

Photo by Dean Saito

Tunnel Vision

Gary Loh, a junior accounting major from Houston, gets some exercise by running up and down some ramps Wednesday afternoon. The ramps are located under the stadium that houses Kyle Field.

Texas bill focuses on businesses that 'fix' credit ratings

AUSTIN (AP) — Two lawmakers Thursday filed a bill aimed at "credit repair clinics" that offer to help Texans troubled by bad credit records.

"There is nothing they can offer that you can't do on your own through existing law," Rep. Barry Connelly, R-Houston, said.

The measure introduced by Connelly and Rep. M.A. Taylor, R-Waco, would require credit clinics to disclose what they can and cannot do, including what services they provide that consumers can get elsewhere at no charge.

The law also would prohibit credit clinics from collecting fees before services are performed unless a bond is posted to guarantee refunds for dissatisfied customers.

Connelly said the bill probably would put many credit clinics out of business.

"They are one of those gray-area services," he said. "They sound like they are on the side of good, but instead, they are selling services that other laws require to be given for free or at very little cost."

Taylor said federal law gives consumers the right to see their credit records compiled by credit bureaus at no charge. He said there is "no need to pay hundreds of dollars to some slick operator for this advice."

The state provides credit counseling for free, Taylor said.

Connelly said the for-profit credit clinics offer the impossible.

"In many cases, the people they are attracting are people who honestly have a bad credit history," he said. "The only way it is going to be repaired is to live a life of clean credit habits. It is not going to be cleaned by these people sending them a brochure or a pamphlet or something giving them advice they could get by simply walking into a consumer reporting agency or into a non-profit credit counseling service."

He said the bill also would apply to businesses that offer assistance in obtaining credit cards for people with bad credit histories.

In those cases, the customers sometimes pay for merely a list of out-of-state banks that will issue credit cards if the applicant backs it with money in a bank account.

Credit repair clinics and other services operate in many Texas cities. Several advertised in Thursday editions of Dallas newspapers.

A company that advertises as DCA ran an ad saying, "No Credit? Get major bank credit cards such as Visa and MasterCard." Don Capra, who answered a call to DCA's Carrollton phone listing said that consumers can apply for the cards without going through him, but that he is providing a service.

"A person could get a divorce for free, but people pay lawyers for their help," Capra said.

Mary's Bridal Shoppe Inventory Clearance Sale

1/2 off formals, ALL wedding dresses, Bride's Maids dresses, short dresses

Offer good thru Feb. 14 All sales final

303 W. 26th Bryan 775-6818



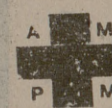
This Friday the 13th Don't Be Scared!

Join us at Plantation Oaks Apt. Party Room



For a St. Valentines Celebration Tonight at 8:30 PM

sponsored by Puerto Rican Student Association



AM/PM Clinics



Minor Emergencies 10% Student Discount with ID card

3820 Texas Ave. Bryan, Texas 846-4756

401 S. Texas Ave. Bryan, Texas 779-4756

8a.m.-11p.m. 7 days a week Walk-in Family Practice

Official: Nuclear plant measures overstated

FORT WORTH (AP) — A federal official apparently overstated emergency measures taken due to security breaches at the Pantex nuclear weapons plant near Amarillo, Energy Department spokesmen said.

Edward Badolato, deputy assistant energy secretary for security affairs in Washington, reported at a House investigations committee hearing in March 1985 that the Pantex plant was shut down for five days

after a surprise security inspection.

Excerpts from the closed hearing of the House Energy and Commerce Committee were released this week.

Tom Walton, an Energy Department spokesman assigned to Pantex, said Wednesday that only an area along the weapons production line was closed, not the entire facility, as Badolato testified.

"The first thing that happened was that the entire Pantex operation

was shut down," Badolato was quoted as saying in the transcript.

Washington Energy Department spokesman Wolfgang H. Rosenberg said he does not think Badolato meant to use the word "entire" when referring to a shutdown at the plant.

"It's my supposition that in a burst of enthusiasm, that word (entire) got in there," Rosenberg told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

A surprise inspection in October

1985 found evidence of civilian guards engaging in sex while on duty and a screening system that allowed an "insider" to smuggle a pistol and silencer into the plant.

The pistol later was used "in a successful attempt to steal bomb parts containing plutonium," the committee chairman, Rep. John Dingell, D-Mich., said in the transcript's opening.

Texas prisons remain closed after releases

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Texas prisons turned out more than 100 inmates Thursday, but the prisoner population remained too high to admit any new convicts, a spokesman said.

For the third time in a month, the prison system closed Thursday because the inmate population surpassed a state-mandated 95-percent capacity. The admissions center would remain closed Friday, said Charles Brown, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Corrections.

As of midnight Wednesday, the inmate population totaled 38,675, or 95.76 percent of capacity, Brown said, which is 306 inmates too many.

School financing changes inadequate, official claims

AUSTIN (AP) — A Houston-area school superintendent testified Thursday that financing changes in the 1984 school reform act helped his district, but did not bring it in line with other Harris County schools.

"There is still wide disparity among schools in Harris County, and we have a very high tax rate," said John Sawyer, superintendent at North Forest.

Austin attorney Jim Turner asked on cross-examination if it was not true North Forest "made greater progress in financing in 1984 than any other district in Harris County?"

"Yes, but there is still a substantial gap," Sawyer replied.

Sawyer was a witness for the 67 school districts that claim House Bill 72 financing discriminates against

low-wealth districts. Turner is an attorney for a group of the 48 districts that have sided with the state in claiming the 1984 changes are fair and legal.

The trial began Jan. 20. Some of the attorneys predict it will last until mid-March.

Rick Gray, an attorney for the low-wealth districts, said the plaintiffs still have five or six more witnesses to present.

Turner showed figures that 15 of the 20 schools in Harris County received more money as a result of HB72, while five schools with larger tax collections lost state money.

Turner spent much of his cross-examination comparing North Forest with the adjoining Aldine school district.

Sawyer said that North Forest

spends \$2,244 per student per year while Aldine spends \$1,750 per student. He also agreed that Aldine pays an average teacher salary that is \$600 a year higher than North Forest — \$23,441 to \$22,841.

Turner presented figures showing that North Forest has 4.1 administrators per 1,000 students, compared with 3.1 per 1,000 at Aldine. He said North Forest has 6.7 staff support staff compared with 5.7 at Aldine, and North Forest has 9.6 teacher aides per 1,000 students, compared with 6.6 at Aldine.

"We have more high-cost kids at North Forest, and it costs more to educate them than at Aldine," Sawyer said. "We have to have different-type teachers and different-size classes."

Summer Jobs

Interviews for Summer positions will be held

Mon. February 16
MSC Rooms 226-230
9:00 am-4:00 pm

Recruiters from 30-40 camps will be on campus to interview students seeking jobs in summer camps.

Camp Day

Sponsored by American Humanics Student Association

For all your Beary Special Valentines



Balloon Bouquets

STARSHIP

Hallmark

Culpepper Plaza 693-3002
Manor East Mall 822-2092

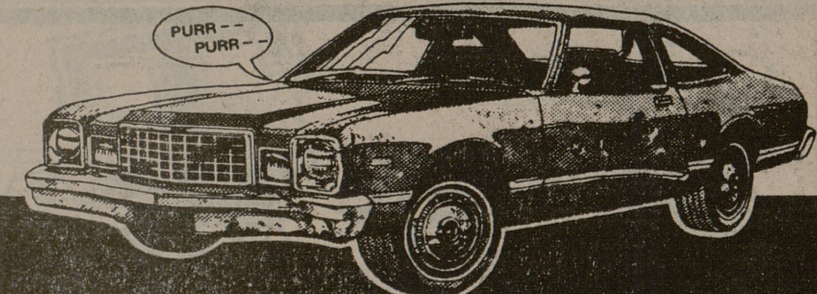
Your one stop Valentine Shop

AIM HIGH

PUT YOUR COLLEGE DEGREE TO WORK.

Air Force Officer Training School is an excellent start to a challenging career as an Air Force Officer. We offer great starting pay, medical care, 30 days of vacation with pay each year and management opportunities. Contact an Air Force recruiter. Find out what Officer Training School can mean for you. Call

T Sgt Paul Broadus (409)696-2612 Collect



RUNS GOOD! LOOKS BAD!

AMBASSADOR Our economy enamel paint service	\$169 ⁹⁵
PRESIDENTIAL Quality preparation & painting for those on a budget	\$259 ⁹⁵
SUPREME Our most popular value	\$349 ⁹⁵
URETHANE SUPREME High quality look with extended durability	\$499 ⁹⁵
Free estimates on all bodywork.	



BRYAN
1300 South College Ave.
(1 Block Behind Gallery Nissan Datsun)
823-3008

MAACO Auto Parts & Bodyworks are independent franchises of MAACO Enterprises. Shop Hours: M-F 8am-6pm.