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# Lawyers benefit from legal actions over nuclear plant

AUSTIN (AP) — A Houston law firm has collected \$6.2 million over the past six years for representing the city of Austin in lawsuits involving the South Texas nuclear project, records show.

The amount charged by Fulbright & Jaworski is nearly half the \$13 million total paid by the capital city, officials said.

The Michigan-based law firm of Miller, Canfield, Paddock and Stone received the second-largest amount, \$5.8 million.

The remainder of the \$13 million has been shared by four other law firms or individual attorneys hired by the city.

"They are expensive, but they are a good investment for us," City Attorney Barney Knight said.

"One of the suits has already paid off in a big way," Knight said, referring to a \$120 million settlement with the nuclear project's former builder.

The \$13 million represents the total amount of fees and expenses billed by outside attorneys since 1982 for their work on the two lawsuits. It doesn't include legal expenses incurred by attorneys on the city staff or the costs of consultants hired to provide engineering or economic expertise in the lawsuits, the

Austin American-Statesman reported Sunday.

When money spent on consultants and other expenses related to the suits is added to the legal fees, the total is about \$24 million, city estimates indicate.

These costs are paid by the city's 260,000 electric customers in their rates.

The city paid about \$5.2 million in outside legal fees related to the nuclear project from 1982 through 1985, primarily for its lawsuit against Brown & Root Inc., the project's former engineer and builder.

Austin and the three other partners in the nuclear project sued Brown & Root in late 1981, claiming the company was responsible for construction delays and cost overruns.

Austin approved a settlement with Brown & Root and its parent firm, the Halliburton Co., in late 1985. The city will receive \$120 million over seven years as its part of the \$750 million settlement shared among partners in the project.

The remaining amount in outside legal costs has been billed since 1986. Most of that total has gone for the city's lawsuit against Houston Lighting & Power Co., the nuclear project's managing partner.

# Aliens seeking registry find paperwork delays jeopardize residency

DALLAS (AP) — Many aliens seeking legal residency by applying for registry are trapped in paperwork delays that may jeopardize their chances to stay in the United States, attorneys and caseworkers trying to help the immigrants say.

Registry is a little-known avenue that provides permanent residency for aliens who have lived legally in the United States since Jan. 1, 1972. The process is attractive to some because it is cheaper and has fewer obstacles than the amnesty process under the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act.

But lengthy processing delays by the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service could cost hundreds of Dallas immigrants their hope of gaining legal status. As these immigrants await word on their registry applications, the deadline is nearing for applying for amnesty.

Most immigrants eligible for registry ostensibly would qualify for amnesty, which requires proof of residence since Jan. 1, 1982. Amnesty takes several years to complete, can cost hundreds of dollars and requires a proficiency in American government and English.

But as the May 4 deadline for amnesty nears, those who might be denied registry are running out of time to seek legal status and avoid deportation.

Jonathan Bernstein, a caseworker with Catholic Charities in Dallas, told the Dallas Morning News most

of his clients applied for registry "with the idea that they could get amnesty later in the year if they were denied."

"Well, it's later in the year, and no one has heard," he said. "It's a significant problem because there are a lot of people who have open-and-shut amnesty cases but touch-and-go registry cases. They need to know."

INS officials said registry applications take six months or more to process, producing a lot of paperwork.

Like amnesty applicants, each registry applicant is fingerprinted and checked for criminal records or deportation orders.

Kim Ogden, INS chief examination officer, said it's a time-consuming process.

"We're trying to get the decisions out soon, so they can file for amnesty," she said. "The clock is ticking."

Of the 19 registry applicants being aided by Callejo and Callejo, a Dallas law firm, only one has received a response from the INS — a request for further documentation.

Because so few registry applications have been decided, caseworkers lack precedents on what evidence can be used to establish residency since 1972.

Bernstein said the most ironclad evidence appears to be federal income tax records.

"But how many people still have their 1972 1040 form?" he said. "I know I don't."

## What's Up

**Monday**

**TAMU SCUBA CLUB:** will meet Tuesday at 7 p.m. in 402 Rudder.  
**TAMUS ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL SUPPORT STAFF:** Dr. Van Fleet will speak Tuesday at noon in 701 Rudder. For more information please call Melody Lyne at 845-1751.  
**HILLEL JEWISH STUDENT FOUNDATION:** will have a snack and study at 7 p.m. in the Hillel building.  
**AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF UNIVERSITY WOMEN:** Diane West will speak at 7:30 p.m. at the Unitarian Fellowship.  
**HONORS STUDENT COUNCIL:** will have a Valentine's celebration at 7:30 p.m. at Mama's Pizza.  
**COLLEGIATE 4H CLUB:** will meet at 8 p.m. in 123 Kleberg.  
**INTRAMURALS:** still has entries open in the free-throw contest and the shoe doubles. For more information call P.J. Miller at 845-7826.  
**AGGIE CINEMA:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 404 Rudder.

**Tuesday**

**MSC ALL-NIGHT FAIR:** will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 704 Rudder.  
**STUDY ABROAD OFFICE:** will meet to discuss studying in Denmark, West Germany and Scotland at 11 p.m. in 251 Bizzell West.  
**WILDLIFE BIOLOGY SOCIETY:** will present information on environmental contaminants and their effect on wildlife at 7 p.m. in 203 Harrington.  
**AGGIE SPACE DEVELOPMENT SOCIETY:** will meet at 6:30 p.m. in 140 to finalize plans to attend the press conference in Houston for Space Cause.  
**CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** will have a discussion on faith at 8 p.m. at the All Faiths Chapel.  
**INTERNATIONAL BUSINESS ASSOCIATION:** Paul Knudson, executive president of Asia/Pacific Division for Texas Commerce Bank, will discuss important to international markets at 11 a.m. in 120 Blocker and 2 p.m. in 120 Blocker.  
**BAPTIST STUDENT UNION:** Louie Giglio of Choice Ministries will speak at 7 p.m. in 228 MSC.  
**BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION:** Dr. Duane Peevy will speak on genetics at 7 p.m. in 201 Veterinary Medicine.  
**POLITICAL ACTION OPPORTUNITIES/TEXAS GRASS ROOTS COALITION:** will meet at 7 p.m. at 205-1 Sulphur Springs.  
**TAMU COMPUTER USERS GROUP:** will present guidelines on purchasing computer equipment and software and also will nominate officers at 3 p.m. in 304 Rudder.  
**TAMU SAILING TEAM:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 109 Military Sciences.  
**WOMEN IN COMMUNICATIONS:** will meet at 6 p.m. at Mama's Pizza.  
**POLITICAL SCIENCE SOCIETY/PI SIGMA ALPHA:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 201 MSC.  
**AGGIE TOASTERS:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 105-A Zachry.  
**UNDERGRADUATE BIOCHEMISTRY SOCIETY:** will discuss the requirements and options of choosing BICH 485 at 7 p.m. in 113 Herman Heep.  
**CLASS OF '88:** will vote for class gift from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. in the MSC room.  
**INTRAMURALS:** Slam dunk contest entries open and wallyball entries close.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McCombs no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only want the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

Floriculture—Ornamental Horticulture Club

### STUDENT FLORAL CONCESSIONS

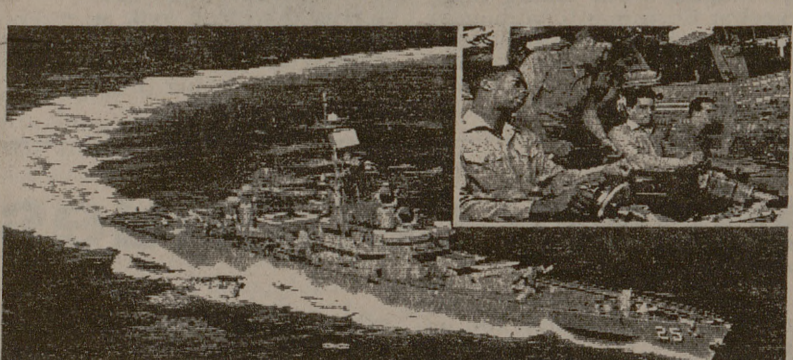
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For more information, talk to the Navy representative at the career fair Feb. 9-10 or call collect (713) 226-2445.

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# Houston stabbing deaths cause concern for elderly

HOUSTON (AP) — Two elderly sisters were found stabbed to death Saturday, bringing to nine the number of elderly residents killed in the north Houston area in three months.

Residents in the quiet Kashmere Gardens section say they have begun to live in fear even though police say they have the man responsible for some of those crimes in jail.

Investigators said they hadn't yet been able to determine if the recent slayings are connected to any of the other deaths.

"It's much too early to say there's a connection," Houston homicide Lt. Richard Holland said. "We're going to investigate this and see what we have. But we don't know much at this point."

The Houston slayings follow a report by Dallas police that a dozen women have been brutally killed in less than three years in a relatively small south Dallas neighborhood.

Dallas police doubt if one person is responsible for the 12 unsolved cases.

In Houston, the bodies of Elaine Lewis, 79, and her sister Mildred Irene Morris, 82, were covered at their home about 9 p.m. by neighbors who were concerned they hadn't seen the woman for two days, police said.

Investigators said both women were found fully clothed, displaying a sexual assault as a possible motive. Robbery was considered a possibility.

Jackie Gooden, a neighbor, she last saw one of the women on 9 a.m. Thursday.

"We spoke to each other often," Gooden said, who usually would check on the two women. "And that was the last time I saw her."

It was Gooden and Charles son, another neighbor, who first covered the women's bodies.

"I noticed her newspapers up, and her car in the garage had been moved," Gooden said. "I don't like her not to come out sometime."

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