

## Houston prepares for convention

HOUSTON (AP) — Prostitutes, dilapidated buildings and homeless Houstonians could begin vanishing from South Main Street as businesses mount a cleanup campaign in preparation for next summer's Republican National Convention.

South Main business groups say they're ready to remove litter, spruce up hotels and scrub clean the corridor seen by thousands of GOP delegates traveling to the convention at the Astrodome next August.

But, they said, they know they are not eliminating prostitutes and homeless residents who frequent

## Businesses clean up streets, move prostitutes, homeless

the neighborhood, just moving them.

"We are only going to move it from one place to another. That is not new," said Marty Reiner, executive director of the South Main Association. "You can only do something about it in the long term if you address poverty, family planning and society's approach to people who are different."

Still, Reiner defended the short term clean up, saying local merchants don't have the resources to permanently tackle the problems.

"We take enough in the South Main area of urban problems," he said. "We just want to share it with others."

But critics who blame the Republican administration for policies that promote urban ills say it is ironic that destitution will be

swept from the sight of Republicans as they prepare to renominate President Bush.

"If I were the Republicans when it is time to have their little coronation pageant out around the Astrodome, I would want to be hiding the jobless the Bush administration has created," said Ed Martin, executive director of the state Democratic party in Austin.

"Republicans don't like to see problems they created," agreed state Rep. Kevin Bailey, D-Houston. "It might make them feel a little uncomfortable. They might have to ask themselves, 'Why is this problem here?'"

## Austin conference will prioritize research

### Experts plan to identify state water needs

LUBBOCK (AP) — Texans in every corner of the state are tied together by a common thread — the need for clean water.

So water experts from across the state will convene Monday and Tuesday in Austin to identify Texas' water needs and tap into a well of shared information.

The conference, sponsored by the Texas Water Development Board and the Texas Water Resources Institute, is expected to allow the experts to prioritize water research needs for the state.

"It (water) is always an issue here," said Bill Moltz of the Texas Water Development

Board planning division in Austin.

"In a state as diverse as Texas — the almost semi-tropics of East Texas to the deserts in West Texas to the fresh water surface areas in the Gulf area — water is always going to be an issue. Without water, you can't grow. You can't continue to survive," Moltz said.

Water has always been a top priority in West Texas, Lloyd Urban, director of the Water Resource Center at Texas Tech University, told the Lubbock Avalanche Journal.

Research at Tech — mostly on ground water — has focused on conserving water and improving its quality, he said.

Research focuses on conservation, particularly in agricultural and municipal areas, because "that's where the greatest potential for saving water and money is," Urban said.

"Conservation is often looked upon as less than glamorous. It's certainly not high tech — it's not rocket science," said Urban, who is set to speak Monday on "Water Use Efficiency" at the conference.

Research at Tech concentrates on improving the efficiency of pipe leaks around homes and utilizing water-saving faucets, shower heads and low-flush-volume commodes, he said.

## Fear of 'freshman 15' changes eating habits

Editor's note: The Battalion will provide a column on health issues each week. The columns are written by staff members at the A.P. Beale Health Center. Kindell Foley is a student assistant with the center's health education department.

By Kindell Foley  
Special to The Battalion

Most college students have heard the term "freshman 15" — it is weight that most students fear they will gain when they begin college.

However, one study has shown that the famed freshman 15 might be a myth. In a study of college-aged women conducted at Tufts University School of Nutrition, it was found that the average weight change for a woman in her freshman year was about one pound.

During the year the women were studied, 85 percent believed that they needed to lose weight, and 60 to 70 percent reported having been on a diet even though 95 percent of them were at their ideal weight. Despite these results, many of the women reported gaining large amounts of weight.

Worrying too much about the freshman 15 or weight gain in general can cause changes in eating patterns. Constant dieting or fasting increases the risk of eating disorders such as anorexia nervosa, bulimia nervosa or bulimarexia (anorexia involving purging).

Anorexia is a disorder in which a person might engage in self-starvation. The person also might be afraid to gain weight even though he or she might be emaciated. Anorexics often have a distorted view of their body and cannot see themselves as thin.

Bulimia is a disorder in which the person feels a lack of self-

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