

GTE announces \$10 million plan

# Cellular telephones booming

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — GTE Mobilnet will invest \$10 million over the next two years to make Houston the "showcase city" for its new high-technology cellular portable telephones.

The firm announced the decision to expand less than a month after it became the first company to provide Houston with the portable cellular phones Sept. 27. The phones can be installed in cars or carried around indoors and outdoors.

Houston was the second city to get a GTE Mobilnet cellular system after the firm began operating its first system in Indianapolis, Ind., last May.

Cellular telephones are so named because an area's transmitting and receiving network is broken up in "cells" from one to 10 miles in radius.

Officials of GTE, the only U.S. firm to manufacture the phones, claim their system is superior to mo-

bile telephone service, which has suffered from poor transmission quality and a lack of assigned radio channels.

Because older mobile telephones use one frequency, such systems have a small capacity, some allowing only 12 calls at a given time, GTE officials said. The Federal Communications Commission has allotted 333 channels for cellular telephone communications.

"While it is true that cellular telephones make use of some fairly sophisticated high technology, using one requires no special training," said company President James C. Harpham. "The phone in your car or your portable phone operates just like the telephone in your home. You can make calls, including long-distance calls, and receive calls, with a quality comparable to regular telephone service."

Cellular phones also are superior

to "beeper" systems because they allow two-way communications anywhere, GTE officials said.

Richard Sharman, marketing vice president for GTE Mobilnet, said Houston has accepted the cellular telephones even better than anticipated.

"We've had our cellular network up and running for a month now, and we're very pleased with its performance and reception," he said. "The system is processing over 20,000 calls each day."

The Houston cellular telephone system, inaugurated when former Mayor Louie Welch made the first official call a month ago, cost \$8.8 million and is expected to serve more than 22,000 people by the end of five years, GTE officials said.

A cellular telephone can be installed in a car for about \$2,000, while carry-around cellular phones cost about \$3,900. This compares to

\$4,000 to \$5,000 for conventional radio telephones, said Bruce Lowrie of GTE Intelcom, a brother corporation.

Lowrie added that technicians now can pack the portable telephones into briefcase-size containers. The portable phones have a range equal to that of car telephones. An answering service for the portable phones also is available.

Besides the initial charges, customers must pay \$35 a month for basic service, plus 39 cents a minute for peak usage between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. weekdays and 20 cents a minute for off-peak use from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m., holidays and weekends. An option allows customers to pay \$15 a month for basic service, plus 60 cents a minute for peak usage and 20 cents a minute for off-peak usage.

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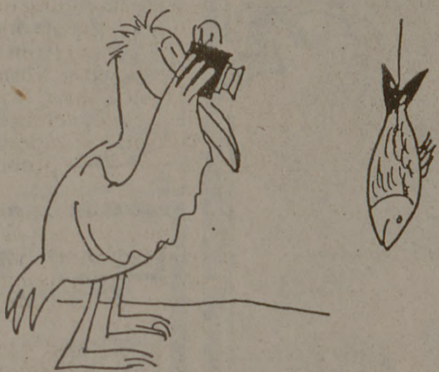
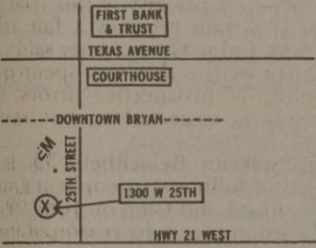
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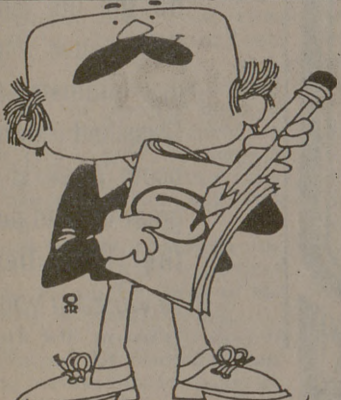
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# Richard Smith

## State Representative

When the students of Texas A&M needed a friend, Richard Smith was there.

Last Spring, the Democrats (led by Gov. Mark White) called a **Special Election for State Representative during Spring Break**. When the Aggies would not be in town to vote. The Battalion Editorial Board called the scheduling of the election by the Democrats 'an attack on Texas A&M students, staff and faculty members,' as reported Friday, Jan. 26, 1984. The Bryan/College Station Eagle Editorial Board said 'Let's face it, this whole thing smacks of partisan politics at its most petty level,' Sunday, Jan. 29, 1984.

Richard Smith, George Strake (Chairman, Republican Party of Texas) and local Republicans worked to change the election date as did Student Government leaders. Not only would the Democrats not change the date but they would not even meet with Student Government.

George Strake said, 'Mark White, probably in consultation with the Democratic candidate in Brazos County, undoubtedly looked at the high Republican vote totals in Texas A&M precincts and decided to give an edge to his candidate over Republican Richard Smith...' as reported in The Eagle Thursday, Jan. 26, 1984.

Richard Smith said, 'This act of political expediency is another sign of the lack of sensitivity of the state Democratic party and our state Democratic elected officials for Texas A&M University', as reported in The Eagle, Wednesday, Jan. 25, 1984.

Then Richard Smith went one step further to make sure as many students would be allowed to vote as possible, despite Neeley Lewis and the Democrats. **Richard Smith personally provided for a shuttle bus system to take Aggies to the polls to vote absentee.** Students who wanted a ride were taken to the polls, with no regard to party affiliation or who they were voting for. When Texas A&M and its students come under attack, Aggies stick together.

When the students of Texas A&M needed a friend, Richard Smith was there. Where was Neeley Lewis?



**Richard Then:**

- Member, Squadron 22
- Varsity Swimming Team
- Distinguished Student
- BS Mechanical Engineering, Class of '59
- 4 Years Active Duty U.S. Air Force
- Captain, USAF Reserve

**Richard Now:**

- Former Mayor, Bryan (5 years)
- City Council Member (3 years)
- Founding President, Brazos Animal Shelter, Inc.
- Member, Century Club, Association of Former Students
- Varsity Donor, The Aggie Club

