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## Gaming ships must conform with 1947 law

HOUSTON (AP) — Cruise ship operators offering gambling aboard short trips have three months to comply with a 1947 federal law or risk stiff fines, jail terms and even losing their vessels, two U.S. attorneys said Tuesday.

The law, as recently interpreted by Attorney General Dick Thornburgh, requires a ship with a gaming establishment to remain at sea for at least 24 hours or dock at a foreign port on every trip.

A ship also must provide meals and lodging to all passengers unless it docks at a foreign port.

"We're giving them a reasonable time ... to look at their operations and bring their operations into compliance," said U.S. Attorney Ron Woods of Texas' Southern District, who made the announcement Tuesday with U.S. Attorney Bob Wortham of Texas' Eastern District.

Thornburgh's definition could effect cruise ship lines in Galveston, Freeport, Port Isabel and similar operations in several other coastal states.

Federal law prohibits U.S. citizens from owning or holding interest in any gambling ship. In Texas, companies can skirt the federal law by registering with other nations and sealing off the gambling areas until the ship reaches international waters.

## WARD



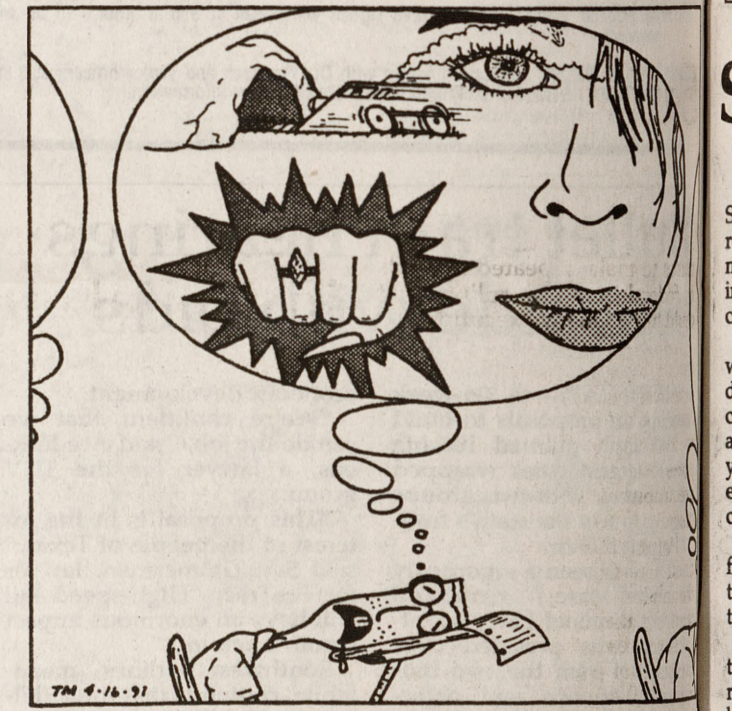
## Spade Phillips, P.I.



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## Nerd House



## Officials alter statute after judge's ruling

MIDLAND (AP) — Ector County commissioners said they will revamp an ordinance regulating sexually oriented businesses after a federal judge ruled it unconstitutional and awarded monetary damages to the owner and employees of an adult bookstore.

U.S. District Judge Lucius Buntun ruled Monday that the ordinance "did not pass constitutional muster," and awarded about \$1,400 in damages to Sharon Lee Wright, owner of B&L Bookstore, and four of her employees.

Wright had sought \$22 million in the lawsuit. She was awarded \$1,000.

B&L employees Terry Dale Miles, Wanda Jean Barrett, Paul Eugene Hudson and Loretta Mae Johnson Hudson each were awarded \$100.

They also were awarded attorney's fees and court costs. Ector County Commissioner

Richard "Ricky" Jorgensen said the amount of money awarded in the civil lawsuit could be considered a victory for the county.

"I think ... we lost the case because of some fine tuning that needs to be done," Jorgensen said. "The ordinance will be looked at again."

The ruling came a week after a two-day trial to decide if Wright and her employees were wrongfully arrested under the county ordinance.

The judge ruled portions of the ordinance were too vague, including the use of the word "operates" which brought into question just who is considered an operator of a sexually oriented business.

Miles and Hudson additionally were charged with possession of obscene devices.

Wright's husband, Jimmy Wayne Wright, who also was arrested during the raids, was awarded \$100 in the judgment.

## 'A pattern of aggressive behavior'

# Groups accuse Border Patrol of abuse

HARLINGEN (AP) — Overworked Border Patrol agents often mistreat aliens along the southern border, said immigrant rights activists who called for improving federal officers' accountability.

"There is a pattern and prac-

tice of abusive and, at the least, aggressive behavior on the part of some Border Patrol personnel here in the (Lower Rio Grande) Valley," Jonathan Jones, a spokesman for the Harlingen-based Proyecto Libertad legal office for Central American immi-

grants, said Tuesday. "This behavior has been ongoing for years."

"There does not exist a process whereby we can file complaints and expect to get some sort of acknowledgement, expect to get some sort of impartial investiga-

tion," Jones said.

Don Nielson, a spokesman for the Immigration and Naturalization Service's Southern District office in Dallas, said all formal complaints are handled internally by the Office of Inspector General.

## The Battalion

### Summer and fall staff positions open

The following positions are available:

Asst. city editor	Reviewer	Feature writer
Asst. lifestyles editor	Reporter	Sports writer
Asst. opinion editor	Columnist	Copy editor
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Summer staff - Friday, April 19 at 5 p.m.

Fall staff - Friday, April 26 at 5 p.m.

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Room 502 Rudder  
Study Abroad Office, 161 W. Blizzell Hall, 845-0544

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He will be discussing:

1. Proposed Tuition and Fee Increases
2. New Recreational Sport Facility
3. House Bill 10 - State Budget Cuts

Concerns and Opinions are Welcome

The view presented are not necessarily the view of the MSC or MSC Political Forum.