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ATTENTION ALL ON-CAMPUS RESIDENTS

On March 21-22, students living on-campus in a non-corps Residence Hall will be required to notify your Hall Staff of your Fall 1989-Spring 1990 housing plans by renewing your contract or cancelling your space.

Information will be distributed by your Hall Staff concerning:

- RESERVING YOUR CURRENT HALL/ROOM
- ROOM CHANGES
- HALL CHANGES
- NEW MODULAR HALLS
- NEW COED HALLS
- DEPOSIT REFUND INFORMATION

Check the bulletin boards in your hall for more details.

BEGIN MAKING PLANS NOW!!!

College crowds hit Texas coast for spring break

GALVESTON (AP) — For the second straight year, Galveston's beach bosses have organized two weeks of free music, surfing and sand-sculpting contests, tennis and volleyball tournaments and other activities for the hordes of book-weary students expected to stream onto Galveston Island this month.

It's spring break time at colleges across the state and nation, and that means party time on the beachfront at Galveston and other Texas coastal cities.

"The out-of-staters are already starting to come in," Lt. Vic Maceo, commander of the Galveston County Sheriff's Beach Patrol, told the *Houston Chronicle*.

"And a lot of schools get out on Friday. The next weekend will be the biggest, when most of the Southwest Conference schools — UT, A&M, Rice, University of Houston, SMU — will get out."

Many high school students are expected to join the older crowd as well, Maceo said.

Just how many young people will be swarming across the I-45 causeway to Galveston is unknown but, barring bad weather, this year should bring bigger crowds than last.

"We had 50,000 kids in R.A. Apfel park for one concert last year and it went real smoothly," beach parks supervisor Bill Spencer said. "We had relatively few problems and we're looking for a good event this year."

Bands scheduled this year are Killer Bees, Vixen, Book of Love and Red Flag, Spencer said.

At Padre Island, about 200 miles down the coast, similar plans are under way for spring break visitors.

Lanette Nolte, manager of the Chamber of Commerce and Tourist Bureau at Port Aransas, said the first signs of spring for her are not heralded by birds or budding bushes.

They waft, instead, from the boom boxes blaring from the ferries that chug across Corpus Christi Bay, carrying collegiate hordes on break from schools in Texas and the Midwest.

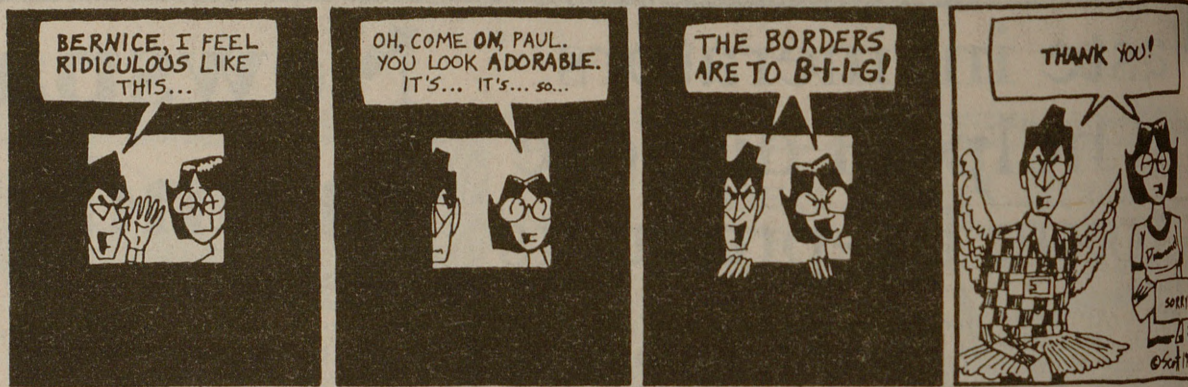
"I still get a thrill hearing the loud amplifiers going when they (students) get off the ferry," Nolte said.

The amplifier-carrying crowd keeps the cash registers ringing.

An estimated 100,000 college students will flock to Nueces County beaches this month, spending between \$40 and \$50 a day, officials say.

In Galveston Saturday, Texas A&M University-Galveston will sponsor a surfing contest. Bands will provide background music for the milling crowds at East Beach, or R.A. Apfel Park, on March 12 and 19, the two Sundays of spring break.

Warped



Waldo



A&M scientists research effects of alcohol on brain
 Biologist says dehydration causes intoxication

By Fiona Soltes
 STAFF WRITER

Consumers of alcohol may not consider themselves "dry," but Texas A&M scientists are trying to prove that intoxication actually is caused by dehydration in the synapses of the brain.

Dr. William Klemm, a cell biologist in A&M's Veterinary Anatomy Department, said when gangliosides, a chemical found in humans, rodents and other mammals, were injected into laboratory mice 12 to 24 hours before alcohol consumption, effects of the alcohol were reduced greatly.

The effects of alcohol on the gangliosides led to the idea that gangliosides could be replaced as an antidote for intoxication. An explanation for the mechanism of intoxication also came into view.

"The heart of my theory takes place in the water of the synapse, or the junction between nerve cells," Klemm said. "Gangliosides gave me the clue."

He theorized that sialic acid, a component of the ganglioside molecule, helps the gangliosides attach to synaptic membrane proteins. The gangliosides and proteins are held together by water found in the spaces between the cells.

Klemm's theory stated that when alcohol is consumed, it gets into the spaces normally filled with water. The enzyme sialidase is then allowed to separate the sialic acid from the molecule and destroy the acid.

Without the sialic acid, the molecule changes shape

and is unable to bond with the synaptic protein, causing blocking or distortion between communications channels, he said. The breakdown in communication causes "drunken" behavior.

"Research had been done on dehydration before," Klemm said. "But most people had ignored the studies. No one had thought about it taking place within the cell itself."

Results of this research may lead to tests on the gangliosides as the ingredient of a "sober-up" pill, but the process won't be easy, Klemm said.

"Good research is driven by a good theory," Klemm said. "The research we've done might point to mechanisms we need to look at to find the pill. It relates to the dehydration process. If so, we need to learn how to reverse that process."

But Klemm said even if a pill was discovered, people might not see it as desirable. It may induce alcoholics to drink more and wouldn't protect heavy drinkers from alcohol-related liver disease, he said.

Klemm has presented his theory to the Texas Alcohol Society, where it was received favorably. He plans to present it to the international alcohol community in June during the Research Society on Alcoholism meeting.

Historian challenges legends about Alamo battle

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — On the 153rd anniversary of the fall of the Alamo, a historian says his new book about the famous battle will destroy many of the legends about the fight that led to Texas' freedom from Mexico.

Today commemorates the day in 1836 when, after a 13-day siege, the Alamo defenders died fighting Mexican troops led by Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna.

That bloody battle and another defeat at Goliad inspired Texas troops led by Gen. Sam Houston to defeat Santa Anna at San Jacinto in April 1836 and eventually led to Texas' independence from Mexico.

But Richard Santos, a linguist and former university lecturer and Bexar County archivist, says his book, "Alamo Countdown," which is scheduled for release in mid-April, will show that according to a letter from Houston, Alamo commander William B. Travis didn't die fighting, but committed suicide.

Santos also says that Travis never drew a line

on the compound ground with his sword, asking those who wanted to stay and defend the Alamo to cross it.

Santos, 49, says that the Alamo defenders may have numbered more than 189, that there were four male survivors, and that Mexican troops numbered only 1,800, not the up to 13,000 that is in history textbooks and encyclopedias.

He also says there never was a man by the name of Moses Roses, who reportedly was the only one who did not cross Travis' line and fled the Alamo a few days before it fell.

Santos reiterates that Davy Crockett did not die fighting a la John Wayne, but was captured and executed on orders by Santa Anna.

Santos, who has been on various radio talk shows talking about the book, says most of the reaction has been favorable.

"But at the same time I do expect the folklorists and the defenders of the myth, those who prefer to see Crockett dying like John Wayne, to come after me," he said. "That is to be expected."

"It is unfortunate that the distortion of Texas history and the battle of the Alamo has been great that the story of the battle of the Alamo has been written by people who were not present, who did not participate, about incidents that never occurred," he said.

"I welcome the criticism because then it would mean that scholars and historians would have to go do the same research that I have done in order to prove me wrong," he said.

Santos, who in 1968 wrote "Santa Anna's Campaign Against Texas," said the new book is based on more documents and correspondence, both in English and Spanish, that he discovered since he began the latest project five years ago.

The Alamo, reportedly the No. 1 tourist attraction in Texas, is owned by the state, but since 1905 the Daughters of the Texas Republic have been the curators of the shrine.

Billie Averitt, president general of the DTR, declined to comment about Santos' upcoming book.

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 Kristin Johnson: Spain, Federal Republic of Germany

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