

Youths accused of rustling cattle to pay for spring break condo

KINGSVILLE (AP) — Paying for a condo during spring break was the motive for 10 youngsters accused of rustling 9 head of cattle, their lawyer said Monday.

"They wanted to party with the money. That's all they wanted, to rent a condo," said Ricardo Soliz of Premont, who represents all 10 defendants.

Officials say the defendants apparently stole the cattle from the Santa Rosa Ranch on three occasions dating back to January and sold some of the animals at a livestock auction in Alice. The money was deposited in a bank account in the name of one of the youths.

"They were just kids. They left a paper trail a mile wide and everything pointed to them," Soliz said.

Soliz and Assistant District Attorney Vincent Gonzalez said the defendants will likely enter a plea agreement that includes \$4,000 in restitution to Robert East of Kenedy County, owner of the cattle. Some of the animals were recovered before being sold, Gonzalez said.

The agreement likely will include probation and community service, the attorneys said. The maximum penalty for cattle rustling is two years' probation.

"They don't have a criminal history and they are young," Gonzalez said.

Senate approves smoking ban in state buildings

AUSTIN (AP) — Smoked-filled rooms at the Texas Capitol could become a thing of the past under legislation approved by the Senate on Monday.

The bill to ban smoking in state buildings and at state agency hearings was sponsored by a former smoker, Sen. Mike Moncrief, D-Fort Worth. He said the prohibition would help protect the health of state workers.

"Everyone is aware of the damage secondary smoke does as far as our health is concerned," Moncrief said.

"I think they're also more aware of the damage it does to our structures. And I heard a new concern ... that it also does a tremendous amount of damage to our computers," he said.

The Senate sent the bill to the House on a voice vote.

Sen. Peggy Rosson, D-El Paso, was recorded voting against the measure. She said it would reduce state employees' productivity.

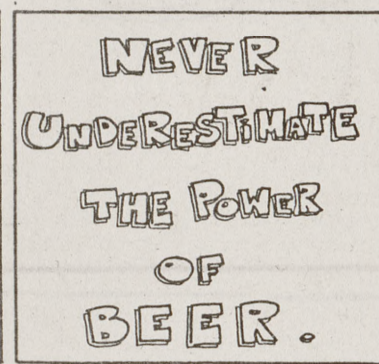
"It wastes a lot of employee time, in my opinion," Ms. Rosson said.

"With designated smoking areas, I could vote for that. But to say absolutely no place, I think, is silly. It sends everybody out to the curb. That doesn't seem very productive to me."

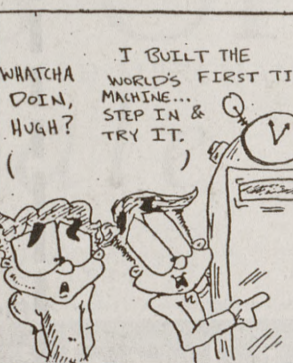
Legislative researchers said Texas is one of six states that hasn't adopted anti-smoking legislation for state buildings.

A survey of 24 state agencies found 14 with rules calling for smoke-free buildings. Others allow smoking in designated areas such as cafeterias, restrooms or private offices.

Stick



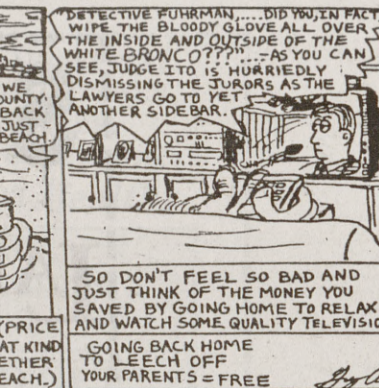
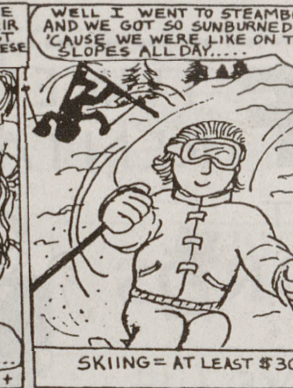
THE INKWELL



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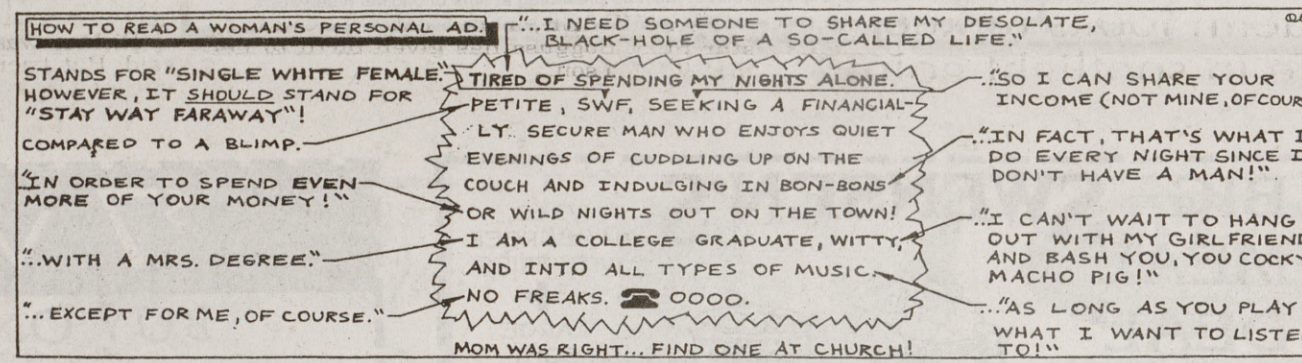
ADVENTURES IN AGGIELAND

BY GREG



Sketch

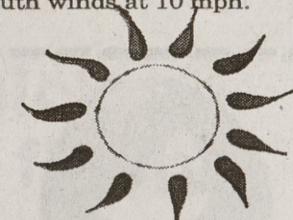
By Quatro



WEATHER

Today
Mostly sunny with a high near 82.
South winds 10-15 mph.

Tonight
Partly cloudy with a low near 60.
South winds at 10 mph.

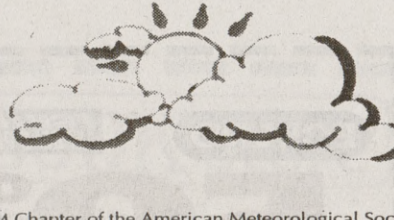


Wednesday
Mostly sunny with a high near 84.

Wednesday Night
Partly cloudy with a low near 64.



Thursday
Increasing clouds. High near 82.



Source — A&M Chapter of the American Meteorological Society

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- the Student Programs Office in MSC
- Student Activities in the Koldus Bldg.
- Multicultural Services (137 MSC)
- Support Services for Students With Disabilities (126 Koldus Bldg.)

APPS ARE DUE MARCH 24th
5:00 p.m. 314 Y.M.C.A.

Questions? Call 862-2746 or stop by the third floor of Y.M.C.A.