

Prison populations growing

Texas jails lead nation

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Texas prison population, the largest in the nation, grew by 15 percent last year, much faster than the national average, U.S. Justice Department statistics showed Monday.

Prison population nationwide grew 42,915 to a total of 412,303 inmates, the Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics reported.

Texas last year led all other states in the number of prisoners held in state and federal fac-

ilities. Prison population in 1982 totaled 36,282, which is a 15.2 percent increase over the previous year. In 1981, the prison population grew by only 3.4 percent.

Nationwide, total prison population jumped 11.6 percent in 1982, which is slightly less than 1981 nationwide prison growth of 12.2 percent.

An analysis of the statistics revealed that "severe pressure on the nation's correctional resources will continue throughout this decade."

Texas' 1982 year-end total represented 4,780 additional prisoners, second only to California's increase of 5,257 inmates and Florida's addition of 4,241 inmates.

The 1982 growth in prison populations produced record incarceration rates, the bureau found. Nationwide, there were 170 prisoners per 100,000 persons in the general population last year, compared to a rate of 153 inmates per 100,000 people in 1981.

In Texas, the incarceration

rate was 237 prisoners per 100,000 residents in 1982.

The bureau predicted the large number of post-World War II "baby boom" males, now reaching their crime-prone years, could continue to drive up the prison population through at least 1990.

Most prison inmates fall within the range of 20 to 29 years old. The largest group in the United States in 1982 was 22, which the bureau said is still relatively young in terms of imprisonment potential.

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Fight erupts over telephone

United Press International
HOUSTON — A dispute over a pay telephone erupted into gunfire which left one man dead and six others injured, police said Monday.

Officers said the incident began about 10 p.m. Sunday at a north side apartment complex when a man became impatient because a woman was holding a

pay telephone too long, and took the phone away from her.

Police said the woman's husband, Richard Lara, 29, hit the man in the stomach and started a fight.

Homicide Detective C.E. Dailey said the fight then "deteriorated into a gun battle" which killed Lara and wounded six others.

Apartment manager Sylvester Magee said he heard shots and looked outside to see four people running around the courtyard "shooting each other like crazy."

Lara died at the scene.

Three other men injured remained in poor condition at Hermann and Ben Taub hospitals Monday. Three women wounded in the fight were hospitalized in good condition at Ben Taub.



"At Home/Abroad"

Rachel Hernandez and Marc Gessner perform in "At Home/Abroad," directed by Vickye Boone. The play is one of 12 plays put on by the Theater Arts directing class. The final performances

will be tonight at 6 and 9:30 in the Academic and Agency Building. An off-campus performance is 8 p.m. at South Knoll Elementary School. All performances are free to the public.

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Large balloons to test the upper atmosphere

United Press International
PASADENA, Calif. — Four gigantic balloons crammed with scientific instruments will be released in the next several weeks to continue a study of ozone in the Earth's stratosphere.

The balloons will be launched by an international team of scientists in two simultaneous pairs from the National Scientific Balloon Facility in Palestine, Texas, anytime after Monday if weather conditions permit.

The Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena is participating in the project and furnishing two of the 40-million-cubic balloons. The four 800-foot-tall bags will make up the greatest number of big balloons released in one day and they will lift the

heaviest scientific payloads by balloons in a single day — eight tons.

Ozone, an unstable gas consisting of three oxygen atoms, collects in the stratosphere — about 7 to 30 miles up — where it absorbs a large part of the sun's ultraviolet rays and prevents that harsh radiation from damaging life on the Earth's surface.

Scientists have been concerned about the effects of man-made gases on ozone. Such gases as chloro-fluorocarbons — used in refrigeration systems and spray cans — and the agricultural fertilizers and exhausts from high-flying jet aircraft are caus-

ing great concern among environmentalists and scientists.

These man-made gases thought to combine chemically with the loose oxygen in the atmosphere, making the atmosphere less receptive to solar degradation thereby "thinning out" the protective upper-atmosphere shield.

In an attempt to get definitive answers, an international group of scientists organized the balloon Intercomparison Campaign project and launched a set of balloons into the atmosphere last autumn and will be releasing the second set

White wants stronger drunken driving laws

United Press International
HOUSTON — Gov. Mark White said in a video-taped speech to a safety association meeting Monday in Houston that he supports harsher penalties and stricter enforcement of Texas' drunken driving laws.

"It's time for lawmakers to take action against drunk driving," he said.

The Texas Senate has passed a bill to reform the state's laws, but the measure has not cleared a House committee.

The governor also said he is working for a bill to require mandatory motor vehicle straits for children under age of 4. That bill has also passed the Senate, but is still in a committee.

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THE OUTSIDERS
7:15 9:30

Table for Five
7:25 - 9:45

Losin' It
7:20 - 9:40

HIGH ROAD TO CHINA
7:25 9:45

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Manor East Mall 823-8300
Tue.-Family Night M.E. III

RAIDERS
7:15 9:35

SPRING BREAK
7:20 9:40

THE MAN FROM SNOWY RIVER
7:25 9:45

CAMPUS Tootsie
7:15 - 9:45

SKYWAY TWIN DRIVE-IN
822-3300 2000 E. 29th

WEST
House on Sorority Row

7:15 11:00

The INCUBUS
9:10

EAST

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7:15 - 10:55

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CINEMA III
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