

Thursday, November 2, 1989 1989

Houstonians demand Westmoreland's resignation

HOUSTON (AP) — Hundreds of Houston residents packed the City Council chambers to call for Councilman Jim Westmoreland's resignation after he made a racial slur.

"Racism hurts all decent people," said JoAnn Gavin, of the All People's Congress. "Houston does not need a racist to represent our city. . . . Racism is not negotiable."

Westmoreland joked to a newspaper reporter Oct. 18 that Houston Intercontinental Airport be renamed "Nigger International" to appease council members pushing to rename the airport as a memorial to

the late Congressman Mickey LeLand, who was killed in an August plane crash in Ethiopia.

But Westmoreland, a 16-year incumbent seeking re-election to his at-large seat next week, claims he used the term "Negro International."

"We tell a joke and our friends hear it," Skipper Lee, one of 39 residents to address the hearing, said to Westmoreland. "You tell a joke and the next day, it's on the streets of New York City. You don't just speak for yourself. You speak for Hous-

ton. We look up to you and we can't look up to a racist."

Westmoreland apologized for the comment last Friday and again Wednesday morning. He said the matter has overshadowed other campaign issues and prompted threats against him and his family.

"Any anguish this has caused anyone could not match the anguish I've suffered and my family," he said. "I'm truly sorry for my comments."

Westmoreland listened intently to the speakers, but said they did not convince him to resign.

"The question of resignation is

someone who has been outspoken for the people — would have taken two to three weeks to stand up for your black brothers and sisters," said the Rev. Jose Angel Lopez.

"If he worked for me, I would have asked for his resignation and I have demonstrated that," Whitmire said. "But in this particular case, he is not my employee. It's up to the voters to decide whether he will continue to work for them."

Armed guards turned away nearly as many as those allowed inside the packed chambers, with crowds spilling into hallways on two floors. Most of them also criticized Mayor Kathy Whitmire and black council members for not speaking out strongly against the slur.

"Kathy, I never dreamed that you

— someone who has been outspoken for the people — would have taken two to three weeks to stand up for your black brothers and sisters," said the Rev. Jose Angel Lopez.

"If he worked for me, I would have asked for his resignation and I have demonstrated that," Whitmire said. "But in this particular case, he is not my employee. It's up to the voters to decide whether he will continue to work for them."

Chi Omega raises money for charity with Songfest

By Selina Gonzalez

Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M sororities and fraternities will present their own "Songs of the South" at Chi Omega Songfest Friday night.

Songfest is a variety show that will unite the University Greek system at 8 p.m. in the Bryan Civic Auditorium.

"Here at Texas A&M where the spirit of tradition is cherished, Chi Omega is proud to sponsor this variety show, which unites the Aggie and Greek system with the Bryan/College Station community," said Kim Hederhorst, Songfest publicity chairman.

The Greek system donates all proceeds of Songfest to The Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center, Hederhorst said.

"This center receives a large percentage of its annual operating budget from the donations," she said.

Fraternity and sorority acts auditioned to participate in Songfest, Hederhorst said. The

program consists of 15 individual performances.

The program's theme is "Song of the South." Two performances will be a dance to the song "Wild, Wild West" and a skit based on the television show "Hee Haw."

Chi Omega 1989 pledges will perform the opening act and the actives and pledges will perform the closing act, she said.

Four judges will decide which performances deserve the Best All-Around award, the Best Fraternity award and the Best Sorority award. The judges are Jeff Wade, assistant coordinator of music at Texas A&M; Elaine Hansen, Panhellenic advisor and rush director for College Station Panhellenic Association; Debora Lard, assistant to the executive director of OPAS; and Travis Angel, fine arts coordinator at A&M Consolidated High School.

Pre-sale tickets are \$4 and can be purchased at the Chi Omega house or from a Chi Omega member. Tickets also are available at the door for \$5.

Sigma Phi Epsilon treats children on Halloween, fraternity takes local kids to sorority row for candy

By Selina Gonzalez

Of The Battalion Staff

Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity treated approximately 30 children from the Lincoln Community Center by celebrating Halloween down sorority row Monday night.

Approximately 40 fraternity members went trick-or-treating with children who were more excited about the candy they received than the holiday they were celebrating, said Chris Dalvalle, public relations committee member.

"They probably wouldn't have gotten as much candy from their own neighborhoods," Dalvalle said.

When the fraternity members escorted the children to different houses on sorority row, they got different reactions from the residents, he said. At the first house, the 30 children were told to run and knock on the door.

"They just charged up to the door and started pounding," Dalvalle said. "Give me some candy! The kids repeated over and over again." When the girls opened to door, the children didn't hesitate to run inside, he said.

"It was so funny because all these children were running all over the sorority house . . . up the stairs and in the living room," Dalvalle said. "It was mass hysteria."

He said that while the girls were giving the children the Halloween candy, the kids kept repeating "Give me more."

At the second house, the sorority house residents didn't have any candy, Dalvalle said.

The children didn't get any candy at a third sorority house because the girls didn't open the door although it was obvious they were home, Dalvalle said.

"The kids got lost at one of the houses because they couldn't find the exit off the front porch," he said.

The fraternity members also took the children to the Briarcrest Country Club area to trick-or-treat, Del-

valle said. The students divided the children into five smaller groups.

"The only mishap of the evening is that for a while we misplaced a child everyone called Snookie," he said. "We thought he was in another one and everything was fine."


The fraternity rented vans to transport the children from the Lincoln Community Center to the houses, he said. The children's parents signed permission slips before the children were allowed to participate.

"We were very concerned about the children's safety because it was a big responsibility," Dalvalle said.

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Environmental Symposia

November 7, 1989

Day topics:
9:00-10:00 a.m. Environmental Economics: Finding a Balance
10:30-11:30 a.m. The Greenhouse Effect
12:00-1:00 p.m. Waste Disposal: Where do We go from Here?
1:30-2:30 p.m. Water Quality: Evaluation and Control
3:00-4:00 p.m. Uses and Abuses of Our National Forests

Evening topic:
7:00
Rudder Theatre
The World Environment
with Peter Burtchell of The Cousteau Society

Admission to all programs is free



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Restless Heart



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