



POLICE BEAT

The following incidents were reported to University Police Department from Nov. 18 to Nov. 22.

Misdemeanor Theft
Northside Parking Garage - The external cellular telephone antenna was stolen from the victim's 1993 Mazda.

Hart Hall - A bicycle was stolen.

Burglary of Vehicle
Intramural Parking Lot - A Uniden Bear Cat scanner, a Cobra citizens band radio, an Escort radar detector, a Yoakum Brothers cowboy belt, a Montana Smith A&M belt buckle and a nylon Case Logic compact disc case containing 175 compact discs were stolen from the victim's 1993 Chevrolet pickup truck.

Criminal Mischief
Southside Parking Garage - A sharp instrument was used to scratch the hood of the victim's car.
Lamar Street - Two parked vehicles were damaged by someone who bent the front driver's side windshield wipers.
Parking Area 88 - The wind-

shield wipers and cellular telephone antenna were torn from the victim's vehicle. The suspect(s) also broke the passenger's side windshield and right rear window.

Parking Area 30 - The driver's side window of the victim's vehicle was broken.

Disorderly Conduct
Kyle Field Track - Citation issued.

Minor in Possession of Alcoholic Beverage
Various Campus Locations - Six citations were issued.

Consumption of Alcoholic Beverage by a Minor
Mosher Lane - Citation issued.

Public Intoxication/Possession of Illegal Drugs
Memorial Student Center - An intoxicated individual was transported to a local hospital for treatment by Texas A&M University Emergency Medical Services. During the admitting process, hospital personnel discovered illegal drugs on the subject.

Cowboys owner pledges to increase minority diversity among employees

Jones responds to pressure from NAACP leaders

IRVING, (AP) — Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said Tuesday he will create three upper management positions for minorities in an effort to increase diversity in the team's front office.

The announcement came just weeks after the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People threatened to boycott Cowboys' games because of a lack of minority employees.

However, Jones said he was not forced into his decision.

"The facts are, when you see some of the people that we're putting into these jobs, you'll see that they've been a part of the future of the Dallas Cowboys for quite some time," Jones said.

NAACP officials, who appeared with Jones at a news conference, hailed the announcement.

Shannon Reeves, director of the NAACP's Southwest region and national director of the organization's Office of

Sports and Entertainment, praised Jones for "committing to adopt the most aggressive equal opportunity policy of any NFL football team."

"While all things cannot happen overnight, we are pleased that the Cowboys are on their way with an exciting beginning," Reeves said.

Jones also pledged to increase business with minority vendors, saying he hoped 35 percent of team spending would eventually go toward minority businesses, and to develop new internships and summer jobs at training camp for minority students.

Jones said he reduced the number of employees when he first bought the team. Now that the team is expanding, he said, the Cowboys "have been very sensitive

and have a tremendous record, from hiring minorities."

The new upper-level positions are for personnel-human resources, director of player programs-club affairs and director of minority procurement for Texas Stadium Operations. Jones did not say when they were planned to hire.

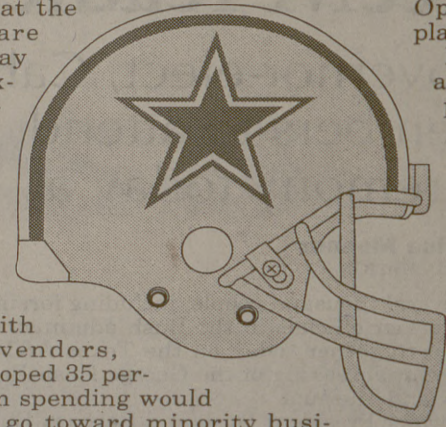
NAACP officials have complained about the hiring practices of professional sports franchises, including the Cowboys.

In an Oct. 27 letter to the Cowboys, Reeves complained that black vendors and only one Hispanic vendor are now doing business with the Texas Stadium Corporation, which is controlled by the Cowboys.

He also said that almost all Cowboys' employees, with the exception of players, are white.

Reeves said the NAACP will continue to examine minority hiring practices among other sports teams. However, he hopes Jones' announcement serves as an example.

"We hope that other owners in sports see this as the easy way to work together," Reeves said. "The doors are everywhere. This is the first door that cracked, and it's now wide open."



School funding tax issue to depend on constitutionality of school finance law

Texas Supreme Court tries to spread school funding equally

AUSTIN (AP) — A special assistant to Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock said Tuesday that taxes won't be an issue during the 1995 legislative session unless the Texas Supreme Court overturns the school finance law.

"If the Supreme Court substantially sets aside our current school finance system, that will become the highest priority of the Legislature to find an alternative," Brad Reynolds told a tax policy conference.

"Our entire tax structure would be in debate if we have to craft a new school finance system," he said.

Since 1989, the state Supreme Court has declared Texas school funding laws unconstitutional three times.

A fourth challenge is pending before the court. The Supreme Court has ordered lawmakers to even out funding available to school districts of dif-

fering property wealth.

While lawmakers have made changes, school funding continues to rely mainly on a combination of local property tax money and state aid.

If the new law is overturned, Reynolds said proposals such as a value-added tax would be considered to replace certain property taxes.

A value-added tax is imposed on an item at different stages of production.

But if the court upholds the school finance law, Reynolds said, lawmakers will make only minor changes in the state's tax laws.

That is because Bullock, presiding officer of the state Senate, and House Speaker Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, vowed more than a year ago that there would be no tax increase, he said.

"The status quo is going to prevail," Reynolds said.

That commitment, he said, also means there are no plans to restructure the tax system.

Even a revenue neutral change could increase the tax burden on some taxpayers and be construed as a tax increase, he said.

Spring High School senior files for January school board election

SPRING, (AP) — Spring High School senior Tony Madison is hoping for a chance to apply his civics lessons — as a school board member.

The 18-year-old is one of two candidates who have filed for the January election. The other, 45-year-old Bonnie Claire Dadidakis, has a son in Madison's class.

"If my son was doing that, I would be very proud of him," Dadidakis told the Houston Chronicle. "I think it's very admirable. I also feel that it shows that he has received an excellent education."

Madison doesn't disagree with that. His main concern is

making sure everyone who comes to the board with a complaint is heard.

"I would be the student's voice," he said. "I would be the voice of parents who have never gotten heard. I would be the voice of whoever had a complaint that was never really taken seriously."

Madison offers as credentials his involvement in peer mediation, counseling and tutoring. He also has worked with special education students and elementary students, is a rookie member of the Spring Volunteer Fire Department and works on the school yearbook staff.

Dadidakis, a housewife and

mother of three, has served on school board committees and has volunteered time to Spring schools.

Though a generation apart, the two opponents have similar goals for the job. Madison says he wants to unify the district by bringing students and parents together; Dadidakis wants to encourage more community involvement.

They differ on one issue: Spring's strict dress and grooming code that prohibits dyed hair on boys.

Madison contends the length has nothing to do with education and the code should be revised to delete the

Nearly half of Texas inmates have addictions prior to incarcerations, study says

AUSTIN (AP) — Almost half of all Texas prison inmates were addicted to alcohol or drugs before their incarceration, according to a survey released Tuesday by the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse.

"There is a strong relationship between crime and substance abuse," said David Farabee, author of the survey. "Drug use multiplies crime rates, while people who complete drug treatment tend to be less of a candidate to commit a crime."

The report is based on a random sample of 1,030 inmates at the Goree Unit in Huntsville, ranging in age from 18 to 67.

The survey found that 63 percent of Texas inmates had one or more substance abuse problems in the year prior to their incarceration.

Farabee said the most significant revelation of

the survey is that half of all inmates would be interested in getting treatment.

A quarter of all inmates would even be willing to extend their prison stay by three months in order to receive treatment, the survey said.

"Not only do we see a high rate of inmates who have substance abuse problems, but we see a high number of people willing to get treatment. They know there is a problem and want to get rid of it," Farabee said.

The Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse released a statement saying, "The total number of drug offenses is increasing and the need to treat the addicted inmate population is more important than ever."

Glen Castlebury, spokesman for the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, said the survey's

findings aren't surprising. He said TDCJ screenings show that 76.2 percent of the inmates admitted to prison in November had substance abuse problems.

"It is more important than ever to treat and we are," Castlebury said. "Today, we have right at 9,000 inmates in one kind of substance abuse treatment program or another."

The current Texas prison population is roughly 100,000, according to Castlebury.

But Castlebury said it wouldn't be fair to conclude that only 10 percent of the inmates are receiving treatment. He said it's likely prisoners with longer sentences wouldn't be treated until closer to their release date.

"Our goal is to time the treatment so that it has its maximum benefit when the inmate leaves

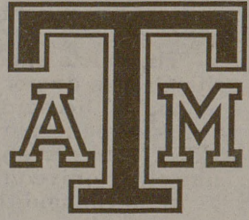
prison. Therefore, a large percentage of inmates who are enduring a long sentence would not be candidates for these programs yet," he said.

Of the inmates sampled, 39 percent claimed to have been drunk or high at the time of the offense that led to their incarceration. Seventy-three percent of that group said they wouldn't have committed the offense if they weren't drunk or high.

The crimes most committed by inmates who claimed to be drunk or high at the time of the offense are: burglary (53.8 percent); assault (47.4 percent); carrying gun on person (47.4 percent); buying stolen goods (38.4 percent); shoplifting (37.3 percent); drug sales (34.1 percent); theft (27 percent); and injuring or killing someone (21.8 percent).

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