

Wednesday, April 26, 1989

Senate hears support for kid-killer bill Members vote to make murder of children punishable by death

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate, drawing support from two former prosecutors and an ex-police officer among its members, approved a bill Tuesday that would make murder of a child 14 or younger a death penalty offense.

The original bill by Sen. J.E. "Buster" Brown, R-Lake Jackson, would have extended Texas' capital punishment law to those who murder a child under the age of 6.

"The question has been asked, 'Why the age of 6 versus 7, or 8, or another age?'" Brown said. "There is no magic to that number except that is the age at which young children at least leave the home and are exposed to other adults" besides their guardians or parents.

"They do have the protection of the school

personnel, the bus driver, the other people they come in contact with," Brown said. "But that child under the age of 6 is totally dependent on someone for their life."

Sen. Bob Glasgow, a former prosecutor, said, "I have no sympathy for someone who kills kiddos."

Glasgow, D-Stephenville, said he thought Brown's bill was more important than the law providing capital punishment for the murder of a police officer.

"Those police officers are big, and they can defend themselves, and they have bulletproof vests, and they got big ol' guns," he said. "But these little kiddos are totally defenseless."

Sen. Ted Lyon, D-Rockwall, offered an amendment to raise the age in the bill from 6 to 10. The former police officer said he had

witnessed scenes that "just make you sick."

"There is no one who should be more protected in our society than a young child," Lyon said.

Montford offered a substitute amendment to raise the age to 14, which he said would conform with Penal Code provisions on injury to a child.

"I think the pulse of the Senate is getting to be rather intolerant about these very terrible crimes," Montford, also a former prosecutor, said.

His amendment was adopted on voice vote.

Sen. Craig Washington, who opposes the death penalty, said, "For those who believe in the death penalty, it seems to me there is as good a justification and rationale for support

of this (bill) as there is for support of the death penalty under any circumstances or for any reason."

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

The Senate refused to debate a proposal that would require school boards or trustees to consult with teachers in developing educational policies and programs, when requested by a majority of teachers in the district or a representative of an organization representing a majority of teachers in the district.

The vote was 18-11. Two senators would have had to switch their votes to suspend Senate rules for debate.

Shuttle buses will run during summer school

By Richard Tijerina
STAFF WRITER

Shuttle bus operations will run during both sessions of summer school, marking the first time the service has been available during the summer sessions.

Doug Williams, manager of Shuttle Bus Operations, said the decision was made because Shuttle Bus Operations is trying to become more service-oriented, and that this decision should help both Texas A&M students and the University.

There will be five shuttle bus routes — the same ones that served as combined night routes in Spring 1989:

- Anderson, Marion Pugh and Parkway.
- Villa Maria and Finfeather.
- Lincoln and 29th Street.
- Scarlett O'Hara, Munson and Dartmouth.
- FM 2818 and Welsh.

Students can purchase the service as a fee option when registering for summer classes. Summer 1989 registration begins Thursday, and Williams said the option costs \$46.

Williams said the \$46 charge is valid for both summer sessions, but that students will be refunded \$23 if they register for only one session.

However, he said the refund was valid only if one session was registered for, and that students wishing to cancel their service will not be allowed to do so if they register for both sessions.

Williams said summer shuttle bus passes will be issued as cards, instead of the customary stickers that were placed on the back of the student identification cards.

He said a similar bus pass card is being considered for Fall 1989.

Summer routes will run five days a week every 30 minutes from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.

School district bans smoking on property

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Smoking will be prohibited for teachers and parents as well as students at all schools and most other Corpus Christi Independent School District property under a ban taking effect next fall.

The ban, passed Monday by a 4-3 vote of the CCISD Board of Trustees, also prohibits smoking at after-school activities, such as Parent-Teacher Association meetings.

Teachers and other employees no longer will be allowed to smoke on campus during the school day.

Members of the Corpus Christi American Federation of Teachers and the Corpus Christi Classroom Teachers Association, as well as several teachers, spoke at Monday night's meeting in an unsuccessful effort to continue the current policy allowing teachers to smoke in designated areas.

The new policy bans smoking on school property with the exception of Buccaneer Stadium, Cabaniss Field and other outdoor

athletic facilities. It also prohibits CCISD employees on duty from smoking in the presence of students.

Board president T. Theresa Rasco, who cast one of the three votes against the strict smoking ban, said, "I smoke, but think this policy is an attempt to control a person's behavior."

Board member Arturo Medina, who voted for the smoking ban, argued that CCISD teachers and other employees have personal rights, but "not the right to endanger the lives of someone else. This is not a moral issue, but a health issue."

Linda Bridges, president of the Corpus Christi American Federation of Teachers said 53 percent of her 1,700 members believe smoking should be allowed on campus, even though 79 percent of them don't smoke.

"We favor the present policy," Bridges said.

Special task force wants stricter reporting of campaign funding

AUSTIN (AP) — A special task force Tuesday called for stricter reporting of campaign contributions and tougher penalties for violations, but it stopped short of recommending limits on how much money could be given to politicians.

"The people need to know where the money's coming from, and who's receiving it," said Secretary of State Jack Rains, who chaired the Governor's Task Force on Campaign Finance Reform. "That's germane to making a political decision."

"At the present point in time, we make a gesture towards disclosure," Rains said. "We do not make meaningful disclosure."

Rains, a Republican, said that he personally favored limiting how much money could be contributed. But he

said opposition from several groups put that goal out of reach for now.

"The bottom line is that the most we can hope for in this legislative session is meaningful campaign finance disclosure," Rains said. "If we bring the financing of campaigns out of the smoke-filled back rooms, we'll go a long way toward removing the stench of special-interest influence."

Two lawmakers who served on the task force, Sen. Don Henderson, R-Houston, and Rep. Ric Williamson, D-Weatherford, said they think the 1989 Legislature will approve some reforms before the session ends next month.

"I think the chances are pretty good that the recommendations of the task force, along with some other recommendations . . . will pass," Williamson said.

Unemployment rate drops throughout Texas

AUSTIN (AP) — The state's unemployment rate last month dropped from 7.3 percent in February to 6.3 percent, according to figures released by the Texas Employment Commission.

The March figures released Tuesday also represent a drop from March 1988, when the rate was 8.3 percent.

The reduction in unemployment between February and March "looks really more promising than the past few months," Dianne Dobie, a labor market analyst with the TEC, said.

She said state wide economic indicators showed gains, but it is still too early to say if Texas has reversed its economic slide or the March figures

merely represent a seasonal gain.

The 6.3 unemployment rate means there are an estimated 517,900 jobless Texans, Dobie said.

The lowest urban unemployment rate was in the Bryan-College Station area, with 4.4 percent, while the highest was McAllen-Edinburg-Mission, with 15.7 percent.

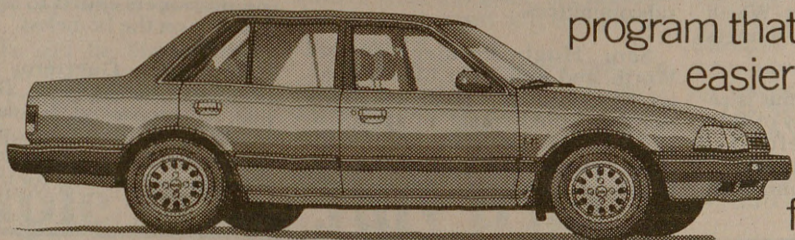
Mazda thinks the class of '89 deserves a lot of credit.

Isn't it time you rewarded yourself with a sporty new Mazda car or truck?

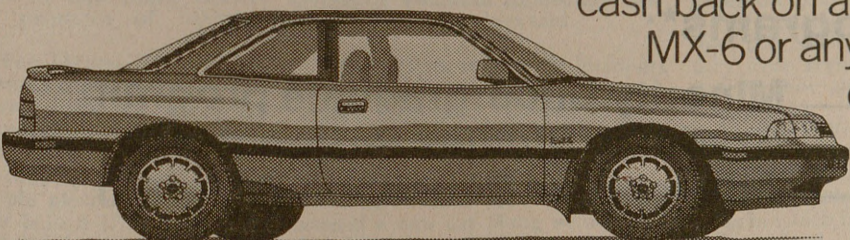
Mazda American Credit has a First Reward program that makes it easier for college graduates to qualify for new car financing. And right now, special incentives will save you hundreds of dollars which can be applied to your down payment.

Get \$400 cash back on Mazda 323, or \$750 cash back on a Mazda MX-6 or any 4x2 or 4x4 Mazda truck. The choice is yours,

and the selection is great, but time is short: cash back incentives end April 30. See your local Mazda Dealer or call our 800 number today. And pick up the graduation credit you so richly deserve.



Mazda 323



Mazda MX-6



Mazda SE-5

Call 800-424-0202, Ext. 741



See your participating Mazda Dealer for program details. Dealer participation may affect final negotiated price. © 1989, Mazda Motor of America, Inc.

SPECIAL SNEAK PREVIEW

GEENA DAVIS JIM CARREY DAMON WAYANS And JEFF GOLDBLUM
And Introducing JULIE BROWN



Hey you guys, like let's pretend this preview is a really cool pool party. Like, we're givin' away sun visors, T-shirts and mugs to the 1st 100 people at the door dressed for a really fun pool or beach party. Bumper stickers and posters for everybody!

VESTRON PICTURES PRESENTS A KESTREL FILMS PRODUCTION JULIAN TEMPLE FROM EARTH GIRLS ARE EASY
STARRING: GEENA DAVIS JIM CARREY DAMON WAYANS AND JEFF GOLDBLUM INTRODUCING JULIE BROWN
MUSIC BY NILE RODGERS COSTUME DESIGNER PETER AFTERMAN FILM EDITOR RICHARD HALSEY PRODUCTION DESIGNER DENNIS GASSNER
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY OLIVER STAPLETON WRITTEN BY JULIE BROWN CHARLIE COFFEY TERENCE E. McNALLY
PRODUCED BY TONY GARNETT DIRECTED BY JULIAN TEMPLE
DISTRIBUTION ASSIGNED BY VESTRON PICTURES, INC. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

THURSDAY
APRIL 27TH
at 8:00 PM



PASSES AVAILABLE AT THE MSC BOX OFFICE

FIRST 100 PEOPLE IN BEACH ATTIRE RECEIVE MUGS, VISORS, AND T-SHIRTS!

FIRST 450 PEOPLE RECEIVE FULL-SIZE POSTERS!

EVERYONE RECEIVES BUMPER STICKERS!!