



All ashore going ashore

Photo by CONNIE HUTTERER

David Teich and Don Coon pilot while Taylor Babb hops overboard to prepare for a landing. The three sailors were relaxing at a sailing club outing at Lake Somerville. The club's next outing is this weekend.

## Gramm attacks Doggett's stand on gay rights

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Republican Senate contender Phil Gramm stepped up his attack Wednesday on Democratic candidate Lloyd Doggett's endorsement of pending gay rights legislation, saying it was proof Doggett was out of touch with traditional Texas values.

Doggett's campaign in Austin immediately responded, saying Gramm had used "ludicrous" comments to distort Doggett's stand on the issue.

According to Gramm, the gay rights bill sponsored by Sen. Ernest Hollings, D-S.C., and Ted Weiss, D-N.Y., would give homosexuals special status under the law and potentially could make them eligible for affirmative action hiring programs now reserved for minorities.

Gramm said his interpretation was backed up by an opinion he requested from the Congressional Research Service of the Library of Congress.

"It is clear to a third grader that not only does it (the bill) not require affirmative action programs, it prohibits them," said Doggett aide James Carville.

Carville also said the analysis requested by Gramm specifically stated that "no quotas, preferences or affirmative action beyond that necessary to aid such identifiable victims of past victims of discrimination would be authorized."

However, Gramm aide Larry Neal said Gramm was concerned that if the bill passed, a judge could issue a ruling mandating affirmative action rights for homosexuals.

"The whole tide of history has shown us that if you lie loud enough and long enough that no matter how ludicrous the lie is people will believe it," Carville said.

Gramm has been critical of Doggett's support among the gay community since the campaign began, but he increased that criticism upon learning Doggett had received \$94 from a San Antonio gay rights group.

Part of the money was raised through an all-male strip show, prompting Doggett to return money and to call the fund-raising tactic "inappropriate."

Doggett also said he was unaware that the fund-raiser was held but would have accepted the money had it been raised through conventional means.

## Prostitution ring Indictment accuses four of hauling hookers across three state lines

United Press International

HOUSTON — A major prostitution ring reaching into at least three states has been broken up with the indictment of four people, federal prosecutors said Wednesday.

A 21-count indictment accuses the four of running at least 36 modeling studios, massage parlors and escort services as fronts for prostitution in Atlanta, Denver, Dallas and Houston.

Many of the businesses allegedly

advertised in the yellow pages or local firm directories. U.S. Attorney Dan Hedges said that many accepted major credit cards and even used pagers to notify call girls of their appointments.

Three of the four people named in the indictments — Penelope Hatteras, Ed Wallach and Charles Holcomb — are from Houston. The fourth, Eleanor Murphy, is from Atlanta.

They are accused of violating the Interstate Travel Act, the Mann Act and conspiracy statutes by transporting prostitutes across state lines.

For each violation of the Mann Act, they could face maximum penalties of up to five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine. Each conviction for conspiracy and violating the Interstate Travel Act is punishable by a 5-year prison term and a \$10,000 fine.

None of the four had been arrested by early Wednesday afternoon, but Hedges predicted some of them would surrender to federal authorities.

The businesses allegedly collected a \$50 "agency fee" from customers with anything above that amount going to the prostitutes. When customers used credit cards, the agency reportedly collected an additional 20 percent.

The average credit card charge was allegedly between \$150 and \$200.

Records cited by Hedges indicate that the ring collected \$750,000 in 1983. However, the figure includes only the \$50 fees collected by the agencies, not the money that customers paid to the prostitutes, he said. The gross amount collected by the prostitution ring is estimated at more than \$1 million.

The indictment follows an eight-month investigation by the FBI, a federal grand jury and police in Atlanta, Denver, Dallas and Houston.

Houston vice officers have been concerned about the proliferation of modeling studios, massage parlors and escort services in their city. Police say that as they drive more prostitutes off the streets, the crime is moving into modeling studios and more sophisticated "call girl" operations.

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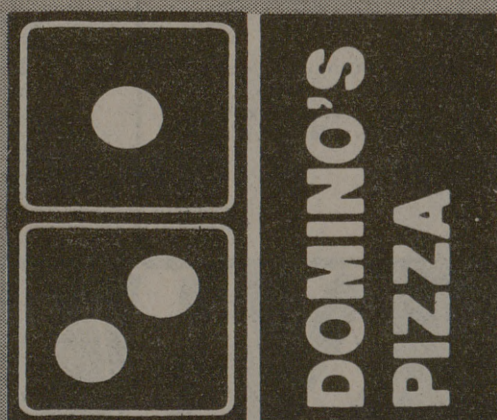
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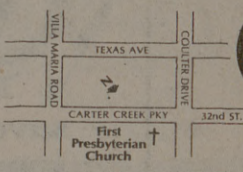
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