State and Local

Officials say McDonald's misled public

CHICAGO (AP) — McDonald's Corp. misled the public when it said it was revealing ingredients in its fast food "because of increasing customer interest' but failed to acknowledge pressure from attorneys general in three states, authorities said Wednesday.

McDonald's, purveyor of more than 50 billion hamburgers, announced Monday it was "taking the lead on this issue" and would distribute the information to its restaurants and franchises nationwide.

But on Wednesday, officials with the attorneys general in Cali-fornia, New York and Texas said McDonald's agreed to provide the information only after pressure from their offices

And they say McDonald's jumped the gun by announcing the move before a joint statement agreed to by itself and four other fast-food operations.

o In Texas, Attorney General Jim Mattox said through an assistant the McDonald's announcement represented "a calculated effort to make the public think they were doing this out of the goodness of their heart, when in fact they were doing it because of pressure from our office."

Steve Gardner, an assistant attorney general in Mattox's office, said, "It's our position they did it in hopes of misleading the pub-

Charles Rubner, an assistant vice president at McDonald's sub-

California attorney general's of-fice said McDonald's agreed to publish the ingredient information as part of an agreement negotiated with five fast-food chains: McDonald's, Burger King, Jack in the Box, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Wendy's

And they said McDonald's was

The McDonald's announcement represented "a calculated effort to make the public think they were doing this (releasing nutrition information) out of the goodness of their heart, when in fact they were doing it because of pressure from our office."

— Steve Gardner, Texas assistant attorney general.

urban Oak Brook headquarters, said, "The primary reason we're doing this is because of increasing customer interest

"I will acknowledge that certainly the discussions we've had with the attorneys general was good input to us that signaled to us there was more widespread in-terest in the issue beyond the East

Gardner and officials in the

the last of the five to agree.
In California, Fred Register, special assistant to the attorney general, said McDonald's also violated an agreement calling for a joint public announcement of the fast-food chains' decision to publish nutrition information.

Register said McDonald's news announcement "creates the im-pression that McDonald's has taken a step independently of its competitors when in fact it was the result of very considerable pressure and negotiations di-rected at the entire industry by attorneys general offices in several

Gardner said the attorneys general became involved because of pressure from the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a non-profit consumer advocacy group in Washington, D.C.

Michael Jacobson, the center's executive director, said Wednesday his organization believes publishing booklets listing ingredients and nutrition information isn't enough

McDonald's and other fast-food chains are required by fed-eral law to print ingredients on the wrappers of their food, Jacob-

The issue is important, he said, because people with high-blood pressure, certain allergies or other ailments must know what's in their food.

Rubner also said Wednesday that McDonald's had reversed an earlier decision and now plans to include information about the amount of cholesterol and salt in its menu items.

Perot vows to fight cuts in spending for school reform

nate H. Ross Perot, a driving force behind the expensive school reforms now in place, says he is ready to fight any plan to cut education spending to help balance the state budget.

"We'll gear up and go at it again," Perot said.

He told the Dallas Times Herald that he will be "working actively" to defend the reforms when the Legislature meets in special session to work on the projected \$2.3 billion

Perot was chairman of the Select Committee on Public Education that recommended public school reforms approved by lawmakers in 1984. The reforms were paid for, in part,

by a \$2.6 billion tax hike.
But Gov. Mark White has said the state budget crisis would not cause any education spending cuts. But some lawmakers have said some of the reforms should be reviewed,

with an eye toward saving money. House Appropriations Commit- - said.

AUSTIN (AP) - Computer mag- tee Chairman Jim Rudd, D-Brownfield, said Monday the House may consider eliminating funding for the teacher career ladder, delaying classsize restrictions and lifting requirements for preschool programs for

disadvantaged 4-year-olds.

Perot said if lawmakers want to economize in public school funding, they should slice "junk" in athletic

programs and vocational education.
"If you've got to cut, then cut in the right places," he said. "We're throwing money out the window on vocational education. We don't need any more Astroturf. We don't need to pay coaches more than the median salary of teachers.

"We can't get our priorities screwed around. There's a lot of soft

stuff they can cut out."
Perot said that saving the special programs for disadvantaged 4-yearolds is particularly crucial.

"On a cost-effective basis, it's worth millions and millions and millions of dollars down the road," he

Texas university fights discrimination suit appeal

department at West Texas State University is federally funded and should abide by federal sex discrimination rules, an attorney argued federal money.

Wednesday before the 5th U.S. Cir
The suit charges that those procuit Court of Appeals.

the six women who filed a class-action suit in 1980, said that WTSU's times.

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ceive federal aid through revenue sharing, work study funds and the use of buildings constructed with

grams unfairly favor men by giving Suzanne Meeker, who represents male athletes more money, better facilities and better game and practice

of Dallas ruled in favor of the 6,500student university in Canyon on June 19, saying its intercollegiate athletic programs don't receive a di-rect benefit from federal aid and therefore Title IX sex discrimination laws do not apply.

Title IX forbids discrimination on the basis of sex in school programs.

terpreted the statute to mean that only school programs receiving federal assistance fall under the law.

Meeker told the three-judge panel Wednesday that the athletic department selects scholarship recipients and then submits them to the student financial aid office.

If the financial aid office deter-

eral funds, the athletic scholarship is then set aside or reduced.

But Laura Jefferson, an assistant state attorney general, said financial aid officials don't select scholarship recipients. The officials only distribute the money according to federal guidelines, she said.

"There are two distinct depart-

ments — the financial aid department and the athletic department,' Iefferson said, "The athletic department is not the intended recipient of the work-study program.'

Tina Bennett Morrison, one of the women who filed the suit, said conditions for women athletes at the school have improved since the action was filed.

What's up

STUDENT GOVERNMENT: applications for External Communications and Public Relations will be available through the summer months. Please come by 221 Pavilion from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to pick up applications. For more information call 845-3051.

ATARI USER GROUP: will meet at 7:30 p.m. in 102 Teague. For further information call Bill, 845-4054.

BRAZOS DUPLICATE BRIDGE CLUB: meets every Thursday at 7 p.m. at the College Station Community Center. Beginners are welcome.

MARANATHA CHRISTIAN CHURCH: will present a "Rock-n-Roll Seminar" at 7 p.m. in 110 Harrington on to-day and Friday. For more information call 693-5611 or

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.

Punishment evidence heard for convicted gang rapists

DALLAS (AP) — A jury began hanger during her ordeal, investigation tence of life imprisonment on each hearing evidence Wednesday in the tors said. punishment phase of the trial of five men convicted of gang-raping a 27year-old woman while her boyfriend was forced to watch. Four men were convicted Tues-

day of sexual assault and kidnapping. A fifth defendant was convicted of sexual assault but acquitted of kidnapping, and a sixth was acquitted of sexual assault.

The six were arrested by Duncanville police Feb. 16 after receiving a phone call from a 20-year-old man who said he and his girlfriend had been abducted at knifepoint.

The woman was bound to a

The woman said she went to the home of her former boyfriend on

Feb. 14 to pick up her clothing.

Prosecutors who described the incident as a "Valentine's Day chopping block party" presented evidence that the woman was bitten and threatened with death. They also argued that the five ter-

rorized the victim's boyfriend by tying him up, threatening to kill him

and forcing him to watch the assault.

David Lloyd Cupples, 31, the woman's former boyfriend, was found guilty of aggravated sexual as-The woman was bound to a sault and aggravated kidnapping the assault, was acquitted of wooden chopping block with a coat charges. He faces a maximum sen- of aggravated sexual assault.

Johnny Ray Austin Jr., Joel A. Cruz and James Allen Schultz, all 19, were convicted of second-degree sexual assault and third-degree kidnapping. The sexual assault conviction carries up to 20 years in prison, while the kidnapping charge carries a maximmum sentence of 10 years.

Richard Edwin DeLoach, 18, was acquitted of a kidnapping charge but was convicted of second-degree

Nelson W. Lancione, 18, who testified he was at the house less than an hour and did not participate in the assault, was acquitted of a charge

It was this big! Yachtsmen have 'whale' of experience

FALMOUTH, England (AP) Two Texas yachtsmen who crossed the Atlantic in a 16-foot cutter said Wednesday a whale slammed into their craft three times but failed to capsize it.

David Nelson, 34, a veterinary surgeon, and Michael Kosa, 32, a biologist, both of Austin, arrived in southwestern England on Wednesday, 37 days after setting out from Newport, R.I.

Nelson said seven days into the

crossing their cutter, which the men built themselves, was hit three times by a gray whale which surfaced beneath them, lifting the boat four feet out of the sea. "We reckon the whale was al-

most as frightened as we were," Nelson said. "But we were far more worried afterwards about whether he had been hurt.

The Texans said they also encountered a hurricane and rode it out for three days under a bare mast, the gales driving them out to their beam ends three times with huge seas washing over the

Their arrival in England went

almost unnoticed. "We just didn't want any fuss," Nelson said. "We didn't even tell our friends what we were going to do when we set out.'

Eastern, Texas Air Corp. merger gets tentative approval

Wednesday tentatively approved the situation in that area, merger of Eastern Airlines and "While it appear not squelch competition.

one of the nation's largest airlines. the department emphasized con- issues which much be addressed." cerns about the potential for a monopoly in the Northeast "shuttle" and Washinton, D.C.

In a statement, the department

Transportation Department on they will maintain the competitive

Texas Air Corp., but said the car- would not result in a monopoly or any region of the United States," the dor department said in a statement. In response, Texas Air in May there are a number of outstanding agreed to sell some landing and In opening the way to creation of a department said in a statement.

Before Texas Air wins final approval in its bid to buy Eastern for corridor serving New York, Boston S600 million, certain conditions will ways. The Justice Department then have to be met, the department said.

New York Air, which along with

the Northeast with Eastern. The Jus-"While it appears the merger tice Department's anti-trust divison had raised concerns that the merger riers must first prove the deal will lessen competition substantially in could create a monopoly in the corri-

> takeoff rights, operated by New York Air in Washington and New York, to Pan American World Airwithdrew its objections.

But the Transportation Depart-

WASHINGTON (AP) - The said the airlines must explain how Continental Airlines is owned by ment said Wednesday that Pan Am's Texas Air, competes vigorously in existing slots and facilities combined with those it is purchasing from Texas Air, "may be inadequate to support a competitive shuttle at La-

> Thus the department issued a "serious note of caution," and said it "must be convinced that there will be effective competition on the shuttle routes and that accordingly Texas Air and Pan American must explain how Pan American proposes to operate competitive service of the type

fore DOT reaches a final decision. In addition, the effective date of

the Eastern-Texas Air takeover would have to be postponed until Texas Air's sale to Pan Am is completed, the department said.

Texas Air spokesman Bruce Hicks said that section of the order was under careful review by the airline because it is possible the Texas Air-Eastern deal might be finished before the Oct. I effective date of

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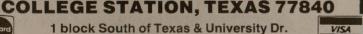
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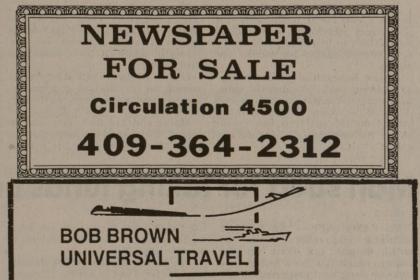
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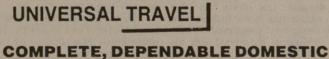
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The Battalion

Wait! Don't line the bird cage with that Battalion! There's a coupon in it that I want that's good for a free tongue depressor down at the pharmacy!

Ads that get action



Campus and community news

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