

Police Beat

The following were reported to the University Police Department through Monday:

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:
 • A campus resident reported that while she was at a Texas A&M football game someone stole eight pairs of her underwear, four bras, two watches, several pieces of jewelry and some personal pictures from her dorm room.

Another woman in the same building reported that someone stole six pairs of her underwear and two bras from her dorm room while she was at the game.

A third woman from the same dormitory reported that someone stole \$70 and some jewelry from her room while she was at the game.

ALTERED DRIVER'S LICENSE:

• An officer reported finding a man sleeping on the drill field south of Houston Street. When the police officer awakened the man and asked him for identification, the officer said he noticed that the age on the man's license had been changed to 21. The man told the officer he had changed the age, so he could buy beer and get into clubs. The officer gave him a ticket for the altered driver's license.

ASSAULT:

• A woman reported that after going to midnight yell practice, she and her boyfriend got into an argument and they left separately. While walking back to her car, the woman said she was grabbed by a man and thrown against a nearby car. She said that when she tried to run, the man grabbed her again and threw her against another car. But she kicked him and was able to run

into a nearby building and get away.

EVADING ARREST:

• While patrolling Ross Street, an officer saw a man riding a motorcycle on the sidewalk. The officer stopped the man and told him he would be ticketed for riding the motorcycle on a sidewalk. The officer said the man told him he was in a hurry to get to an exam, but the officer asked him to pull his motorcycle off to one side of the walkway and wait.

The officer said that after a few seconds, the man took off. The officer got the license number of the motorcycle and was informed by other officers that the man had gone to his class. The officer said that when he went to the classroom, the man tried to run into another room, but the officer caught him by the arm. The man was told he was being arrested for evading arrest.

The man again explained that he had an exam, and the instructor confirmed it. The man was released with a citation for evading arrest and driving on a sidewalk, and was allowed to take his exam.

MISDEMEANOR THEFT-PUBLIC INTOXICATION:

• An officer saw a Blazer driving through campus with an A&M barricade hanging out of the back of the vehicle. When he stopped the truck, the officer said he discovered that the barricade had been stolen from the front of the president's house.

He also reported he found an unconscious man who smelled of alcohol lying in the back of the vehicle.

The driver of the vehicle was arrested for theft and the other man was arrested for public intoxication.

Clinic ordered to pay for deceiving women

FORT WORTH (AP) — Operators of an anti-abortion center that portrayed itself as just the opposite were ordered Tuesday to pay a \$39,000 fine and \$69,000 in legal fees for violation of Texas' deceptive trade practices law.

In a verdict that prosecutors said sends a message to similar clinics nationwide, jurors decided the Pregnancy Problem Center near downtown Fort Worth was established to lure pregnant women with misleading statements and advertising.

"I think this sends a strong message to (anti-abortion) clinics across the country," said Texas assistant Attorney General Steve Gardner, whose Dallas office brought the case. "Don't lie to pregnant women in the name of facts, in the name of help, in the name of God or anybody."

The jurors' vote for the decision was announced as 11-1. In state civil

cases, at least a 10-2 vote is necessary for a decision.

The fines and fees were assessed against Chuck Pelletier, director of the center, and against Mother and Unborn Baby Care of North Texas Inc. — the non-profit corporation set up to accept contributions for the clinic.

Until 67th District Court Judge George Crowley enters a final order, center operators will remain under a temporary injunction, which forbids them from representing the clinic as providing abortions or abortion referrals.

Eliot Shavin, the assistant attorney general who prosecuted the case, said he hopes the judge will be more explicit with the permanent injunction by requiring the center to disclose up front that it does not do abortions and that it is an anti-abortion operation.

Hunt lawyers attempt to keep judge on case

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Lawyers representing the 23 banks owed money by the billionaire Hunt brothers say the withdrawal of Dallas attorney Charles Storey has eliminated any reason U.S. District Judge Barefoot Sanders might have for disqualifying himself.

The lawyers also said that no reason for Sanders' disqualification existed even before Storey's withdrawal as the lawyer for the First National Bank of St. Paul, Minn.

But Placid Oil Co. and the William Herbert Hunt Trust Estate have asked the 5th Circuit to force Sanders to disqualify himself — something Sanders has twice refused to do.

Lawyers for the Hunts contend that Sanders' investments, a longstanding political feud with the Texans, and ties to Storey should disqualify the judge from supervising the case.

Storey withdrew as the bank's counsel Monday in a bankruptcy suit filed by the Hunts, denying charges he had ties to Sanders.

In a petition, the Hunt lawyers told the federal appeals court, "Charles Storey was the treasurer and one of the largest personal contributors to Judge Sanders' 1972 campaign for the United States Senate."

In their response Monday, the banks' lawyers told the 5th Circuit that claim — and others made by the Hunts — weren't true.

"Respondents respectfully submit that this petition is simply a continuation of an orchestrated attempt by petitioners to remove a judge who they do not want to try their cases," the banks' lawyers said.

In his affidavit before the appeals court, Storey said, "To avoid any possible claim of impropriety now or in the future, no matter how frivolous it may be, and in order to permit these proceedings to go forward in an orderly and efficient way... I and my firm have withdrawn as counsel for First National Bank of St. Paul."

"I have had no communication with Judge Sanders," Storey said, adding that he was only one of about 100 lawyers working on behalf of the defendant banks in the cases.

The Hunts have gone to court against 23 banks, which want to foreclose on \$1.5 billion in past-due loans. The attempt to reorganize under Chapter 11 of the bankruptcy laws originally was filed in New Orleans, but Sanders ordered it moved to Dallas and the 5th Circuit agreed.

Bill could raise speed limit to 65 on Texas interstates

By Molly Fisher
 Reporter

A bill raising the speed limit to 65 mph on Texas interstate highways was passed by the Texas Legislature and will go into effect if Congress approves similar legislation, a State Department of Highways and Public Safety official says.

Nick Turnham, DPS public affairs officer, says although Texas lawmakers are ready to raise the limit, the federal bill is still shrouded in controversy.

The federal bill, sponsored by Sen. Stephen Symms, R-Idaho, is now in a conference committee of House and Senate members, according to a source from the Office of Legislative Information who asked not to be identified.

Advocates of the 65-mph speed limit argue that interstate highways are built to safely handle speeds greater than 75 mph, Turnham says. "Our interstate highways are the highest-quality roads that exist," Turnham says. "Safety engineers say that raising the speed limit to 65 on rural interstate highways won't increase the fatality rate."

Fred Forsthooff, sergeant of the DPS for Brazos, Robertson and Milam counties, agrees that a higher

speed limit wouldn't increase the fatality rate and that the speed limit on some sections of Texas interstate highways could be raised.

Turnham says, "The accident/fatality rate has decreased on rural roads already, from seat belt usage and safer cars. For example, there were only seven traffic fatalities on rural interstates in Nebraska in 1985, and none were the result of excessive speed."

However, Dr. Quinn Brackett, a transportation expert at Texas A&M, says the amount of time saved by going higher speeds isn't worth the risks.

Brackett said three things could happen if the speed limit is raised.

First there would be a tendency for speed creep — a percentage of motorists will gradually start to speed and both the number of motorists who speed and the amount they speed will gradually increase over time, he said.

"Second, accident severity will increase," Brackett says. "A car traveling at 65 or 70 will hit at a greater impact than a car going 55 or 60."

"The third thing that will happen is speed generalization. People going 55 will continue to go 55 when they change to a road zoned at 35. This

problem will be magnified if the speed limit is raised to 65 because there will be a larger speed differential. Also, the problem of enforcement will be greater because more people will be speeding.

"Right now, people generally speed 5 miles over the posted speed limit. A result of this is that a tolerance for speeding 'a little' has been built into social norms. Some people are afraid that this tolerance will carry over to other legal violations."

"A congressional review committee that studied the effects of the 55 mph speed limit found that it did greatly decrease traffic fatalities. In general, the study endorsed the 55 mph speed limit as a national safety policy."

"The people not wearing seat belts are the very ones who disobey the speed limit — their propensity for taking risks is greater."

"Public opinion polls show that between 70 percent and 80 percent of the public wants to keep the 55 speed limit."

Traffic fatalities have decreased dramatically since the 55 mph law has been enacted, Turnham says. Because of this fact, he says, many people don't want to raise the speed limit.

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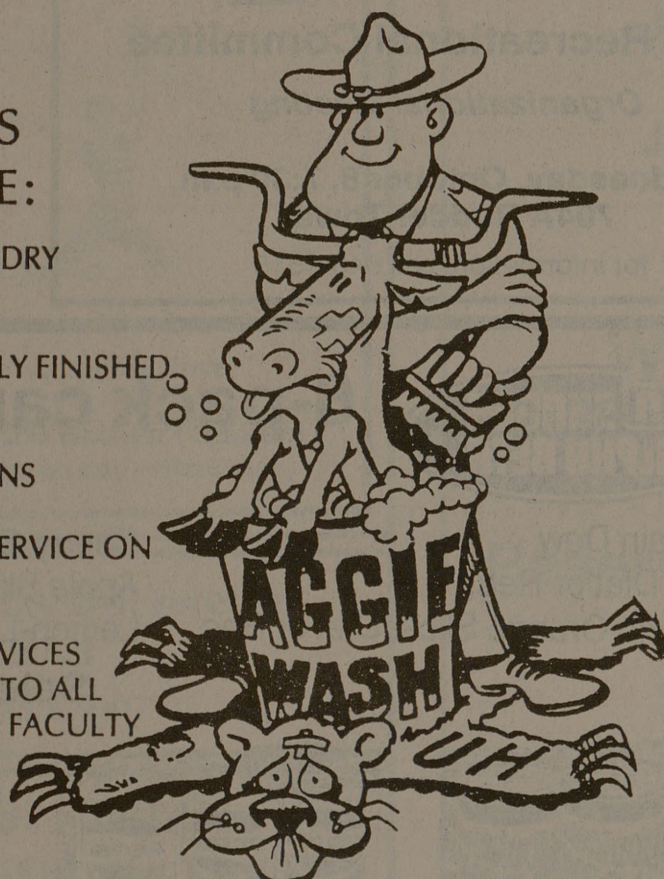
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