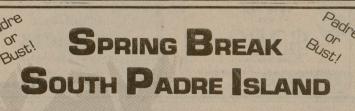
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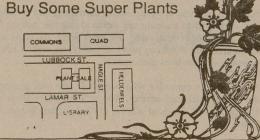
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Court rejects claims against bus driver in death of young girl

The Battalion

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Supreme Court on Wednesday rejected claims against a school district and bus driver in the death of a 7year-old girl who was killed by a pickup truck after getting off a school bus.

One justice, however, questioned whether the Mount Pleasant Independent School District was being held to a "standard of care" that was strict enough. Another said the district had violated the "ordinary standard of care.

The Supreme Court majority held that the doctrine of sovereign immunity barred prosecution of the case against the district and driver John Gullion.

The majority opinion by Justice Franklin Spears extended the ruling to cover the standard of care that should be required of school districts, which sparked comments by individual justices.

The case arose after third-grader Misty Lindburg was killed in Octo-

Highway 271 in Mount Pleasant after being dropped off by a school bus driven by Gullion, who had 15 years experience as a bus driver.

Misty, according to court records, darted onto the highway and was struck after the bus had driven off and was approximately 200 yards

away.

The Titus County trial court ruled that the child's estate get nothing. The Texarkana Court of Appeals reversed the trial court, holding that the school district owed a high degree of care to its student passengers, similar to the duty owed by common carriers. It ordered a

The Supreme Court reversed the Texarkana court and said the estate should get nothing.

Spears' opinion said the school district was not created to operate a transport business, and transporting students is only incidental to the op-

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department from Feb. 1 through Feb. 8: BURGLARY:

• Someone broke into the computer graphics room of the Teague Building and stole two IBM computers and an Apple Macintosh computer.

• Someone broke into a room in Thompson Hall and stole \$70 from a metal locker.

• A video cassette recorder was reported stolen from the Biological Sciences Building West. The VCR later was found under a University vehicle outside the building.

• Three students reported the theft of stereo equipment from their vehicles.

• Another student reported that someone stole the battery from his car

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:

 Two bicycles and two backpacks were reported stolen from various locations around campus.

• A student reported that someone stole his textbook from the lab at the Institute of Electri-

• A student reported that someone stole the hubcaps from

· A man reported that he two men running from the with a fire extinguisher. CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:

• Someone discharged a finering uisher in the Civil Inneering Building. • The same day, someone

discharged a fire extinguishe Thompson Hall.

• A student reported someone pushed over his mo

cycle and damaged the paint • A student reported someone cut open her car cov

 Someone damaged a sect of plywood flooring at Mt. Age UNAUTHORIZED USE OF HICLE: • A student reported ser

another student attempt to d an ambulance belonging to Emergency Care Team. HARASSMENT:

• A student reported receing annoying and obscene photocalls.

• Another student reports receiving annoying and threater ing phone calls.

• A third student reported that she received an obscene as berating phone call because shad not completed a Corps run

Discovery may lead to AIDS drug

NEW YORK (AP) — Scientists say they have determined the three-dimensional structure of an enzyme the AIDS virus needs to spread its infection, a step that could lead to new AIDS drugs.

An enzyme is a protein that initiates or speeds up a chemical reaction. The findings, published in Thursday's issue of the British journal Nature, are the first report on the three-dimensional structure of any protein of the virus.

The discovery will help researchers develop drugs to block the enzyme and keep the AIDS virus from spreading, said Manuel Navia, who with eight other scientists from the Merck Sharp and Dohme Research Laboratories in Rahway, N.J., and West Point., Pa., reported the find-

William Haseltine of the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute in Boston called the finding "an important and critical step along the pathway to rational, anti-AIDS drug development" opment." The enzyme, which looks like a

tangled string in the general shape of an angelfish, is called an aspartal protease, and it comes into play as

the AIDS virus makes copies of it-

To reproduce, the virus infects a cell and hijacks the cell's proteinmaking machinery. It then orders the machinery to produce proteins, including the aspartal protease, for assembling new viruses.

The proteins are manufactured in a string, like cars on a train. But the proteins, which new viruses need to infect other cells, will not work unless they are separated. The newly analyzed enzyme is responsible for cutting the proteins apart.

If a drug can be found to inhibit

the enzyme's function, it could the spread of infection, Navias

Haseltine said such a drugs also keep an infected person being infectious to others. Reser ers would have to make sure that drug would not block similar zymes elsewhere in a persons! Levy said.

Task force wants state to increase AIDS funding

AUSTIN (AP) — State lawmakers must pledge \$50 session," she said. million to \$75 million for AIDS prevention, education and treatment now, or Texans will pay an "awesome AIDS discriminated and the said of the said. price" later, the head of a special AIDS task force said

"A killer is loose in the human household. Its name is AIDS . . . and something must be done now," the doubled since the 1987 Legislature, and she prediction. Chris Steele said in a news conference after the number would quadruple by the 1991 session. Rev. Chris Steele said in a news conference after the release of a final report by the Legislative Task Force date, 6,000 Texans have been diagnose with AIDS.

to spend now, we will pay a most awesome price in the avoid testing and treatment, Ms. Steele said.

'To halt the geometric expansion of this deadly epi-

The task force report calls for protection against AIDS discrimination, health insurance provisions for infected people, and expansion of government med cal programs for the infected. Steele said the number of AIDS victims in Texash

Discrimination is the leading stumbling block

'I assure you that if our Legislature is unprepared combating the disease, because it causes people

near future," she said.

Sen. Craig Washington, D-Houston, a task for member, said a package of Senate bills covering the port's 120 recommendations is being prepared. I said the chairman of the Senate Health and Hum. Services Committee, Chet Brooks, D-Pasadena, demic, the foundations for a successful state strategy must be in place before the end of the 71st legislative found.

Cadets' individuality reflected in major

By Denise Thompson

STAFF WRITER

Although the Corps of Cadets is synonymous with tradition, the individuality of each member can be reflected in his major and the activities in which he is involved, George Thomas, a student development specialist, said Because tradition runs so deeply throughout

the Corps, Thomas said people have the misconception that individuality is discouraged. However, each member of the Corps is encouraged to pursue whatever field of study he chooses. Incoming freshman most often choose engineering- and agriculture-related majors, Thomas said. However, he said the average cadet changes majors twice, and by the time those freshman are

seniors, there is a greater cross-section of majors "I think a lot of the freshman come in and want to be in engineering or agriculture, and they just decide that their talents don't really fulfill the needs for those majors," he said. "By the time a class graduates, the choices for majors pretty much reflect that of the entire University."

To better help Corps members scholastically, Thomas said Corps units are grouped predominantly by major to enable them to help each other with various classes and projects. Thomas said this system also has a positive psychological effect on the students.

"It's good to have them grouped this way because the older ones can encourage the underclassmen when they get discouraged or have problems in a course," he said. "It makes it a little easier to get through a really tough course when you can relate to someone who has already been

Quiz files are another aid offered to cadets. Any student can request a test from the Corps

their class on the master file in there to see if an old test is available," Thomas said. "Anyone can use them, but the Corps units keep them organized and updated."

Matt Hudson, a senior civil engineering major

who serves as the Corps Scholastic Officer, said

the Corps' scholastic personnel also encourages scholastic development in several ways.

"We have a mandatory three-hour study period every night that's called C.Q., or call to quarters," he said. "At that time, it is so quiet on this side that it's hard to do anything else but study. I oversee 120 scholastic personnel and we oversee C.Q., the quiet conditions during the day and we work with faculty advisers.

"Each outfit chooses a faculty adviser they think can best help them in their fields, and we

work with them to help provide ample time for studying. We really are starting to encourage more scholastics."

The result of the measures taken to increase scholastic superiority is evident, Thomas said. The Corps had its highest grade-point ratio ever in Spring 1988 with a 2.5. However, the Corps' Fall 1988 grade-point ratio dropped to 2.37. Hudson said that while several factors caused the fall of grade-point ratios, the most common was that incoming freshman tend to have low grades their first semester and more activities are sponsored by the Corps at that time.

"Part of the reason the grades are lower in the

fall is that the Corps has a lot more activities in the spring," he said. "Another really importance is that freshman are trying to adjust University life and being away from home really tough that first semester, and it tends "People can go to the guard room and look up bring the grades down overall."

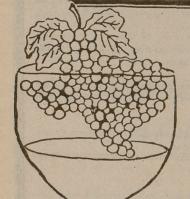
Dirk Bergoon, a senior agronomy major Head Red Pot for Fall 1988, said that while grades did not suffer drastically while wo on bonfire, he gained valuable knowledge fr

the experience.
"I learned about the real world by going and talking to people," Bergoon said. "When have to go up to a business and ask them to nate a million-dollar crane for a week, you know to interact with people."

Steve Keathley, a senior speech communitions major and head yell leader, agreed that

perience gained through Corps-related acing is invaluable and cannot be measured by a graculture. It think when you start blaming activities low grades, you're looking for an excuse, said. "I meet a lot of guys who have a 3.5, at they don't know a hill of beans about how to discovered the propose or conduct the propose dle people or conduct themselves in a crowd

"Being in activities outside of the class teaches you about the real world and how to dle realistic barriers. Those people who themselves in books have plenty of book kn edge, but I fear they're going to crash s where down the road in an area that only exence with people could get them through."



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