

Houston student caught with gun

HOUSTON (AP) — Educators have confiscated a middle school student's pistol after classmates reported hearing him talk about the weapon.

The student at Cullen Middle School was disarmed Tuesday, only a day after the shooting deaths of two pupils and the wounding of 13 other people at a San Jose, Calif., educational institution.

The Texas student, who was suspended and will be recommended for expulsion, was turned over to Houston Independent School District (HISD) police. His weapon was unloaded and inoperable, said HISD spokeswoman Carmen Gomez.

"We were able to get it because of a tip," Gomez told the *Houston Chronicle* Wednesday. "The students felt comfortable talking to a teacher. The system worked

the way it should have."

The incident bolstered area educators' belief that encouraging students to report threats of violence is vital to school safety and has worked in other recent cases.

A message written on a desk at Memorial High School in the Spring Branch ISD had threatened that a bomb would be placed in the school gym on March 5. Students alerted Spring Branch school officials, who used a police dog to search the gym for explosives, and extra officers were sent to the school.

The gym was searched and cleared without evacuating the school. The student responsible for the threat was later under investigation.

"We act on every bit of information we get," said Spring Branch police Chief Chuck Brawner.

News in Brief

Nightclub had a secret entrance for illegal aliens

EL PASO (AP) — A closed adult nightclub with a secret entrance served as a safe house for smugglers in this West Texas city, according to federal agents who found 34 illegal immigrants and detained a motel manager.

U.S. Border Patrol agents arrested Jose Guadalupe Barrios-Torres, the manager of Motel Plus who allegedly met the smuggled immigrants outside the motel, led them through the motel's locked gates and into the back of the adjacent Naked Harem, an operating nightclub.

The immigrants, once inside the nightclub, would squeeze through a secret door, hidden behind a row of lockers, which connected to the closed Cosmopolitan Club.

"They would go through the back of the motel, into the Naked Harem and into a secret entrance into the other adult entertainment club," said Doug Mosier, spokesman for the Border Patrol.

The immigrants were preparing to leave for Colorado, Texas and Oklahoma, probably to find seasonal jobs, Mosier said. He said interviews with some of the immigrants revealed they had paid from \$1,200 to \$2,000 each to an undetermined smuggler.

"They were lying in blankets on the floor, with no heat, and a lot of the people still had wet clothes on that were still wet from the rain," said Celio Parra, the supervisory agent for the Border Patrol's Anti-Smuggling Unit. "They were lying there in the dark."

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Media company worker charged with sabotage

WASHINGTON (AP) — A woman who worked for a media company that produced ads for President Bush's campaign was indicted for secretly mailing a videotape of Bush practicing for a debate to Vice President Al Gore's campaign.

Juanita Yvette Lozano of Austin, Texas, was charged with mail fraud, false statements to the FBI and perjury before a grand jury. She is accused of scheming to get access to Bush's debate preparation materials "to assist Gore in his preparation for the presidential debate," said the 12-page indictment released by the Justice Department Tuesday.

If convicted, she faces 15 years in prison and a \$750,000 fine. The indictment was returned by a federal grand jury in Texas.

PATERSON

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"I will be able to take all the things I've learned here and use those at the next institution," Paterson said.

Paterson said he takes pride in Student Life's creation of the Critical Incident and Response Team, which handles life-threatening issues and works with students to meet certain needs. Paterson also said he thought Greek Life had grown in recent years.

"Significant and positive changes for both the institution and fraternities and sororities have developed over the years. Greek groups have developed relationships and shown how they can work together to bring positive changes," Paterson said.

Although Paterson said he regrets leaving A&M, he said he looks forward to new opportunities at Illinois State.

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Perry planning strategy for 2002 governor's race

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Rick Perry portrays himself as bipartisan at the state Capitol, but he is already getting ready for what may be a hotly contested governor's race in 2002.

Perry has sent an invitation to supporters he calls "Team Perry" to meet on March 24 at the Austin Convention Center to plan strategy for his campaign, the *Houston Chronicle* reported Wednesday.

Perry's letter was first disclosed in The Quorum Report, a political newsletter.

"The time to gear up for the 2002 campaign is now!" Perry declares in his letter.

"Already the Democrats are planning and organizing for the upcoming elections," he said. "That's why I believe it is so important to bring my supporters together to start

planning my campaign strategy."

Texas Democratic Party Chairman Molly Beth Malcolm blasted Perry's letter, saying it violates at least the spirit of the state's constitutional ban on political fund-raising during a legislative session.

"Perry once again has crossed the ethical line — and he's pushing the envelope on the law dealing with political support during a legislative session," Malcolm said.

Malcolm said she believed the event is an attempt "to shake down the lobby and muscle support for his next political campaign."

But Perry spokeswoman Kathy Walt said the convention center event is not aimed at lobbyists or financial donors.

"It's for the people who have been active in his campaigns," Walt said.

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Hormonal birth control isn't for everyone.
Pregnant women or women with blood clots, chest pain, certain cancers, unexplained vaginal bleeding, or a history of liver disease, stroke, or heart attacks shouldn't take Lunelle. Serious risks that can be life threatening include blood clots, stroke, and heart attack. And hey, no smoking! It increases these risks, especially if you're over 35 and smoke 15 or more cigarettes a day.

During the first few months of taking Lunelle, most women have a change in their periods, which may include no bleeding, irregular bleeding, or spotting. This change may continue with use in up to one third of women. In studies, while some women lost weight on Lunelle, the average change was an increase of 4 pounds in the first year. But you should know, some women gained 10 or more pounds in the first year.

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