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Delays hinder investigations of police abuse

HOUSTON (AP) — Long delays hinder investigations of Houston police officers accused of abusing citizens and keep suspected officers on duty for months even in some cases with substantial evidence of wrongdoing, the *Houston Post* reported Sunday.

The police Internal Affairs Division is hampered by record-keeping problems, a backlog of cases, a shortage of workers and biased policies in checking out complaints against officers, the *Post* reported in a copyright story.

In more than 200 cases, the special unit took so long to investigate that state law prohibited Police Chief Lee Brown from suspending officers longer than 15 days without pay, the newspaper reported.

In a letter, Brown responded to the investigation by promising that records of misconduct by Houston police officers will be computerized in order to correct some problems.

The internal unit has sought a computer to help speed complaints through the system and to prevent theft or loss of records such as those missing on 1,043 officers, the *Post* reported.

Brown said his department had some failures in monitoring employees but defended his force.

"To my knowledge, no other major police department has an internal affairs and review process as extensive and as objective as the Houston Police Department," he said. "We strive to make this department the best in the country and we will not tolerate any conduct which falls below our standards."

Police have gone to great lengths to nab officers where evidence clearly indicated wrongdoing, sometimes conducting aerial searches and using out-of-town detectives to snare officers suspected of narcotics activity, accepting bribes and theft, the newspaper reported.

Although most officers never draw a single complaint, some have been under investigation virtually their entire careers, the *Post* reported.

One officer, who chalked up 25 complaints in seven years, was fired in 1984, but the city's Civil Service Commission reinstated him after 37 days without pay, the *Post* reported.

Some 117 officers each drew more than 10 complaints between July 1977 through December 1984. Of those, 91 remain on duty today. The number of complaints jumped from 583 in 1977 to 1,539 in 1985, according to the newspaper.

The *Post* said it reviewed 6,771 complaints of alleged misconduct by at least 3,268 officers from July 1 through Dec. 31, 1984 and also obtained information from court records and the Houston Civil Service Commission.

What's up

Monday

CLASS OF '87: Elephant Walk will start at noon at the Lawrence Sullivan Ross Statue.

TAMU CIVIL LIBERTIES UNION: will meet at 7 p.m. in 404 Rudder.

AGGIE ALLIANCE: all those interested in going to the Tapher convention will meet at 7 p.m. in 167 Reed.

AGGIE ALLEMANDERS: will meet and give square dance lessons at 7 p.m. in 226 MSC.

Tuesday

CLEAR LAKE AREA HOMETOWN CLUB: will have a bonfire party at 4:30 p.m. at No. 704 Treehouse Apartments.

STUDENT ACTIVITIES SPEAKERS SEMINAR: applications for the 1987 Speakers Seminar are available through today in the Student Activities Office, 208 Pavilion.

FRESHMAN CLASS COUNCIL: entries for the Class of '87 T-shirt design contest may be submitted to 216 MSC until Dec. 1.

FRESHMAN CLASS COUNCIL: applications for committee chairmen are available through Dec. 1 in 216 MSC.

A&M LITERARY ARTS CLUB: is now accepting submissions for Litmus.

FISH CAMP: applications for Fish Camp '87 co-chairmen are available in 213 Pavilion.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS: students interested in taking actuarial examinations in February should contact Dr. H. E. Lacey, head of the Department of Mathematics, in 102 Milner Hall.

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

Hightower: Farmers in Texas may benefit from Israeli expertise

AVDAT, Israel (AP) — Texas Agricultural Commissioner Jim Hightower recently led a group of farmers, educators and businessmen on a two-week tour through Israel to learn agricultural innovations.

The delegation was assembled by the Texas-Israel Exchange, an organization which aims to bring Israeli farming techniques to Texas farms.

"There's a lot of interest in this in Texas," Hightower said. "What we've been doing isn't working, and Israel seems to have some of the answers."

The delegation saw demonstrations of dry-land farming techniques in the Negev Desert, where a guide explained how farmers could grow crops and fruit trees with less than four inches of rain a year.

Walk Horne, a Houston botanist and lawyer, said the demonstrations would be helpful to Texas farmers.

"This concept is much more advanced than what we have in Texas," he said. "I've spent a lot of time in

Presidio and Maria, and a lot of it is directly applicable."

When he visited Israel in Hightower said he became convinced that Israeli expertise in irrigation, crop diversification, farmer cooperatives could be Texas.

After a visit to Texas from Deputy Agriculture Minister Abraham Katz-Oz, the exchange agreement was signed in 1985.

"I'm not sure Washington has the idea of us running around and talking directly with nations," Hightower told the *Dallas Morning News*. "But it's the fact of the federal program that you can."

The organization is funded by a state grant of less than \$10,000 and contributions from Jewish groups.

The group's first project will be a 100-acre farm at Laredo, where Israeli experts would recommend crops and techniques that could be viable in the region.

Teacher expects textbooks to include Christianity soon

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Jesus Christ will begin appearing in textbooks because of a rising wave of censorship charges in American public schools, said the leader of the anti-censorship committee of a national teachers' group.

"I believe within the next go-around of textbook adoptions, we will see a lot more attention given to Christianity," John M. Kean of the University of Wisconsin-Madison said during an interview Saturday with the *San Antonio Express-News*.

Kean is among 4,500 educators attending the National Council of Teachers of English convention through Wednesday in San Antonio. He is chairman of the group's Committee Against Censorship and will be leading a Tuesday workshop to help teachers combat censorship and develop policies.

Officials will start including Christianity's role model in textbooks to avoid growing criticism of discussing other religions in texts, Kean predicted.

Today's public school textbooks, particularly history, do not discuss Christianity at all, although English textbooks previously have carried stories about Far Eastern religions such as Buddhism, Kean said.

Kean said publishers and teachers must discuss Christianity.

"There is no way we can deal with our cultural heritage, our language heritage and our literature without a lot of attention being given to Judeo-Christian values," he said.

In his position as chairman of the anti-censorship committee, Kean said he receives calls from teachers whose materials are being challenged. He said there has been a large increase in the number of censorship attempts since 1980.

"The American Library Association and the People for the American Way counted a 35 percent increase in the past year," he said.

The national council will decide during its convention about a recom-

mendation to enter a legal battle over a recent Tennessee case. Some Christian parents, represented by Concerned Women for America, have the right to exclude their children from literature they objected to.

"We believe this will have a chilling effect," Kean said. "Previously the parent's right to what a child will be exposed to personally think it's very dangerous for us as a democracy that we formed leaders to have a number of our population not informed about issues."

"We're not talking about sex or dirty films into the classroom but we're talking about culture," he said.

Kean said he did not know where any black poets when he was in school because teachers excluded them.

Two years ago, a study reported that one-third of the most popular books deal with minorities, he

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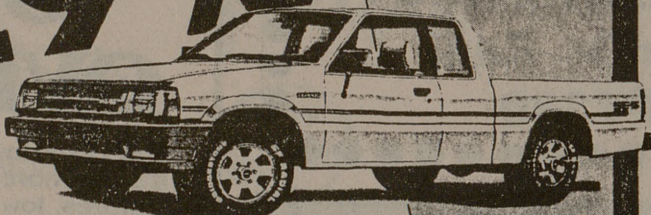
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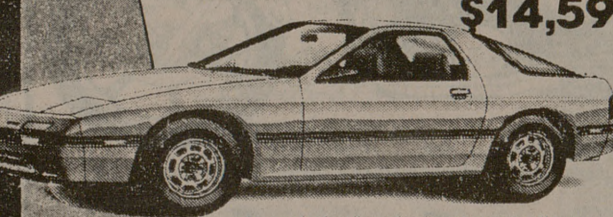
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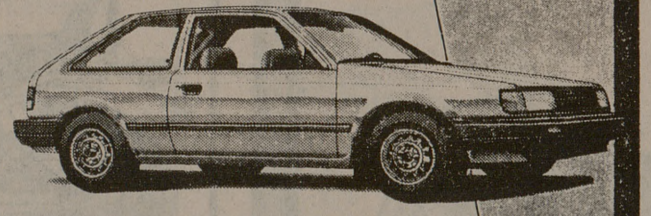
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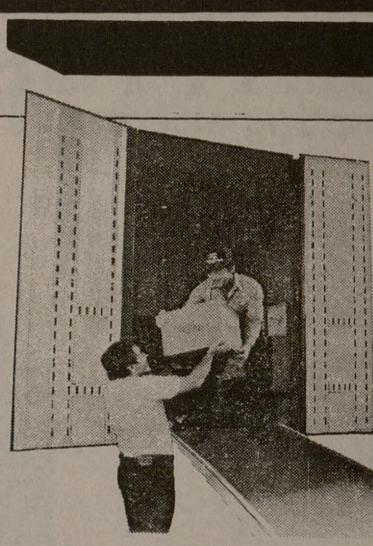
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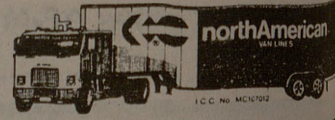


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