

Health aid for poor called insufficient

United Press International
TYLER — A governor's task force heard that pregnant women too poor for private care get no prenatal treatment from the Tyler-Smith County Health Department, which sends them more than 200 miles away to Galveston when they go into labor.

The Governor's Task Force on Indigent Health Care took five hours of testimony from 27 witnesses Tuesday in one of several public hearings planned across the state in the coming year.

"For a long time we've had wealthy cities and counties that would absorb most of the cost of indigent health care," panel member Jim Spearly said. "But because of unemployment and other changes in the state's economy over the past five years, they can no longer absorb it."

The state has no definition of indigence, but Mary Lobaugh, a nurse with Tyler-Smith County Health Department, said a family of five with an income of \$237 a week is considered too wealthy to receive indigent medical care.

Several obstetrics nurses said there are parts of East Texas where pregnant women go without prenatal care because of poverty.

They said that when such patients go into labor, they are sent to the nearest public hospital with obstetric service for indigents, John Sealy Hospital in Galveston.

George Pearson, president of the East Texas Hospital Foundation and administrator of the Medical Center Hospital in Tyler, said that in 1982, Medical Center provided almost \$1 million in charity care and faced an additional \$1.1 million or more in bad debts. He said that during 1983, combined charity care and bad debts have increased to more than \$2.4 million.

Rep. Jesse Oliver, D-Dallas, who moderated the hearing Tuesday, said that because Medicaid provides health care funds to so few, some method of providing health care for a larger percentage of the population must be found.

"(The problem)," Oliver said, "is very complicated in Texas because we have so many counties and we have a county-based, rather than a state-based, system."

NAACP fights redistrict plan

United Press International
AUSTIN — There is no incentive for blacks in Dallas County to be politically active under Texas' new congressional redistricting plan, the president of the Dallas chapter of the NAACP testified Wednesday.

"Most people feel we just don't have a chance," said Theodore T. Watkins, a Dallas accountant who testified on behalf of a challenge to the redistricting plan.

A three-judge federal panel began hearing testimony in the lawsuit filed by the state Republican Party and the NAACP. They contend the plan unfairly protects two Dallas-area congressmen and dilutes minority voting power.

The plan, passed by the Texas Legislature and approved by the Justice Department this year, was opposed by Republicans who wanted not only a minority district but also a new predominantly GOP district in Dallas County.

GOP and NAACP forces favor a plan to turn the 5th District, represented by Democrat John W. Bryant, into a heavily Republican district, and make the 24th District, represented by Democrat Martin Frost, predominantly black.

However, Watkins conceded that the national office of the NAACP in Washington had given Frost and Bryant a 100 percent rating on votes concerning the civil rights issue.

But Watkins said the new plan makes it nearly impossible for a minority to be elected to Congress from Dallas County because white voters in Dallas County rarely support a minority candidate.

"I think it purposely diluted the minority voting strength," he said. "I really think it's a divide-and-conquer-type situation."

Watkins predicted the redistricting plan will make it difficult to register black voters and to get them to the polls.

"There is no incentive for us to get the first-time voter to the polls," he said.

But Assistant Attorney General Dave Richards argued there is no evidence that Dallas County voters vote along racial lines.

United Press International
AUSTIN — The Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles asked the governor Wednesday to grant a full pardon to a Houston man who served more than four years in prison for a crime he did not commit.

Johnny Binder, 29, was convicted in August 1979 of stealing \$400,000 worth of valuables from a Houston jewelry store. He maintained he was innocent and was charged with the crime only because he drove a yellow Cadillac similar to one used by the robbers.

Binder was ordered freed from prison earlier this month by a state district judge in Houston when a California prison inmate who participated in the jewelry heist said Binder was not involved in the crime.

Under the Texas Constitution, the Board of Pardons and Paroles must recommend a pardon before it can be granted by the governor. A board spokesman said the pardon recommendation should reach Gov. Mark White's desk by the end of the week.

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Houstonian could be pardoned

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What's up

THURSDAY

MSC VARIETY SHOW: Applications are available in 216 Memorial Student Center and are due Feb. 3. Auditions will be held Feb. 21-23.

STUDENT Y FISH CAMP: Applications for chairman, sub-chairman and recreation coordinator are available until Dec. 8 on second floor Pavilion from Janie Metzger. Applications are due by 5 p.m. on Dec. 8.

DEFENSIVE DRIVING COURSE: Courses will be offered Friday from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Ramada Inn. Pre-register by phone: 693-8178 or 846-1904. There is a \$20 fee for the course.

STUDENT Y ASSOCIATION: Christmas giftwrapping is available in 211 Pavilion through Dec. 9 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Please bring your own boxes for the gifts you want wrapped.

BAPTIST STUDENT UNION: The Tim Sheppard concert is at 8 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in College Station. Tickets are \$4 at the door or at the Baptist Student Union.

CO-OP STUDENT ASSOCIATION: The pizza party at Pasta's is Dec. 6 at 6 p.m. All former, present and future co-op students are invited to attend.

PRE-LAW SOCIETY: All members are invited to the Christmas party on Dec. 2 from 9 p.m. to midnight at the Plantation Oaks Apartments party room. For more information, call 260-0638.

METHODIST STUDENT MOVEMENT: The luncheon and Old Testament Bible study is at 12:30 p.m. at the Texas A&M Wesley Foundation. Bring \$1 or a lunch.

INSIGHT: Meet at 12:15 p.m. in 502 Rudder Tower for a student/faculty discussion about computers and our privacy: "Is Big Brother Watching You in 1984?"

MSC CEPHEID VARIABLE: "The Seven-Percent Solution: A Fascinating Sherlock Holmes Mystery" will show at 7:30 p.m. and 9:45 p.m. in 701 Rudder Tower. Tickets are \$1.

MOTORCYCLE CLUB: Meet at 5 tonight for a road trip to Madisonville for dinner.

GUATEMALAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: Meet at 7 p.m. in 504 Rudder Tower for the monthly meeting and movie.

TEXAS TRANSPORTATION INSTITUTE: Meet at 7 p.m. in 503 Blocker Building for a seminar on career opportunities in the transportation field. The guest speakers will be Ned Walton, Marcy Wilson and Donald Woods.

SEEING IS BELIEVING

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Scandals

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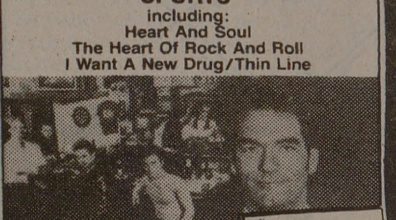
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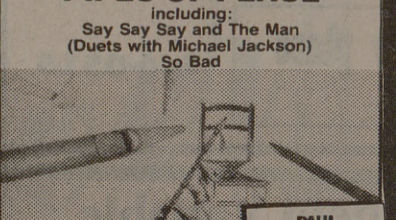
HUEY LEWIS AND THE NEWS
SPORTS
 including:
 Heart And Soul
 The Heart Of Rock And Roll
 I Want A New Drug/Thin Line



QUIET RIOT
METAL HEALTH
 including:
 Metal Health/Cum On Feel The Noize
 Don't Wanna Let You Go
 Slick Black Cadillac/Let's Get Crazy




PAUL McCARTNEY
PIPES OF PEACE
 including:
 Say Say Say and The Man
 (Duets with Michael Jackson)
 So Bad




EARTH, WIND & FIRE
ELECTRIC UNIVERSE
 including:
 Magnetic/Touch/Moonwalk
 ElectricNation/Spirit Of A New World




OZZY OSBOURNE
BARK AT THE MOON
 including:
 Bark At The Moon/So Tired
 Rock 'N' Roll Rebel/You're No Different



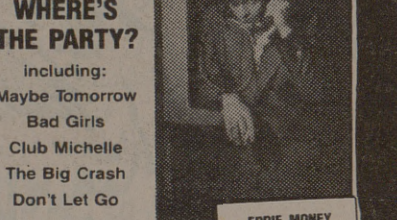
BOB DYLAN
INFIDELS
 including:
 I And I/Jokerman/Sweetheart Like You
 Neighborhood Bully
 Don't Fall Apart On Me Tonight



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 Strip/Puss 'N Boots/Playboy
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