Houston school bus drivers fired

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# Newspaper story prompts firing of drivers with criminal recon

HOUSTON (AP) — A rapist, a prostitute, a robber and a crack user were among the 14 Houston school district bus drivers fired after an investigation by the Houston Post disclosed their criminal backgrounds.

In a copyright story published Thursday, the Post said court records dating back to 1976 were used in discovering that 157, or 17.7 percent, of the district's bus drivers as of Feb. 6 had criminal

Those records included items ranging from arrest warrants for bad checks to multiple prison

The records also showed that of the 157 drivers, 32 had been sentenced for serious offenses, including 22 sentenced for at least one felony, two for misdemeanor sex offenses and one for official misconduct. Five of the drivers had been sentenced once for drunken driving, and two

had been sentenced twice for drunken driving. County records showed that the 22 bus-driving felons were sentenced for a total of 30 felony crimes. Six of the drivers had served prison time, according to county records.

Houston Independent School District Superintendent Joan Raymond fired 14 drivers during the past week after being told of the Post's find-ings and confirming that the drivers had lied about their criminal records on their employ-

"I thank (the Post) for discovering this information," Raymond said. "This is investigative reporting at its best.

The superintendent said she plans to fire another driver, a woman sentenced for public lewd-

The school district has a system to check criminal records of new employees, but the district knew of only a few of the offenses discovered by the newspaper, Raymond said.

Some of the drivers were hired before entrylevel criminal checks were started, some crimes did not show up in HISD's checks and some crimes were committed after the bus drivers were

hired, she said.
"The 14 were fired for lying," Raymond "But I also want to make it very clear that as as this information was brought to our atte and I was aware of the seriousness of

crimes ... I took immediate action."

One of the drivers fired was a woman wi prior prostitution sentences who had been se prison for robbery. Another was a man

probation for indecent exposure. Also fired was a male driver who had placed on probation for burglary and im-

The remainder of the 32 drivers with so offenses who were not fired included bus do with drunken driving charges from 1983.

State law does not necessarily require so districts to fire or refuse to hire drivers with

# In Advance

# Tryouts held for debate on troop reductions

Tryouts for an upcoming debate about U.S. troop reductions to help cut the American budget will be 7 p.m. Monday in 135

The debate is scheduled for 7

p.m. Tuesday in 701 Rudder. The tryouts and the debate are

sponsored by the Texas A&M Debate Society.

For more information call Carrie Bradford at 847-2117.

# **Annual Plant Fair** to be held Saturday

By KATHERINE COFFEY Of The Battalion Staff

The sixth annual Plant Fair, sponsored by the Horticulture Society, the Floriculture and Ornamental Horticulture Society and the Horti-culture Graduate Student Council, will be held Saturday in the Horticulture Building from 8:30 a.m. to 5

p.m.
The Brazos Valley Orchid Society
and the Brazos Valley African Violet Society will be showing a variety of their exotic plants and will be selling many other plants.

Senior Horticulture major Teresa Stevens said there will be more plants than last year.

"We are going to have many dif-ferent types of plants ranging from 50-cent bedding plants to seven-foot ficus trees that cost up to \$50," she

Stevens, who is the greenhouse manager for the Horticulture Society, said they have really good prices. Other items available for sale are arrangements of tropical house plants, such as the ficus and pothos ivy, shrubs, vegetable transplants and numerous other bedding plants.

She said the graduate student council will have refreshments and free information about horticulture and growing plants.

"I think people should go to the plant fair even if they don't have any plans to buy anything," she said.
"There will also be a colorful impressive array of plants for everyone to

Stevens said everyone should come to the fair as early as possible

# Groups seek repeal of employer sanctions

panic lawmakers and advocacy Gongress now has three options groups called on Congress Thursday — keep the law as is, repeal the sancafter an independent investigation discriminatory effects, GAO said. found widespread discrimination against foreign-looking or foreignsounding job seekers.

The General Accounting Office, the investigative arm of Congress, said an estimated 461,000 employers, or 10 percent of all those surveyed, reported discriminating against job seekers on the basis of national origin.

Another 9 percent of employers violated the law by hiring only job seekers who had been born in the United States, or by not hiring people who had temporary work eligibility documents, GAO said.

GAO said it believed the Immi-

gration Reform and Control Act of 1986, which made employers subject to civil and criminal sanctions for knowingly hiring undocumented workers, had caused a "substantial

WASHINGTON (AP) - His- amount of the discrimination."

to repeal sanctions against employ-ers who hire undocumented workers tions and its anti-discrimination pro-visions or move to reduce the law's

Democratic Reps. Albert Bustamante of San Antonio and Bill Richardson of Sante Fe, N.M., were among a coalition of lawmakers, advocacy groups and church officials who called Thursday for a repeal of sanctions.

"Those of us who grew up in South Texas, though I'm a third generation American, can understand what discrimination really is," said Bustamante, a former migrant

"I can tell you discrimination is ugly, it's humiliating, it's degrading," Bustamante said. "It is really, truly degrading, to be denied because of your accent, your color, because of your gender. And whether it's 20 percent or whether it is 1 percent, it

# Forum

\$100

(Continued from page 1)

graduate student and president of the Graduate Student Council, saidthat as a representative of the graduate students, he was concerned with the University's multiple mission role also, but for different rea-

When graduate students graduate, Vrundy said, many of them will have to do research to get tenure when they leave A&M.

"I don't want the pendulum to swing too far in the other direction (teaching)," Vrundy said.

Diana Galindo, a senior speech communications major and president of International Students Association, said international students have expressed concern over the lack of lockable bike racks and campus security lighting.

She said that some international students either work until 3 or 4 a.m. or start their work days early and have to ride their bicycles or walk to

Ethnic diversity was also a com-

mon goal for the panelists.

Scot Walker, Battalion editor and senior journalism major, said that in the past, minorities never applied to work at The Battalion so the staff maintained that if was not racially biased in its hiring.
Walker said The Battalion staff

thought it wasn't discriminatory in its hiring because they couldn't hire people who never applied.

Walker said he realized he would have to reach out to non-white groups like the campus chapters of the Hispanic Journalists Association the National Association of Black Journalists and make them feel wanted before they would apply for jobs at The Battalion. He said the paper had make great strides in opening up the newsroom.

Buchman said the goal of the forum was to bring important issues to the table

We don't promise we can resolve these issues, Buchman said, but we will bring them up at our meet-

# What's Up

#### Friday

- A&M HILLEL: will have Shabbat services at 8 p.m. at Hillel Jewish Studen Center. Call 847-7680 for more information.
- TAMU GERMAN CLUB: will have an Austrian comedy, "Einen Jux Will Er Sti Machen," by Nestroy at 8 p.m. in Rudder Forum. Call 696-6215 for more information.
- AGENT ORANGE: will be at Kay's Cabaret at 9:30 p.m. Call 846-6416 for more
- AFRICAN STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will have a presentation on the contribution of African culture on the Latino-American culture at 7 p.m. in Ruder Call Zachee at 846-7765 for more information.
- CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: will have a meeting at 7 p.m. in 108Harington. Call 696-8289 for more information.
- EARTH FIRST: will have a Texas Earth First Rendezvous at Colorado State Park. Call 847-2608 for more information. STUDY ABROAD OFFICE: will have a table set up in the MSC from 10 am to noon with information on TAMU 1991 Spring Italian Semester. Call 845
- 0544 for more information. A&M CREATIONISTS: will present a lecture by Dr. Don Patton on "What Alow Fossil Man" at noon in 104 Halbouty. Call Vince at 696-6653 for more formation.
- SPORTS CAR CLUB: will have a Twin City Fun Run. Registration is from 5 to 10 p.m. at the Quality Inn. Call Ken at 696-7870 for more information.
- AGGIE PEER ORIENTATION PROGRAM: applications are due today. Call Sudent Affairs at 845-5826 for more information.

#### Saturday

- HONORS STUDENT COUNCIL: will have a car wash. Contact Jodi at 846-3811
- BUSINESS STUDENT COUNCIL: will have 1990 Playday from 11 a.m.-3 pm in Williamson Park. Contact Cindy at 693-1014 for more information.
- TEAC: will have the "Great Texas Beach Trash-Off" from 9 a.m.-noon at the beach in the Matagorda area. Call 696-2320 for more information.
- CIRCLE K INTERNATIONAL: will clean with the Bryan Kiwanians at 7:45 am in Rudder Lobby. Call 847-8442 for more information. Also, at 10:40 am they will play games with the girls club. TAMU HORTICULTURE SOCIETY: will have Plant Fair 1990 from 8:30 a.m.5 p.m. in the Horticulture/Forest Sciences Building. Contact Marianna at 823-3414 for more information.
- PRO-CHOICE AGGIES: will make posters, get T-shirts and plan for rally at 1 p.m. off campus. Contact Heather at 696-2511 for more information.
- INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: will have International Radio Hour at 9 p.m. on KAMU-FM. Call 693-0692 for more information.

# Sunday

- COLLEGIATE 4-H: will have officer elections at 8 p.m. in 123 Kleberg. Call 778-
- 8544 for more information. ACM/UPE: will have a Spring Picnic at noon in the Central Park Pavilion in Col-
- lege Station. Contact Mark at 764-8668 for more information. LUTHERAN STUDENT MOVEMENT: will have a fellowship supper at 6 p.m. in the Lutheran Student Center. Call 846-6687 for more information.
- **A&M HILLEL:** will have a garage sale at 8:30 a.m. in the Hillel Jewish Student Center. Call 847-7680 for more information.

# Monday

- ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general discussion at noon. Call
- TEXAS A&M DEBATE SOCIETY: will have tryouts for debate, which will be April 3 at 7 p.m. in 135 Blocker, concerning whether U.S. troops will be cut to aid the budget.
- POLITICAL FORUM INSIGHT: "Race Relations in Contemporary Japanese Society" presented by Dr. Hiroshi Fukurai at 1 p.m. in the MSC cafeterla cashiers' room. Contact Stephanie at 847-1509 for more information.
- TEXAS STUDENT EDUCATIONAL ASSOCIATION: will have a general meet ing at 8:30 p.m. in 308 Rudder
- LUTHERAN STUDENT MOVEMENT: will have a new decade Bible study at 8:15 p.m. in the All Faiths Chapel Meditation Room. Call 846-6687 for AGGIES FOR ANN RICHARDS: will have Ellen Richards speak at meeting at 7
- p.m. in 308 Rudder. Call 847-7729 for more information
- CARIBBEAN STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: will have club elections at 7 p.m. in 145 MSC. Call 847-7109 for more information.

CDPE at 845-0280 for more information.

- ALPHA ZETA: will have a meeting at 7:15 p.m. in 101 Heep. BRAZOS VALLEY BOMBER BOOSTER CLUB MEETING: call Bettie at 822-
- INTERDISCIPLINARY COMMITTEE IN CLASSICAL STUDIES: "How to Move Mobs: The Roman Orator in Action" at 8 p.m. in 200 Harrington. Call 845-

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 publish the name and phone number of the contact if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run 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.