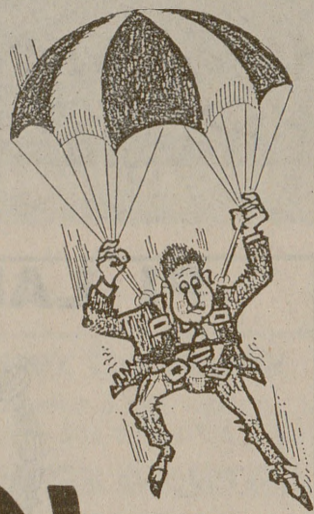
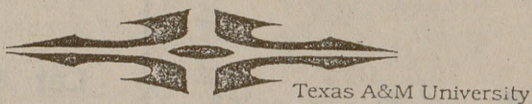


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Housing for poor scarce

WASHINGTON (AP) — Affordable housing is so scarce in San Antonio that significant numbers of renters who are poor can be considered near homeless or at risk of homelessness, a study said Wednesday.

The chairman of the House Banking Committee, which has jurisdiction over housing issues, said the study is more evidence of a national housing crisis that will lead eventually to social disturbances.

Using government data, the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities said its study found housing costs in the San Antonio area are out of the affordable range for most poor households.

Many households spend very large proportions of their limited incomes for housing, and a substantial number of the impoverished in San Antonio occupy poor quality housing, said the report by the non-profit research organization.

Substandard and overcrowded housing is much more prevalent in San Antonio than in the nation as a whole, the study said, and government assistance to provide decent

and affordable housing reaches only a small fraction of those in need. Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, a San Antonio Democrat and chairman of the House Banking Committee, said the study is more proof that the demand for affordable housing is far outpacing the supply.

"There is a very, very serious housing crisis in this country ... that sooner or later will be reflected in social disturbances," said Gonzalez, who is also chairman of the Banking Committee's subcommittee on housing.

"For poor households in the San Antonio area, affordable housing has become something of a rare privilege," said Edward Lazere, co-author of the report. "High housing costs have left poor renters and homeowners with little income for other basic needs. After paying the rent or mortgage and utility bills, there is simply not enough money left over for such necessities as food, clothing and medical care."

The lack of affordable housing is especially significant for the San Antonio area, one of the poorest metro-

politan areas in the country, the center said. Should the national recession hit San Antonio, Lazere said, the housing crisis will likely get worse.

"If the economy deteriorates further, layoffs will curtail family incomes while housing costs remain relatively constant," he said. "As a result, competition for affordable low-income housing will become even more intense."

According to the study, 76 percent of poor renters and 58 percent of poor homeowners in Bexar, Guadalupe and Comal counties spent more than 30 percent of their income on housing costs — rent and utilities.

Housing costs are considered affordable by the Department of Housing and Urban Development if they consume no more than 30 percent of household income.

In the San Antonio area, 44 percent of households spent at least half their income on housing in 1986 and 31 percent spent at least 70 percent on housing.

Attorney pleas guilty, receives 7-year sentence

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston attorney has been sentenced to seven years probation after pleading guilty to theft in connection with more than \$200,000 he oversaw for an adolescent alcohol and drug abuse center.

Thomas Nation, 51, pleaded guilty earlier this month to six counts of theft.

In addition to the probation, Nation also was ordered to pay a \$2,000 fine, serve 300 hours of community service, pay \$205,000 in restitution, submit to urine tests and attend counseling for a gambling problem.

Nation was accused of misappropriating the funds while a principal for the Bissonnet Treatment Center Ltd., which owns Five Oaks Residential Treatment Center for troubled adolescents.

Under the plea bargain arrangement, state prosecutors agreed not seek an indictment against Nation for his connection to the WIN property troubles.

Conviction overturned in speech interruption

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has reversed the conviction of a man who interrupted a speech by the Rev. Jesse Jackson to a Dallas audience.

The man, Gardell Anthony Morehead, had been convicted of a Class B misdemeanor of disrupting a lawful meeting. He was sentenced to probation and fined \$250.

On a 6-2 vote, the court Wednesday returned the case to the trial court for possible further action based on the court's ruling.

According to court records, Morehead was in the audience on Aug. 6, 1985, when Jackson spoke to a national convention of a sorority at the Dallas Convention Center. Jackson showed a film and began his speech.

"There was no question-and-answer period, and the audience of approximately 6,500 persons was not expected to participate except by listening," the court ruling said.

About halfway through the speech, the court said, Morehead rose from his seat, began walking toward the podium and shouted at

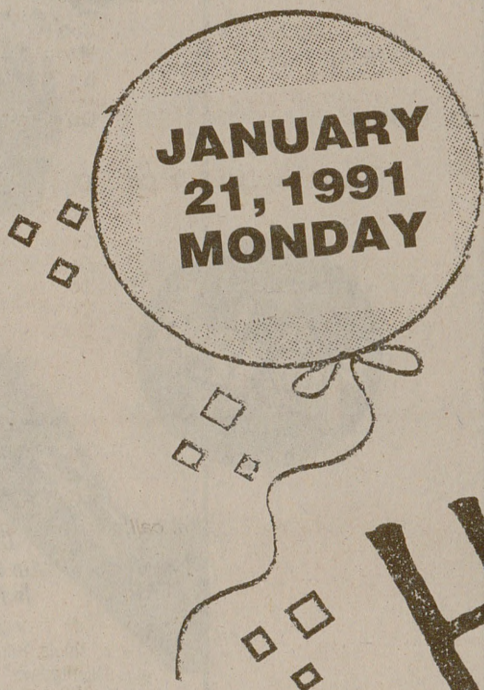
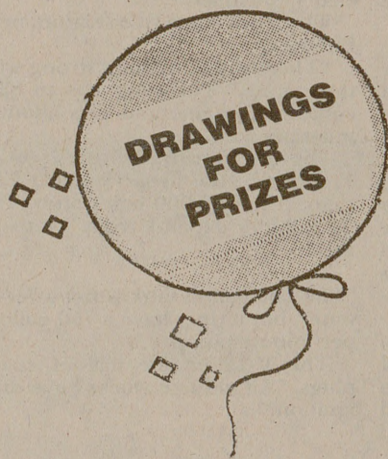
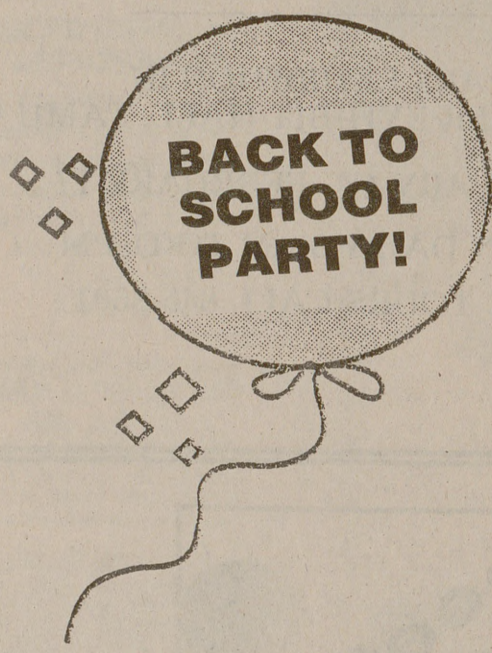
Jackson. He was taken from the auditorium by two police officers.

Morehead appealed, arguing that the state law under which he was arrested — prohibiting disruption of a lawful meeting or gathering — was too broad under free speech guarantees of the U.S. Constitution.

"The evident purpose of (the statute) is to protect the freedom of persons at meetings to speak and to listen ... We have no doubt that the state has a legitimate, even compelling, interest in ensuring that some individuals' unruly assertion of their rights of free expression does not imperil other citizens' First Amendment freedoms," said the majority opinion written by Judge Charles Campbell.

"Still, in the pursuit of this interest, the government may not forbid expressive conduct that is merely provocative," he wrote.

or challenging and that does not curtail the exercise of others' rights," he wrote.



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