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**EDITORIALLY
SPEAKING**

Learn More About Your Schools
During Public Schools Week

Ask yourself an important question—just how much do you know about the organization, policy, and scope of our local public school system? Few other facets of our society have as much influence on your life and the life of your children as our public school system. Public Schools expenditures account for the single largest item of state tax dollars. Even more significantly, the education our children receive in our public schools will determine the quality of life for all of us in the years ahead.

Each of us, then, has a responsibility to learn all we can about public education in the community and state. March 3 through 7 will be designated as Texas Public Schools Week this year. This is the opportunity to learn: Visit your local schools. Observe events, ask questions: Are your tax revenues being spent as effectively as possible? Are the teachers in your schools qualified? Is your child receiving the highest level of education we can provide for him?

The book, literally, starts with each of us. We cannot have quality education on any level without individual concern and participation on the part of each citizen, both parent and non-parent, in your part by observing Texas Public Schools Week this year, March 3 through 7.

**3 Nabbed For
Stolen Car,
Station-Burglary**

Alert work by a sheriff's deputy, Joey Targac, resulted in the capture of a burglar

in charges of burglary being filed on three men and they also were arrested for the theft of a car in Florida.

Deputy Targac was leaving the Eagle Lake station when he saw a Traveler Store in Columbus at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 25, when he noticed three men sitting in a 1969 Chevrolet with Florida license plates. He ran a check on the plates and found the car to be stolen from Pinellas, Fla.

The officer returned to the store but found the car gone and later found the vehicle parked beside a street and the three men were arrested by Deputy Targac, Sheriff Don Mueller, and Columbus officers at 9:45 a.m. that morning.

At 9:41 that same morning, Tuesday, the office received a call from Fred Hernandez, manager of the Phillips' Exxon Station near Alton, that a Coke machine had been broken into the night. Deputy Targac was to the scene and found that the machine had been made into the outside machine with the use of a screwdriver or tire tool and coins taken from the machine.

The Eagle Lake Station, Chief Deputy Ed Estep, and Columbus Chief of Police Ed Potter went to the T&L Salvage Yard where the stolen car had been taken and found in the car siphoning equipment and tire tools apparently used in the break-in of the Coke machine.

Deputy Targac later found that the trio had paid for merchandise purchased at the Seven-Eleven store with a handful of coins.

After further questioning of

the trio arrested for stealing the car in Florida, they admitted being part of the Coke machine.

Charges of burglary of a stolen operated machine were filed against John Strickland, Mike Smith and John Johnson and a robbery of the sheriff's office also has a charge of the trio for the theft in Florida.

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