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INS starts erecting tents in prison

Catholics protest 'concentration camp' for aliens denied asylum

BAYVIEW (AP) — The Immigration and Naturalization Service on Tuesday began erecting tents inside the fence of a minimum-security prison under a plan to speed up processing of aliens and jail those denied political asylum.

The Catholic Bishops of Texas charged that they foresaw "the creation of the largest concentration camp on U.S. soil since the incarceration of Japanese-Americans during World War II—a shameful page in our history."

State Department officials began making recommendations on asylum applications here under a plan announced Monday to deal with an influx of Central American immigrants and speed up the weeding out of "frivolous" claims.

Under the new plan, applicants will get an answer as early as the same day and will be subject to immediate arrest and detention if denied asylum.

A group of 45 Central Americans, half of them from Nicaragua, were under review Tuesday afternoon. An additional 200 people were waiting to be processed.

"Of those (45) we have 25 denials, no approvals," INS spokesman Mario Ortiz said, adding that the remainder were still under review.

State department officials make the recommendation, but INS have yet to make any final decisions concerning the 45 applicants.

Before Tuesday, applications could take weeks to process and aliens were released on their own recognizance while they awaited appeals or deportation.

INS began erecting tents at its rural Port Isabel Service Processing Center here in case the number of detainees at the facility exceeds bed space. As many as 5,000 could be detained in large circus-like tents within the 315-acre facility, officials said.

A 7-foot-tall fence topped with barbed wire surrounds the compound.

The Texas Catholic Conference said the new policy "ignores the facts of life in Central America that are causing the massive influx of refugees to our country."

who have suffered dreadfully from civil war and frivolous," it said.

The Catholic church has been assisting aliens through several organizations and operates a shelter for newly arrived Central Americans.

"Apparently the INS is unaware of President Bush's plea for a kinder, gentler America," the statement said.

Delia Combs, assistant INS commissioner for refugees, asylum and parole, said two State Department officers Tuesday were reviewing the applications and making recommendations for accepting or denying claims for refugee status.

Only immigrants who can show persecutions are entitled to asylum; those who come to better themselves economically can be deported. The INS maintains that most Central Americans arriving in South Texas do not qualify for refugee status.

The stricter policy began the same day the INS was allowed to reimpose a policy restricting asylum-seekers to southern Texas while they await decisions on their cases.

Texans prepare beef for export to Europe

if meat ban is lifted

AUSTIN (AP) — Encouraged by developments in the U.S. trade dispute with the European Economic Community, Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower says his department is helping Texas cattlemen prepare to provide the European market with hormone-free beef if the ban on U.S. meat is lifted.

"We're reaching out to those Texas producers who want to enter into this market and to help them make these deals," Hightower said.

"We're asking the Europeans to get back to us in terms of prices. Our office is trying to negotiate directly between European buyers and Texas producers," he said.

American and European trade officials agreed over the weekend to set aside 75 days to work out a compromise in an escalating trade war that began Jan. 1, when the 12-nation European Community banned the import of U.S. beef treated with hormones. The United States retaliated with tariffs on European products.

During the 75-day cooling-off period, Europe will allow the import of some hormone-free beef from the United States.

Hightower said that he expects to know within a week how much beef can be exported during the period.

Some hormone-free beef already is being produced in Texas and other states for health-food and specialty markets.

Hightower said he is pleased that the Europeans agreed to consider an American demand that a panel of experts be established to study whether or not hormone-injected beef poses any health hazard.

HOUSTON (AP) — A children's poem about a girl who died after her parents refused to buy her a pony will no longer be used in an area school district after a mother protested that it exposed children to suicide.

"Little Abigail and the Beautiful Pony," a poem by popular children's author Shel Silverstein, was distributed last week to second-graders in a reading program at Bowen Elementary School in the Huffman Independent School District.

"I think it's sick," Barbara McGaugh said Monday. "It plants the seed. We're trying to keep suicide out of our schools, not in them."

The poem tells of a girl who threatens to die if her parents don't buy her a "sad-eyed" pony she saw on a drive. The parents refuse and the girl dies after refusing to eat or sleep.

McGaugh particularly dislikes the poem's ending: "And Abigail felt so bad that when they got home she went to bed."

And she couldn't eat, and she couldn't sleep, and her heart was broken.

And she DID die — all because of a pony that her parents wouldn't buy."

In a note at the bottom of the page, the author said, "This is a good story to read to your folks when they won't buy you something they want."

McGaugh said that after reading the book, her 8-year-old daughter now attempts to bribe her when asked to perform chores.

"She says, 'If I get to talk with my girlfriend, maybe I'll do them,'" McGaugh said.

The woman said she was so angry that she wrote to President Bush, asking him to remove the book from the school. She also contacted Huffman school trustee Charles Port, an attorney, who agreed that the poem was appalling.

School district pulls poem about suicide from classes

HOUSTON (AP) — A children's poem about a girl who died after her parents refused to buy her a pony will no longer be used in an area school district after a mother protested that it exposed children to suicide.

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STUDENT GOVERNMENT
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

To: The Students of A&M
From: Student Government Communications
Public Relations Newsletter Chairman/Editor Rod Jag
Staff Writers: Beth Schreiber, Terri Welch
Re: The activities of Student Government during Spring, 1989

The Progress Report will include:

1. A summary of current status of committees in Student Government
2. Some project plans from each committees for the rest of the 1989 school year
3. To better inform the students at Texas A&M on the progress of Student Government.

Executive Branch

A. Big Event - A one day event for Students at Texas A&M to donate their time and skill through services to the Bryan/College Station Community.

1. Current Status
- A. Still taking late applications for participation job request.
- B. Thursday the 23rd, will be holding a meeting for all participants at 6:00, Room 225 in the MSC, and need one representative from each group who put in applications.
2. Projected Status - is to reach our goal of 4,000 participants.

B. Traditions Council - Working to keep traditions alive at Texas A&M.

1. Current Status - revising the A&M traditions slide show and will be featured at COSGA and Parents Weekend.
2. Projected Status
- A. Working on acquiring a permanent Silver Taps Case.
- B. Currently investigating on writing an article on the Reveille Tradition.

C. Elections Committee - Organizes and conducts the Fall Freshman elections, the Spring elections for Student Government, the Class Councils, Off Campus Aggies, Residence Hall Association, Graduate Student Council and Yell Leaders.

1. Current Status - the following are dates for applicants.
- A. Filing applications: Feb. 27th to March 3rd, 9:00 am to 5:00 pm Room 214 Pavilion.
- B. Campaigning begins: Sunday, March 19th, 6:00 pm thru Wednesday March 29th.
- C. Elections: March 30th for Student Senate seats.
- D. Results: March 31st.
- E. Runoffs: March 31st to April 4th.
- F. Final results: April 5th.

D. Freshman Programs - Leadership development program for freshman.

1. Current Status
- A. To publish a University Calendar.
- B. Plan a picnic for Parents Weekend.
2. Projected Status
- A. To participate in a Highway Clean-Up project.

E. COSGA - Texas A&M's National Conference on Student Government Associations.

1. Current Status
- A. The Conference will be held on February 25th thru 28th.
- B. Expecting 85 schools with 400 delegates, representing those 85 schools to participate in workshops, round tables and speakers. Included in the Conference are International schools from University of Calgary of Canada and the University of London.

F. Legislative Study Group (LSG) - To be a professional representative for the Students of Texas A&M in our State's Congress on issues affecting the students.

1. Current Status
- A. Researching tuition with emphasis on retaining tuition rates in the hands of the Texas Legislature.
- B. LSG - will be in Washington D.C. from March 16th thru the 20th for a United States Student Association Conference.
1. LSG hopes to become familiar with the intricacies of Congress, discuss methods of mobilizing the A&M campus around Federal and State Legislation.
2. Projected Status
- A. Looking at the possibility of implementing a prepaid tuition plan which will allow tuition credits to be purchased for years in advance at current rate, to help finance the increasing cost of education.

G. Muster - A special Aggie tradition which is held every April 12th. This tradition is held for family members and friends of former Aggies, in holding a candle light in their memory, who have passed away in previous years, as their names are called.

H. Parents Weekend - Is responsible in coordination activities. University Awards ceremony, RHA Casino night, MSC Variety shows and Singing Cadets concert.

1. Current Status
- A. Parents Weekend is April 7-9.
2. Projected Status
- A. To successfully hold a fantastic, entertaining Parents Weekend and for the parents to see all the wonderful aspects that Texas A&M has to offer.

Legislative Branch

A. Academic Affairs - Serves as the liaison between administrators, faculty, and students concerning all academic policies which affect the quality of education at Texas A&M.

1. Looking into a twelve week summer session.

B. External Affairs - Oversees the activities and involvement between the Student Government at Texas A&M and the community.

1. Projected Status
- A. To work with the College Station City Council in a Adopt a Highway program.

C. Student Services - Relates to campus issues and is continually researching and offering solutions to student needs.

1. Projected Status
- A. To get a U.S. Post Office box for the library.
- B. Looking into student football policy.
- C. Getting speed bumps for certain dorm parking lots.

D. Rules and Regulations - Review the rules and make revisions of the University regulations.

1. Projected Status
- A. To hold Spring elections.
- B. Make revisions on by-laws.

D. Internal Affairs - Keeps the senate active during and outside of formal meetings.

1. Projected Status
- A. Will soon be interviewing for Open Senate seats.

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