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Suspects tape shooting

Prosecutors question admissibility of recording of crime

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Prosecutors say they don't know whether a tape recording of a drive-by shooting can be used against two teen-age suspects. But they say one thing is for sure — there seems to be a growing disregard among teen-agers toward life and property. Authorities said a car of teen-agers opened fire on a 38-year-old driver July 28 as he exited Interstate 35. A slug from a .22-caliber handgun lodged in the driver's side door, narrowly missing the man's head. He was shaken, but not injured. Soon after the shooting, police found the suspects' car at a drive-in restaurant with two teens inside, listening to the tape recording, authorities said.

"I think it's scary, just as a citizen," said Assistant District Attorney Martina Barrera, chief juvenile prosecutor. "I'm out after midnight sometimes, and to think I could have been out with my son and they could have pulled a weapon on us." Ms. Barrera told the San Antonio Express-News in Monday's editions that the criminal cases pending against the two teens prevents her from talking about the specific contents of the tape or providing any more details about the shooting. One of the boys, 16, has been charged with attempted murder. The other, 17, is old enough to be considered an adult in court and has been charged with a weapons offense. Other charges are pending.

It is too early to tell whether the tape can be specifically linked to the shooting or be used as evidence if the youths are tried, she said. "I don't think this has ever come up before, where the defendant or perpetrator is actually recording his deeds," Ms. Barrera said. Authorities have said the number of juveniles charged with weapons offenses and attempted murder in San Antonio so far this year has escalated at an alarming rate. By June, seven youths had been picked up on attempted murder charges. There was a total of eight arrests last year.


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Livestock show limits top prizes to \$50,000

Officials at one of the biggest livestock shows in Texas have placed a cap on the top prize young cattle ranchers can win for champion herds at auctions. The new rules place limits on individual winnings for youngsters who enter the Houston Livestock Show & Rodeo. The changes were made after an 18-year-old Brownwood youth captured \$221,000 for her Chianina named Doogie. Without the limits, livestock officials fear the educational experience of raising cattle and other livestock will be lost and entrants will only compete for the money. "They (prize money) tend to take us away from the educational aims and purposes for which we were originally established," said Leroy Shafer, assistant general manager of the Houston show. Livestock entrants show off their livestock to an auction audience that quite often include wealthy bidders who like to reward the junior ranchers with outrageous prices. Houston Livestock Show officials think \$221,000 is too much to pay for a 1,247-pound steer that would fetch about \$1,000 at market.

That take home prize for Sheffield Wise, Doogie's owner, was a record, surpassing the \$180,000 paid the year before, according to The Dallas Morning News. The pricetag was also miles from the winnings at the next richest livestock show, San Antonio. There, the top steer was worth \$57,000 last February. At the State Fair of Texas in Dallas in 1990, the highest bid came in at \$12,500. At next year's show, however, the grand champion steer at Houston will personally receive a maximum of \$50,000. The caps were picked after officials considered the cost of competing and the price of a reasonable college education. Winnings aren't the only concern of livestock show officials. The Houston show — as well as shows in San Antonio and Dallas — is also interested in keeping the competition free from illegal tampering. Houston show officials were the first to implement substance testing for animals entered in competition and other shows are following suit.

Laid-off staff volunteers to care for ill

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — The work was familiar this weekend for the 22 workers who usually run the San Antonio AIDS Foundation's residential care home. But this time their efforts won't bring the financial rewards they relied upon before layoffs wiped out the entire staff last week. "We are going to do as much as we can," said Denise Williams, a nurse's aide who began working at the home a week ago. "Sure, we need to make a living, but we aren't going to turn our backs on anyone." The workers were laid off Friday after state payments for a \$122,000 grant were delayed. City Health Director Dr. Fernando Guerra said the city also experienced a delay in receiving payment on a \$530,000 AIDS grant. He said he expected a delay of up to two months because of special legislative sessions to balance the state budget. So the workers are volunteering to provide the services many patients have come to expect.

Mexican-Americans seek more political clout in Dallas government Hispanics lack representation

DALLAS (AP) — Hispanics are the city's fastest growing ethnic group, representing almost one quarter of Dallas' population. Yet they are non-existent at virtually every level of municipal government. There are no Hispanic city council members, county commissioners, justices of the peace, constables or community college trustees. Only one state district judge on the 37-member Dallas County bench is Hispanic, and two of nine Dallas school board members. That's in spite of rapidly shifting demographics which saw Hispanics grow from 12 percent to 21 percent of the Dallas population between 1980 and 1990.

"The situation ... is intolerable and we can no longer sit back and be silent," said Michael Gonzales, chairman of the Hispanic Citizens Council. "We are in the basement and have nothing to lose." Dallas Hispanics, buoyed by a recent court victory, are confident their activism will translate into political clout. The Dallas Morning News reported Monday. A mostly Mexican-American group in West Dallas joined forces with black plaintiffs three years ago to challenge the city's system of electing three council members at-large. As a result, Hispanics anticipate electing two of their own on Nov. 5 under a new election plan

that creates 14 single member districts. The mayor alone will be elected citywide. Some said the legal skirmish with the city served to instill confidence in Hispanics. "Hispanics are becoming very vocal and very independent. The victory in the City Council redistricting battle provided the momentum," said Ralph Rodriguez, past president of the Mexican American Bar Association. "Hispanics are no longer going to sit still on the sideline cheer-leading," said Rene Martinez, a Dallas businessman and Park Board vice president. "The city, the county and even the business community must recognize power has to be shared with Hispanics."

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