

Five guards arrested for criminal acts

Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE — Two Texas Department of Corrections employees have been accused of delivering marijuana on prison grounds, a TDC spokesman said Monday.

Virgil McAdams, 23, a guard at the Ferguson Unit near Midway, and Louis McAdams, 28, a correctional officer, both were charged and arrested in the delivery of a controlled substance at a penal institution, TDC spokesman Phil Guthrie said.

Enrique Torres, 28, a psychologist at the unit, also was arrested and charged in connection with possession of marijuana, Guthrie said.

Another guard at the unit, Richard Wright, 18, was arrested and charged with aggravated sexual assault on an inmate while Quentin Brown, 24, was arrested and charged with sexual assault on an inmate, Guthrie said.

All were suspended without pay pending termination, Guthrie said.

Sakowitz to shut down five stores

Associated Press

HOUSTON — Sakowitz, the financially troubled high-fashion store chain, announced Monday it plans to close its downtown store, which has been open for more than 75 years, and four other stores.

The downtown store and another in Gulfgate Mall will close before Nov. 10 as Sakowitz contracts to a third of the size it was before filing for reorganization a month ago under federal bankruptcy laws.

Along with the two Houston stores, Sakowitz plans to shut three stores in Tulsa, Midland and Dallas by February and may close or sell another in Scottsdale, Ariz.

Sakowitz blames its financial problems on the energy recession in the Southwest and an influx of aggressive retailers. Trade reports pegged the company's losses at \$2 million on sales of about \$120 million last year.

Six of the more profitable Houston locations will remain open, officials said.

Senator fights seatbelt law

Associated Press

AUSTIN — A state senator called for repeal of the new mandatory seat belt law Tuesday, five days before it takes effect and more than three months before violators will be fined.

Sen. Roy Blake, D-Nacogdoches, said the law takes government too far into Texans' private lives.

"I wear my seat belts and believe that wearing them saves lives, but I believe when government mandates things on individuals that they could by their own choice do, then government has gone too far," Blake said.

Blake said he will introduce a bill in the next session of the Legislature to repeal the seat belt law.

The new law takes effect Sunday, making it a traffic offense to ride in the front seat of an automobile or

most pickup trucks without wearing a seat belt.

The penalty for violations will be a \$25 to \$50 fine, but that doesn't take effect until Dec. 1.

The Legislature in May passed the seat belt requirement under pressure from the federal government and automakers. It was signed into law by Gov. Mark White, who since has appeared in television commercials urging Texans to buckle up.

Last year, the U.S. Department of Transportation issued new regulations requiring passive restraint systems, such as air bags, to be installed in new cars unless mandatory seat belt laws were enacted in states containing a total of two-thirds of the nation's population.

But Blake said the Texas law "was passed under the guise of eliminat-

ing the need for the installation of expensive air bags." He said the new law falls short of meeting all federal requirements.

Blake also said the new law will be an unwarranted extra work for law enforcement officers.

Police officers, he said, "have more important things to do than spend time enforcing this law."

However, the senator said even though he voted against the bill and opposes the new law, "I hope Texans will abide by the law as they do with all laws" while it is in effect.

Backers of the seat belt legislation argued that it would save lives. They noted the Department of Public Safety says the majority of people killed in traffic accidents weren't wearing seat belts.

Nuclear project

Cisneros says delays will plague plant

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros says he expects more construction delays and cost overruns on the South Texas Nuclear Project.

"I believe you will see delays and cost increases," he said Monday at a meeting of trustees of City Public Service.

Cisneros sits on the board of CPS, which owns 28 percent of the nuclear plant near Bay City.

Cisneros said he had received information from an informed source that an in-house report forecasts more delays and cost increases. The mayor declined to give more information about his source.

"We should not stand for Houston (Houston Lighting & Power Co.) hoodwinking us any longer," he said. HL&P is the managing partner of the project.

HL&P Chairman Don D. Jordan

rejected Cisneros' charge that information is being withheld.

"Any charges that information is being withheld regarding anticipated further cost overruns and construction delays on the South Texas Project are erroneous and counterproductive," Jordan said in a press release Tuesday.

In addition, CPS staff members strongly disagreed with the mayor's prediction.

Beaumont may hold recall vote

Associated Press

BEAUMONT — Beaumont residents may recall their mayor in a Nov. 5 election after the necessary signatures on a petition submitted last week were approved Tuesday by City Clerk Myrtle Gorgey.

Gorgey was asked to validate a recall petition with 2,400 signatures submitted by a member of the striking Service Employees International Union Local 706.

The strikers say Mayor Bill Neild refused to help them settle their dispute with the A.W. Schlesinger Geriatric Center.

City clerks have dealt with seven different petitions this year and for the first time in 12 years, a recall election has been approved.

"People are frustrated and I can understand their frustrations," Neild said. "Things aren't going to get better until the economy improves."

The Beaumont area has had one of the highest unemployment rates in the state.

A second group, Citizens United for Responsible Government, also is circulating a petition to recall Neild and another petition to recall Councilman Wayne Turner. The group contends the two have been unresponsive to public comment.

If the signatures on the petitions are validated, Neild has five days to resign. If he doesn't, council will set a recall election in November, Ms. Gorgey said.

Already on the Nov. 5 ballot are

two issues dealing with the renaming of streets for slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King. Voters have twice rejected the idea of naming a street for King.

The striking nursing home workers also are circulating a petition for an initiative vote to establish \$4.10 as minimum wage in Beaumont. A petition to cap wages for city employees at \$40,000 a year is also circulating.

Citizens United for Responsible Government also wants a referendum on the ordinance through which the council hired City Manager Karl Nollenberger and established his salary.

Nollenberger announced his resignation earlier this month.

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Magic of Two

The LaBeque Sisters Piano Duet



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Young Uck Kim, Violinist
From youth, Young Uck Kim has performed violin solos with the world's great orchestras including some familiar to MSC OPAS patrons: the London Philharmonic, the Chicago Symphony, the New York Philharmonic, the Berlin Philharmonic and the Vienna Philharmonic. He made his first national performance with the Philadelphia Orchestra when only 16. He tours regularly with another MSC OPAS alumna, pianist Emanuel Ax.

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Magic and Myth

The Houston Ballet performing "Peer Gynt"
The Houston Ballet has become famous for the energy and vitality its dancers bring to classical and mythical ballets. Ben Stevenson, the Ballet's artistic director, created this lavish, rich tale of a young womanizer and his eventual ruin. It is magnificently set, staged, costumed and performed, complete with mountains, deserts, forests, trolls and Arabian knights.

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