

# State and Local

## Club program teaches children native tongue

### Class helps Saudis in U.S. readjust to home

By Lee Schexnaider  
Reporter

The Spring Heights apartment being used as a classroom looks like any elementary classroom. There are small tables and chairs and a blackboard. There also are posters of animals on a wall, the word that names the animal and the first letter of each word.

While the pictures look familiar, the words may not — they are in Arabic.

"We started some classes for our kids to teach them Arabic," says Mansour Almalik, president of the Saudi Student Club.

"The reason we have it is because when a Saudi student comes to the United States, he finds himself in a dilemma," Almalik says. "If he has kids, the problem is that he is going to stay here for four or five years, and his children are at school age when he is attending college here."

"When they go back to Saudi Arabia, they are four or five years behind because of the language. They have learned math, science and everything, but they have learned it in a different language."

The only alternative — not a good

one — was to send the children back to Saudi Arabia, he says.

"We decided to teach the kids the Arabic language so that when they go back to Saudi Arabia, they have

*"We decided to teach the kids the Arabic language so that when they go back to Saudi Arabia, they have the ability to attend the same grade they were in here."*

— Mansour Almalik,  
Saudi Student Club  
president

the ability to attend the same grade they were in here," he says.

Most of the club's activities center around the student's needs, Almalik says. He wears a white robe-like thobe — the national dress of Saudi Arabian men.

"If we have a new student coming to the United States, he doesn't know how to get a house, car, insur-

ance or a driver's license," he says. "So the first thing he does is contact the club. We will send somebody with him to help him."

"When a Saudi comes to the United States, there is a huge difference in cultures. In order for him not to get shocked by this new culture, the Saudi Club can help him get adjusted."

Club member Samy Rahimaldin says one of the most difficult problems Saudi students have is to make friends and know their neighbors.

Club member Abdolaziz Alkaabi says the students will accept anyone as a friend, if he is a real friend.

The other main purpose of the club is to present Saudi culture to the community, Almalik says. The club has sponsored seminars on topics ranging from terrorism to Jesus in Islam.

"A lot of Christians were shocked to know the Muslims praise Jesus and love Jesus as much as the Christians do," he says. "They didn't know that, and the seminar seemed to have really helped a lot."

"We are trying to bring other religions and other people to understand each other's religions."

## County commissioner opposes tax-supported elective abortions

FORT WORTH (AP) — A Tarrant County commissioner said he will urge officials at John Peter Smith Hospital to stop performing elective abortions at the tax-supported facility.

Commissioner Bob Hampton said he will urge — in a letter outlining budget issues for the Tarrant County Hospital District — the elimination of any abortions that are not life-or-death decisions.

The Republican majority on the commissioners' court apparently is ready to back the proposal.

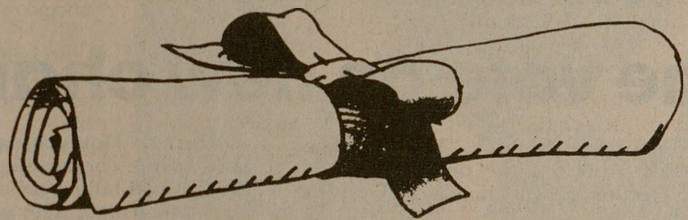
The letter will be submitted Monday to commissioners for a vote, and Commissioner O.L. Watson, like Hampton a Republican, said he will vote for the letter.

County commissioners J.D. Johnson and Dick Anderson, both Democrats, favor the current abortion policy, which allows abortions for

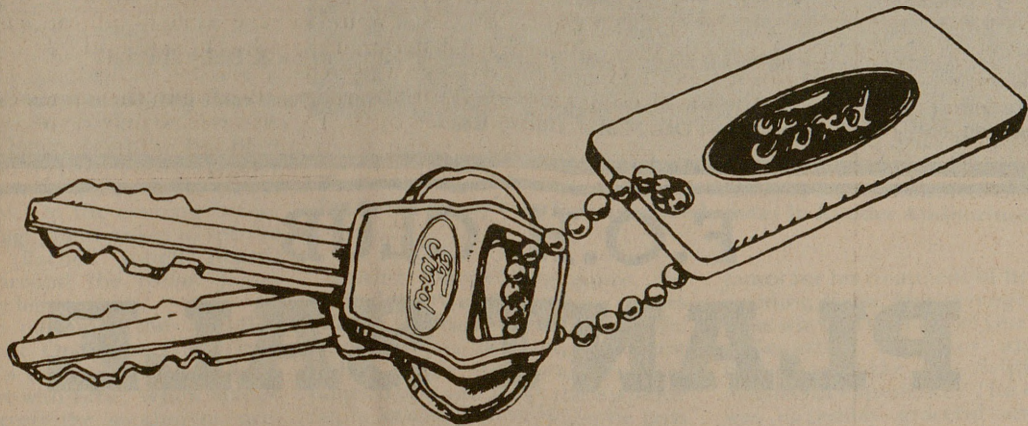
medical or psychological reasons.

County Judge Roy English has made it plain he opposes the hospital's abortion policy, but said he would wait to read the letter before deciding how he will vote.

The court voted 3-2 last year to support the hospital's abortion policy, but the November election reversed the political makeup of the commissioners' court.



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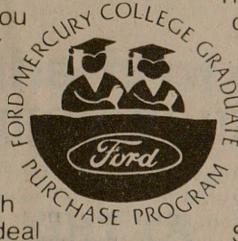
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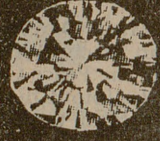
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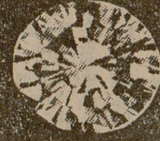
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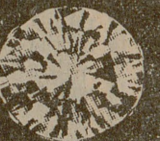
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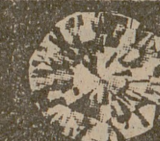
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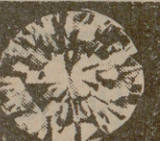
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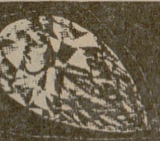
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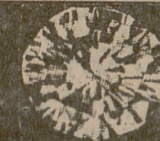
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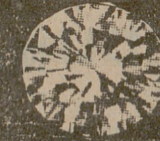
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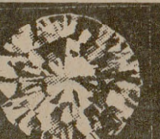
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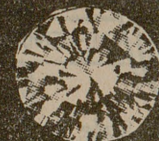
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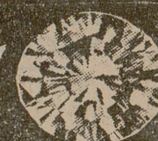
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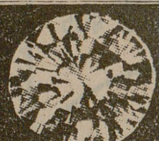
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