

Around town

Community program offers classes

Spring session registration for classes offered by College Station Community Education is tonight in the A&M Junior High School gym at 7 p.m. for College Station residents and at 8 p.m. for all others. Late registration will continue Wednesday and Thursday between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the Community Education Office, 109 Timber, in College Station.

Classes are being offered to children, youth and adults. Courses will be offered in the areas of arts and crafts, computers, vocational and office skills, music, dance, fitness and recreation. Among the new classes for the spring are sailing, fresh pasta making, discovering yourself, stress management, applique and stenciling.

Also classes for those interested in completing their high school equivalency and classes in English as a Second Language will be given free of charge. For more information, contact the Community Education office at 696-3620.

Program to offer motorcycle class

The Texas A&M Safety Education Program will offer a class about learning to ride a motorcycle during the latter part of April. The course will consist of eight hours of classroom instruction and 12 hours of on-cycle instruction. Registration for the class will close at 5 p.m. April 2 and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. For more information call 845-3019.

Engineers to travel to Germany

Any Students interested in travelling to Germany this summer through the College of Engineering are invited to attend an informational meeting March 28 at 5 p.m. in 342 Zachry. The trip will be May 10-30 and will cost \$1,000. The entire fee is due April 10. For more information call Lou Ann Morris, 845-7270.

Variety Show tickets available

Tickets for the MSC Variety Show are available at the MSC Box Office. The show will be April 13 at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$3 for students and \$3.50 for non-students.

Workshops offered to students

The College of Science will hold a series of workshops for students interested in careers in biology and physics. Speakers from business, industry, research and education will discuss career opportunities. The meeting for students interested in physics will be today in 105 Heldenfels at 6:30 p.m. and the biology meeting will be Wednesday in 100 Heldenfels.

Juniors host weekend activities

The Class of '85 will host its Junior Weekend March 30 through April 1. Activities include a mixer March 30 from 8 p.m. to midnight at the Elks Lodge and a playday April 1 at the Royal Oaks Raquet Club. Tickets now on sale in the Memorial Student Center.

Defensive driving course offered

The Brazos Valley Safety Agency will conduct a defensive driving course today and Wednesday at the Ramada Inn. The eight-hour course will be from 6 to 10 p.m. both days. Students must attend both sessions. Registration begins at 5 p.m. at the Ramada Inn or students can pre-register by calling 693-8178. Cost for the course is \$20. The course can be used to have certain traffic violations dismissed or to get a 10 percent reduction in automobile rates.

Judge hands down 12-year sentences to barroom rapists

United Press International

FALL RIVER, Mass. — Four men were ordered Monday to spend up to 12 years in state prison for their convictions in an emotional barroom gang rape trial that sparked a national debate over the rights of rape victims.

Daniel Silva, 27, John Cordeiro, 24, and Victor Raposo, 23, were sentenced to nine-to-12-year terms at Walpole State Prison for their role in the March 6, 1983, assault on a 22-year-old woman at Big Dan's Tavern in New Bedford. Joseph Vieira, 28, was ordered to spend six to eight years in prison.

"By their verdict, the jury has established beyond a reasonable doubt that the female victim herein was raped," Young told a silent, crowded courtroom. "Thus, it would impugn that verdict to entertain ... any plea for leniency based upon some theory of consent."

Cordeiro, Silva and Raposo will be eligible for parole after six years; Vieira, after four years.

The four convicted rapists, found guilty by two separate juries, could have received a maximum of life in prison.

Silva wept when he heard the verdict. The other three defendants were expressionless. All four were handcuffed and separated from spectators by a double row of court officers.

When the men were led out of the 86-year-old courthouse to a waiting sheriff's department van, the crowd whistled and booed. Shouts of "Let them go" were heard as the van drove off under heavy guard.

But the onlookers were restrained and dispersed quickly,

unlike the hostile crowd that gathered outside the courthouse to hear the guilty verdicts against Silva and Vieira March 17. Then, spectators raced from the courtroom screaming and pounded on cars in the parking lot.

Vieira apparently received a lighter sentence than the three other defendants because there was no evidence he had any form of intercourse with the woman.

Silva and Cordeiro — the only defendants to testify during the trial — admitted having had sex with the woman in the March 6, 1983, incident, and Cordeiro said Raposo also had oral sex with her. Both defendants testified that the woman was a willing participant.

Young rejected arguments by defense attorneys that sentences should be more lenient because of the men's national origin. All the defendants are Portuguese immigrants.

"A defendant's ethnic background plays no role in the sentencing process," Young said. "Any such consideration offends the deepest ideals of American justice and fair play and would be the most profound misconduct."

Afterward, Bristol County District Attorney Ronald Pina called the sentences fair.

"They weren't excessive, but they weren't minimal," he said. "There is a message that anyone who considers doing the crime will take (the sentences) into consideration."

Defense attorneys called the sentences harsh, and two said they would appeal.

Prom night '84

School bashes cost a bundle, but parents and grads fork over

United Press International

Prom night 1984, a rite of passage in which high school juniors and seniors are transformed into princes and princesses, costs a king's ransom, experts say.

The price is nearly \$1,000 a couple in some areas, a figure guaranteed to shock parents on a budget.

The annual spring ritual has become so sophisticated and expensive in major cities that the cost alone excludes a lot of kids, said prom organizer Esther Bello, chief of the math department at North Providence High

School in Providence, R.I.

In many areas prom night begins with youngsters in formal attire climbing into chauffeur-driven limousines to go to an expensive restaurant for dinner, followed by the dance in the ballroom of a posh hotel and breakfast before returning home at dawn.

Some youngsters forego the limousine and spend the money instead on an after-prom hotel room. Trend-watchers say such extravagance is necessary.

"It's a milestone," said Sarah Wright, fashion editor of The Journal in Providence. "There

can be the first drunk or the first intercourse. It formalizes relationships.

"Graduation is not their choice, not their rite of passage. The senior prom is," Wright said.

As a rule, the bigger the city the bigger the bill. In Dallas the symbol of prestige is a Texas Taxi, affordable only if Daddy strikes oil.

The Texas Taxi costs \$50 an hour for a minimum eight hours, a price that includes rental of a white Cadillac Eldo-

rado with 6-foot longhorns affixed to the hood, yellow roses and a chauffeur in a Western outfit with boots and a 10-gallon hat.

In places like Boston, Pittsburgh, Los Angeles, New York and Atlanta, high schools rent ballrooms at posh hotels. The cost: between \$4,000 and \$10,000, which may not include light refreshments served by the hotel.

A band may be hired for about \$2,000, but many schools instead select a local disc jockey

who brings tapes and provides banter for about \$500.

The prom is strictly a dress-up affair — formal gowns for girls and tuxedos for boys.

School officials say the boy is responsible for renting the limousine (\$30 an hour for a minimum of eight hours) and his tuxedo (about \$45). He also must buy the prom tickets (\$20-\$100), a corsage for his date (\$15-\$35), dinner before the prom (\$40-\$100) and breakfast afterward (about \$15). With gratuities, the evening total may equal a year's allowance.

9-month-old child found crawling on busy street

United Press International

INDIANAPOLIS — Child neglect charges may be filed against the mother of a 9-month-old baby who was found clad in a diaper crawling along a busy city street, juvenile officers said Monday.

"We are investigating the case for child neglect," Sgt. Stephen Thompson, a city juvenile officer in the felony abuse unit, told UPI. He said it was a "possibility" that charges would be filed.

The infant, Gary Wesley Allen, was spotted crawling along a northside street just before 8 a.m. Saturday. The street is a main artery southbound into downtown from the northern suburbs and residential areas.

Jim Plummer, 47, of suburban Carmel, stopped his car as he noticed the baby, which he at first thought was a dog. He said he was amazed when it turned out to be an infant, adding he was thankful he stopped.

Thompson said the baby was being housed at the Marion County Guardian's Home while the investigation was underway.

"We have 72 working hours in which to do something in the case," he said. The baby must be returned to his mother if no charges are filed after that time.

A published report quoted the tiny boy's mother as saying the baby was taken from her while she slept and she resented

police treating the case as child abandonment.

"I would never, ever abandon my baby or even think about it," the mother, Rosalene Allen, 23, told the Indianapolis Star.

Police were taking a statement from Allen Monday.

Officials said the boy appeared healthy and well fed when found on the street, but Thompson said the child had some "bruises" on his buttocks.

"The baby was cold too, he only had a diaper on," the juvenile officer said.

Allen called police several hours after Gary was found.

She told the Star a woman she knew only as "Jackie" paid extraordinary attention to her son, Gary, during a Friday night gathering she called a get-together — "not a party" — at an apartment building.

She said she and her son stayed in the building because she did not have a ride home and she lived more than 15 blocks away.

"This Jackie was acting weird or something," Allen said. "You know, just wanting to hold Gary and show him a lot of attention."

She said she awoke about 6:30 a.m. Saturday and gave Gary his bottle, but dozed off in a chair while feeding him.

She woke again about 9:10 a.m., she said, and "I knew she (Jackie) must have taken him

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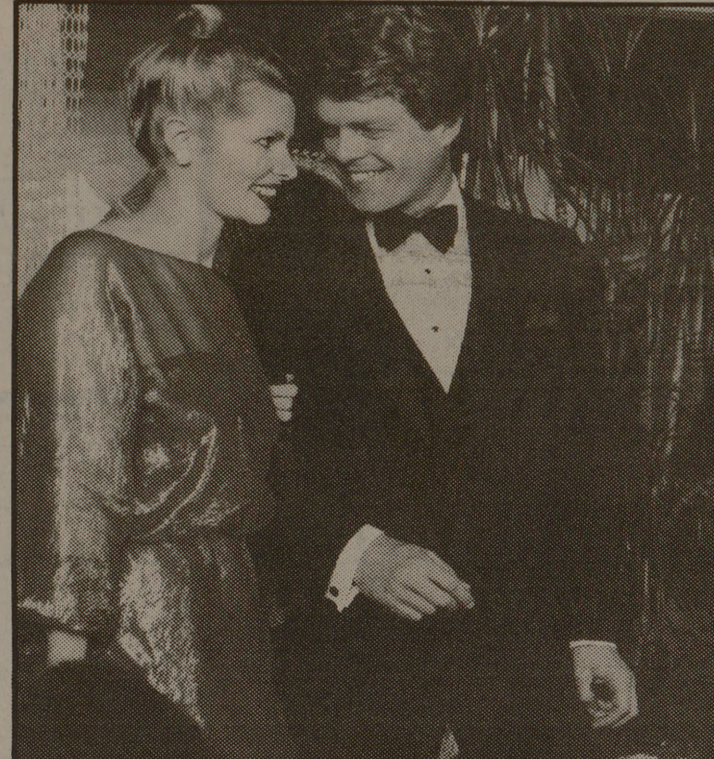
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