

Tuesday, April 25, 1989

# Senate passes bill to end scalping

## Reselling of entertainment, amusement tickets becomes crime

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate approved bills Monday that would make it a crime to scalp tickets to entertainment events, including athletic contests, and would tighten regulations against certain telephone solicitations.

Another bill sent to the House with Senate approval would provide unpaid parental leave for state employees.

Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown said his scalping bill would make it a crime to resell or offer to resell a ticket to a public entertainment or amusement event for more than the original cost set by the event sponsor.

An amendment specified that the bill would cover sports events, because "there was some question whether 'amusements' fully covered some of our athletic contests," Brown, R-Lake Jackson, said.

The measure — providing penalties of up to 180 days in jail and a \$1,000 fine — was sent to the House on voice vote.

Sen. Chet Edwards, D-Duncanville, described

as a "multimillion-dollar sham" certain telephone solicitations on behalf of law enforcement organizations.

"Literally millions of dollars in supposedly charitable contributions are being collected in the name of police organizations and law enforcement organizations, and many of these organizations have nothing to do with active police or law enforcement groups," Edwards said.

He said the solicitations are "more to take advantage of people's good will to raise money."

Edwards' bill would require a law enforcement group to report annually to the state attorney general regarding solicited contributions and prohibit the use of false or misleading statements about the use of the proceeds.

Violators could be sentenced to a maximum of 180 days in jail and fined up to \$1,000.

The bill also was sent to the House on voice vote.

Another measure advanced on voice vote would make available up to 24 weeks of unpaid

leave time for parents who are state employees upon the birth or adoption of a child, or upon a child's serious illness.

The employee's job would be protected in his or her absence, but if that was impossible or unreasonable, the employee would be given an opportunity for the next similar position.

Senators on Monday also approved and sent to the House bills that would:

- Raise the monetary penalty for untimely payment of insurance claims.
- Provide penalties for a physician who refers patients to health care facilities in which the physician has a financial interest if the physician fails to disclose that interest.
- Make it a crime for a hospital to pay a physician for soliciting patients for the hospital.
- Raise from \$20,000 to \$50,000 the amount paid to survivors of certain law officers killed in the line of duty.
- Give the attorney general authority to modify child support orders.
- Create a college savings bond program within certain state agencies.

# A&M students win marketing awards in Houston contest

By Fiona Soltes  
 STAFF WRITER

Twelve marketing students received more than just good grades for class projects April 13-14 when they won awards at the Houston Advertising Federation Student Competition.

Denise Smart, assistant professor of Marketing 447, Advertising Campaigns and Procedures, said she encouraged her entire class to enter the competition and all but one of the 66 students followed her advice.

Sheryl Bonney received first place in the marketing and media division; Paige Crawford, second place; and Todd Gilbert, third. Nine students received honorable mentions. The conference, at the Westin Oaks Hotel, included roundtable discussions and lectures with representatives from various ad agencies.

Most of the students competed in the marketing and media category, which meant designing a

complete campaign. This includes market analysis, development of a media plan, development of ads, a creative strategy, an evaluation of media usage and a budget, she said. The topic was KUHT-TV, a public broadcasting station in Houston.

Of the others, two students received honorable mentions in the newspaper divisions and one in radio.

"It's a positive thing for students, getting the experience of going through a competition and evaluations," Smart said. "It's something to add to a resume, and I would hope it would help in finding a job in advertising later on."

Smart said last year A&M took first, second and third place, but no honorable mentions were awarded at the conference.

This is the only contest in which the class participates.

"Right now, this is all we can manage," Smart said. "The students have to do ad campaigns locally, and they keep pretty busy with that."

# Bush approves declaration of disaster areas

AUSTIN (AP) — President Bush has approved Gov. Bill Clements' request to declare six East Texas counties state disaster areas as a result of damage caused by March floods, the governor said Monday.

The counties — Cass, Cherokee, Gregg, Harrison, Marion and Rusk — sustained heavy flooding between March 28-29.

"I am delighted that President Bush acted quickly on this request," Clements said in a statement.

"People who suffered losses in this disaster can expect federal assistance in just a matter of days," he said.

Clements called for disaster relief on April 12, when he requested federal help for residents, business owners and state and local governments.

# Poll shows Bush maintains support

HOUSTON (AP) — President Bush still maintains strong support among voters in the city he calls home, according to results published Monday from a *Houston Chronicle* poll.

Bush, who is nearing the 100-day milestone of his administration, received a 67 percent job approval rating from a April 12-19 survey of 672 registered voters who live in Houston, a copyright story in the *Chronicle* said.

Nine percent disapproved of the job Bush is doing as president and the rest were unsure or didn't answer.

But Bush didn't get quite as high marks as the other 1988 national candidate who calls Houston home — Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, who was vice presidential running mate to Democratic nominee Michael Dukakis.

Asked to rate the job Bentsen is doing as senator, 82 percent approved, 10 percent disapproved and the rest were unsure or didn't respond.

The margin of error of the sur-

vey, conducted through the University of Houston Center for Public Policy, is plus or minus 4 percentage points.

Bentsen won re-election handily in the 1988 general election, while Texas voters rejected his simulta-

neous race for the vice presidency, giving a big victory to Bush and his running mate Dan Quayle.

Republican Sen. Phil Gramm, who will run for re-election in 1990, also got high marks from Houston voters.

# Texas House tentatively adopts \$46.5 billion state budget

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas House on Monday tentatively adopted a \$46.5 billion state budget on a 144-2 vote, which House Speaker Gib Lewis called the largest margin of victory he could recall on a spending bill.

"It doesn't do a lot of the things that we would like to have seen done as far as having more money for education, more money for health care, some of those areas," Lewis said. "But I think with the available revenue that we have... it's a very good budget."

The bill, which faces one more House vote, will wind up in a conference committee to iron out differences between the House plan and the Senate's \$46.75 billion proposal.

Lewis, D-Fort Worth, described the budget, which represents a nearly 10 percent increase

above current spending, as well-balanced.

The bill "passed today by the largest majority that I can recall in the history of any appropriations bill," the speaker said as he congratulated members after nearly six hours of debate.

Lewis and other budget leaders said the bill would require no increase in taxes.

"We will do it without a tax increase. There's no question about that," he said.

The biggest fights occurred over minority hiring, funding state Capitol restoration and a high-speed rail study, and a proposal to cut the budget by \$2.5 billion.

The proposed state budget is 9.8 percent more than current spending levels, or about \$4.15 billion. Of that amount, \$3.3 billion represents increases in general revenue fund spending. The

general revenue fund is composed of tax dollars.

Major general revenue fund increases in the proposal are in the areas of public school education, \$717 million or 7 percent; health and human services, \$687 million or 15.5 percent; higher education, \$471 million or 10.2 percent; and state employee pay raises, \$300 million.

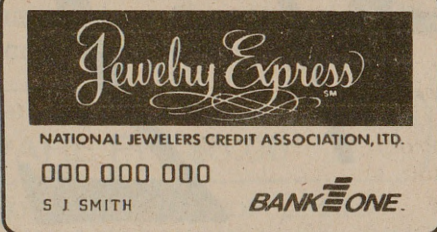
Of the \$717 million increase in public education, about \$500 million would be set aside to try to equalize school funding between rich and poor school districts.

Rep. Barry Connelly, R-Houston, tried to remove a proposal by Rep. Larry Evans, D-Houston, that would establish goals for some state agencies in minority hiring. Connelly argued the provision could be used in discrimination lawsuits against the state to increase minority hiring.

# An Invitation to Luxury... The Jewelry Express Card

The Jewelry Express Card... Sheer Brilliance!  
 Join an exclusive membership with benefits you richly deserve...

- Instant Credit — up to \$5,000
- No annual card fees
- 30 day grace period billing
- No down payment required on purchases
- Minimum monthly payments of \$10 or 5% of the outstanding balance
- Revolving credit line
- Optional Customer Account Protection — protects your account for loss of income from: unemployment, disability, death, and loss or damage of jewelry; up to \$5,000
- 90 days same-as-cash on initial purchase (minimum monthly payment required)



Carat	Our Price	Compare at
4.01	\$42,750	\$65,000
1.80	7,750	12,950
1.61	5,475	8,450
1.51	4,225	7,950
1.44	1,875	3,950
1.43	5,550	8,950
1.20	9,240	14,500
1.18	2,675	4,550
1.17	2,950	3,950
1.11	2,650	3,850
1.09	3,075	5,500
1.06	2,450	3,995
1.03	3,850	6,950
1.03	2,550	4,995
1.03	2,325	4,495
1.03	2,950	5,500
1.01	2,375	4,295
1.00	2,150	3,995
.95	1,875	3,650
.93	1,595	2,950
.91	3,595	7,150
.91	3,150	6,395
.89	1,795	3,195
.85	1,975	3,750
.84	2,550	5,675
.83	1,595	2,750
.81	2,250	3,875
.76	1,360	2,495
.73	1,675	2,850
.72	1,595	2,795
.72	1,375	2,450
.71	1,175	1,995
.70	1,390	2,495
.70	1,350	2,350
.69	995	1,150
.65	595	995
.64	1,450	2,495
.64	895	1,595
.58	575	995
.55	695	1,195

Carat	Our Price	Compare at
.53	925	1,750
.52	1,095	2,195
.52	895	1,750
.51	1,095	2,195
.51	795	1,450
.50	795	1,450
.50	795	1,395
.49	550	995
.47	750	1,295
.46	695	1,150
.46	495	895
.44	595	1,095
.43	395	695
.42	595	995
.39	475	995
.38	295	650
.32	350	695
.30	335	650

Carat	Our Price	Compare at
.75	\$1,785	\$3,395
.58	1,375	2,495
.51	1,395	2,495

**Diamonds For AGGIE RINGS**

.05	\$35
.08	\$48
.10	\$63
.15	\$111
.21	\$165

\$15 mounting \$25 with your diamond

Carat	Our Price	Compare at
1.02	\$2,150	3,95
.99	2,950	\$5,495
.81	2,385	4,395
.73	1,975	3,750
.62	1,475	2,495
.52	1,325	2,450
.47	695	1,195
.33	395	750

Carat	Our Price	Compare at
2.11	\$4,950	\$9,250
1.61	5,875	10,200
1.11	2,850	5,495
1.10	1,450	2,650
1.03	2,875	5,395
.99	2,450	4,350
.71	1,450	2,200
.62	1,475	2,350
.58	1,095	1,995
.58	1,350	2,200
.53	1,325	2,200
.51	1,175	2,150
.50	1,050	1,995

Carat	Our Price	Compare at
2.14	5,850	\$9,950
1.82	5,095	9,350
1.75	5,775	9,925
1.43	3,780	7,250
1.24	3,925	7,400
1.21	3,750	7,100
1.01	2,675	4,995
.72	1,985	3,850
.71	1,965	3,800
.64	1,295	2,395
.64	875	1,495
.62	1,485	2,395
.60	1,250	2,295
.58	995	1,795
.52	665	1,195
.51	1,240	2,350
.48	1,160	2,150

Carat	Our Price	Compare at
2.04	\$12,570	\$25,000
1.67	5,875	12,200
1.35	3,100	5,800
1.23	3,350	6,395
1.10	3,650	6,650
1.04	2,850	5,200
.98	2,475	4,395
.79	2,095	3,875
.72	2,325	3,895
.71	2,195	4,095
.71	2,050	3,995
.70	2,390	4,250
.70	1,995	3,450
.68	1,890	3,650
.64	1,385	3,495
.62	695	1,195
.55	985	1,895
.54	1,490	2,795
.52	1,050	2,295
.50	1,275	2,295
.48	1,225	2,250
.46	1,160	2,195
.39	875	1,595
.35	595	995

**14K Gold Charms**

small \$12<sup>95</sup>  
 large \$21<sup>95</sup>

**TEXAS COIN EXCHANGE**

846-8916 846-8905 Jewelry Repair on the Premises

404 University Drive • Behind Shellenbergers

Texas 6  
 Texas Ave. University Texas A&M  
 ★ Texas Coin Exchange

MasterCard VISA