

Warped

by Scott McCullar



Duty-free lunch period

Teacher bill blocked

Associated Press

AUSTIN — A Senate minority blocked an effort Monday to give all Texas public school teachers a duty-free lunch period.

"It's only fair for teachers to have at least 25 minutes of duty-free lunch period to allow them to concentrate for their next classes in the afternoon," said Sen. Carlos Truan, bill sponsor.

Truan, D-Corpus Christi, got a 23-7 vote to debate his bill but needed 25 votes.

He said more than 600 school districts in Texas do not allow a teacher lunch time free of supervisory duties.

Sen. Roy Blake, D-Nacogdoches, said a similar proposal was introduced as far back as 1973, and the

cost was estimated at \$12 million then.

Truan responded that the Senate approved the bill two years ago, and

added, "The cost is difficult to ascertain because of the way the school districts may implement it at the local level."

The bill would allow the State Board of Education to set guidelines for teachers to forego their duty-free lunch in the event of a personnel shortage, extreme economic conditions or "unavoidable or unforeseen circumstance."

"It is one more local option that you're taking away from local school boards," said Sen. John Traeger, D-Seguin.

Voting against Truan's motion to debate the bill were Blake and Tra-

eger and Sens. O.H. "Ike" Harris, R-Dallas; Grant Jones, D-Abilene; John Leedom, R-Dallas; Bill Sims, D-San Angelo; and Craig Washington, D-Houston.

Two Blake bills on unemployment compensation cleared the Senate and were sent to the House. One would bring Texas into conformity with the Federal Unemployment Tax Act, and the other would give the Texas Employment Commission authority to collect certain overpayments from employers.

The Senate approved a bill changing the formula for distributing funds for the Engineering Excellence Fund established in 1983. Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan, said the change commits the state to "high-tech research." He said the formula was amended to encourage major colleges to participate in the program.

Probation officer arrested for drug deal

Associated Press

HOUSTON — A state adult probation officer and three other men, including a probationer, were arrested by Texas Department of Public Safety officers and charged with attempting to sell \$1 million worth of high-grade cocaine to undercover officers.

Leonardo Cuellar, 31, a probation officer from the 49th Judicial District in Zapata, was arrested in a parking lot on Sunday.

He and three others, Raul Martinez Pacheco, 35, of Corpus Christi; Francisco Canedo Jr., 44, of Laredo; and Eloy Efrin Canales, 33, of Hebbronville, were charged with delivery of a controlled substance and each was held in the Harris County jail in lieu of \$1 million bonds.

Officials said Canales was one of Cuellar's probationers.

DPS narcotics investigator Jimmie Burleyson said the arrests followed a two-month investigation by the DPS and by the federal Drug Enforcement Administration.

Burleyson said the arrests came after arrangements had been made for the sale to undercover agents of five pounds of cocaine. The drugs were described as "high grade" and worth about \$1 million on the street.

The Houston Post quoted DPS officer Eddie Hibsen as saying that Cuellar admitted to officers that he would have made about \$20,000 on the deal.

Zapata County Attorney Arturo Figueroa Jr. said Cuellar had worked for four years as the county's only adult probation officer.

American manure stirs controversy

Associated Press

EL PASO — Officials on both sides of the Texas-Mexico border are arguing over who has the responsibility of cleaning manure out of cattle trucks returning to the United States.

The debate has caused a \$16 million roadblock for El Paso cattlemen and customs brokers who want to take advantage of newly allowed exports of U.S. cattle into Mexico.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture department has been requiring trucks returning from Mexico — even after only a few hours — to be cleaned to avoid introducing cattle fever ticks or other parasites and diseases into the United States.

El Paso cattlemen and customs brokers said the rule means they either must hire a Mexican carrier to pick up the cattle in El Paso and take them to Juarez, or they must find a place in Juarez to wash their own cattle trucks.

"This is American manure on these trucks," Pete Araujo, owner of the ABACO customs house, told the El Paso Times.

"Why, when we finally have a chance to sell cattle to Mexico, are they putting up fences?"

Araujo's company handles cattle imports and exports along the Texas-Mexico border.

He said shipments of Mexican cattle into the United States, which have been scaled down, were loaded

into trucks in Juarez that were unloaded in El Paso and then sealed for their return to Mexico.

Araujo said he has asked Texas legislators in Washington, D.C., for a similar procedure for U.S. cattle exports to Mexico. It would allow the trucks to be sealed after unloading in Juarez, then to return across the border for cleaning at places cattle shippers already have established in the United States.

Dr. S.G. Couger, assistant veterinarian in charge at the agriculture department in Austin, said cattle shippers elsewhere along the Texas border are complaining, but the restrictions will be enforced.

"If a U.S. truck goes into Mexico, it must be cleaned before coming back," Couger said. "It is to protect us from any parasites or diseases that might be coming in with a dirty vehicle. How do we know where those trucks have been?"

Couger said the complaints against the statute have risen recently with the dramatic increase in cattle import permits being granted by Mexico.

In January, the Mexican government announced it would stop exporting young cattle and would begin importing U.S. cattle to relieve meat shortages and help stabilize meat prices in Mexico.

Around town

Spring election filing continues

Filing for Spring elections will be held Monday till Friday in room 214 of the Pavilion. Hours to file are: 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Thursday and Friday.

College of Science offers scholarships

Three scholarships are now available for undergraduate health science majors of high academic achievement. Application forms are available at the Scholarship Office in the Pavilion, the Biology Advising Office at 101 Biological Science Building-West and from the Dean of Science in 313 BSBW. Deadline for application is Friday.

Personnel department offers courses

A "Personnel Management for Supervisors" course, sponsored by the Personnel Department will be held Thursday and Friday, meeting 8:30 a.m.-11 a.m. each day in 211 YMCA. The intent of the course is to help experienced managers improve their working knowledge of personnel related matters. Heads of departments and similar administrative units may make reservations for their supervisory personnel by call Mercedes Gonzalez at 845-4153.

After Hours offers driving course

The TAMU After Hours Program will sponsor a Driver Safety Course Friday and Saturday. This course may be used to have certain traffic violations dismissed and to receive a 10 percent discount on automobile insurance. Registration is held 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday in 216 MSC. For more information, call 845-1515.

Sterling C. Evans Library and Student Government Announce

NEW LIBRARY HOURS

(Effective February 25)

Sunday	9:00 a.m. - 3:00 a.m.
Monday-Thursday	7:00 a.m. - 3:00 a.m.
Friday	7:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.
Saturday	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Please use these new hours as usage will be monitored.

Tom Urban

Vice President Academic Affairs
Texas A&M Student Government

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