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State investigates fake cruise offer

Company sold memberships for bogus floating gambling club

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND (AP) The Texas attorney general's office is investigating a company that sold at least 26 people memberships costing more than \$1,000 each for a cruise ship club that owns no ships for the gambling and nightlife it of-fered, an official said.

They were actually selling mem-They were actually selling memberships in a club that does not exist," Adolfo Alvarez, assistant attorney general in charge of the Consumer Protection Division's McAllen office, said Wednesday. "They were making representations that the ships did exist."

Alvarez said the central figure in

Alvarez said the central figure in the investigation is Efren Cenoz, a Brownsville man arrested last weekend on charges including opening a nightclub without a liquor license.

Cenoz opened the nightclub at South Padre Island to promote his Texas Star Cruise Club, Alvarez

Cenoz' sales force since December in the United States and Mexico has been promoting the club and telling people that the Texas Star Cruise Line has a total of three ships to operate out of Port Isabel and Brownsville, Alvarez said.

The itinerary was to be similar to the cruise ship Le Mistral, which has no connection with the company under investigation. Le Mistral, based at Port Isabel near the Mexican border, offers the state's only legal gambling casino because it fulfills a state law requiring it to call on a foreign

Alvarez said he would file suit

Brownsville against Cenoz' operation, first seeking a temporary restraining order to prevent any more membership sales to Texas Star Cruise Club.

The assistant attorney general said he also will seek an injunction against the club operator, requiring him to stop selling and advertising the club and claiming the company is

"It is not bonded," Alvarez said, but added that one of the company's fliers reads: "Your investment is safe. We are bonded."

He said he also will seek restitution for those who have bought memberships at \$1,075 each.

A sales force extends as far as Mexico City, Alvarez said, but at

Thursday in state district court in least seven sales representatives are cooperating with the investigation.

(customers) from Mexico were calling and asking where to send the money," he added. One of the three ships was pro-

moted as having a 1950s theme, one would have a 1920s theme and the other was to be a modern party slip. Alvarez said. Charges against Cenoz are in co

Charges against Genoz are in connection with a nightclub at South Padre Island that operated on March 23-24, with "The World Platers" rock group booked to promote the 1950s theme cruise ship.

Cenoz remained in the Cameron County Jail in Brownsville Wednesday.

Commission grants two racing licenses

AUSTIN (AP) - Members of the Texas Racing Commission, who've granted their first parimutuel horse racing licenses this week, say conflicting opinions from legal advisers have hams-trung their power to deny the

The commission approved li-censes for Bandera Downs near San Antonio and for G. Rollie White Downs at Brady, about 150 miles northwest of Austin.

Hearings on additional appli-cations for tracks in the Dallas-Fort Worth area continued Wednesday, and more are scheduled for May 1.

The Bandera application was smooth compared with the Brady hearing, in which the president of the group seeking the license, David Mitchell, was ordered to drop his affiliation with the track.

Commission members first sought to deny the license to Heart of Texas Racing after hearing testimony that Mitchell had been charged several years ago with felony counts of selling drugs to horse trainers and horse owners. He pleaded no contest to a lesser charge, was fined and had the charge expunged from his re-

Peace Corps

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with liberal arts degrees sometimes are accepted.

'We don't have a grade-point requirement for people in our top recruiting majors such as math and science, she said. "English majors and liberal arts majors must have a 2.5 to teach, but they don't have to have a certificate. People from these majors usually have to have other qualifications such as tutoring experience, community service, or experience on a farm or in construc-

Dupre said the Peace Corps recruits seniors and graduate students more than underclassmen. For this reason underclassmen should not quit school to join the Peace Corps, she said.

'I would say about 90 percent of our volunteers have degrees," she said. "For that reason, people need to go

ahead and finish the degree before they apply."

For those students who meet the qualifications and are accepted by the Peace Corps, Dupre said the benefits are both unique and plentiful.

"It's particularly beneficial to someone who would be

interested in a career in the international spectrum,' she said. "It's really tough to get an entry-level position in something related to international work. The Peace

Corps is a good entry-level into this kind of work. "It's also good entry-level into government work such as the Forestry Service or the USDA or even the Department of Agriculture. Peace Corps volunteers have non-competitive eligibility for other government jobs, so it basically cuts through some of the red tape when they're looking toward a government-based career.

"It gives people the opportunity to learn another language and gives them a chance to gain a perspective of the world that will help them later in life."

Dupre said practical experience in the job field doesn't constitute all of the benefits gained through the

Peace Corps. Corps volunteers gain maturity and hands-on experience that provide "huge pay-offs," she

"They learn about other cultures and gain skills tha working in a classroom and taking tests simply don't provide," she added.

Sixty-five countries receive help from the Peac Corps, with more than 50 percent of the current volu-teers serving in Africa, she said. Although countries like

Latin America are popular, Dupre said, student should not request a particular country.

"Some students want to go to Spain because the speak Spanish," she said. "But our goal is to send sudents where they're most needed, and we want studen to keep that in mind - that they should go when they're most needed.'

Although the visiting recruiters will leave campus day, recruiter Estella Mays said students can submita

plications through the mail.
"Applications should be submitted six months to year before the student is ready to leave for training

The minimum amount of time that should be allocated for the application process is three months. After the application is analyzed to identify the person's skills, the interview process begins. If the applicant is qualified, he must go through eight to 14 weeks

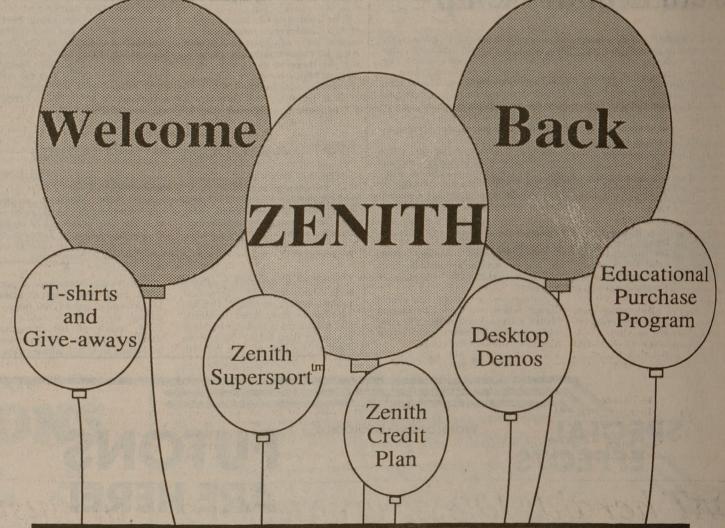
"Cross-cultural information is given to help the pe son learn the 'do's and don'ts' of the country. This is the person doesn't offend anyone and so he learns what

practices are acceptable in that country.

"They also receive technical training to assist themir whatever area they'll be working. This is additional pr paration beside what they're degree or experience of

Seniors or graduate students interested in apply for the late summer or fall can send applications Peace Corps now. Juniors should apply late in the fall

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