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Phone company will eliminate fee to block '976' calls

AUSTIN (AP) — Southwestern Bell on Tuesday agreed to eliminate the \$21.65 fee now collected from residential customers who want to prevent pay calls from their phones to sex-talk services and other "976" offerings.

Under the plan, which must be approved by the Public Utility Commission, customers would have 60 days to ask for free blocking of 976 calls. After the 60-day period, it would cost \$7 to prevent the calls.

there were 550 complaints in the first three months, most of them from customers who said they did not make the calls or customers who said they did not know there was a charge for the calls.

The PUC now requires that all 976 calls include a notification of the charge. The calls now available cost 25 cents to \$14.95 each, Hainline said.

Hainline said 976 providers have agreed to the proposed plan.

"We feel like the agreement will resolve all of the issues in the case," Rick Hainline, spokesman for Southwestern Bell, said.

The 976 services, now available in Dallas, Fort Worth, Houston and San Antonio, include adult entertainment, dial-a-prayer, dial-a-joke and news and sports information. The price for the call is set by the provider. Southwestern Bell bills the caller, keeps its portion of the payment and forwards the remainder to the provider of the service.

In a release announcing the proposed plan, the PUC said, "The service has generated considerable controversy because of the availability of adult entertainment services and high monthly bills that some customers have incurred because of unsupervised telephone use."

Southwestern Bell began offering the service Jan. 1. Hainline said

Lawsuit filed to stop parade with spicy Santa

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Children usually fight to sit on Santa Claus' lap, but businessmen now are bickering over the rights to Santa's legendary south-of-the-border cousin, Pancho Claus.

The battle is between two factions of the local American GI Forum, a Hispanic veterans organization that has been raising funds with Pancho Claus' help to make Christmas special for the city's poor children.

One group has scheduled a Pancho Claus parade Saturday, but another faction that wants to stage its own event on Dec. 12 has filed a lawsuit, seeking a restraining order to stop the parade Saturday.

Both sides agree that the Pancho Claus name means thousands of dollars in donations for those who collect the money to distribute food and toys to the city's poor.

"But who ultimately loses are the children and their families, which the donations are supposed to be going to," said Ted Lee, the attorney representing the GI Forum.

In August, Daniel Ramos, Jesse Oviedo and other plaintiffs — all members of the Central Men's GI Forum chapter — filed suit against the American GI Forum of Texas and its regional and state leadership, asking for \$2 million in damages.

In a lawsuit filed against the other GI Forum faction Monday, Rojas claims he was granted a copyright in June 1985 protecting a book he wrote called "The Legend of Pancho Claus."

But Mike Hernandez of the Miguel Hernandez GI chapter and a member of the Pancho Claus board that is having the parade Saturday, said Raul Sanchez brought the Pancho Claus idea to San Antonio from Lubbock five years ago.

Hernandez claims Rojas only created a Pancho Claus coloring book. Lee said Rojas owns a copyright only for the coloring book, not the character or story behind the legend.

What's up

Wednesday
YOUNG CONSERVATIVES OF TEXAS: will meet at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder.
PHI KAPPA PHI HONOR FRATERNITY: Scholarship applications for graduate study are available in 219 Engineering Physics Building.

Friday
ARAB STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: will meet at 6 p.m. at Fat Burger.
BATTALION STAFF APPLICATIONS: are available through Dec. 2 in 216 Reed McDonald.

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

Program offers counseling to nursing home residents

By Amy Young
 Reporter

Many nursing home residents fall victim to eroding mental health, but local residents may escape the emotional desert through Project OASIS, a community service organization that provides counseling for the elderly.

Four local nursing homes participate in OASIS, which stands for Older Adults Sharing Important Skills: Brazos Valley Geriatric Center, Leisure Lodge Nursing Center, Crestview Methodist Retirement Community and Sherwood Health Care Facility.

The project originated in Brazos County five years ago, said Dr. Judith Warren, director of the statewide OASIS project.

It was initiated jointly by Warren and Dr. Michael Duffy, an associate professor of the educational psychology department at Texas A&M.

The program grew out of their belief that elderly nursing home residents needed an organization that could meet their mental health needs.

Duffy conceived the idea of training people on a paraprofessional level to deal with these needs.

The gerontology program of the

A&M Agricultural Extension Service and the educational psychology department merged with the Retired Senior Volunteer Program of Brazos Valley to form OASIS, Warren said.

The project is composed of about 16 volunteers (all but five of which are over the age of 60) who have been pretrained to deal with the problems of nursing home residents. Volunteers work six to 10 hours a week to help maintain a stable environment for residents, Warren said.

"One of the main things which is missing in their lives is structure," Warren said. "With activities changing from day to day, things — like meals — which are constant provide the only sense of stability they have. The volunteers are another major source of stability since they are there on a regular basis."

The volunteers donated over 10,000 hours to OASIS during its first two years, she said.

The program has not grown a great deal in terms of the number of volunteers. When the program began there were about 16 volunteers, a number which has not changed during the project's five years in operation.

However, Warren said the pro-

gram is eager to receive support from the community, both in way of volunteers and funding. The project, she said, is not one that attract a lot of volunteers simply because it is not for everyone.

The project is in need of financial support, she said. GTE recently donated the project's fiscal grant for \$500. However, a contribution is not adequate in supporting all the financial needs of the project.

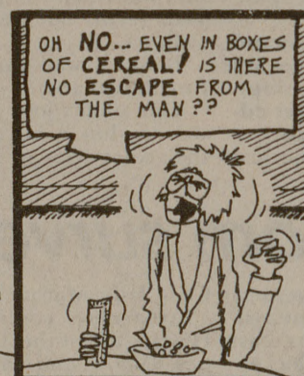
Warren is in charge of dissolving the project across the state and other states that have expressed interest in the program.

The Hogg Foundation for Mental Health has provided the funding for the statewide project for the four years. However, this grant ended in August.

The project on the local level needs funds to help pay the sponsor for ongoing training and supervision of the volunteers in helping them deal with the residents, Warren said.

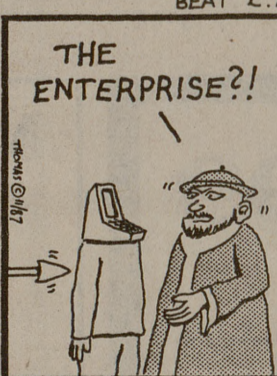
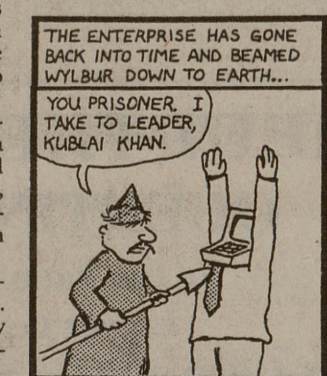
The only funding available them now is the GTE grant, \$200 that the volunteers raised through a garage sale held in October. The project, she said, cost about \$3,000 a year for operation.

Warped



by Scott McCull

Waldo



by Kevin Thom

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