

San Antonio rallies for convention

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Republican National Committee members are visiting San Antonio one last time to scrutinize the Alamodome, hotels and the transportation system before deciding whether to hold the party's 2000 convention in the city.

Civic leaders hope the fact that San Antonio is predominantly Mexican-American — giving Republicans the chance to reach out politically to Hispanics — also weighs in the city's favor.

GOP site selection committee members were arriving Tuesday evening for their second and final formal visit.

Other cities in contention are New Orleans, New York, Indianapolis and Philadelphia. A site decision is expected later this year, said Howard Opinsky, spokesman for the San Antonio Convention 2000 Host Committee.

Along with its convention facilities and festive downtown, San Antonio convention organizers are heavily promoting the fact that about 55 percent of the city's residents are Hispanic.

Growth in the nation's Latino population means the GOP must secure more of the Hispanic vote in the coming years, Opinsky said.

Mexican authorities detain two USL football players for weapon possession

LAFAYETTE, La. (AP) — Five Louisianans, including two University of Southwestern Louisiana football players, are being detained by Mexican authorities after wandering across the border with guns.

The group had hunting firearms and crossed into Mexico somewhere near Laredo, Texas, *The Daily Advertiser* reported today.

Federal authorities were trying to negotiate a release for the group. They are USL football players Brent LeJeune and Christian Hensgens, as well as George A. Dorr IV and brothers Hans and Dennis Hensgens Jr. The Hensgens are Christian's cousins.

LeJeune is from Egan. The other four are from Crowley.

Gun ownership is heavily restricted in Mexico. Individuals must have a permit to own a .22-caliber firearm. Weapons of .38-caliber and above are for military use only.

Entering the country with a military-grade weapon or ammunition, even a single bullet, is punishable by five to 30 years in prison. A lesser weapon can result in a minimum two-year term.

It was not known exactly what weapons the five men were carrying.

A hearing could be held as early as today between U.S. State Department officials and Mexican authorities regarding the release of the five men, who spent Saturday

in a Mexican prison. A source told *The Advertiser* late Monday that they were no longer being held in a Mexican prison, but where they were being held was unclear.

The families of the men, who are all in their late teens and early 20s, declined comment.

"When they got to the bridge they ran into border police."

— Gerald Broussard
USL wide receivers coach

USL wide receivers coach Gerald Broussard has been in contact with Christian Hensgens' family since the incident occurred.

Broussard said the five men drove into Mexico on Saturday and wanted to turn back, but were on a one-way bridge. They planned to turn around when they got off the bridge.

"When they got to the bottom of the bridge they ran into border police. They were caught with their hunting stuff," Broussard said.

Broussard said Mexican officials initially told the five Louisiana men they would be released Monday if

they came up with \$5,000 cash. But when the men produced the money, a judge revoked the offer.

The men's fathers went to Laredo on Sunday, but were unsuccessful in bringing their sons home.

USL football coach Nelson Stokley called the situation "a horror story."

"We don't have any control over this," he said.

Other Americans are detained in Mexico after crossing the border with weapons.

Louisiana resident Johnny Manuel has been in the Juarez prison since early March. Manuel said he took a wrong turn off Interstate 10 in El Paso and found himself on a Mexico-bound bridge with two hunting rifles and a .38 caliber revolver in the car.

Manuel was sentenced to five years in jail.

Increasingly, U.S. citizens traveling on the border have been feeling the brunt. It's been a particularly visible problem in the El Paso-Juarez area, where I-10 and U.S. 54 converge in a confusing tangle of overpasses that can funnel motorists onto an international bridge without their knowledge until it's too late.

About 69 Americans are now imprisoned on gun charges throughout Mexico, but an official at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico City said some were criminals caught in the interior.

Possible hazing leads to HSU band suspension

ABILENE, Texas (AP) — The Hardin-Simmons University band was not allowed to perform last Saturday at the school's football game against Mississippi College because of an incident "that could be construed as hazing."

The university's administration is investigating an incident that occurred last week and prohibited the band from playing. Whether the suspension will be lengthened or other disciplinary actions taken has yet to be determined, Linda Carleton, dean of students, said Tuesday.

Carleton declined to elaborate on the incident except to say it involved a group of band members, was not directed toward just one student, didn't involve alcohol and did not

result in any serious injuries.

Officials said a student reported "inappropriate behavior" by band members, who reported it to Carleton, who learned of the incident last Tuesday. Band members were suspended "when they were caught appropriately" when they were suspended, she said.

The HSU band director was suspended and unavailable for comment. Last month, the band was suspended from playing at the Prairie View A&M and Southern University were suspended for two weeks by the Southwestern Music Conference for a football brawl at halftime of a football game played in Beaumont.

Gorbachev visits Texas State Fair

DALLAS (AP) — The State Fair of Texas had a surprise visitor Tuesday morning.

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev made a whirlwind tour of everything from the auto show to the cattle barns.

He was in Dallas for an evening speaking engagement at Southern Methodist University and decided the fair would make a dandy time-

killer.

State Fair spokeswoman Wendy Wiley said Gorbachev rode through the new car hall, sampled the food and fiber pavilion, checked out the cattle and rodeo.

He capped his visit with a corny dog and accepted the cowboy hat before departing.

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