

# Who is deafmute runaway?

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — Authorities Wednesday were trying to determine the identity of a teenager, who can neither speak nor hear, who sought help from a security guard, indicating he was a runaway from Canada who had lived on the streets for two weeks.

Vincent P. Henderson, assistant director of investigations for the Immigration and Natural-

ization Service, said juvenile probation authorities notified INS about the boy after determining he was an illegal alien.

Henderson said authorities have reason to believe the youth, about 16, is running away from a foster home in Canada. Officials said the boy has indicated an interest in returning to Canada, but not to the foster parents, and that his fear of returning home is complicating the efforts to

identify him.

Investigators have been unable to identify the boy by checking with authorities in Toronto or Quebec City — cities he has mentioned in notes.

Henderson said all communication with the boy is through notes, since he apparently doesn't understand sign language in English or French and doesn't read lips.

The blue-eyed, brown-haired

boy turned himself in to a mall security guard Henderson said, and wrote that he was tired of living on the streets of Houston.

Henderson said juvenile probation authorities had indications the boy sneaked into the United States with the help of a truck driver.

The boy, who Henderson said is terrified of being locked up, is staying at the Houston Community Youth Center.

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# Rabbinical Assembly denies woman entry

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — The president of the Rabbinical Assembly says the closeness of a vote that denied membership to a woman indicates that it is likely the organization of Conservative rabbis will admit women in the near future.

The Rabbinical Assembly, holding its 83rd annual convention in Dallas, Tuesday voted 210-75 in favor of accepting Rabbi Beverly Magidson of St. Louis. However, assembly bylaws require a three-fourths majority

to pass a membership application.

The Rabbinical Assembly represents 1,200 Conservative rabbis. Conservatives are the moderate faction of Judaism, less stringent in their interpretation of religious laws than Orthodox Jews but more strict than Reform Jews.

Assembly President Rabbi Arnold Goodman of Atlanta, who voted in favor of Rabbi Magidson's acceptance, said the vote touched on the issues of Jewish law and feminism. "People who are more

modern felt it was time to recognize the reality of the feminist movement," Goodman said.

Rabbi Magidson, who not attend the meeting reapply for membership next year, Goodman said.

"We had voted on the principle (in past years) and it passed," Goodman said. "For the first time we had to deal with the specific application."

"On a straight majority there would have been a problem," he said.

# World War II vets services weakened by VA budget cuts

**United Press International**  
TYLER — The men and women who served in World War II have an increasing need for help from the Veterans Administration. But a former administrator fears the agency may be too weakened by budget cuts to provide it.

Max Cleland, said Tuesday, that beginning in the mid-1980s, World War II veterans will be descending on VA health care

facilities "in droves."

He said out-patient and nursing home care will be especially important for those veterans, many of whom will be seeking help from the VA for the very first time, but those services may be hampered because the "budget ax continues to fall heavily" in Washington.

Cleland, who headed the VA during Jimmy Carter's administration, said he is afraid that the

nation might be entering a period in which veterans seek care will be denied.

Cleland, now the General Secretary of state, was in Tyler Tuesday for a speech at the University of Texas at Tyler.

He called for expanded out-patient care and home care and asked Congress and President Reagan pay close attention to the needs of the Vietnam veterans.

# Former state justice says Texas courts slow, outdated

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — The Texas court system is inefficient, outdated and slow to exact justice, but lawmakers are afraid to make improvements, a former state chief justice said.

"At the Legislature we are told, 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it,'" said former Justice Joe Greenhill Tuesday. "And then they kind of give us the brushoff."

He said many criminals are

released prematurely because incompetents are named as judges. He also said that legal cases are handled poorly and that the system needs an overhaul.

"There are a number of criminal defense lawyers in the Legislature," he said. "They are fine people, but change is not in their interests or their client interests."

Greenhill said he objected to

the judicial districting plan which has forced judges in major cities to take on heavy loads and has given rural areas too few cases.

"Business cannot operate without efficient administration," he said. "Neither courts, and we have the most inefficient system to process cases. If punishment is to be sure you might think about committing a crime."

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