

State and Local

INS director: Hiring of illegal aliens needs to be made criminal offense

By Melanie Perkins
Staff Writer



Rep. Joe Barton

The practice of hiring illegal aliens must be made a criminal offense before people will stop hiring them, the San Antonio district director of the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service said Monday.

"I have always maintained once we make it criminal to hire undocumented aliens, that the business community is sufficiently law-abiding to comply with the law and therefore remove the magnet that continues to draw people from all corners of the world into our midst," Richard Casillas said to a crowd of about 200.

Casillas and representatives of the Texas Employment Commission and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission were guest speakers Monday at an immigration law conference at the Brazos Center. The conference, an effort to edu-

cate the public on the policies and penalties connected with the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986, was sponsored by Congressman Joe Barton, R-Ennis, and attended by residents of Brazos and surrounding counties.

The immigration act, signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on Nov. 6, 1986, addresses two primary issues. First, amnesty will be granted to illegal aliens who came to the United States before Jan. 1, 1982, and who have lived here continuously since then. Secondly, civil and criminal penalties will be imposed on employers who knowingly hire undocumented workers.

Barton said Congress appropriated \$420 million this year, \$419 million for next year and a similar amount for the year after to implement the new law. Beginning next year, Congress authorized up to \$1 billion for each of the next five years to aid local and state governments in implementing the new law.

Casillas said the first step in implementing the new law, which preempts state sanction laws, is a public education period from Dec. 1, 1986 to June 1, 1987. He said the INS will

publish regulations dealing with the law in March or April.

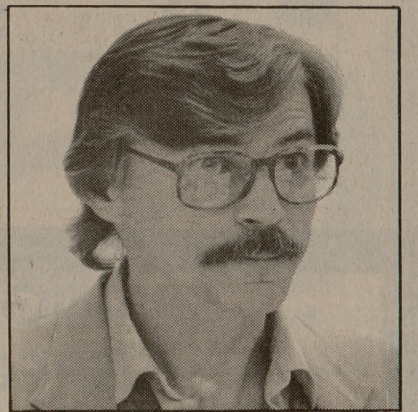
According to Casillas, the period from June 1, 1987 to May 31, 1988 is the citation period. During this time, written warnings will be given to every employer hiring undocumented workers. A second offense during this period could bring a civil order and fines.

On June 1, 1988, the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 will be fully effective. Employers can be fined \$250 to \$2,000 per illegal alien on first offense, \$2,000 to \$5,000 per alien on second offense, and \$3,000 to \$10,000 per alien on third offense.

Ismael Alvarez, regional council for the EEOC, stressed the importance of knowing the provisions of both the immigration law and Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which addresses discrimination on both natural origin and citizenship.

A&M prof: Act gives U.S. totalitarian image; needs modification

By Doug Driskell
Reporter



Dr. Larry Hickman

The 1952 McCarran-Walter Act gives the United States a totalitarian streak that people usually expect only from the Soviet Union, an A&M associate professor in philosophy said Monday night at a discussion sponsored by the Texas A&M chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

"Systematically, foreign festivals of the arts will begin excluding American artists," Dr. Larry Hickman warned of the possible consequences of the act. "If foreign artists cannot come here, then why should we be permitted to go there?"

The act is a remnant of the McCarthy Era. It gives 33 reasons for excluding individuals from the United States. Reasons range from political beliefs to "aliens coming to the United States to engage in any immoral sexual act (homosexuality)." The act also excludes individuals considered a danger to the "welfare, safety, or security of the United States," or whose entry is deemed "prejudicial to the public interest."

"Prejudicial to the public interest" is the key phrase that you will see used over and over again by Immigration and Naturalization Services officials because this is the vaguest point in the act," Hickman said. "Of course, this is the one to rely on."

The act has excluded Nobel laureates Gabriel Garcia Marquez and Pablo Neruda, Mexican writer Carlos Fuentes and Colombian journalist Patricia Lara, Hickman said.

Lara was invited by Colombia University to attend an award ceremony in October, only to be detained for five days in the Metropolitan Correctional Center of New York City, and then deported, Hickman said.

When contacted by the Colombian government with a request for Lara's release to attend the ceremony in the custody of the Colombian ambassador, the U.S. government officials refused.

When asked why Lara was detained, the INS officials said they really could not say because the information on which the expulsion was made is classified, Hickman said.

A justification was given in November on a "60 Minutes" program by Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams. He said Lara was expelled because there was evidence that she was a member of the Colombian terrorist group, M-19, Hickman explained.

Lara insists the claims are false, and when Abrams was asked for evidence leading to this conclusion, he had none, Hickman said. Lara was excluded only because she wrote a book on M-19. Abrams now is being sued by Lara.

In Advance

Student Senate to consider minority bill

The Texas A&M Student Senate will consider a bill calling on the Board of Regents to increase their efforts and funding in the area of minority recruitment at its meeting **Wednesday at 7 p.m. in 204 Harrington.**

The bill describes minority student enrollment at A&M as intolerably low and showing no signs of significant improvement.

Jerry Rosiek, the bill's author, said A&M spent about \$1.5 million on minority recruitment last year, which is only half of what the University of Texas is spending, but it is an increase from the \$300,000 spent by A&M three years ago.

The bill calls on President Frank E. Vandiver and the Board of Regents to spend more time

and devote more attention to the recruitment issue.

The Senate will also consider but not debate several bills including one that would create an ad-hoc committee to study the idea of placing a student representative on the Board of Regents.

As written, the bill would give the committee two years to investigate the possibility of such a move before any action would be taken.

Another bill would create a committee for high school public relations and recruitment.

Miles Bradshaw, speaker of the Senate, said the bill would simply formalize the already common practice of A&M students returning to their high schools to recruit.

Texas turned down in plea on housing for prisoners

AUSTIN (AP) — The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals has rejected Texas' request to temporarily house prison inmates at three sites, Attorney General Jim Mattox said Monday.

The decision came as Texas Department of Corrections officials announced the prison system was back below the 95-percent capacity limit and would reopen today. The prisons had been closed since last Thursday.

Texas had sought permission last fall to move inmates from the overcrowded prison system to the Fort Wolters National Guard camp near Mineral Wells, a prison hospital unit at Galveston and also to exceed 95-percent capacity at the Wynne prison unit at Huntsville.

U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice refused to grant per-

mission, and the appeals court agreed with him.

"Of course, we are disappointed that the court disallowed the temporary use of these facilities, but we knew there was a strong likelihood the court would rule as it did," Mattox said.

However, the attorney general said the New Orleans appeals court did have some good news for Texas.

Mattox said Judge Robert M. Hill, in a concurring opinion, suggested that federal courts "should be more flexible in allowing modification of consent decrees in ongoing prison reform litigation."

Mattox also said the ruling will have no effect on the state's appeal of a Dec. 31, 1986 contempt citation against Texas by Judge Justice, who has threatened to fine the state \$800,500 a day unless prison reforms are completed.

Correction

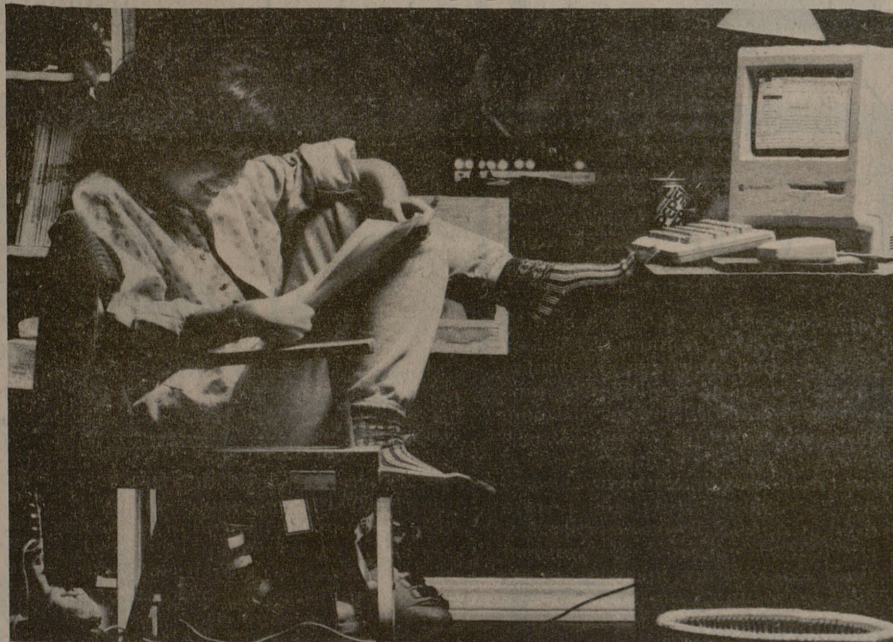
In a Feb. 18 article in *The Battalion*, Dr. Thomas Caceci was identified as an assistant professor of internal medicine at Texas A&M.

Caceci, however, is an assistant professor of veterinary anatomy. *The Battalion* regrets the error.

It's eleven p.m. Do you know where your paper is?



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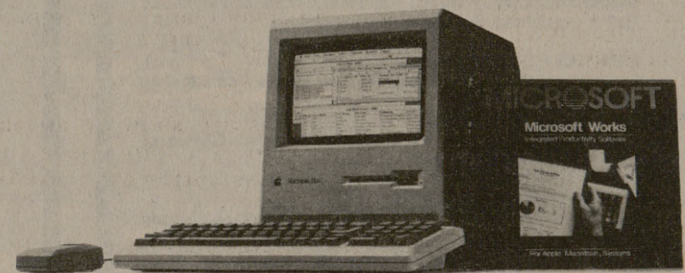
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