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Official backs castrating AIDS victims

EL PASO (AP) — A county commissioner who suggested two weeks ago that male AIDS victims be castrated refused to back away from his statements despite requests to do so by a homosexual's father and a Catholic priest.

County Commissioner Orlando Fonseca said castrating AIDS carriers would stop the disease's spread. He has said he does not condone homosexuality because of religious grounds. Homosexual men comprise the majority of the U.S. victims of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, which attacks the body's ability to fight off infection and is always fatal.

Homosexuals' rights groups and 16 El Paso religious leaders representing nine Protestant churches and two synagogues asked Fonseca to be more compassionate toward AIDS victims following his comment at a commissioners court meeting.

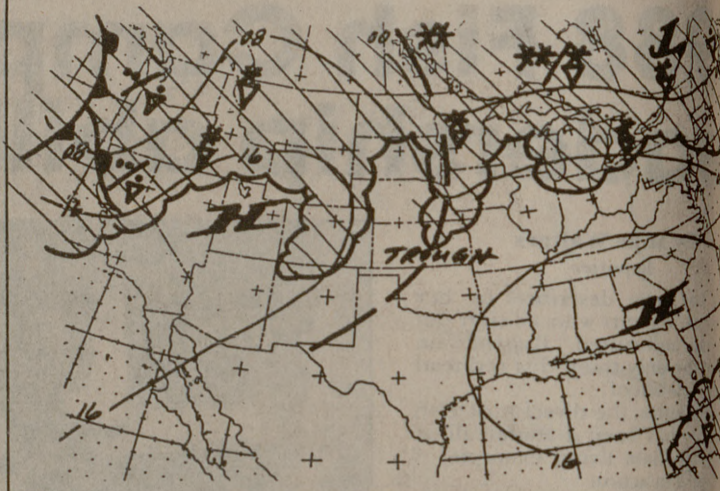
At Monday's meeting, an El Paso man said he doesn't believe his gay son chose to be that way and called Fonseca's comments unproductive, crude, insensitive and bigoted.

"You, as a religious person, should realize that there, but for the grace of God, goes you or I," he said.

The Rev. James Hall, director of Marriage and Family Life Ministries for the El Paso Catholic diocese, read excerpts from church communications denouncing prejudice based upon sexual orientation.

"It is wasteful to let energies better spent in continued care for the suffering to be used up in fighting prejudices that don't belong in 1987," Hall told Fonseca. "Prejudice, in all its forms, falls short of the Christian morality."

Weather Watch



Key:

= Lightning	= Fog	= Thunderstorms
= Rain	= Snow	= Drizzle
= Ice Pellets	= Rain Shower	= Freezing Rain

Sunset Today: 5:23 p.m. Sunrise Wednesday: 7:05 a.m.

Map Discussion: Cyclogenesis (see weather fact) in the central Pacific will generate a significant surge of weather and rain for the Pacific Northwest during the coming 12 to 24 hours. The trough from the North Dakota-Minnesota border to west Texas is the remnant of the previous front and it has no significant weather south of the Great Basin. As this system continues its eastward trek, and with low level moisture slowly building in advance of the system, expect showers over the lower Mississippi Valley by Thursday evening.

Forecast:
 Today: Partly cloudy with a high of 67 degrees and light easterly winds of 5 to 10 mph.
 Tonight: Fair and cool with a low of 46 degrees and south winds at 3 to 5 mph.
 Thursday: Partly cloudy and warmer with a high of 73 degrees and southeasterly winds at 7 to 14 mph.
 Weather Fact: Cyclogenesis: Any development or strengthening of cyclonic circulation in the atmosphere. This term is applied to the development of cyclonic circulation where previously it did not exist, as well as to the intensification of existing cyclonic flow.

Prepared by: Charlie Brenton
 Staff Meteorologist
 A&M Department of Meteorology

Report: State could run out of inmates eligible for parole

AUSTIN (AP) — A report, prepared before Gov. Bill Clements' latest prison crowding reduction plan took effect, warned that the state could run out of eligible inmates to release by mid-December, a newspaper said Tuesday.

The *Beaumont Enterprise* reported that unless criminal justice officials come up with an alternative, the Texas Department of Corrections may have to close its doors again just before the holidays.

Reggie Bashur, Clements' press secretary, said the governor may have to grant an additional 90 days good-conduct time to eligible inmates to keep the prisons open.

Bashur said he's uncertain

whether Clements knew the details of the Board of Pardons and Paroles report when he announced the plan Sept. 24.

Glenn Heckmann, acting director of the parole board, said he does not know whether Clements received the full report.

"A lot of the details were passed on to his staff," Heckmann said.

Attorney General Jim Mattox said there are some other actions state officials could take if they wish, but he said he didn't know whether they would want to make those moves.

"If they want to let more people out, they obviously can," Mattox said. "There is no real restriction on their abilities to do so."

"Through the powers of clemency and commutation of sentences, the state can maintain control on the prison population if they want to use the tools that they have. Whether or not it is appropriate to use those tools because of the nature of the prisoners is another question."

The report said the governor's management plan will run out of eligible, non-violent prisoners to release by Dec. 19.

The Clements plan requires the TDC to grant an early release to inmates a week, while the report projects that only 160 prisoners will be eligible for early release by the week of Dec. 19, the newspaper said.

Mattox: SMU investigation finds information unknown to officials

AUSTIN (AP) — Attorney General Jim Mattox said Tuesday his investigation of the Southern Methodist University pay-for-play football scandal has turned up information previously unknown to SMU officials.

But Mattox refused to give specifics about the new information.

He also would not say whether a grand jury might be interested in the new information.

"I'd really rather not respond to that because I can't tell you yet," he said at a news conference. "There are some areas that still need to be reviewed that SMU, I feel certain, is going to help us review."

Mattox ordered the SMU inquiry earlier this year after public revelations about payments to football players. The National Collegiate Athletic Association banned SMU from playing football this year. The school then canceled its 1988 schedule.

On Friday, Assistant Attorney General John Weis, who has directed the investigation, will meet with SMU officials. Mattox said it will be an interim report.

"We continue to find areas that we feel we must investigate," Mattox said.

"We're finding out things they did not already know," he said of SMU officials who had conducted their own investigation.

The Mattox investigation is aimed at determining whether state laws concerning expenditures by charitable foundations, such as SMU, were violated in the football scandal, Mattox has said.

Initially, he said one of his major concerns was the "termination contracts" signed with former SMU Athletic Director Bob Hitch, football Coach Bobby Collier and former athletic department assistant Henry Parker.


BATTALION APPLICATIONS

Applications for the Spring 1988 Battalion staff are available in 216 Reed McDonald and are due **Wednesday, Dec. 2 at 5 p.m.** Positions available are:

- staff writer
- photographer
- copy editor
- sports writer
- At Ease writer
- At Ease photographer
- reviewer
- clerk
- makeup editor
- columnist
- cartoonist
- editorial cartoonist
- graphic artist

Applicants **must** include samples of work. Photographers, graphic artists and cartoonists should submit portfolio samples. Writers should submit writing samples, preferably published, and columnist applicants must submit a sample column. The new staff will be announced by 5 p.m. Friday and will start work Sunday, Dec. 6.

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