

Thursday, March 22, 1990

## Woman charged with kidnapping of 2-year-old

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A chubby 2-year-old didn't stop smiling as he was returned safely to his Mexican parents and a woman accused of kidnapping him was jailed on a federal charge, authorities said.

Sylvia Herrera Garcia, 27, of Wimauma, Fla., appeared before U.S. Magistrate Nancy Nowak on the kidnapping charge Tuesday in San Antonio and was held in lieu of \$100,000 bond.

Garcia faces up to life in prison, a \$250,000 fine or both if convicted.

The child, Martin Hugo Maldonado-Ayala, was found when Garcia was arrested at her brother's home Monday.

The toddler was taken to Laredo late Monday to be reunited with his parents, who are from Nuevo Laredo, Mexico. The boy smiled constantly and played with a pair of red plastic sunglasses an FBI agent had given him.

An FBI affidavit filed with the kidnapping charge alleges Garcia took the child and held him for ransom after promising to smuggle the baby and his parents, Martin Maldonado-Ayala and Donaciana Lopez-Gonzalez, into the United States.

The affidavit alleges Garcia agreed to smuggle the family from Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, to Florida for \$1,800.

She drove them toward San Antonio, telling the couple to get out before the U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint on Interstate 35 north of Laredo and to meet her on the other side of the checkpoint, FBI officials said.

Garcia drove through the checkpoint with the sleeping baby in her car, authorities said.

The Mexican couple walked through ranch land around the checkpoint, and waited about an hour. Then they were picked up by the U.S. Border Patrol and returned to Mexico, FBI agents said.

## Sorority fights illiteracy

### Delta Sigma Theta hopes to help community

By SUZANNE CALDERON  
Of The Battalion Staff

PART 3 OF A 6-PART SERIES

The Texas A&M chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, a national Greek service organization, is doing its part in the fight against illiteracy by encouraging parents to read to their children.

The national project for Delta Sigma Theta this year is called Read America. Besides encouraging parents to read to their children, the A&M chapter of Delta Sigma Theta has been reading to the Girls Club in Bryan, Catrina Craft, vice president of the A&M chapter of Delta Sigma Theta, said.

"We also send letters to the parents and ask them to read to their kids once a week — that is something every chapter is doing," Craft said.

Helping fight illiteracy is only one of Delta Sigma Theta's programs at A&M, Craft said. As a service organization, Craft said, their main goal is to help the community.

"We have a major focus on serving the black community, bettering people's opinions — black, white, Hispanic, Oriental — about the black community," Craft said.

Delta Sigma Theta concentrates on helping their members and the community grow in five different areas, Craft said.

Their programs and activities help create physical and mental awareness, educational awareness, social awareness, economic awareness and political awareness, she said.

An example of a program concerned with political

awareness, Craft said, was helping with voter registration this year. She said programs coming up include the Big Event on Saturday, and later this month, helping to distribute food for the Brazos Valley Food Bank.

Through the Little Sisters program, members of Delta Sigma Theta provide role models to young girls, Craft said. The little sisters are fifth- and sixth-grade girls from Oakwood School who are matched up with Delta Sigma Theta members.

Another program sponsored by the organization helps orient high school girls to service, Craft said.

This program is important because it helps the girls understand why it is important to be involved in service-oriented activities, she said.

"You cannot just accomplish things and not give back (service) because that is where you started from — so you have to give back and let someone else come with you," Craft said.

Membership of Delta Sigma Theta extends beyond the college years, she said.

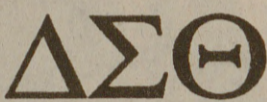
"It's a lifetime commitment," Craft said.

Delta Sigma Theta has chapters active both at the college level and out in the "real world," Craft said. Delta Sigma Theta's 125,000 national members, she said, are in chapters throughout the United States as well as in Germany, the Bahamas and Europe.

A&M's chapter has been in existence for six years. This year it has its largest membership with 31 active members, Craft said, and things are going well.

"The new members are really motivated to do service, and they have a lot of good ideas," Craft said.

To become a member of Delta Sigma Theta at A&M, prospective members have to attend rush information meetings usually held in the fall, Craft said. The selection process includes an application and interview.



## Homosexual advocacy group plans neighborhood patrol to fight violence

DALLAS (AP) — A gay advocacy group plans to form its own unarmed security patrols in a Dallas neighborhood with a high number of gay businesses and bars because it claims police aren't dealing with the area's violent crime.

The Dallas Gay Alliance will spend \$2,500 to equip 20 volunteers with two-way radios for the citizens' patrols through the Oak Lawn area, which lies just north of downtown Dallas.

"If the police are unwilling to do

anything, we're not going to be sitting ducks," William Waybourn, president of the group, said.

Waybourn said the security force will patrol the area and report suspicious activity to Dallas police.

But one member said he believes the volunteers should be armed in order to be effective.

Jim Foster, the owner of Paramount Security, said crime in the Oak Lawn Area is out of control. Foster, who volunteered to coordinate the citizens' patrols, said he

thinks deadly force is necessary to curb the problem.

"If the city is not willing to take action, I'm willing to start it up," Foster said. "But you've got to be big enough to control the situation, and if you're not armed, you can't control the situation."

Foster said he believes robbers are attracted to the Oak Lawn area because they believe that they are going to find affluent victims who will offer very little resistance.

## Working up a sweat



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Members of the Ross Volunteers Tree Platoon run through the Wellborn Street crossing Wednesday afternoon on their way to the Olsen Field parking lot. The group is called the Tree Platoon because they are the tallest RV's.

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