

# Packed Texas prisons

## Foreign inmates taking up space

**Associated Press**  
**HUNTSVILLE** — Texas' overcrowded prisons are being used as expensive holding facilities for as many as 1,000 illegal alien convicts awaiting processing for deportation, a study shows.  
 An additional 700 inmates — U.S. citizens — are jailed longer than necessary because of the overuse of criminal detainers, according to a report released by Sam Houston State University.  
 The study, headed by Marilyn McShane, Louisiana criminologist who worked 15 months for

the Texas Department of Corrections, also says many prosecutors abuse the detainer program to prevent convicts from earning early release.  
 "It's very crazy and it's an expensive tab for the state to pick up," McShane said. "We've given the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) a free hand for treating the holds like criminal warrants."  
 The INS holds on the illegal alien inmates generally are not to permit the filing of additional

criminal charges, but rather to allow time for a check of an inmate's citizenship status, the report says.  
 S.O. "Woody" Woods, TDC director of records and classification, said he generally agreed with the report and that most of the inmates with detainers can still earn a considerable amount of time off their sentence.  
 The Texas prisons dropped a program last year that was designed to transfer to other countries all the illegal aliens incarcerated in Texas.

# Support for pre-parole plan drops

**Associated Press**  
**AUSTIN** — The Texas Board of Corrections Wednesday in one of several actions backed away from a pre-parole program in which 50 inmates would be sent home to their families.  
 Gov. Mark White has expressed personal concerns about the program, an aide to the governor said after the prison board's unanimous vote. Chairman Al Hughes of Austin, a White appointee, said the governor had not discussed the plan with him.  
 Lawmakers approved the pre-parole transfer program in 1983 as part of a package aimed at reducing prison crowding. The Board of Pardons and Paroles last year began sending some low-risk inmates to halfway houses as early as six months before their parole date.  
 The plan the prison board voted down Wednesday would allow as many as 50 inmates to be released to their homes as early as six months before their parole

date. The plan had received tentative approval in January.  
 Hughes said the pre-parole release program could be fraught with legal problems, including whether the Texas Department of Corrections could be held liable for the released inmates.  
 Those inmates would, technically, remain in TDC custody.  
 Hughes asked, "If we send him home and he goes next door and commits a crime, what's our liability?"  
 The chairman said he views the program as potentially good for inmates, but not a big enough effort to make a dent in overcrowding.  
 He estimated that 15 to 20 percent of TDC's inmates could benefit by going to a halfway house or their home before their actual release.  
 "They could be learning a trade — interacting with the community while serving their debt to society," he said.  
 The board vote came after a brief discussion. Board member

Tom McDade of Houston said the plan should be withdrawn, at least temporarily, because of complications and legal problems.  
 Steve Stubbs, an analyst in the public protection unit of White's budget and planning division, said White has personal concerns about the program that he has communicated to the Board of Corrections.  
 The cost of screening inmates, checking their homes and families and then monitoring them could be more than the program is worth, he said.  
 Also Wednesday, the prison board voted to allow the General Land Office to take bids Feb. 21 on 297 acres of land in Harris County.  
 Hughes said a Harris County water district wants to buy the land for \$3.2 million. Proceeds from the sale would be used to build a new prison on land already owned by TDC.

# Ex-employees succeed

## Bullock 'inspires' workers

**Associated Press**  
**AUSTIN** — The "Bullock mafia" is spreading across the state, putting into office dozens of people who demand that government be efficient.  
 People who have worked for Comptroller Bob Bullock are in the offices of governor, lieutenant governor, attorney general, land commissioner, treasurer and other high appointive and elective offices.  
 "Bullock runs one of the few efficient operations in government. It's the best place to learn about real administration," said Land Commissioner Garry Mauro, who worked two years for Bullock.  
 Bill Aleshire, a former Travis County tax assessor-collector and another former Bullock employee, said, "Bullock revolutionized that massive bureaucracy. It was inspirational for many of us."  
 Harmon Lisnow, the attorney general's executive assistant for administration, had seven different jobs during the eight years he worked for Bullock.  
 "You learn you don't have to accept mediocrity in government," Lis-

now said. "I always believed it, but I never had a role model before."  
 Aleshire said he thinks Bullock hires people who already have shown an interest in politics and sparks that interest in others, causing them to remain in government service.  
 Mauro said, "I wouldn't be where I am without Bob Bullock. What sets Bullock apart is his ability to give young people opportunity early."  
 Mauro was 26 when Bullock made him an assistant comptroller in charge of a \$20 million budget.  
 Bullock also gave women and minorities job opportunities when other doors were closed, said Travis County Tax Assessor-Collector Cecilia Burke, who worked for Bullock nearly seven years. When Bullock took office in 1975, the comptroller's office was involved in a discrimination lawsuit.  
 Today, Bullock said, 69 percent of his 2,600 employees are women and 50 percent are minorities.  
 To keep his division managers fresh and searching for better ways to work, he moves them to a new job about once a year, Bullock said.

"Every time I'd get ready to move on, he'd give me a new job," Lisnow said. "You learn about the essence of organization."  
 Travis County Constable Stacy Suits, who worked for Bullock for nearly three years, said, "Bullock doesn't like to hear an excuse of why you didn't get things done. He wants to know why you didn't get it done yesterday."  
 "Impatience is a trait of a drunk," said Bullock, a recovering alcoholic.  
 "You rely on the workhorses and sometimes you ride them to death. I know that's a problem I have. I think it's better since I stopped drinking," the comptroller said.  
 Recalling his days in the comptroller's office, Lisnow said, "I had a great time, but I had a terrible stomach problem. He was killing me. He's so intense. Bullock doesn't do anything halfway."  
 Bullock said, "I don't want people thinking this is a way station. I think most of them were given a challenge here. About everyone on the list (of alumni) has improved themselves since they worked here."



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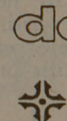
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## Class of '86 Update

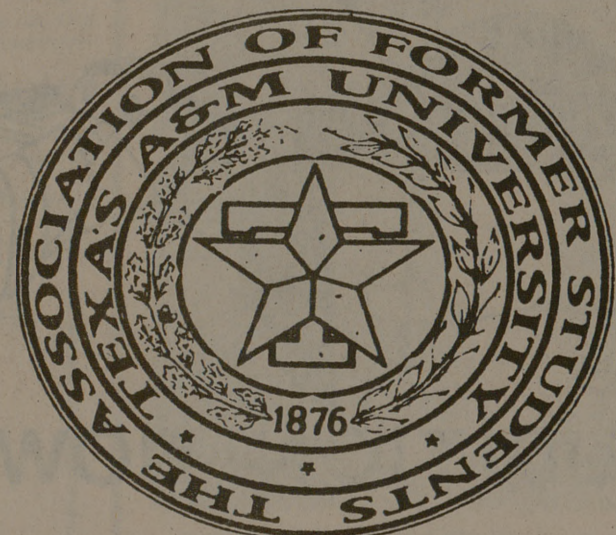
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|--------------------------|-----------------------|
| Pres - Mark Feagins      | Sec. - Wendy Cochrane |
| V. Pres - Kristi Sherill | Treas. - Jay Maust    |
| Soc. Sec. - Dan Smith    | Hist. - Bryan Temple  |

Topic: Class Gift

This year the council is going to hold a General Meeting so that the Class can make the final decision of what our Class gift will be. Proposals will be accepted by anyone in the Class of 86 until Feb. 16, 1986. Anyone who has a special suggestion on what the Class Gift should be may submit their proposal in a sealed envelope to the Class of 86 cubicle in the MSC (Room 216). These proposals will be presented at the General Class Meeting and will be voted on separately.

- February 16 - Deadline for Class Gift proposals to be turned in to Class of 86 cubicle. MSC (Room 216)
- February 26 - General Class Meeting  
Topic: Vote on Class gift
- April 7-8 - Senior Induction Banquets  
Association of Former Students
- April 26 - Senior Bash at the Hall of Fame
- April 27 - Senior Banquet at College Sta. HILTON  
-Ring Dance at MSC and Rudder Complex

## The Buck Weirus Spirit Award

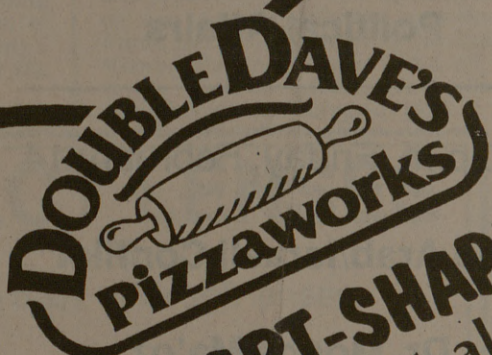


Buck Weirus Spirit Award Applications now available at:

- Former Students Association
- MSC
- Student Activities Office
- V.P. Student Services Office

Deadline for return, February 28  
 Place: Former Student Association, MSC

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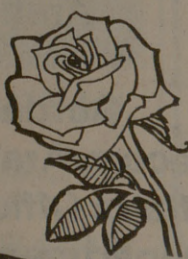


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