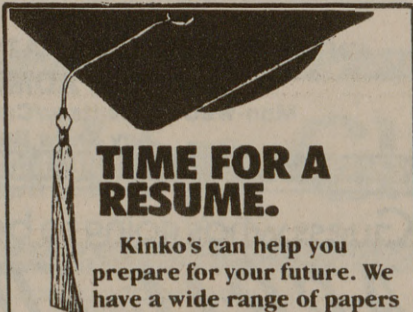


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People now asking for machine guns more, dealers say

HOUSTON (AP) — More people are inquiring about machine guns since the U.S. House passed a bill that would ban such weapons, but the rise in interest probably won't mean increased sales, gun dealers say.

Houston gun dealer Wallace Gorman said the high cost of machine guns, lengthy application process and extensive paperwork is enough to put off most of the curious callers. "There is more interest," Gorman said. "I have had more phone calls, but sales of machine guns do not boom because of the complications involved in selling them."

The bill was approved by the House last week and now goes to the Senate. It calls for the ban of future sales of machine guns, although people already owning registered machine guns would be allowed to keep their weapons.

Gun dealer Arthur May said, "Prices are going up 200 to 400 percent because of this."

Most recent data from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in Washington indicates there were 8,316 machine guns registered in Texas in 1981. Another 1981 report showed Texas leading the nation in machine gun dealers with 210.

Federal law requires the signature of the local U.S. attorney, district attorney, sheriff, police chief, U.S. marshal or director of the Texas Department of Public Safety on an application for a machine gun.

But officials in Harris County say they rarely sign such forms.

Police spokesman Al Baker said, "As a policy (Houston Police Chief Lee P. Brown) just doesn't sign off on those weapons."

Harris County Sheriff Johnny Klevenhagen also will not sign the forms.

"I do not sign them for anyone, that includes my own personnel," Klevenhagen said.

Harris County Assistant District Attorney Billy Lee said he would recommend that a law enforcement official never sign a machine gun application.

"Nobody in this country has any reason to have a machine gun. There is no reason to have such a weapon in private hands," Lee said.

Some people unable to find a law enforcement official to sign their application apply for a dealer's license that will enable them to buy the guns, the sheriff said.

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Graduating senior or not, don't you think you may be pushing your luck?"

TAMU A&M Civil Liberties Union and Brazos Valley Civil Liberties Union co-sponsor

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Threats to Civil Liberties Are we Returning to the 50's?

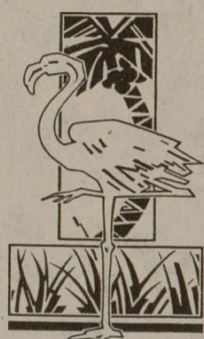
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Official says more capital necessary

Hospital needs doctors, patients

KOUNTZE (AP) — Hardin Memorial Hospital, which has not had a patient spend the night since last month, doesn't really need any since no doctors are around to care for them.

"It's a ghost hospital," said Rick Jacobus, hospital administrator, who insists the problems of the 59-bed facility are not terminal.

"This is a very good hospital," he said — despite the fact it is short of operating capital and doctors.

Nurses sit at their stations with little to do but answer telephone calls, many of which are from creditors. The operating room is padlocked and the hallways leading to the patient rooms are dark.

Two or three nurses are always on

duty, but they lock the doors at night.

Despite the lonely duty, nursing supervisor Becky Boudreaux said nurses manage to keep up their spirits. Meanwhile, business office workers are trying to collect overdue bills to bring in money to meet the payroll.

Jack Littell, the Houston resident who became sole owner last year of

the company that leases the hospital from Hardin County, said he's out of money.

So far, he reports losses of \$800,000.

Littell said he wants to sell the lease to a hospital management company. He said he can't afford to keep patients in the hospital, but that if he closes the facility the lease will revert to the county.

Graduating Aggies!

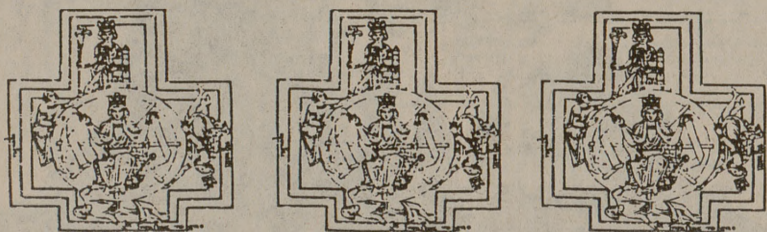
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