

## STATE AND LOCAL

### New excuses help avoid traffic fines

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Veteran San Antonio traffic officers say after having pulled over thousands of speeding drivers, they've heard a lot of outrageous excuses from people hoping to get off with a warning.

They admit the more unusual and outlandish the excuse they hear, the more likely they are to let the motorist off.

"I never give a ticket to a person that has a good excuse," traffic Sgt. Charles Dickinson told the San Antonio Light.

"I only give them tickets for the standard excuse. If they tell me they were speeding because they had to go to the bathroom, I just write all the faster. That has to be the oldest excuse."

A 15-year veteran traffic officer said he was left speechless by a story given him by a harried motorist who had been dodging through downtown traffic to get home.

"I have to get home quickly," the distraught businessman said after being pulled over for speeding.

"I have to get home to make my wife pregnant," he said.

The officer stood there for a minute, pondering the man's story.

The motorist said, "My wife and I use natural birth control methods."

"She had just taken her temperature and had called me at the office. It was time."

"I let him go," the officer said. "That was an original excuse — I had never heard anything like it."

Patrolman Gerald Marple, a 27-year veteran of the traffic division, said he stopped one driver going 100 mph on Loop 410 in San Antonio.

He told Marple that he had just gotten out of the car wash and was trying to blow dry his car.

"That would have been all right, but he was hiding behind a building to avoid me," Marple said.

Patrolman Mike Beers, a 16-year veteran of the traffic beat, said he had problems convincing himself to give a ticket to man who had no hands and drove with his feet.

"All the controls were by the steering wheel," Beers said.

When he asked the man for his driver's license, Beers said, "He pulled it out from his shirt pocket with his foot. I just couldn't take it. I had to let him go."

Patrolman Calvin Pullin, who has worked the streets of San Antonio for 31 years, says he once stopped a woman who was eight months pregnant.

When she got out of the car, her driver's license got away from her and blew away with the wind, he said.

"I ran after it, and the pregnant woman was crying and running after me," Pullin said. "A motorist passing by was looking at us and not paying attention to the road. He rammed into the car in front of him."

"So I had a major accident, a crying pregnant woman and a lost license on my hands. It was just like something out of the Keystone Cops."

## What's up

Monday

**AGGIE ALLEMANDERS:** will meet at the Pavilion 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. for the class and the club will meet 8:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. New classes will start for anyone who wishes to learn to square dance.

**ALPHA KAPPA PSI:** will hold a general meeting at 6 p.m. in 226 MSC. There will be a meeting from 7 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. in 226 MSC for all interested business and economics majors. Informal attire. For more information call 845-9528.

**AUDIO ENGINEERING GROUP:** will meet at 6 p.m. in Zachry lobby for yearbook picture.

**ISSUES AND GRIEVANCES HEARING:** will have an open forum for complaints about student government. Meet at 7 p.m. in 410 Rudder.

**METHODIST STUDENT MOVEMENT:** will hold noon Bible Study in Wesley Foundation Fellowship Hall. Lunch provided for \$1. At 7 p.m. the yearbook picture will be taken in Zachry lobby.

**MISSIONARY BAPTIST STUDENT FELLOWSHIP:** will hold a discussion entitled "Pros and Cons of Various Bible Translations" at 7 p.m. in 104A Zachry.

**OFF-CAMPUS AGGIES:** will meet at 6:30 p.m. in Zachry lobby for yearbook picture. Dress casual.

**PSI CHI/PSYCHOLOGY CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 301 Rudder. Dr. Worchel will speak.

**TAU BETA PHI:** will meet at 7:15 p.m. in Zachry lobby for yearbook picture. Dress in business attire.

**TEXAS A&M ENGINEERS:** will hold an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. in 342 Zachry. Call 845-7248 for more information.

**TAMU JAZZ BAND:** will hold rehearsal at 7:30 p.m. in Commons West Piano Room. A keyboardist is needed.

**TEXAS A&M ASSOCIATION OF MARTIAL ARTS:** will meet 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in 267 East Kyle. Everyone welcome.

Tuesday

**AGGIE ALLIANCE:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 201 MSC. There will be a guest speaker and discussion of projects for the semester.

**ALPHA PHI OMEGA:** will hold rush beginning at 7 p.m. in 224 MSC.

**ASIAN-AMERICAN ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 120 Blocker for committee updates and discussion of organization. Call 846-4197 for more information.

**BIG EVENT:** will hold a general meeting at 7 p.m. in 704 Rudder.

**CORPUS CHRISTI AREA HOMETOWN CLUB:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 308 Rudder. Activities will be discussed and dues collected. Call 260-5075 for more information.

**HEB HOMETOWN CLUB:** will meet to discuss activities for the spring semester at 7 p.m. in 200 Harrington.

**HILLEL FOUNDATION:** will hold a lunch with Rabbi Tarlow from noon to 1:15 p.m. in the MSC Cafeteria. They will discuss current events and social issues.

**MSC AMATEUR RADIO COMMITTEE:** will meet at 8 p.m. in 504 Rudder.

**OUTDOOR RECREATION COMMITTEE:** will hold a general meeting at 7 p.m. in 225/226 Rudder. Everyone welcome. Call 845-1515 for more information.

**PRE-THEOLOGY SOCIETY:** will hold a general meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 503 Harrington. Call 696-7452 for more information.

**SAILING TEAM:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 109 Military Sciences Building to discuss the upcoming regatta and set up team practices. Call 260-4870 for more information.

**TAMU FLYING CLUB:** will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the clubhouse. New members welcome. Call 696-9339 for more information.

**TEXAS A&M ASSOCIATION OF MARTIAL ARTS:** will meet from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. in 267 Kyle. Everyone welcome.

**TEXAS A&M ROADRUNNERS:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder. Call 260-1028 for more information.

**TEXAS SURVEYOR'S ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 8 p.m. in 118 Civil Engineering Building. Call 845-2419 for more information.

**Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.**

### Horse race bill may restrict voting to county, not state

Associated Press

AUSTIN — The Texas Horse Racing Association, bucking what Gov. Mark White says he wants, is pushing a pari-mutuel betting bill that leaves out a statewide vote.

White has said he would veto any horse race bill that does not include a statewide referendum and county local option elections.

The THRA bill, to be filed next week by Rep. Hugo Berlanga, has only the county elections. His 1983 bill had both elections White said he wants.

"Early next week, without question, we're off," Berlanga said. "We got nipped at the finish line last time. It was a photo finish, but we lost."

### Legislators to propose bill to stop waste dump plans in South Texas

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Two Texas legislators say they will try to thwart plans of a state agency to locate a low-level radioactive waste dump 60 miles south of San Antonio in McMullen County.

Rep. Ernestine Glossbrenner, D-Alice, told the Austin American-Statesman that she and Rep. Larry Don Shaw, D-Spring, will introduce a bill Monday to stop purchase of a dump site until further investigation.

THRA lawyer Dick Ingram said, "We feel like one vote is enough." But he also said there's a "50-50 chance" the bill will wind up with a statewide vote.

Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi, and Ingram spoke Friday to an overflow crowd of about 600 at THRA's legislative conference.

"All the polls in the world show the people of Texas want pari-mutuel wagering," said Berlanga.

The THRA backers heard what they wanted to hear in a report from accountants hired to gauge the economic benefit of betting on horse racing.

Art Cobb of Peat, Marwick and Mitchell said the bottom line could be as much as \$1.2 billion a year for

the state economy. The new industry could mean 30,000 new jobs, according to the Minneapolis accountant.

"It spreads to every corner of the state of Texas," said Cobb. "To virtually every citizen of the state of Texas."

The accountants' projection is based on three major Texas tracks, one each in Dallas-Fort Worth, Houston and the Austin-San Antonio area. It also included revenue from seven smaller tracks.

Track builders would spend about \$500 million for construction, Cobb said.

Berlanga predicted major tracks could be open in Texas within two years of legislative approval of pari-mutuel betting.

"We don't want any kind of toxic wastes in the watershed," Glossbrenner said. "We all drink that water."

Rick Jacobi, general manager of the Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority, revealed Saturday at a meeting of the Texas Environmental Coalition that the 365-acre McMullen site was the prime choice of the authority's staff.

Jacobi told the environmental group a public hearing would be held in May in McMullen County before purchase of the land for about \$688,000.

After that, he said, there would be environmental studies by the state Department of Health, with the possibility an operating license for the dump could be issued by 1988.

Jacobi said the McMullen County site is attractive because thick clay under the surface would provide an excellent seal on materials placed there.



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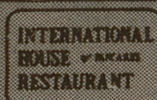
### Voice your complaints directly to Student Government ISSUES AND GRIEVANCES MEETING

Topics for Discussion will include:

- Recognition of Social Clubs
- Coed Dorms
- Tavern on Campus

Discussion will also be open for any other topic.

Monday Jan. 28 7:00 PM Room 410 Rudder



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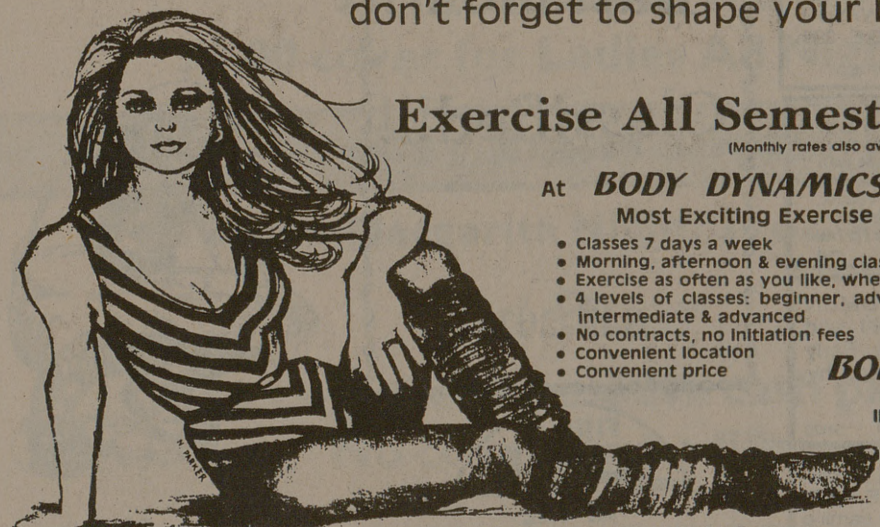
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