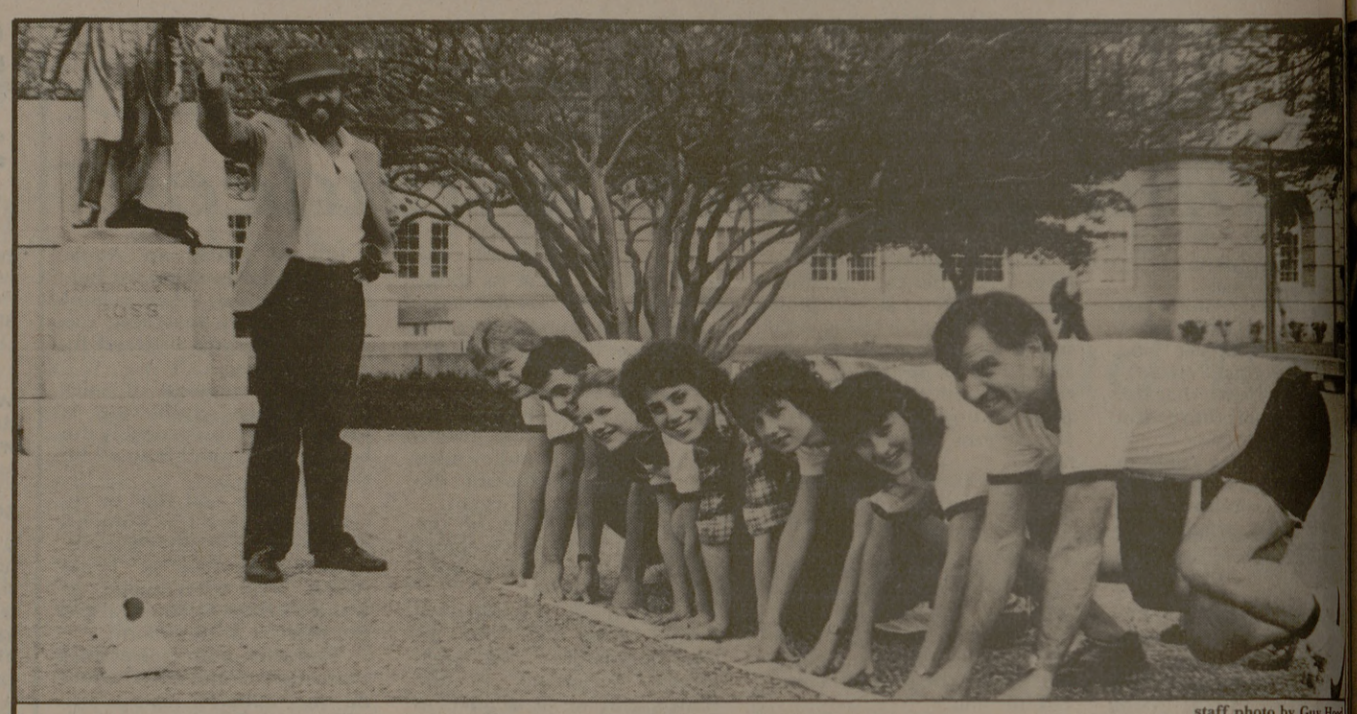
HOUSTON — Houston Police Chief Lee Brown is urging citizens to avoid downtown Houston Saturday during a planned Ku Klux Klan rally and march.

"In the interest of helping police maintain order and forestalling violence, citizens should avoid the downtown area where the proposed Ku Klux Klan march and rally are to be held," Brown said Wednesday.

Brown said police will be present for the downtown rally scheduled for noon Saturday, but he said the city hoped to avoid violence like that accompanying an Austin Klan march Feb. 19.

Thirteen people were arrested and 11 others injured in the Austin event.

"People who take part in the Klan march and rally will be expressing their constitutional rights, but they will be expected to abide by all legal requirements," Brown said.



staff photo by Guy Hood

Running the rat race

Members of the Psi Chi Club, headed by Dr. Chuck Stoup, prepare to pounce on their favorite experimental subject, the rat. The club will be running a benefit Fun Run on Saturday for Sheltering Arms, a Bryan Child Abuse Center. Members of the club are, left to right, Mike Sanders, Kevin Miner, Cindi Arms, Lesli Hames, Suzann Speckman, Susan Hudson and Charles Cross.

Dallas

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Handicapped infants 'are being murdered'

United Press International

AUSTIN — Just as the Nazis exterminated "defective" human beings during World War II, handicapped babies are being murdered by medical personnel who believe it is best to let a mentally retarded infant die, a House committee was told Wednesday.

Carmen Quesada, director of the Association for Retarded Citizens of Texas, urged the House Judiciary Committee to approve a bill providing criminal penalties for doctors and nurses who intentionally refuse to perform life-sustaining operations, provide nourishment or give other routine medical treatment to handicapped children.

"Persons who are labeled 'imperfect' or whose lives are considered inconvenient are being murdered," Quesada told the committee, which sent the measure by Rep. Randy Pennington, R-Houston, to a subcommittee for further study.

"We witnessed this kind of thinking 40 years ago in Germany during the Nazi regime," Quesada said.

Pennington said federal law allows for the withdrawal of federal funds from hospitals where such deprivation occurs, but he said the state had no specific statutes governing such cases.

"This proposed legislation simply says that now it will be unlawful to let a newborn child die because that child happens to be born somewhat impaired," Pennington said.

Quesada told the committee that although 75 percent of retarded people are able to live productive and independent lives, some physicians think it best to let a retarded infant die.

"While we would all like to believe we have come a long way from ancient times when infants who were different were drowned or abandoned to die of neglect, accounts from all over the country tell us differently," Quesada said.

She cited the case of a retarded Indiana baby who died from starvation because a routine surgical procedure was withheld.

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Multi-national corporations exploit El Salvador - unionist

United Press International

SAN ANTONIO — A Salvadoran trade unionist says multinational corporations could be a viable resource should democracy return to the El Salvador, but they are currently exploiting the work force and natural resources.

Alejandro Molina Lara, a leader of the National Federation of Salvadorn Workers and president of the Fishing Industry Union, said multi-nationals are "taking our natural resources and exploiting the work force of El Salvador."

Citing his country's high unemployment rate, however, Molina Lara said multi-national corporations would be welcome, with certain restrictions, should democracy return to war torn El Salvador.

"A source of wealth is our labor force," he said. "They (corporations) could provide work, but they would have to respect our self-determination."

About 75 multi-national corporations, including American firms, have interests in El Salvador, where workers make as little as $2.50 a day, he said.

Molina Lara also said that multi-nationals would have to pay taxes on the profits they take from El Salvador, adding "they haven't been paying those taxes for half a century now."

The union leader, who has lived in the United States since 1981, charged the U.S. government with sending troops and weapons to El Salvador only to protect the corporations' interests.

"That is why President Reagan has to put forward the deceit about El Salvador being an East-West conflict," he said, denying that the anti-government movement represented a Marxist movement.

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