

# Child abuse cases up

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — Cases of sexual abuse of children have increased dramatically in the last 13 months, a Harris County official said Monday.

Elizabeth Scarborough, a director of the county's Children's Protective Services office, said children's heightened awareness of the problem probably accounts for a 19 percent increase in reported cases from 1982 to 1983.

"We suspect there is a lot

more abuse going on in the community than we hear about," she said.

For instance, she said there were 31 deaths of children from neglect or abuse in 1983, and that the county was not aware of "the majority" of those before the youngster was killed.

"It is hard to say whether abuse is increasing. All we see are the cases reported. We think it may be worse because people are under stress because of their financial situations," she said.

There were 929 cases of sexual

abuse of a child in 1983 in Harris County, compared to 643 in 1982, Ms. Scarborough said.

And in the first month of 1984, the county has received 85 sexual abuse cases, compared to 60 in the first month of 1983.

Despite the increase in sexual abuse, the overall number of cases of abuse and neglect leveled off in 1982.

Figures over the past three years are 7,303 cases in 1981; 8,660 in 1982 and 8,003 in 1983.

R.I.



by Paul Dimer

## Muster to remain on Easter weekend

By KARI WEEKS  
Reporter

The Muster Committee of the Student Government has voted to keep Muster on April 21 even though it falls during Easter weekend, Muster Chairwoman Nancy York said.

In a December meeting, the Muster Committee voted 18-7 to keep San Jacinto Day as the traditional day to honor students and former students who have died, York said.

"We researched both sides of the issue for about 2-1/2 months," York said. Even though an informal poll showed that 553 out of 857 students wanted to

change the date, the committee decided to hold the ceremony on the traditional day, she said.

"Some students threatened not to attend if it was changed," York said.

Those in favor of April 21 did not want to break tradition, York said. However, many hometown musters are not held on the traditional San Jacinto Day, she said.

York said some students wanted to change the date because attendance might decline. They thought everyone should have the opportunity to attend Muster without having to choose between it and Easter weekend,

she said.

"There was concern the split would occur between campus Muster and the Brazos County A&M Club," York said. "The club decided to hold its muster April 21 even if the campus Muster changed, York said.

There was a similar problem in 1968 when the Student Government planned to reschedule Muster for April 22. After student opposition Muster remained April 21.

"It is the feeling that this is not the day," York said. "It is no way that we can know after the 21st if we made a right decision."

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## Dallas chimpanzee also nominated Watt leads 'boneheads'

United Press International

DALLAS — Music critic and environmentalist James Watt Monday topped the list of nominees for "Bonehead of the Year," an award given annually by a Dallas civic group to honor monumental goofs and their perpetrators. Past winners have included former President Richard M. Nixon, the Susan B. Anthony Dollar and Texas A&M University.

A spokesman for the Bonehead Club of Dallas said Watt was selected because of the way in which he "established himself as a music critic, sociologist, environmentalist, comedian and all around loveable government employee" during his tenure as Secretary of the Interior.

During his stint as Interior

Secretary, Watt repeatedly drew criticism for his remarks and actions, among them his ban of the Beach Boys from a July 4th concert in Washington.

The group also nominated "U.S. weather forecasters who did not see the 1983 deep freeze coming, could not believe it was here and didn't know when it would leave."

Also vying for the prize are "the Cabbage Patch dolls that somehow slipped between Darwin and Creationism and founded a whole new concept of origin" and "Kanda," the Dallas chimpanzee, that made monkeys out of the nation's pro football experts with her "on the money" predictions.

The Dallas Zoo chimpanzee repeatedly bested sportswriters by correctly predicting the win-

ners of football games last year.

Others singled out by the group included the Glen Rose fire department's on-the-job training program in which their trucks, rescue boat and ambulances were destroyed when their fire station burned to ground.

Jacob Friedrich Brodus, who years before the Wright brothers successfully achieved sustained, controlled flight, powered aircraft of his own design in 1865, was nominated as "1984" author George Orwell for being "right about the whole thing."

Final selection of the winner is set for next week. A trophy will be presented to the victor Feb. 10.

## Divorce rate increases again

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Divorces increased in 1981 for the 19th straight year to a record 1.21 million, up slightly from the previous year, the government said Monday.

In its report on final divorce data for 1981, the National Cen-

ter for Health Statistics said its information indicated the divorce rate was 5.3 for each 1,000 people in the total population, up from 5.2 in 1980 and equal to the record set in 1979.

Preliminary statistics released by the center late last year for 1982 show the number of divorces fell in that year for the first time in 20 years to 1.18 million and the divorce rate fell to 5.1 per 1,000 Americans. Preliminary figures are not yet available for 1983.

In its new report, the agency said the 1.21 million divorces in 1981 compared to 1.19 million the previous year.

Increases were recorded in

all geographic divisions except the eastern North Central states of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan and Wisconsin, where divorces dropped to 2.06, 1.98, 1.91, 1.87 and 1.86, respectively, in 1981, down from 2.12, 2.05, 2.00, 1.95 and 1.90 in 1980, the agency's report said.

California had 11 percent more divorces in the country in 1981, or 133,578, followed by Texas, with 101,856. Vermont recorded fewer divorces than any other state, 2,263.

The divorce rate also was highest in the West, where statistics measured 6.3 divorces for every 1,000 people, or percent more than the Northeast's rate of 3.6. In the Central States, the rate was 5.1 per 1,000 population and in the South, 6.1, the agency said.

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