

Richards vetoes 'highway speeding bill'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Gov. Ann Richards completed reviewing the Legislature's work by vetoing several bills, including one that would have prevented highway speeding tickets under 70 mph from being reported to the driver's insurance company.

Richards had until midnight Sunday to complete action on measures passed by lawmakers during the regular legislative session that ended May 31.

The bill by Rep. Tom Craddick, R-Midland, would have prohibited the Texas Department of Public Safety from giving the names of speeders to other law enforcement agencies or insurance companies unless the driver was exceeding 70 mph on a state or interstate highway.

"The effect of this bill would be to abolish speed limits between 55 and 70 miles per hour, causing an increase in traffic accidents, injuries, and deaths. It would also lead to escalating auto insurance costs," Richards said in a veto message released Monday.

Richards said that under the bill, federal highway construction funds could have been transferred to safety programs because Texas' compliance with national speed limits would have been reduced.

In addition, she said, the bill would have been an administrative nightmare for the Department of Public Safety because the agency would have had to establish two sets of records for speeding violations.

"The 55 miles per hour speed limit has contributed to an almost 50 percent drop in auto fatalities since 1981. The savings in lives alone is sufficient reason to veto this bill," Richards said.

A message left for Craddick by The Associated Press was not immediately returned.

Earlier, Craddick had said his bill wouldn't encourage speeding. He said it would allow people to drive as they already do without risking higher insurance rates because of speeding tickets.

In addition, Richards vetoed measures that would have:

- Allowed hospitals to commission peace officers. "The public safety would be better served if these hospitals would coordinate their efforts with local law enforcement agencies," Richards said.

- Allowed local governments to purchase insurance without having to go out for bids.
- Stopped the state from paying the em-

ployee's portion of Social Security taxes for new state employees. Richards said this was not needed to balance the state budget, and would result in current state employees getting paid more to do the same work as future state employees.

Rep. Robert Junell, D-San Angelo, and chairman of the House budget-writing committee, blasted the veto by Richards. "This is the poorest public policy that the governor could possibly participate in. It is special interest at its very worst." He said Richards vetoed the bill because she promised the Texas State Employees Union that she would.

The veto will cost state taxpayers \$150 million over the next two years, and make it that much more difficult to avoid a tax increase in 1995. Junell said.

- Limited those who could participate in administrative hearings and judicial appeals of those hearings.

- Allowed gas utility companies to include in the rate base federal income taxes that the companies may not have paid. A similar provision for electric and telephone utilities died and was replaced by a proposed study on the issue. Richards said gas utilities should be included in that study.

Environmental groups fight for tougher clean water laws

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

AUSTIN — Environmental groups are urging the Texas congressional delegation to support tougher clean water laws, saying the state ranks high in toxic pollution.

"The Clean Water Act will never achieve its goal of fishable and swimmable waterways unless Congress adds some teeth to the paper tiger that the law is right now," said Jonathan Felch, of the U.S. Public Interest Research Group in Texas.

"We need a new Clean Water Act that strengthens enforcement, prevents toxic pollution and expands citizens' right to know about local toxic pollution," Felch said.

The group on Monday released a study that said in Texas, industries reported discharging 2.9 million pounds of toxics into surface waters and 30.9 million pounds to sewage treatment plants.

The state ranked fourth nationally in discharges to public sewage and 12th for toxic releases into surface waters, the report said.

The environmental groups, including Public Citizen and Clean Water Action, urged the Texas congressional delegation to support legislation that would establish a national water posting program to inform citizens about potential swimming and fishing dangers.

The bills also would strengthen enforcement by setting mandatory minimum penalties for serious and chronic violations, prohibit polluting, and strengthen a citizen's right to sue polluters.

State News Briefs

Study indicates light drinking helps reasoning

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A new alcohol study indicates moderate drinking helps people maintain their thinking and reasoning skills longer into old age.

But the chief researcher says that's not an endorsement for drinking.

Dr. Joe Christian is a geneticist at the Indiana University School of Medicine.

The findings were presented Monday at the annual convention of the Research Society of Alcoholism.

Christian studied nearly 4,000 sets of male twins, for more than 20 years.

Those who had one or two drinks per day scored higher on cognitive reasoning skills tests, compared to those drinking more or not at all, according to Christian.

The researcher said there may be a connection between his study and one that indicates moderate drinking helps increase high density cholesterol, which wards off heart disease.

Robbers kill two Dallas teenagers, third escapes

DALLAS (AP) — Three teenagers were robbed outside a South Dallas nightclub and then taken to a secluded road where two of the youths were fatally shot, police said.

The bodies of Charles Christopher Lewis, 19, and Kendrick Demond Lott, 18, were found late Saturday night by a passerby.

Both men had been shot in the back of the head, police said. A 16-year-old Dallas youth who was with them told police that he escaped the attackers shortly before the shooting began Saturday.

Police said Monday that a 16-year-old juvenile has been arrested and charged with murder. He is being held at the Dallas County Juvenile Detention Center. Police are still looking for two other suspects.

"The motive appears to be robbery," said homicide Detective J.S. Briseno.

Illinois students hurt in bus wreck near Fort Worth

FORT WORTH (AP) — As many as two dozen high school and college students from Illinois were injured Monday when two of their three buses were involved in a chain-reaction collision, police said.

The accident took place about 5:11 p.m. as the buses were northbound on I-35W, said Sgt. Gianni Ghilesi of the Fort Worth Police Department.

A dump truck cut in front of the first bus, which was rear-ended by the second bus as the drivers slammed on the brakes, Ghilesi said.

The truck driver did not stop, but may not have noticed the accident, Ghilesi said.

At least 17 students were taken to hospitals for treatment of minor injuries, Ghilesi said.

The students had spent more than a week in the El Paso, Texas, area and had been working with churches in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, said Pastor Bob Schmidgall of Calvary Temple Church in Naperville, Ill.

Schmidgall said up to 24 students may have been hurt, but all were to be released after treatment.

"The accident threw a few kids around," he said in a telephone call from the church. "Twenty-four of the young people were taken to the hospital for observation."

Waco looks to forget Branch Davidian cult

Mayor comments on overnight publicity during New York conference

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Visitors to Waco, Texas, can see the place where Dr Pepper was invented, the Texas Ranger museum, and — beginning next month — the city's new "natural habitat" zoo.

But if Mayor J. Robert Sheehy had his druthers, they'd ignore the patch of scorched ground 15 miles outside Waco where religious zealot David Koresh and 77 of his Branch Davidian followers perished April 19, in the fiery climax to a 51-day standoff with federal agents.

"No, we're not going to put the Davidian compound on our list of tourist attractions," Sheehy said Monday after telling some 200 of his fellow mayors, attending a New York conference, what it was like to suddenly find his city become world-famous overnight as the home of a bizarre, violence-prone cult.

"Most of us can only imagine how that kind of publicity can impact on a city," said Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson, incoming president of the U.S. Mayors Conference, who introduced Sheehy.

While many Waco residents knew of the Davidians' existence, "most didn't know about the Bible-thumping, and the gun-toting, until the night before," Sheehy said, referring to the Feb. 28 raid by federal agents in which

four agents and about eight cult members were killed by gunfire.

"Needless to say, that changed our whole way of life in Waco," said Sheehy, a silver-haired lawyer who had been mayor of the central Texas city of 103,000 for 10 months when the crisis occurred.

As the standoff continued, he recalled, Waco's hotels filled up with news media people from around the United States and abroad. People offered spare rooms to handle the overflow, and as the siege wore on, civic groups delivered food to reporters and law enforcers.

But the civic pride of many residents was wounded by reports describing Waco as a negative place, Sheehy said.

"I've found at least 50 percent of the people don't know that compound was 15 miles outside of town," Sheehy said. "Most people thought it was part of downtown Waco."

Although being subjected to such scrutiny was difficult, Sheehy said, the siege had some positive effects, among them that "the people were with us long enough to get to know the city," and a sense of community developed among long-time residents.

He said that in reflecting on the experience, Waco decided "we've got nothing that we have to apologize about. ... We are stronger city because of it."

of Transportation's Division of Civil Rights, said the TxDOT program helps minorities who might not otherwise be able to afford a college education.

"We want to diversify the engineering field, and this offers a great opportunity for us to get the best and the brightest," he said.

By paying back the scholarship through work, Bomar said the students are also gaining important experience in real-world engineering.

James agreed the program gives students valuable experience.

"They're getting opportunities to learn about the highway department while in school," James said.

The program has helped 57 students so far, and 11 scholarships have been awarded.

Bomar said the first graduate of the program, Raymond Navarro of Falfurrias, completed his studies in district office.

"The number of engineering students overall is decreasing and this program is designed to encourage more minorities to enroll in civil engineering," Bomar said.

In a news release, Chuck Bailey, director of the Department

of Engineering

Continued from Page 1

four years. Minorities made up 10.3 percent of the College of Engineering in Fall 1992, according to statistics from the Office of Admissions and Records.

"I'm excited about the program," he said. "Money is a problem (for most minorities), but their retention rate is better than the overall one."

But Jan Rinehart, program coordinator for the College of Engineering, said minorities are still underrepresented in the college.

"The role models are not there for them," she said. "It (the percentages of minorities) has increased and is better, but it is not anywhere near parity."

In an effort to increase minority enrollment, the College of Engineering is also conducting the Summer Enrichment Experience in Engineering, which includes tours for potential minority students later this month, James said.

In a news release, Chuck Bailey, director of the Department

Campaign

Continued from Page 1

Robert Walker, vice president of development for Texas A&M University, said a lot of good work goes on in the summertime and it's often a matter of catching up with people.

"We continue to do a lot of visiting, contacting and cultivating during the summer," he said. "We've had nothing but positive responses to the campaign. We feel good about it."

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—Robert Walker, vice president of development

Palinscar said although donations in the summer are smaller than in the fall, he is pleased with the progress to date and with the momentum of the program in general, with which he credited Texas A&M University President Dr. William Mobley and former students.

Palinscar mentioned a donation of over \$350 million made by a single donor to several out of state universities, the largest ever of its kind, and said he hopes this would spur others to do likewise.

"It's tangible evidence of how important philanthropy is in this country," he said.

Walker said they have every reason to believe the campaign will raise \$300 million by August, \$50 million over the original estimate.

"The thing that is good about working with Aggies is that they don't have to be sold on the worth of Texas A&M," he said.

"We're upbeat about the campaign and the kind of response we've had thus far," Walker said. "We're going to keep on keeping on."

FULLBRIGHT Grants for Graduate Students and Graduating Seniors

If you're a U.S. citizen, you can perform research abroad in the country of your choice. To find out more, come to our Informational Meeting (listed below), or come by or call the Study Abroad Program Office at 161 Bizzell Hall West (845-0544).

Wed. June 23, from 4:00-5:00
251 Bizzell Hall West



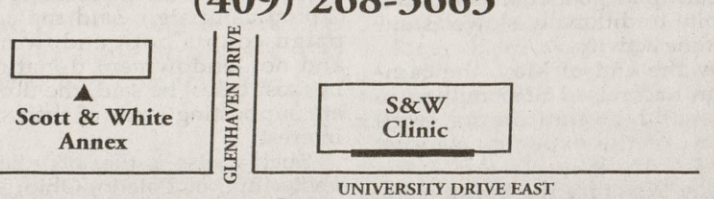
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Scott & White Clinic, College Station, is now offering weekend clinic hours for urgent care by appointment only! The Weekend Clinic is conducted from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Clinic Annex building located across the street (Glenhaven Dr.) from the main clinic.

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