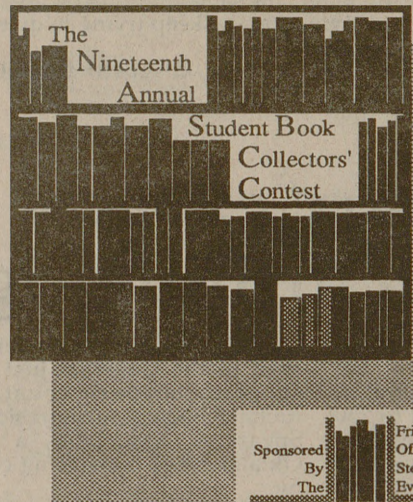


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Police charge homeless woman with smuggling

HOUSTON (AP) — A homeless woman recruited to smuggle drugs into the United States was arrested at the airport when authorities found five pounds of heroin, worth \$2 million, in her handbag, U.S. Customs officials said Sunday.

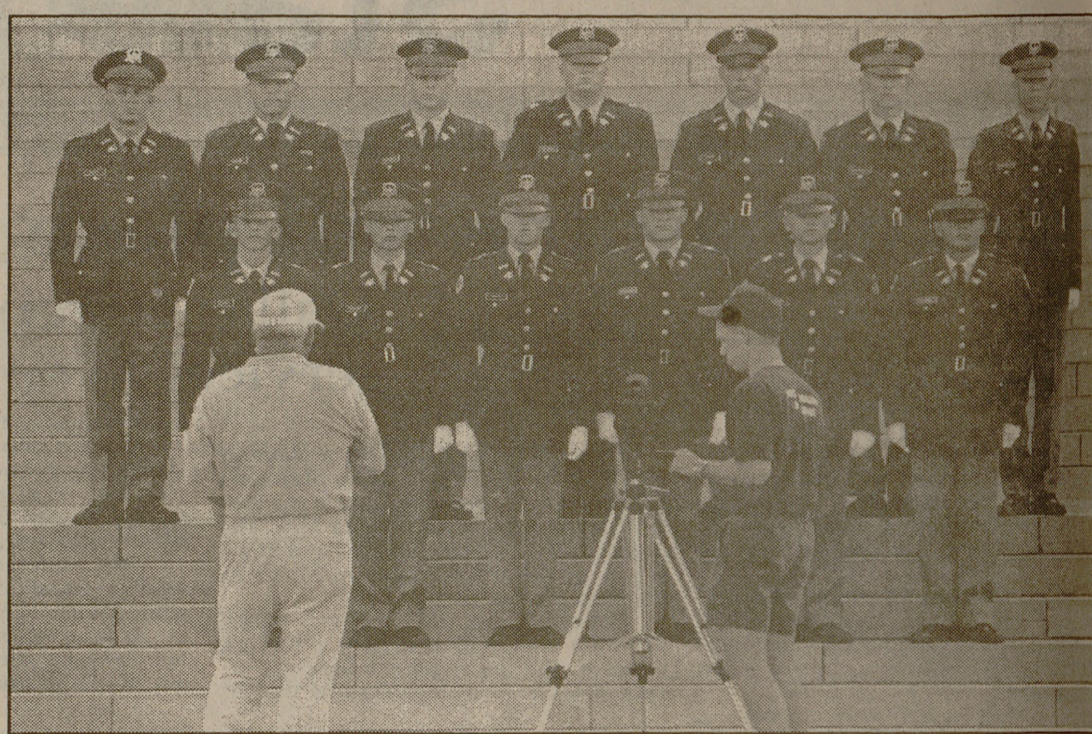
In a separate case, Customs agents also seized between \$850,000 and \$1 million — believed to be on its way to Colombia — at a Houston house on Saturday.

Charges against the woman are expected to be filed Monday, said Patricia McCauley, district director of the U.S. Customs Service in Houston.

The woman, 29, told investigators she is homeless, recently had her children taken away from her and was recruited to bring the heroin to the United States from Eastern Europe.

Her passport showed she went from Houston to Bulgaria, then to Austria and the Netherlands, Ms. McCauley said.

The woman returned about 10 p.m. to Houston InterContinental Airport aboard Saturday's last flight from Amsterdam, but was straggling behind the other passengers, said inspector Leo Elizondo, who became suspicious and asked to search her handbag.



Say 'Cheese!'

Freshman cadets from outfit D-1 rigidly pose for their yearbook picture done by

A&R Photography Sunday evening on the steps of the System Building.

KARL A. STOLLEIS/The Battalion

Galveston wildlife habitats face destruction

Former ranger attempts to save bay

HOUSTON (AP) — John Cheesman sees the destruction of Galveston Bay's wildlife habitats as a shameful insult to nature.

So in a small way, the former park ranger and teacher is trying to make amends for man's indiscretions.

Cheesman is coordinating a volunteer project to create saltwater marshes a few miles from the place where the San Jacinto River enters the bay.

It's an area where upstream dams, channel-dredging and subsidence have caused salty bay water to inundate swampy, freshwater wetlands since the 1950s.

If the idea works, the marsh grass being planted in the area will nourish and shelter young marine creatures, filter pollutants and fight shoreline erosion.

It will restore part, although only a tiny part, of the vast habitat areas around the bay system that have fallen victim to human activities and natural forces.

"We accelerate the damage, so we should accelerate the recovery," Cheesman told the Houston Chronicle.

But such efforts to reverse Galveston Bay's deterioration are an uphill struggle. The widespread disappearance of marshes and seagrasses — the basis of a complex food chain that

supports seafood production — is a matter of immense concern to those trying to avert a collapse of the bay's biological system.

Bill Stransky, for example, has hunted and fished around the bay since he was a boy. In the last 20 years, he has witnessed severe damage to these habitat areas.

Stransky, wetlands conservation chairman of the Houston Sierra Club, recalled a typical example near Kemah, where a truck was abandoned in the 1970s after it got stuck in a marsh some 30 yards from open water.

The truck still is mired in the same spot, he said, but now it's about 50 yards from the shoreline, which has steadily retreated inland.

Discharges into the bay may be getting cleaner, Stransky said, "but if we don't have marshes for nursery habitat, we won't have anything left."

A booming Houston-area economy has hastened the destruction.

State officials point to the filling and bulkheading of wetlands that accompanied waterfront housing construction on Galveston Island in the 1960s as a classic case of marsh destruction that would not be allowed under current regulations.

The Clear Lake area's rapid

development after the Johnson Space Center was established also led to significant wet lands losses in the same period, said Elmer Roof, a longtime member of the Galveston Bay Conservation and Preservation Association.

By that time, the first major disruption of wetlands around the bay was well under way, a Chambers County drainage project converted marshes to farm land, said Frank Fisher, a Rice University biology professor and wetlands authority.

Human encroachment on wetlands has combined with natural rising sea levels to produce alarming habitat losses around the bay, said Fisher, chairman of the Galveston Bay National Estuarine Program's science committee.

Perhaps less noticed by the public, but no less worrisome to many scientists, is the almost total eradication of Galveston Bay submerged seagrasses, which formed another important nursery habitat for marine creatures.

Shrimpers see the decline of the bay's seagrasses, where growing shrimp hide from predators as one reason they are struggling to catch enough shrimp to survive, said Lucy Gibbs, executive director of the Texas Shrimp Association.

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WASHINGTON — The world's poorest financial sector is being pounded by the Persian Gulf crisis. World Bank officials said in its annual report that the situation is dire when the measured aggregate increases in the report said.

Per capita income in 1990 was 2 percent in 1989 in the world. The poor was blamed for the economic downturn in 1990, the World Bank said.

The situation is dire when the measured aggregate increases in the report said. Per capita income in 1990 was 2 percent in 1989 in the world. The poor was blamed for the economic downturn in 1990, the World Bank said.

But the report says shocks came associated with Kuwait, which

Dem to ga

LOS ANGELES — A denial of hope in a field for now has members of the party.

Seven of the 1992 contenders before the Democratic caucus are 400 party members of the nominating committee.

With the way, this week's life to a campaign have appeared. It is clearly the "party" in opening the parade of candidates a spirited, and promising has hurt Democrats.

Kura

ANKARA — Five explorers searching for a clue they hope to find them from the past.

American Nashville, Tennessee of Garland, Texas Rives of the

