

Wednesday, February 22, 1989

Houston vice busts prostitution ring

Police: Photos used to give clients choice of women from 6 states

HOUSTON (AP) — A ring in which police say clients were able to pick and choose prostitutes from six different states out of a photo album has been broken.

Houston Vice Sgt. Chuck Simmons said the ring had hundreds of prostitutes rotating employment almost weekly in major cities in Texas, California, Massachusetts, Florida, New York and Louisiana.

"You look through a book (of photos), and if you like her, they'd fly her in," Simmons said.

An out-of-town visitor could choose a "date" from a local madam's albums and arrange for a meeting at his destination, Simmons said. Prices locally ranged from \$500 to \$1,500 a date.

He said a woman accused of being one of six Houston madams connected with the ring that

appears to operate out of Chicago was arrested Monday as were two women suspected of being prostitutes.

Simmons said Monday a five-month investigation initiated by Houston vice officers concluded Sunday after two undercover officers "infiltrated the date service" and arranged for sex with two of the ring's hundreds of prostitutes.

More arrests are expected in Houston and nationwide over the next several days using address books and business records confiscated at the southwest Houston apartment of Regina Royce, 37.

"She (Royce) was no Mayflower Madam," Simmons said, referring to the now-famous New York madam whose ancestry included the pilgrims. "But the service is without a doubt one of

the largest, most sophisticated, most expensive" prostitution rings here and has been operating for more than 10 years.

Simmons said officers were alerted to the ring by a disgruntled customer.

Two undercover vice officers said they contacted Royce and arranged a date with two prostitutes. The women were arrested after officers paid them \$1,600 in cash, Simmons said.

Officers then went to Royce's apartment armed with a search warrant to confiscate business records.

Police know of five other madams operating in Houston and have contacted authorities nationwide. The main madam appears to operate from Chicago, he said.



Photo by J.A. Finney
Lou Zaeske, head of the American Ethnic Coalition

Ad hoc committee works to enhance, coordinate international programs

By Alan Sembera
SENIOR STAFF WRITER

A committee formed by Texas A&M President William H. Mobley is working toward making A&M a major international university by searching for a way to coordinate the school's international programs.

Another purpose of the new organization would be to provide protocol support when foreign dignitaries visit A&M or when A&M officials visit foreign institutions, the committee chairman said.

The committee will reach its conclusions by reviewing various studies that have been done on A&M's international activities.

The committee also will interview administrators responsible for various international programs, including the Office of International Coordination, the Institute for Pacific Asia, the Center for International Business Studies, Study Abroad, International Student Affairs, International Admissions, the MSC, and other institutions.

The committee plans to release an interim report by March 28,

Hispanic employees sue FBI for \$9.2 million in back pay

MIDLAND (AP) — The 311 Hispanic agents suing the FBI in a discrimination case are asking for a total of about \$9.2 million overtime and back pay, an attorney for the plaintiffs said Tuesday.

In Tuesday's testimony in the damages phase of the long-running, non-jury trial in federal court, the plaintiffs tried to show they were due back pay for promotions they didn't get as well as overtime pay for some Spanish-language interpretation work.

Attorneys for the FBI tried to compare Spanish language ability to special skills such as accounting and flying airplanes, and to show that the agents were bypassed for promotions for reasons other than being Hispanic.

U.S. District Judge Lucius Bunton ruled in September after a two-week trial in El Paso that the FBI discriminates against Hispanics in promotions, assignments and working conditions.

In the damages portion of the trial, Bunton is to decide how the FBI should change its procedures and whether Hispanic agents should be awarded back pay and overtime.

Plaintiffs' attorney Tony Silva said Tuesday the agents' claims for overtime and back pay amount to about \$9.2 million.

The class-action suit was filed in

January 1987 by Bernardo "Mat" Perez, the No. 2 agent in El Paso. Eventually, 310 of the FBI's approximately 400 Hispanic agents nationwide joined Perez in the suit.

The FBI has about 9,000 agents.

One of the Hispanic agents' chief complaints, aired time and time again in Tuesday's testimony, is that Spanish-speaking Hispanic agents often are asked to be "Anglo helpers," helping to translate or interview in Spanish for non-Spanish-speaking agents.

The plaintiffs contend "Anglo helpers" are expected to aid their fellow agents in addition to doing their regular duties, and that they should be paid overtime for such work.

FBI attorneys tried, with limited success, to demonstrate that Spanish-speaking ability is like any other special skill used in the FBI, such as being an accountant, lawyer, engineer or pilot.

But Hispanic agents testified repeatedly that Hispanic Spanish speakers are treated differently from other skilled agents.

"The accountant uses his skills for white-collar" investigations, FBI agent Elizabeth Rodriguez of New York testified. "But he doesn't have to stop working on his case to help someone else using his accounting skills."

Zaeske tells Aggie GOP that English should be Texas' official language

By Kelly S. Brown
STAFF WRITER

Our country needs a common medium of exchange of ideas and information designated by our government, and this calls for an official language — English, the head of the American Ethnic Coalition said.

"We have a common currency in this country as a medium of exchange of value, where everybody knows what it's worth and what it stands for — that's the dollar bill — and this common currency is underwritten by our government," Lou Zaeske, an engineer who lives in Bryan, said.

"Now we need this common value in terms of language."

Zaeske has been working since 1986 to make English the official language of Texas by an amendment to the state Constitution.

He told a group of Aggie GOP members Tuesday night that even though some might say and believe English already is the official medium of exchange in our country, they must realize this is not a reality.

Zaeske said the government and its citizens must speak the same language if they are to maintain cohesiveness.

He said there would be chaos if individuals filed public records in various languages, Zaeske said.

"We can't let this happen in our country."

Zaeske said being an American is not a matter of skin color, hair texture or ethnic name.

"Being American is a state of mind and a value system — what we stand for, what this country stands for, the appreciation and love for its history and the certain

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