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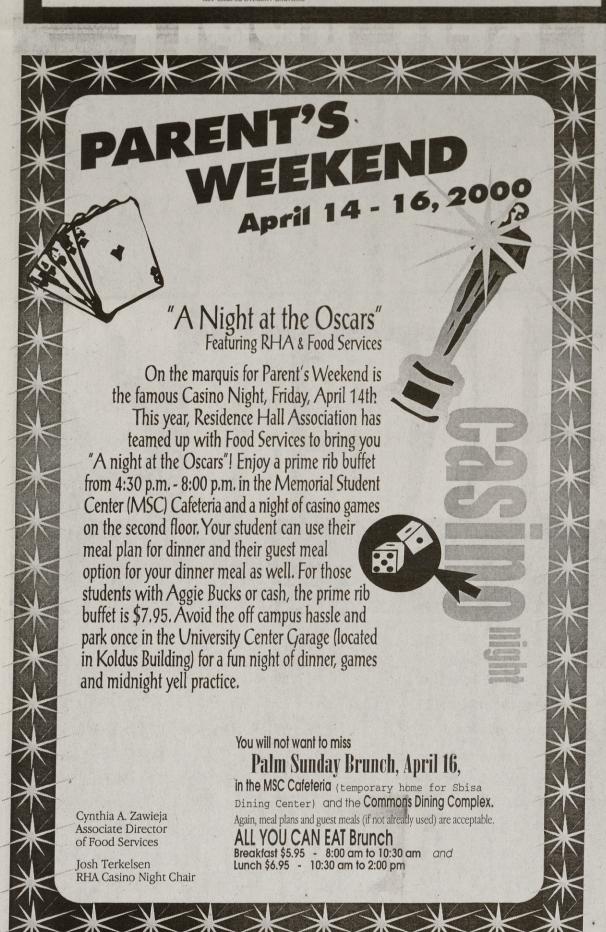


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Austin judge prevents Acasse

AUSTIN (AP) — A judge Wednesday issued a temporary restraining order preventing The Associated Press from using information obtained from the Texas Department of Agriculture regarding a statefinanced agricultural loan program.

Travis County District Judge Margaret Cooper issued the order following a request by the Permian Sea Shrimp and Seafood Ltd. of Imperial and the First National Bank of Monahans

The AP obtained the information under the Texas Public Information Act, but the company and the bank argued that the agriculture department should not have released the documents because they included trade secrets.

The information released included a written summary supporting the Texas Agricultural Finance Authority Board's approval of a loan guarantee for Permian Sea Shrimp and Seafood.

The horse was let out of the barn by

the TDA; we're just trying to keep it in the corral," said Ben Hathaway, attorney for the two companies. Cooper said another hearing should be

held to determine whether the information was public and properly released. David Donaldson, an attorney for the

es shrimp in West Texas in Pecos County, about 200 miles northwest of San Antonio

"Our constitutional principles require freedom of the press," Donaldson said. Permian Sea Shrimp and Seafood rais-

AP, argued that the judge's order is an un-

constitutional prior restraint on the news

"Our constitutional principles require freedom of the

press."

— David Donaldson Attorney for the AP

The Texas Department of Agriculture provided an AP reporter Wednesday with a copy of the application for a loan guarantee for Permian Sea under a program in which the Texas Agricultural Finance Authority guarantees loans to small agricul-

The authority was created to encourage entrepreneurs to start innovative

anteeing up to 90 percent of the from private lenders. Generally, gram supports businesses that re raw materials, like cotton, that an ly shipped out of state and busine

grow exotic plants and animals. Kathy Reed, counsel for the Reproduction partment of Agriculture, said their tion released to the AP was pull dents starting a 1998 letter from the Texas attor

"We were relying on a previous ney general opinion that determine these credit reports are publicing med six st tion," Reed said

In that 1998 decision, a rough companies seeking to prevent the students. ture department from releasing los mation was denied.

"We believe that the publiches imate interest in how and to whom Health De awards agricultural loans, and web Buddy Fergu that this interest is served by release. Meat cor summary financial information." letter signed by Assistant Attomed al Karen Hattaway.

A hearing for a temporary in

on the matter is expected to be sto Food and Sa recall of t

Death penalty opponents call for moratorium solidarity with the press conference in Washington, D.C. FAA re

AUSTIN (AP) — A group of death penalty opponents again on Wednesday asked for a statewide moratorium on executions, saying the support of a U.S. representative may help the cause in Texas.

The Texas chapter of Campaign to End the Death Penalty planned a late afternoon press conference at the Capitol to coincide with its national parent organization's efforts in Washington, D.C.

A spokesperson for Gov. George Bush said Wednesday the governor would stand by his decision not to halt executions in Texas.

The anti-death penalty organization is supporting a resolution proposed by Rep. Jesse Jackson Jr., D-Ill., that would halt executions nationwide for seven years.

The leader of the Texas chapter said Jackson's proposal is sim-

'We want to get the message out there again," said Carl Villareal, president of Texas chapter. "We want to do something in

ilar to what the Texas group has been asking for here.

Texas really is the death penalty capital of the nation and is anyplace for a moratorium, it's here in Texas."

Although Bush cannot pardon a death row inmail state law he may grant a one-time 30-day stay of execution suing a moratorium is out of the governor's handbig spokesperson Mike Jones.

"Under the (Texas) constitution, the governor doesn't to contact; authority to issue a moratorium on the death penalty," los bLearjet, which 'The governor believes that we have a system wit bland not res checks and balances to ensure that only guilty people and before it cra

that we have. It's just one part of it," Jones said. Villareal said he believes Bush has ignored pleased - probably goi cutions and should follow the lead of Illinois Gov. Gene radioed, hou

who issued a statewide moratorium there. "Just as the governor of Illinois didn't pass any new or the doomed governor here can use his influence to push for a moranti





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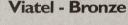




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