

# Ex-felons guard voting stations

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — A black state senator surprised Democratic Party leaders by announcing a plan for black ex-criminals to guard against voter intimidation by Republicans at minority polling places, the county chairman said Monday.

"Craig caught me off guard with his announcement," Barbara Stanley, Harris County Democratic Party chairman, said of Sen. Craig Washington's announcement. "I appreciate the spirit in which he's doing it; which is to say we're not going to be pushed around."

"There's no reason to play these intimidation games."

Washington, D-Houston, said Sunday the ex-criminals will be placed at minority polling places to day.

Stanley said 200 of the 612 Harris County precincts are considered minority precincts.

"People need not fear the Republicans when they go to the polls," Washington said. "If they're (Republicans) there to humiliate and intim-

idate people, we'll have people to intimidate them."

Washington said ex-felons will be used because "they can't vote anyway."

State Republican Party Chairman George Strake said he was shocked by the announcement.

"What they are doing is actually threatening violence," Strake said. "You don't use ex-felons in that sense without talking about violence, and if there is any violence at all, I will hold (Gov.) Mark White and Walter Mondale and their campaigns personally responsible."

Stanley said Republicans have dedicated \$250,000 to an intimidation campaign designed to limit the turnout in minority precincts.

Strake confirmed the Republicans have budgeted \$250,000 for ballot security, but said the party probably will spend only \$150,00 and most of that will be for poll watchers, election workers, travel expenses and any legal challenges after the election.

# Smokeout in Texas: Smokers get adopted

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — Non-smokers in Texas are being encouraged to adopt a smoker as part of this year's Great American Smokeout, sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Local cancer societies have forms available so the non-smoker and smoker can formalize their "adoption" for the day. Under the agreement, the non-smoker will provide encouragement, snacks instead of smokes and a shoulder to cry on for a friend who agrees to throw away the cigarettes for 24 hours.

Television actress Amanda Blake, known for her role as Miss Kitty in "Gunsmoke," is the state chairwoman for the Nov. 15 event when all smokers are encouraged to try giving up the habit, even if just for one day.

ACS volunteers hope Blake's participation will help reach an important target group — women who smoke.

Russell Autrey, head of the Texas Smokeout, said that the society re-

cently announced that lung cancer has exceeded breast cancer as the leading cause of cancer deaths among Texas women.

Blake, who lives in Austin, said she quit smoking eight years ago.

"I smoked two packs a day for 20 years and quit cold turkey," she said. "But of course, mouth cancer is a strong incentive to give up cigarettes."

Blake was diagnosed as having cancer of the mouth in 1976. She underwent surgery and said she is free of the disease today.

In March, Blake received the American Cancer Society's Courage Award from President Ronald Reagan during a White House ceremony.

According to ACS officials, a Gallup survey last year indicated that more than a third of the 52 million Americans smokers tried to quit for the day. Eight percent made it for the full 24 hours and about 4 percent were still not smoking 11 days later.

# What's up

Tuesday

- TAMU BLOOD DRIVE:** Bloodmobiles will be located at the MSC, the Commons, Sbis and across the tracks through Thursday. Give life, give blood.
- RIO GRANDE VALLEY HOMETOWN CLUB:** is meeting at 7 p.m. in the Zachry lobby to take the club picture. A meeting will be held afterwards.
- SCEC:** is meeting at 7 p.m. in Rudder.
- SOCIETY OF MANUFACTURING ENGINEERS:** is meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 305 Fermier to discuss the senior certification exam and review session and the Domino Project.
- SADDLE AND SIRLOIN:** is meeting at 7 p.m. in 115 Kleberg.
- INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS COMMITTEE:** is meeting at 8 p.m. in 111 Heldenfels, Dr. Das will speak on "Indira Gandhi—History and Events Leading Up to Her Assassination."
- PLANO HOMETOWN CLUB** will have their picture taken for the Aggieland in the Zachry lobby at 7:30 p.m.
- MSC CEPHEID VARIABLE** will have their Aggieland picture taken in the Zachry lobby at 7 p.m.
- MSC OUTDOOR RECREATION** will have a meeting and cross-country skiing seminar at 7 p.m. in 502 Rudder.
- STUDENT Y APOLLO CLUB** will meet at Fuddrucker's at 6 p.m.
- TAU BETA PI** members can pick up pins and certificates between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m. today and tomorrow in the Zachry lobby
- FRIEND OF A FISH** will meet in 158 Blocker at 7 p.m.
- TAMU SURF CLUB** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 510 Rudder.
- AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF AERONAUTICS AND ASTRONAUTICS** will meet at 7 p.m. in 103 Zachry, Richard Ward of General Dynamics will speak on "Predictions of Soviet Aircraft by the year 2000."
- AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS** will meet at 7 p.m. in 342 Zachry, Bill Stark will speak on "Electrical Bonding and Grounding".

# Blue laws challenged

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — The attorney for the Retail Merchants Association said Monday he will file lawsuits against stores in two discount malls that he said violated the state's blue law by selling banned items on consecutive Saturdays and Sundays.

Judge Thomas Phillips has ruled that the law is unconstitutional. The Retail Merchants Association is appealing the decision.

State District Judge Dee Brown Walker also ruled Friday in Dallas that the law is unconstitutional, unenforceable and out of joint with the times.

The association sent an employee to three stores at each of the two Buyers Market Malls to buy prohibited items over the weekend, said attorney Robert MacIntyre.

He said he will file charges against the six stores and seek temporary in-

junctions to halt further Sunday sales. MacIntyre said he would not file against all the stores that violated the law this past Sunday, but will get to them later.

"I can only chop so much wood," MacIntyre said.

David Christensen, owner of five Textile Outlets of Houston Inc., said he and other retailers in the malls decided to challenge the law after a state district judge lifted an injunction against Handy Dan hardware stores of Houston.

Shoppers took advantage of the unexpected day of shopping at the malls Sunday.

"I have a very busy schedule," said Bridget Blair, who bought a pair of shoes at the west Harris County mall. "I got up this morning and went to church first, then came here to shop."

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