The **Battalion** Classifieds

Women slap \$100 million suit against State Farm Insurance for faults in hiring practices

The Battalion

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HOUSTON (AP) — Seven Texas vomen on Thursday filed a \$100 million suit against State Farm Insurance Co., one of the nation's largest insurance firms, alleging State Farm's hiring practices for years have discriminated against women and minorities in the state.

The seven, in their class action suit, accuse State Farm of discriminating against minorities who wanted to become sales agents, claims adjusters and underwriters and reserving those jobs for white

'This is a very valuable job and is a job that historically was passed on by nepotism and cronyism in what generally is described as a good old boys network," said Guy Saperstein, an Oakland, Calif. attorney who won a similar suit against State Farm in that state last year.

"This case is like that case. It's brought on behalf of all women. And we think it's representative of what happened to women in Texas. There were a lot of tactics used to

discourage women."

He alleged women were told they would need a large investment in orwould need a large investment in or-der to become an agent, that the nighttime work could be dangerous and that the long hours could dis-rupt their family life. "None of those statements is true," he said. "What's amazing about the Texas case is meeting

these women and how it took me almost identical to what I heard in

The Texas case, which stems from

Man accused of running drugs denied bond

was denied for a Missouri City man indicted on charges of running drugs from Houston to San Augustine for distribution in East Texas and West Louisiana.

Edgar Price was ordered held without bond by U.S. Magistrate J. Michael Bradford following a two-hour hearing Wednesday.

Price's attorney, Ralph Martinez of Houston, argued that his and would not receive the attention he needs in the Jefferson County Jail.

Martinez also said federal authorities failed to prove Price was a threat to society.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Mal-colm Bales said Price was the pipeline allegedly used first by Lenard Jackson and then by Willie Ray "Blue Tick" Edwards to funnel cocaine from Houston to

"He is the one carrying the poison to San Augustine," Bales said.

Price, Jackson, Edwards and 22 other people were named in an indictment on charges of conspiracy to distribute a controlled sub-

Twenty other people were indicted Tuesday in conjunction with a June 2 federal drug sweep in San Augustine.

Federal authorities accuse Jackson, Edwards and Dave Hus-band of running three drug oper-ations that supplied cocaine to the

Edwards and Husband have been detained without bond, and Jackson is free on an unsecured

ment Opportunity Commission, was assigned to U.S. District Judge David Hittner. Saperstein said he expected

I his is a very valuable job . . . that historically was passed on by nepotism and cronyism in what generally is described as a good old boys network."

> Guy Saperstein, attorney

it to go to trial within two years. Jim Stahly, a spokesman for Bloomington, Ill.- based State Farm, said he knew little of the suit, but insisted the company had been cooperating

with the EEOC.
"In fact, all along the way we've asked the EEOC to identify those individuals who believed they had been discriminated against to correct any injustices there may have been, but the EEOC has not provided us with the names," he said.

"We have a good record in Texas," he added, noting that the company's Texas region included 895 agents — 126 female and 125

State Farm also has 2,337 employees in the region, 1,540 of whom are female and 929 minorities, he said. Of 61 agents in training over the last two years, 40 are either male and-or minorities, Stahly said.

"We're pretty proud of that and quite confident that's probably better than most other insurance companies in Texas," he said

Legislators want session open to education bills; Clements denies request

AUSTIN (AP) — Two legislators Thursday urged Gov. Bill Clements to open the special session to tax and spending bills for public education, saying the proposals could be the way to avoid court control of schools.

Clements almost immediately refused the request from Sen. Carl Parker and Rep. Ernestine Glos-

'That's a deal that's much too complicated and too comprehensive and so forth to be considered in the special session," Clements, who controls the legislative agenda, said. The Legislature in the regular ses-

sion approved a \$450 million school finance proposal for 1990-91 that was designed to equalize funding be-tween poor and wealthy school dis-

Clements signed the bill into law, but he vowed to veto any tax increase, including a proposed 7 cents per package increase in the cigarette tax, which might have provided additional school funds.

On Wednesday, the Texas Supreme Court agreed to review Texas' system of financing public schools, which, in some minds, lends urgency to that issue. Oral argu- schools and airports. ments were set for July 5.

AUSTIN (AP) — The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development will investigate the apparent

diversion of \$80,000 to \$90,000 in housing funds in-

tended for poor families living in five federally subsi-

to cover the monthly rental and utility bills of the families who lived in the 99 units of the housing complexes

known as Interregional Apartments. The apartments

were shut down by the city in September because of

"It may be a while before we can get to it, but it is scheduled for investigation," Johnny O. Lee, the HUD regional inspector general in Fort Worth, said. "Right

now, it's waiting in line with a lot of other cases. . . . It's a

question of time and manpower."

The principal owner of the Interregional Apartments is San Antonio investor Benard L. Lifshutz, who

said he was aware that some subsidies had been taken

The Austin American-Statesman said the money was

dized apartments in Austin, it was reported Thursday.

"could very well turn out to be the most expensive, costly no-new-taxsession ever, anywhere in the United

States."
"The price of no new taxes, in my the courts throw opinion, is having the courts throw out our entire system of public school funding," Parker told a news conference. If the high court should abolish

the school finance system, Parker said, the Legislature would have to raise "\$3 billion right away to fix the system all at once. Clements said, "I think it is ter-

its view known on this subject before we then take additional action.'

ribly important that the court makes

Parker and Glossbrenner proposed spending an additional \$378 million on public schools in 1990-91, with an extra \$1 billion in each of the next two bienniums.

To help pay for the school funding proposal they suggested a 10increase in the cigarette tax, plus an extension of the professional fees on lawyers, accountants and the like; a \$2 automobile window sticker to deter auto thefts; and an aviation fuels tax, which would be shared by The auto sticker, which would in-

Parker, D-Port Arthur, said he and Glossbrenner, D-Alice, believe Clements' refusal to accept a tax bill renewed the plates.

HUD to investigate apparent diversion

of \$80,000 in housing funds for poor

WHAT'S UP

INDIA ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7 p.m. in 201 MSC for a free presentation

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will meet at noon. For more information contain

Saturday

CHINESE STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: will meet at 1:30 p.m. in the Big Short ing Room of the LRD in the Evans Library for the screening of a movie will glish subtitles. For more information contact Chong Hsu Liu at 846-6977.

LATIN AMERICAN CATHOLIC STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: will meet at 9 am in front of St. Mary's Church for a trip to Lake Somerville. Those intereshould bring a lunch. Any drivers would be appreciated. For more information contact Luis at 846-8624.

Monday

MUSIC PROGRAMS: will hold a "Lyric Art Festival Concert" at 7:30 p.m. in Rul

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will meet at noon. For more information contact

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald no later than three business days before the desired run date. We only published name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are no on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

Court rules DISD coach cannot collect damages for racial discrimination

DALLAS (AP) — A former high school football coach who successfully sued the Dallas Independent School District for reverse discrimination has no right to collect damages from the district, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Thursday.

Norman Jett, who was transferred from South Oak Cliff High School in 1983, has the right to have the case reviewed by the 5th U.S. Court of Appeals. But an attorney who argued the case for the district says it is unlikely Jett will get any compensation from the review. 'There still may be some minor

skirmishes, but in essence it's over, attorney Leonard J. Schwartz said. In a 5-4 vote Thursday, the high

court ruled that civil rights laws approved in 1866 and 1871 forbid victims of discrimination from collecting damages unless they can prove that the governmental body fol-lowed a "policy or custom" of dis-crimination, rather than the isolated actions of an individual supervisor.

Jett, who was coach at South Oak

Cliff High School from 1962 to 1983, claimed he was fired from his job by a black principal because he is

Repeated calls to Jett at his home

in Trinidad, Texas, by the ciated Press were not immedia A Dallas jury concluded Jen

the victim of racial discrimina and ordered the school distria South Oak Cliff principal Frede Todd to pay damages, but the Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Jett was not entitled to dama from DISD. "The principal has settled case," Schwartz said. "He's alre

been released from the case. It only question was the school distribution."

Jett said he reached a \$75,000 tlement with Todd.

But the Supreme Court ruled spite the fact Jett was the target racial discrimination, he falled prove the school district policies tered the bias. "It's a good case in that now,

standards by which one sues, will be the same, regardless of the stion — whether it involves were blacks, or handicapped," School

The attorney said he did not fect on the hiring standards of district, since equal opportunite required under Title 7 practices

State justice won't seek re-election

AUSTIN (AP) — Justice Cl Ray of the Texas Supreme Cou announced Thursday that he wi not seek re-election in 1990 s that he can spend more time with his family. He and his wife are parents of six children.

Ray, 64, also said he is "entire siastic about the prospect of one more having a chance to will from the lawyer's side of

His term runs to the end 1 1990, so he will serve out

Pipeline corporation assures shareholders project remains

building code violations.

MIDLAND (AP) — Despite numerous financial, legal and regulatory problems, the president of a pipeline company has assured shareholders a billion-dollar pro-

ject will go on, according to a published report.
Cecil Owens, president of Pacific & Texas Pipeline &
Transportation Co., has written to shareholders that his plans to complete his billion-dollar dream of a transcontinental oil pipeline from the Port of Los Angeles to Midland were alive and well, the Odessa American re-

ported in a copyright story.

He contends that the project still is on line even though the last Texas remnant of the company's \$1.6 billion project — a proposed tank farm in Midland was auctioned on the courthouse steps last month.

Construction did not begin on the proposed 1,032-mile project as planned March 1, and financial and regulatory problems plaguing Pacific Texas surfaced

throughout the transcontinental route.

Owens apparently still plans to end the project in Midland, even though the California-based company announced in April that it was moving the eastern end of the project to Jal, N.M.

The southeastern New Mexico town will be used only as an additional terminal on the pipeline route giving the company "access to all the existing lines that we need for the transfer of our crude to other systems at Midland, Texas, as we have always planned," the letter

ing a terminal," the letter states.

Pacific Texas vice president Mike Owens also claimed

in April that the state of New Mexico offered economic incentives to the company, but Lanelda Rolly, public information officer for the New Mexico Economic Devel-

opment and Tourism office, said Tuesday that no incentive package had been granted to the company. Jal mayor Jim Pierson told the American that he has not been contacted by the company since it initially announced the move

Cecil and Mike Owens did not return phone calls to their homes in Scottsdale, Ariz., and Long Beach, Calif. Pacific Texas, evicted from two offices in Midland for failure to pay rent, also was barred from its San Pedro, Calif., office for the same reason.

But in the letter, Cecil Owens said Pacific Texas closed its Midland office to consolidate it with an office in Phoenix. The company also will maintain an office in the Los Angeles Harbor area, the letter stated.

'These are cost saving measures, but also positive moves for the betterment and compliance with the requirements of our project," the letter states.

Owens also assured stockholders that Pacific Texas has secured the necessary permits, but right of way grants terminated in January by the Bureau of Land Management have not been reinstated, according to

Cougar

feasible one

Another partner in the project, who is listed as Chuck McGinnis of Austin in city records, could not be

located, the newspaper said. Lifshutz said he and Mc-

Ginnis are no longer business partners and he has not talked to McGinnis in months.

spector general, the apparent diversion of federal util-

ity subsidies took place between August 1986 and Feb-

Council members in a memo last year that the exact

amount of money taken was hard to determine because

the owners' records for those years "are virtually non-

munity Services, which administers the federally subsi-

dized housing program, said they believe the amount was \$80,000 to \$90,000.

when Interregional tenants complained that their elec-tric, gas, and water services were being disconnected.

City staff at the Department of Housing and Com-

The department staff first learned of the problem

According to a letter from the city to the HUD in-

Former Acting City Manager John Ware told City

(Continued from page 3)

mascot, even though it's been raised in captivity, is crazy," Myers said. School officials are looking at other options, such as us borrowing a cougar from the zoo on game days. Liesl Owens, a senior journalism major and managing editor for the Daily Cougar, said the plan to borrow a cougar from the zoo is not a

It's ridiculous," she said. "There's no way a zoo is going to agree to that. I also think it's ridiculous to have a live mascot to begin with. There's too much unpredictability with a cougar, or any animal

Keeping a cougar locked in small cage, even though she was raised in captivity and would live the same way in a zoo, is animal cruelty," Owens said. "At least in a zoo, they would get proper care and the facilities are better.

Each Shasta, dating back to 1947, has been declawed, but many fear that taking out the sharp nails does not a safe-cat make.

Owens said in 1969 Shasa clawed two children, and there been several incidents which

quired minor stiches sown since Smith is also concerned with unpredictability of such an ani and the safety, not only for lookers, but people working with

cougar.

Owens said the training for gar Guard members is some less than impressive. "They don't have much train she said. "There's a three-week

period where members watch the trainees work with the course on the look-out for periods. who are mature and comfo with the cougar by their standar

Lance Peterman, a junior pol science major, said he hope school decides to continue with

"Shasta is a sense of pride for school," Peterman said. "She's portant to us." Myers said it's going to be at

decision on all parts. "But maybe we've reached

point like LSU did at one time, said. "Where we have to give little tradition that most every loves, because change demands

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