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PLANT

Page 14/The Battalion/Friday, February 14, 1986

7 children trapped, killed in El Campo fire

(continued from page 1)

the Williams house had been nailed

shut, leaving no escape routes. There was no explanation for it, but temperatures in the area had been cold recently.

Myers said the investigation indi-cates the fire started near the front door where a kerosene heater was found to contain a foreign substance, possibly paper or cloth. "It looks like maybe the kids

might have been playing or something, and stuck something in there, and the fire got outside the heater and possibly on the floor there," My-ers said.

Elliott said no charges had been filed in the case.

District Attorney Danny Shindler said, "We're certainly looking at the possibility of presenting information to a grand jury

He said that will depend on what the police and fire investigators find. Killed were Monica Williams, 8; Jeremy Williams, 7; Veronica Wiliams, 6; Jason Williams, 3; Claressa

Williams, 9 months; Demetris Johnson, 3; and Nathan Johnson, who used to heat the home.

would have been 2 months old Friday.

Williams also has a 10-year-old son, Xavier, who was staying with his grandmother at the time of the fire, officials said.

Myers said firefighters found the bodies of five children in the front room and two more in the back room.

He said El Campo authorities would be aided by the state fire marshal's office in Corpus Christi.

Wharton County Sheriff's deputy Ricky Miller noticed smoke coming from the house during a routine pa-trol and alerted firemen. Larry Carter, 20, said he was

awakened by what sounded like two small explosions and his uncle, Curry Long, told him, "Jackie's house is on fire and the kids are in there.

Carter, whose home is located be-hind the Williams' house, said he ran to the burning house but could not get inside to help the children. "I tried to help but they kept tell-ing me to get back," Carter said.

Carter said he thought the explosions came from kerosine heaters



"Why not get a jump on it? Spring break is just around the come

Women in B-CS say child care is rewarding

(continued from page 1)

with her life has been worthwhile. I've had children for up to four years at a time before they go off to day. nursery school or kindergarten." she says. "I had six that grew up to-gether, and we still keep in touch. I not only got to see . . . all those things parents want to see, but I also see other people's children in the same

stages." Debby Swick of Bryan says a regis-tered home allows her to be mater-nal during the day, but she doesn't have to deal with the sleepless nights of actual parenthood.

I've been taking in children for 31/2 years and have two children of sota says, "it's just a home.

(continued from page 1) universal, the custom of Valentine's

Day evokes a different picture in ev-

Jeanne Ferris, a sophomore from Harlingen, said she thinks of Valen-tine's Day as "a special day to tell your special someone that they are special — to let him know I'm think-

Money, or lack of it, seems an

ever-occuring problem for college students. The high cost of flowers

and other traditional Valentine's gifts forces some students to be crea-

Michael Miesch, a senior from Ir-ving, said, "Originality stems from

trusty construction paper and his

crayons and made a card. In it he

He said last year he got out his

eryone's mind.

ing of him."

tive

poverty.

my own," Swick says. "I have no de-sire to have any more bables, but this way I can still get that maternal feeling with young children during the

"Sometimes you do feel your sanity slipping away, but I'll stay with it for at least three more years. I blended into day care slowly - part time — but unless you do it full time, it's hard to get the most out of the business

'Day care centers have more of a school-type atmosphere, but I think it's less personal with 10 to 15 chil-

dren per person.

'In a center, there has to be structure. With as many kids as they have, the staff has to keep them busy. And some parents want that early stuc-ture where kids can learn their

ABCs and their numbers. I worry that once they get into kindergarten Both Swick and Palasota say the schedule for the children in their homes is not a set one like those of licensed day care centers. Super-vised play is the usual activity. "Thom is a read return with all that knowledge already, they'll be thoroughly bored. "Still, there is more security for the parents, leaving their child in a center. They feel more secure with

"There is no real structure," Pala- trained personnel and a licensed facility. And it is good for parents to be

Ways to celebrate Valentine's Day change

carry a variety of gifts from choco-late-covered golf balls to boxer shorts covered in hearts.

Susan O'Leary, a junior from Houston, said she feels it's hard for women to find something to send to men

'What can you really buy a guy?' she said. "Underwear with hearts, or maybe make him heart-shaped coo-

Whatever the gift, the thought is still one of love, caring and usually even romance.

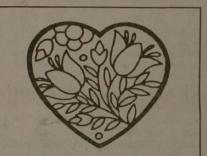
'I think Valentine's Day reminds us that romance still lives in our fast, callous world," Weir commented.

With the right amount of money, and time, what would be the perfect Valentine's date? Libby Schimmer, a senior from

Dallas, said she'd spend it in a cabin

Miesch said he would drive to the

wrote his "special someone" a poem. Not everyone is quite as creative, and many people stick with the trusty store-bought card.



candy and cards - still continue to be sent to loved-ones.

Local florists say Feb. 14 is their biggest day of the year. Roses are still the hottest selling love tokens, but once the roses are gone the desperate lovelorn will settle for just

about any cut flower. The florists also said that Texas A&M students send a large number of green plants to grandparents and parents.

for references and be sure Muneer Hyder, director Kiddie Castle day care cente that from her experience, Magazine

Weekly

Battalion

The

are less disciplined when to her day care centers fi tered homes. And aside discipline, Hyder says, or have much more to offer.

cautious. Regarding regination homes, I'd advise them to alw

But whatever the decisio Carol Eubanks of the Hu sources Department, the thing to remember is the well-being of the children. says, is always the priority.

> Judge denies bond to 4

(continued from page])

million 1981 Cessna Cong but it had not been filed with Federal Aviation Administra authorities said.

Mershan, 45, of Miami, told authorities he was a mandant for Eastern Airline

then said he was a pilot. Others arrested were id fied as Douglas R. Carro, 3 Palm Springs, Calif.; Juan Morales-Andrade, 29, of 6 mala City; and Jorge Arsin Archila, 28, of Bogota, Color Celestino R. Vargas, as agent of the Bureau of Ma

agent of the Bureau of Ak Tobacco and Firearms in G Christi, testified that the were en route to Colombiato up a load of cocaine.

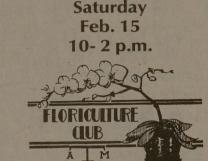
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Brad Weir, a senior from Dallas, said he feels cards are a "good thing.

These pieces of paper tend to make people's days - they make mine," he said. "Valentine's Day is a really cool day for people who have someone special, but how unbelie-vably depressing for those who have no one.

Three traditional gifts — flowers,

stuffed animal. The selection ranges the lovers. from the plain doll, to those bearing hearts and sayings such as "I love vou.

In recent years, along with chang-ing attitudes and a new balancing of sex roles, the list of not-so-tradi-"Why one day of the yea tional gifts has grown.

Department stores and gift shops know everyday.

Another big-selling item is the on Feb. 14? That remains between

No matter the reason, the gift or the reaction, maybe we should all take a lesson in thinking from Steve Ablard, a junior from Houston. He said he feels Valentine's Day,

"Why one day of the year? If you love someone you should let them

United States and guide so lots to Colombia. Aristizaba into Miami earlier this mon eventually was introduc Mershan, Vargas testified men then flew to Californ with Carro at Carro's ho studied maps of Colomb the best way to get in and o the country and avoid detect the agent testified.

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NASA Johnson Space Center personnel will be on campus February 21, in room 404 of Rud-der Tower, to provide information to students who wish to drop in and get a better understand-ing about a Federal Contract Specialist Career.



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