

Photo by Karl Stolleis

Horsin' around

Members of the Texas A&M Polo Club compete in their final match of the year Sunday at the Dick Freeman Arena.

Judge's lenience in sentencing killer sparks special hearing

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Supreme Court on Wednesday appointed a special master to hold a hearing on a Dallas judge who said he was lenient in sentencing a convicted killer because the victims were homosexuals.

Robert R. Murray, a former San Antonio appeals court judge, said he will hear pre-trial motions in the case May 11 in Dallas.

State District Court Judge Jack Hampton has been the subject of investigations by the state Supreme Court and State Commission on Judicial Conduct.

Gay, lesbian and civil rights groups have called for Hampton's dismissal from the bench.

Last December, Hampton told the *Dallas Times Herald* that he gave Richard Bednarski — convicted of killing two men in a Dallas park — a 30-year prison sentence rather than life in prison in part because he thought the victims were "queers cruising the street for teen-age boys."

Murray said he was not too familiar with the case. "He (Hampton) said something about a light sentence because they were homosexuals," Murray said. "That's the extent" of what he knows.

"The purpose of the hearing is to develop a record," Robert Flowers, executive director of the Judicial Conduct Commission, said.

"All the proceedings and accompanying papers will

be made public on convening of the hearing," Flowers said.

William Waybourn, president of the Dallas Gay Alliance, said he welcomed the trial-like hearing.

"We believe when the general public hears the background information on the heinous remarks made in this court case, they will be as offended as we were that the remarks made by the judge ended up getting the man a lighter sentence," Waybourn said.

A spokesman in Hampton's court said the judge would not talk about the matter.

Attorneys for Hampton allege "the real complaint of those who seek to oust Judge Hampton is that he disapproves of the practice of homosexual sodomy." The attorneys also claim the *Times Herald* reporter interviewed Hampton under false pretenses.

The proceedings against Hampton, 57, can result in one of three moves, Flowers said.

Murray will present his findings to the Judicial Conduct Commission, which could dismiss the charges against Hampton; publicly censure him; or file a petition that the Republican judge be removed from office, Flowers said.

A petition for removal would be referred to a seven-judge tribunal chosen by the Texas Supreme Court from the state's 14 appeals courts.

Legislator urges reducing state's share of profits from parimutuel race tracks

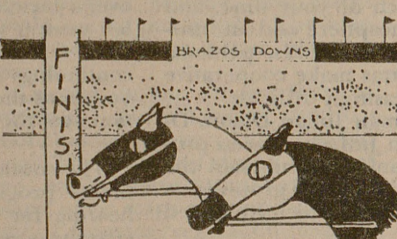
AUSTIN (AP) — Major horse racing tracks will be delayed for years if lawmakers do not change the parimutuel wagering law, a legislator who favors reducing the state's share of track proceeds said Wednesday.

Rep. Hugo Berlanga said he would poll members regarding support for a proposal to reduce the state's take from tracks.

"There is no question in my mind that we need to reduce that," said Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi. "We're looking at a four- to five-year delay if we don't do something during this legislative session."

The Texas Racing Commission received no applications for a Class 1 parimutuel horse racing license for the Dallas-Fort Worth or San Antonio areas by deadline. Those cities and Houston are the three major urban areas where Class 1 racing will be allowed.

Such tracks were envisioned as major facilities that would be among the nation's largest.



Berlanga said Gov. Bill Clements at a lunch with House leaders indicated surprise at the lack of applicants.

"I told him that I thought it was going to be imperative that we take a very serious look in regards to changing the takeout, if we were serious about making Texas a leader in the industry, and if we were in fact going to get the economic benefit that we know is there if we get parimutuel wagering off the ground and in operation," Berlanga said.

Without action this session, a delay would occur because it would be

another two years before the Legislature meets again in regular session, and track construction also will take time, Berlanga said.

"I've already had some members on the floor indicate that they want to do something," Berlanga said. House Speaker Gib Lewis said he has not decided whether he supports cutting the state's take, but he added, "I think with what has happened, that certainly is an indication that if we're going to have horse-racing in Texas that we need to make some adjustment."

Berlanga did not try to add the change to a "clean up" parimutuel wagering bill that won tentative House approval Wednesday. He said he first must gauge support for the proposal.

The measure that was passed addresses questions that have been raised regarding the commission's statutory authority, according to a House Research Organization analysis.

FDA revokes shelter's right to food stamps

HOUSTON (AP) — The U.S. Department of Agriculture, saying it found violations of regulations, has stripped the city's largest homeless shelter for men of its authority to accept and use food stamps.

Kay Blakley of the U.S. Department of Agriculture said Tuesday it was quickly apparent that the Star of Hope shelter was authorized for food stamps based on incorrect information.

"They truly are not licensed by the (Texas) Commission on Alcoholism (and Drug Abuse) as a rehabilitation center... so, we're withdrawing their authorization to participate in the food stamp program in any fashion."

Star of Hope has received an average of \$10,000 worth of food stamps per month, but authorities Tuesday said the shelter was not properly licensed and was violating regulations by accepting food stamps as rent for upgraded beds.

Most of the food served at the mission is purchased with food stamps received directly from the government under federal authorization contingent on the mission holding a state license as a drug and alcohol rehabilitation center.

Star of Hope officials two weeks

ago announced plans to close the 400-bed facility in the rented building on Preston Street on Monday and to reduce the amount of food served at the shelter-owned La Branch building by 1,200 meals per day. The La Branch shelter was to remain open and supply housing and meals to 100 homeless men, including those in the mission's rehabilitation program.

It is not known whether the loss of food stamps will affect those plans for the La Branch building.

Officials of the Food and Nutrition Service and Texas Department of Human Services went to Star of Hope officials on Monday to investigate the allegations.

Juries indict 83 for auto theft

GALVESTON (AP) — A Galveston County grand jury returned 134 indictments against 70 people accused of taking part in an auto theft ring.

A Harris County grand jury has issued four indictments as a result of the operation and is expected to issue another 23 against 10 people, said Sgt. T.J. Hansen, who spearheaded the undercover operation along with League City police Officer Pat Bittner.

Seven indictments against five individuals were handed down by a Brazoria County grand jury. A Liberty County grand jury issued four indictments against four people.

Most of the 92 vehicles recovered have been turned over to insurance companies that already have paid owners' claims, Hansen said.

Undercover officers paid just \$18,700 for the 92 stolen cars worth \$831,000 during a 14-month investigation, he said.

Members of the Galveston County Sheriff's Department Organized Crime Control unit paid one car thief just \$300 for a nearly new 1989 Cadillac recovered in the investigation, officials said.

In addition to the automobiles, police recovered about \$100,000 worth of drugs and nearly \$200,000 worth of stolen goods, mainly electronic equipment, Hansen said.

NEW MANAGEMENT

Lots of Changes: TRAVIS HOUSE

Sand Volleyball courts
Ceiling fans
Mini blinds
Covered parking
Sun screens
New carpet available

505 Harvey Rd.
College Station, TX 77840
693-7184
Open 8-6 Mon-Sat

AGGIES!!

Sign Up Now For The Summer and Save \$\$\$

With COOKE CABLEVISION INC

If you know where you will be living this summer sign up now and save!!

Order HBO or Cinemax and receive 99¢ Installation

99¢ 1st Month of HBO or Cinemax

Call 846-2229 TODAY

or come by the MSC May 8-12 9-5

Students, if you are leaving for the summer please remember to return your equipment to avoid an unreturned equipment charge.

Offer void with any other offer or promotion. Off campus students must show lease when signing up. Some restrictions apply. Offer expires May 12, 1989.

COOKE CABLEVISION INC

INVENTORY

Clearance Sale

Save 25% to 50% on selected TAMU Logo items

T-SHIRTS
CAPS
Shorts
Jackets
14K CHAINS
GLASS WARE

We will do anything to keep from counting merchandise, so we are marking it down to give you Big Savings on Texas A&M logo items and selected gifts such as glassware and 14K gold chains.

All mark downs are for quick sale. Come in and save. Don't make us count this merchandise!

SALE ENDS MAY 13th

Sell with the Best

Battalion Classifieds

845-2611