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*Jan. 23, 2003, 12:02AM*

## **Some Harris jurors 'relate' to defendant**

### **In-laws profess love for woman being tried in killing of their son**

**By RUTH RENDON**

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Opening statements begin today in the murder trial of a Friendswood dentist who ran over and killed her orthodontist husband with her luxury sedan after finding him with his mistress.

Nine women and three men were picked Wednesday afternoon to hear the case of Clara Harris, 44, who is charged with killing her husband, David Harris, in the parking lot of a Nassau Bay hotel the evening of July 24. Two women were selected as alternate jurors.

For the second day in a row, David Harris' parents, Gerald and Mildred Harris, escorted their daughter-in-law into the Harris County Criminal Justice Center.

After the day's proceedings, Gerald Harris, 73, a retired Pearland school district administrator, said that both he and his 69-year-old wife support their daughter-in-law.

"We are the proud parents of David and Clara Harris and the proud grandparents of Lindsey and Brian and Bradley. We are a close, loving, Christian family," Gerald Harris told reporters outside the courthouse.

"Our ultimate hope in all of this is that this family will remain together as a strong family and that our grandchildren will have their parents. We love Clara and want you to know that we want her to be with her children." They didn't take questions.

Clara Harris, who has remained free on \$30,000 bail, has custody of her 4-year-old twin sons. The paternal grandparents frequently visit their grandsons.

State District Judge Carol Davies has barred the release of information about jurors, such as age and ethnicity.

Davies individually questioned the jury pool of 120 all day Tuesday and eliminated some. Prosecutor Mia Magness was allowed to question the 72 remaining potential jurors Wednesday morning; defense attorney George Parnham questioned the group in the afternoon.

Under questioning from Magness, four of the eventual 12 jurors -- and an alternate -- said they could "emotionally relate" to Clara Harris.

"Any married woman can," said one female juror, who was later struck from the jury pool.

Added a male juror, who also was not picked: "I think anyone would be sympathetic."

Parnham said he was pleased with the makeup of the jury.

"I think we have a thoughtful thinking, compassionate jury that can understand what she was going through on July 24," Parnham said. "There were a number of people that could identify with Clara Harris. Certainly we welcome that only because we think the evidence will support issues that women, in particular, but women and thoughtful men can understand and take on."

Prosecutors challenged the makeup of the jury based on gender, but Davies denied the request.

However, prosecutor Dan Rizzo later said: "They look like a real fair group of people, so we're real happy."

Magness also asked the 72 members of the jury pool if they thought David Harris' death was a result of "sudden passion." Eleven said yes; two made the jury panel.

If Harris is convicted of murder, prosecutors must prove beyond a reasonable doubt that she intended to kill her husband of 10 years. If convicted she could face up to life in prison.

After a conviction, jurors could decide Harris' death was the result of sudden passion and could hand his wife a lighter sentence, ranging from 10 years or less, or a minimum of five years' probation.

Under state law, sudden passion applies when the defendant is provoked by the murder victim or by a third party at the time of the offense.

Parnham asked jury pool members if they thought "Clara Harris was guilty of something." A quarter of the pool agreed. Only one was chosen as a juror.

That same juror, a woman, who voiced concerns about possibly being sequestered because she has a premature baby, also was one who thought Harris' death was a result of sudden passion and could "emotionally relate" to Clara Harris.

She also said she had read or heard about the case five or more times. Three of the other jurors and an alternate also had heard about the case more than five times.

Two jurors and both alternates said they knew someone who had been killed or murdered. One juror told the judge she had significant medical problems.

Before the jury was seated, prosecutors challenged three jurors on their views about punishment; four on their concern about passing judgment; one for expressing a bias for the defense; and four who agreed that Harris' death was a result of sudden passion.

The defense challenged four individuals because of their belief of Clara Harris' guilt, and three others for other reasons.

Each side has unlimited chances to ask the judge to eliminate candidates "for cause," because their answers under questioning appear to be in conflict with the law or their opinions would make them unable to be fair. Some judges may try to straighten out the discrepancies, while others simply excuse the candidates.

Davies on Wednesday agreed to eliminate seven as being too biased to serve.

Prosecutors and the defense were allowed to strike 10 people for any reason other than race or gender.

According to witnesses, Clara Harris, who has a dental practice in Lake Jackson, ran over her husband after encountering him with his mistress and former office receptionist, Gail Bridges.

After an altercation in the hotel lobby, Harris got in her car, with teenage stepdaughter Lindsey Harris, as a front-seat passenger, and struck her husband with her Mercedes-Benz as he escorted Bridges to her car.

Witnesses said Harris' body was thrown about 25 feet into the air. His wife then circled back and ran over her husband twice more, the witnesses said.

A private investigator that Clara Harris had hired the day before to follow her husband and take incriminating pictures apparently caught Harris running over her husband on videotape.

The tape and the testimony of Lindsey Harris are expected to highlight the trial.

The trial is estimated to take two to three weeks.

Jan. 23, 2003, 12:03AM

# Mexicans mourn loss from quake

## Death toll climbs to 25

**By JO TUCKMAN**  
**Special to the Chronicle**

COLIMA, Mexico -- Fearful of powerful aftershocks, residents of this western Mexican city that bore the brunt of one of the strongest earthquakes to hit the country in recent years mourned their dead Wednesday and began the arduous task of cleaning up.

At least 25 people were killed in Tuesday's quake, and at least 300 were injured.

"It was terrifying and terrible. So much was lost, and they say there could be another one," said Sister Maria Guadalupe Vazquez, as she shared a supper of bread and cheese with six other nuns in their convent, which seemed on the verge of falling down. "If there is a big aftershock, I will just run."

The country's National Seismological Service reported 13 aftershocks by evening, the biggest with a magnitude of 5.8. Local radio stations urged people to stay away from unstable buildings.

The 7.8 magnitude quake that hit just after 8 p.m. on Tuesday devastated much of the center of Colima, a city of 130,000 people. The temblor's epicenter was about 50 miles away, just off the coast of Colima state and about 300 miles west of Mexico City.

The earthquake was felt in much of central and western Mexico, killing two people in the neighboring state of Jalisco and causing a death by electrocution in Mexico City. People in the capital streamed out of their houses and office buildings as tall buildings swayed and electrical transformers short-circuited, leaving parts of the city in darkness for hours.

But it was Colima state and Colima city that suffered the most. Authorities declared a state of emergency Wednesday and indefinitely suspended school classes.

State officials said 21 people were killed in the state, most of them in the city of Colima.

There were, however, conflicting reports on the exact death toll. Luz Maria Perez, a spokeswoman for the city of Colima's fire department, said there were 21 victims in the municipality alone and at least four others in the nearby town of Tecoman. Colima Public Works Director Raul Aredondo put the death toll

within the city at 29.

President Vicente Fox toured the worst-hit areas of Colima late Wednesday. Afterward, he pledged to rebuild the 800 homes that were wiped out across Colima and promised that new homes would be more earthquake-resistant than the old adobe structures.

"It is important to be calm, and you must feel secure that we will help you and that we are with you," the president said.

In another section of the city, Maria Macia sat on a street corner, presiding over a wake for her mother, who had been trapped in the rubble of the family home.

"I tried to get my mother out, but the door fell on top of me, so I was trapped, too," said Macia, controlling her sobs as she accepted the condolences of dozens of relatives and neighbors.

"I didn't hear her make any noise after the house fell on her, but I was able to tell my daughter to move some bricks so I could breathe better," said Macia, who was covered with scrapes and bandages. "I thought I was going to suffocate, but eventually my brother got me out."

The city was hard hit despite the fact that most buildings here are only one or two stories high. Most of the structures that collapsed were made of mud bricks. But more solidly constructed buildings also were reduced to rubble.

The problem, said public works chief Raul Maldonado, was not only the force of the quake but also its duration of more than a minute and the way the ground first moved horizontally and then vertically.

"This meant the buildings kind of twisted, so the walls just fell down," he said after almost 24 hours on the job, first sifting through debris looking for trapped victims and then beginning the long cleanup process.

Maldonado believes it is unlikely that more quake victims will be found beneath the rubble here. Juan Carlos Oseguera, the director of the Red Cross in Colima, said he knew of no one who had been reported missing.

Among the damaged buildings in the city was the large, 105-year-old Sacred Heart Church and convent where Vazquez lives. Outside, the damage looked minor, with stucco departing from a few patches of wall. But inside, cracks ran together to form large, dangerous-looking networks.

The home of Javier Vadillo looked as though it had been hit by a bomb.

"We just have to resign ourselves to what happened," said Vadillo, as he surveyed the ruins. "Resign ourselves and start again."

Mexico has endured 16 other quakes with seven-plus magnitude since 1980, according to the seismological service. But Tuesday's earthquake was the most powerful since 1995, when a 8.0 magnitude quake centered just northwest of here killed 49 people and injured at least 100.

Jan. 23, 2003, 12:03AM

# Allies skeptical of Iraq strike are on hot seat

By **STEVEN R. WEISMAN**  
**New York Times**

WASHINGTON -- Bush administration officials said on Wednesday that next week they will confront France, Germany and other skeptics of military action against Iraq by requiring them to agree publicly that Iraq had defied the Security Council.

The officials, expressing exasperation with the refusal of longtime allies to back the United States, said they were vigorously debating whether to seek a second U.N. resolution authorizing force against Iraq. At the very least, they said, they will demand that the nations opposed to the U.S. position acknowledge that Iraq has not complied with resolutions requiring it to disclose its weapons of mass destruction and allow them to be dismantled.

Administration officials said their strategy was based on the belief that there may never be a "smoking gun" proving Iraq's possession of illegal weapons. Accordingly, they acknowledged that the case must be made in a negative fashion: that Iraq has failed to disprove the contentions of the United States and others about its weapons of mass destruction. The administration asserts, though without offering evidence, that Iraq has thwarted inspectors by hiding the weapons.

Confronted on Wednesday by recent polls indicating that Americans have begun having second thoughts about supporting a war, President Bush condemned the Iraqi leader, Saddam Hussein.

Labeling him "a dangerous, dangerous man with dangerous, dangerous weapons," the president said in St. Louis that "if Saddam Hussein will not disarm, the United States of America and friends of freedom will disarm Saddam Hussein."

The Pentagon, meanwhile, announced that more than 20,000 members of the National Guard and Reserve had reported for active duty this week. The activations brought to nearly 79,000 the number of National Guard members and reservists called to active duty for possible service in the Gulf or for protection at home. A total U.S. military force of 150,000 is expected in the region by the middle of February.

Some administration officials expressed the belief that France and other reluctant allies, seeing U.S. military action as inevitable, would be won over in the end -- perhaps out of concern that their businesses might lose any role in exploiting Iraq's oil resources. Others said the French might ease their resistance if the United States allowed the inspectors a few more weeks.

But some were skeptical of these arguments, saying that the French ought to be taken at their word, and that Bush should not bother to seek a second resolution condemning Iraq and authorizing the use of force.

In another sign of their irritation with longtime American allies, aides to Bush said they were intensifying efforts to line up support elsewhere in Europe and would try to portray France and Germany as holdouts against a quick Security Council indictment of Iraq. Officials said on Wednesday that support was forthcoming not only from Britain but also from Poland, Spain, Italy and others.

If anything, U.S. officials said, the recent French and German appeal for American patience has backfired -- emboldening the hawks in the administration and even spurring Secretary of State Colin Powell to tell aides that he would accept military action against Iraq without approval from the Security Council. Powell had resisted that position for months.

Sounding tougher on Wednesday than he has previously, Powell said on the PBS program *The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer* that the question was whether to allow Iraq "a few more weeks, a few more months" to comply when it was clear already that it would never do so. "Frankly," he added, "there are some nations in the world who would like simply to turn away from this problem, pretend it isn't there."

Powell's comments appeared to be a direct rebuttal of the call for a delay of two or three months by the French foreign minister, Dominique de Villepin, with whom he has talked frequently -- some said tensely -- since the weekend. Going further, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld dismissed the German and French roles in a newly expanded NATO, which has been asked to provide indirect assistance for an Iraqi invasion.

"You're thinking of Europe as Germany and France," Rumsfeld told foreign journalists at the State Department, as leaders of the two countries solemnly celebrated the 40th anniversary of their treaty of friendship in Versailles, France, on Wednesday. "I don't. I think that's old Europe." He added: "You look at vast numbers of other countries in Europe. They're not with France and Germany on this. They're with the United States."

The administration is now planning to focus on the report that the U.N. weapons inspections chief, Hans Blix, is to issue on Monday -- in the hope that it offers extensive details on Iraq's noncompliance.

Jan. 23, 2003, 12:03AM

# Paths of more resistance

## Sidewalks should be much wider, experts say

By MIKE SNYDER

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A vibrant urban street life, featuring broad sidewalks crowded with people rushing to train stations and relaxing at outdoor cafes, has been a guiding vision in the redevelopment of Main Street along the path of Metro's light rail line.

But the notion of "pedestrian-friendly" urban spaces has hit a snag in Midtown, a segment of the Main Street corridor with enormous development potential. Sidewalks built by Metro along the Midtown rail line are only about 4 1/2 feet wide -- too narrow to provide a suitable environment for heavy pedestrian use, experts say.

"Where a city is looking to invite pedestrian activity, 5 feet seems to be the absolute minimum," said Marya Morris, a senior research associate with the American Planning Association. Sidewalks in many busy urban districts are as wide as 10 to 12 feet, she said.

Metro officials and others involved with the project blame the problem on budget constraints, right of way limitations or the lack of design guidelines in the area.

But others suggest that designs focusing on pedestrians, rather than on automobiles, are still something of a novelty in Houston.

"This is new," said Kevin Shanley, a Houston architect and urban design specialist. "Houston's not used to thinking about it. The engineers aren't used to thinking about it. Public Works is not used to thinking about it."

The width of a few miles of sidewalk might seem a small matter in the broad sweep of urban issues confronting Houston. Yet the sidewalks are emblematic of a growing effort to create places where people can mingle, buy from street vendors or simply walk.

Environments that promote the sort of "cafe culture" prevalent in such cities as Seattle and New York are rare in Houston. The best-known examples are Rice Village and the Post Midtown development -- a mix of shops, restaurants and apartments southwest of downtown.

But pedestrian-oriented spaces are becoming more popular in local planning, not only along Main Street but in other areas like the Buffalo Bayou corridor. Planners say pedestrian-friendly areas can improve Houston's quality of life and help attract employees and customers who can strengthen economic development.

"There are a lot of people who want that lifestyle, and we need to serve that market because these are the people who actually create economies," said David Crossley, the president of the Gulf Coast Institute, a nonprofit civic improvement organization.

Because Midtown is between two major employment centers -- downtown and the Texas Medical Center -- and contains large tracts of undeveloped land, it is "the ripest opportunity we have to create an urban core," Crossley said.

Peter Brown, a Houston architect and planner who has been a key supporter of the Main Street project, said the narrow sidewalks could be an obstacle to creating an appealing urban environment in Midtown.

"We've got to become more aggressive and more sophisticated about urban revitalization," he said. "We need to have some design standards, and everybody needs to sign on."

City planning officials are developing an ordinance that would authorize neighborhoods to create "area plans" with design guidelines. In the absence of such guidelines, Crossley said, developers are putting up buildings in Midtown with features that discourage pedestrians, such as parking lots facing the street rather than tucked behind buildings.

Leaders of the 4-year-old Main Street project acknowledge that the Midtown sidewalks are disappointing, but say they are far from a devastating blow to efforts to transform the eight miles of Main Street into Houston's "signature boulevard."

Ed Wulfe, chairman of the Main Street Coalition charged by Mayor Lee Brown with overseeing the project, said Metro's budget limitations precluded building wider sidewalks.

"We think five or six or eight feet would be better, but you've got to orchestrate that," he said. He said developers of new projects in the area could replace the sidewalks with wider ones later.

Generally, Wulfe said, the Main Street redevelopment is progressing well. Investors are increasingly interested in developing property on Main Street, he said, and such enhancements as trees south of Brays Bayou, development of a "museum walk" and other attractions are under way.

"There are no limits to what it (Main Street) could be, other than people's imaginations and commitment to it," Wulfe said.

Charles LeBlanc, the executive director of the Midtown Redevelopment Authority, said widening the Midtown sidewalks would have required buying additional rights of way from property owners along the route at a prohibitive cost.

Metro board Chairman Arthur Schechter said he and Shirley DeLibero, the agency's president, recently walked along one of the Midtown sidewalks to determine whether two people could walk comfortably side by side.

"It was a squeeze," he said, joking that the tight fit was a result of his own physique. "I'm as wide as most sidewalks."

Jan. 22, 2003, 11:24PM

# School sued for indecision on gay club

## ACLU acts on behalf of Klein High student

By LUCAS WALL

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The American Civil Liberties Union filed suit in federal court here Wednesday on behalf of a Klein High School lesbian who wants to start a Gay-Straight Alliance, the first time a Texas student has taken such legal action.

The complaint, filed against Klein Independent School District Superintendent Jim Surratt and high school Principal Pat Huff, contends the failure to approve Marla Dukler's club application violates the First Amendment and the Equal Access Act. The act prohibits publicly funded schools from discriminating against the establishment of student clubs based on their points of view.

The ACLU, which filed a similar suit in Kentucky on Wednesday, wants an injunction ordering Klein ISD to immediately allow the alliance.

Dukler said she and 16 classmates submitted their application in October but received no answer.

"They've been giving us the runaround," said Dukler, a 16-year-old junior. "The only way to really stop harassment is through educating people and getting rid of the ignorance. The easiest way to go about that, I believe, would be to start a club that would in turn educate the student body and faculty."

David George, president of the ACLU's Houston chapter and Dukler's attorney, said legal action is necessary because the school district has failed to act on the application -- in effect denying it.

"The federal law is crystal clear that students at Klein High School have a right to form any type of club they want, including clubs to discuss issues relevant to gay youth," George said at a Wednesday news conference outside the U.S. courthouse downtown.

GSAs exist in about 1,700 high schools nationwide. There are at least four in the Houston area.

Dave Feldman, attorney for Klein ISD, said the filing is premature. Students were asked in November to resubmit their club applications after the board amended its extracurricular activities policy, Feldman said, and Surratt is still reviewing them.

Feldman said he wished the ACLU had raised its concerns before taking the issue to U.S. District Judge Sim Lake. He said he will likely respond with a motion to dismiss so the district can complete its review.

"Usually there's some kind of dialogue in advance, then when the parties knock heads, we see a lawsuit," Feldman said. "I got the sense here they were looking for some kind of publicity."

Klein has dozens of clubs, including extracurricular groups of bass fishers, bowlers, chess players and Christian athletes.

"It is clear that Klein refuses to allow the (GSA) to meet simply because the club meetings may contain discussions of topics and viewpoints that Klein does not want discussed," the complaint said.

Ken Choe, staff attorney for the ACLU's National Lesbian and Gay Rights Project in New York, said the group wants to send "a strong message to schools and school districts across the country that lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered youth do have rights under federal law, and those rights should be respected.

"The Constitution does not allow the school to pick and choose the kinds of speech that students can engage in."

Christine Drew, a 16-year-old, heterosexual Klein junior, was among more than 200 students who signed a petition in support of the GSA.

"I'm not sure if the school district realizes how much people socially use the word 'fag,' or 'gay' as in 'you're being stupid,'" Drew said. "I don't know if having a GSA would change the way most people speak or associate gays with negative, but I hope it would help."

Huff has forbidden the student newspaper, Klein Bearchat, from writing about the proposed GSA in three issues, said features editor Tina Macias.

"This is the biggest news we've had at Klein in quite awhile," Macias said. "The students have a right to know."

Mike Hiestand, staff attorney at the Student Press Law Center in Virginia, said high school administrators have some leeway to edit student publications for legitimate educational purposes. But, he added, the Supreme Court has ruled that the Constitution protects student journalists from being censored merely because they present a subject the administration finds uncomfortable.

"It sounds like the Klein school district is going to be forced to take some sort of First Amendment refresher course," Hiestand said. "We have a controversy and you can't even talk about it, can't even discuss it in a rational, meaningful way. That is pathetic."

Students in the Cypress-Fairbanks Independent School District are also asking for permission to start alliances. Officials at Cypress Falls and Jersey Village high schools are reviewing the applications.

Jan. 22, 2003, 10:31PM

# City to shine light on tax debtors

By **KRISTEN MACK**

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Houston City Council hopes to shame deadbeat taxpayers into paying up.

Council approved a resolution Wednesday to publish the names of residents and businesses owing the city at least \$25,000 in delinquent property taxes in the Houston Chronicle in mid-February.

Councilman Bert Keller, who proposed the idea last year, said the city owes it to taxpayers who pay their bills to show they will go after those who don't.

"It is critical that we show the taxpayers that we are going to all lengths on their behalf before we hit them up for the other (fees) we are considering," he said. "We have no right to talk to them about getting more of their money until we try to collect every dime owed to us."

The city is facing a revenue shortfall of as much as \$67 million over the next 18 months and is considering several options to make up for it.

Those on the proposed publication list owe a combined \$11 million in property taxes. Although city officials don't expect to collect the entire amount, they hope they can at least add to city coffers.

Mayor Lee Brown supports the idea, saying embarrassment may be the key to collecting the city's debt. Everyone on the list has been notified about the proposed publication of their name, officials said.

Keller said he would like to see a list published quarterly, eventually going after everyone who owes the city \$5,000 or more.

Meanwhile, council also is considering an ordinance barring debtors from doing business with the city. A draft will be reviewed by the Regulatory Affairs Committee when it meets next month.

Jan. 22, 2003, 10:45PM

# Bradford lawyer blames vendetta for legal troubles

## Prosecution intends to prove police chief lied under oath

By LISA TEACHEY

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Suspended Houston Police Chief C.O. Bradford's legal troubles are the result of a vendetta by a subordinate and a former lawyer for the police union, a defense lawyer said Wednesday.

"This is not a case about the chief being above the law," attorney George McCall "Mac" Secret said in opening statements as Bradford's aggravated perjury trial got under way.

"What this case is about is petty police politics," Secret told the jury. " ... This ugly accusation is born out of a vendetta by Capt. Mark Aguirre and his lawyer Bob Thomas."

But prosecutor Don Smyth told jurors the chief had violated the law and he would prove Bradford intentionally lied under oath about cursing a subordinate.

At the heart of the issue is a complaint Aguirre brought to the Harris County district attorney's office against Bradford after the chief reprimanded him for using profane and threatening language with his subordinates. Aguirre has since been indicted on an unrelated charge of official oppression in connection with the mass arrests of people this summer at a westside Kmart.

Much of Wednesday's testimony involved recounting events from police grievance hearings and meetings within the Houston Police Department.

During a hearing in May, in which Aguirre was appealing the reprimand, Bradford was asked if he had called Assistant Chief J.L. Breshears a "mother -----" during a June 2001 meeting.

Transcripts from the hearing show Bradford admitted profanity may sometimes be used at meetings but said he did not recall calling Breshears the name. Bradford then denied doing it but added if he did it was wrong.

Breshears told a hearing examiner that Bradford had called him the name during a November 2000 meeting.

The jury of eight women and four men, including three black women and one black man, must decide if Bradford intentionally lied under oath during an official proceeding and if so, whether the false statement was material to the proceeding. If convicted, he could face a range of punishment from probation to 10 years in prison.

During the initial stages of preparing for the grievance hearing, Thomas, as a police union lawyer, had represented Aguirre. Secrest said Wednesday during opening statements that it was well-known through the department that Thomas did not like Bradford. But Thomas was no longer working for the union when Bradford was questioned at the grievance hearing.

Instead, lawyer Terry Yates posed the questions to the chief. But Yates testified Wednesday he did not know the specifics about the incident in which Bradford was alleged to have used the profanity. Thomas had only passed on that Yates should ask about it.

During the grievance hearing, Bradford was never directed toward a specific meeting, only that the alleged use of profanity may have taken place during Tropical Storm Allison.

But Thomas and a union official said the chief knew exactly what he was being questioned about because they had warned him months before. Both were called to testify for the state Wednesday.

Although Breshears never complained about Bradford's language, Thomas had found out about it. Thomas testified he thought the chief had a double standard.

Thomas and union board member Ronny Martin tried to get the chief to drop the disciplinary action against Aguirre so the hearing would not have to be held.

Martin said Thomas was going to call the press and try to embarrass the chief and the department.

Martin testified Wednesday that he was worried that would "stir up the Hispanic community that a black man could use this language and a Hispanic could not." The chief is black.

Martin reasoned that since Bradford had reduced Aguirre's punishment to a reprimand, instead of a five-day suspension as recommended by a disciplinary committee, the chief should just drop the matter.

"A written reprimand is not very much punishment," Martin testified. "A written reprimand is not worth bringing this whole department down."

Martin said Bradford and his staff said they would not cave in to "blackmail."

"The chief said, 'I said it (the expletive). I'll say I said it. But I didn't say it in the same manner as Aguirre,'" Martin said.

Tina Snelling, the hearing examiner who presided over Aguirre's grievance hearing, testified Wednesday that she thought the chief had lied and felt his punishment was too harsh for Aguirre. Her ruling was later reversed by a civil service commission.

"I was embarrassed for the chief that day," Snelling said.

Snelling told prosecutor Lester Blizzard that the chief should have remembered using such language in a meeting.

"If I got in your face and called you a mother -----, would you remember it?" Blizzard asked.

Snelling responded, "I remember calling my boss an ass---- in 1984."

But Snelling often seemed confused about her own testimony Wednesday under cross-examination by Rusty Hardin. At one point, Hardin had Snelling admit her conflicting statements might be considered perjury.

Breshears and two other officers who attended the November 2000 meeting are scheduled to testify today before the state rests its case.

Jan. 22, 2003, 10:27PM

# Man executed for '89 bludgeoning death

## Grandmother was beaten with steel bar

**Associated Press**

HUNTSVILLE -- A construction worker who was on parole when he bludgeoned his grandparents to steal money to buy cocaine was executed Wednesday night.

"When it comes, you can't run from it and I'm not going to run," Robert Lookingbill said in his final statement from the death chamber gurney.

"I would like to thank all my loved ones that are standing over there for all the kindness and support you have shown me over the years," he said, referring to his wife, Brenda, and some friends. "Be strong. Do not hate, but learn from this experience. It has been a blessing to know all of you. Don't forget me."

He mouthed kisses to them. He let out two strong breaths and was pronounced dead at 6:18 p.m., 13 minutes after the drugs began to flow.

Lookingbill was resigned to facing lethal injection for Adeline Dannenberg's 1989 fatal beating with a steel bar as she slept. The U.S. Supreme Court denied two requests for stays.

He never wavered on his insistence he didn't kill his 70-year-old grandmother in her South Texas home.

"They're doing me a favor," Lookingbill said recently from death row. "The other side offers more than this life."

Lookingbill, 37, was the third convicted killer put to death this year in Texas.

"It was one of those cases where the jury had no problem convicting him," said Sophia Arizpe, one of the Hidalgo County district attorneys who prosecuted Lookingbill. "He had the blood spatters on his clothing and his boots, which is consistent with being there when the crime is committed."

Lookingbill grew up in Hidalgo County, dropped out of high school in 11th grade and lived with his parents or grandparents, Adeline and Lorenz Dannenberg. He returned to the Dannenbergs in 1987 after serving less than a year in prison on a burglary conviction.

On Dec. 5, 1989, Lookingbill came home after 1 a.m. from what he said was "a night of partying" that included drinking and snorting cocaine and said he found his grandparents beaten.

His grandmother was in bed with fractures to her skull, jaw and hand and bone fragments in her brain. She died 10 days later. Lorenz Dannenberg, 77, was found with similar head injuries on the living room floor. He survived for about a year but was comatose, unable to help police.

Lookingbill also was sentenced to 75 years in prison for attempted capital murder in his grandfather's attack.

As police questioned Lookingbill, other officers found a 3 1/2-foot-long metal bar covered with bloodstains and hair strands in a tool shed behind the Dannenbergs' house. The blood belonged to Lorenz Dannenberg.

Jan. 22, 2003, 10:27PM

# Environmentalists ambitious despite budget, GOP shift

## Alliance unveils legislative priorities

By DINA CAPPIELLO

Copyright 2003 Houston Chronicle Environment Writer

A multibillion-dollar budget shortfall and a state Legislature stacked with Republicans hasn't deterred environmental advocacy groups from setting an ambitious agenda for the 78th Legislature.

The Alliance for Clean Texas, a group of 21 statewide environmental, religious and consumer organizations, released an extensive list of priorities Wednesday that included boosting environmental enforcement, strengthening water conservation and ensuring that Texas' potential for developing wind energy is fully tapped.

Among the groups' specific priorities are fully funding a program to reduce smog, routine testing of fish for mercury contamination, and a dumping ban on out-of-state nuclear waste.

The environmental wish list, released at the start of every session, is expected to pose a tougher fight this year, with the state facing a more than \$9.9 billion budget shortfall and a Legislature dominated by Republicans for the first time in 130 years.

"It will be very interesting to see if the new Republican majority are pro-environment ... or if the Republicans listen to their polluter donors," said Jim Marston, regional director of Public Citizen, an alliance member.

But the group remained optimistic Wednesday, saying that the Legislature will realize that the alternative to some of the programs -- such as the \$188 million a year needed to satisfy plans to reduce smog in Dallas and Houston -- is a loss of more money. If it does not find the money for the incentives package, which will provide grants to encourage businesses to convert to cleaner engines, the state could lose millions in federal highway funds.

"We will face significant obstacles, as we always do," said Erin Rogers, the coordinator for the alliance. "But spending a little up front on these policies can save the state huge amounts of money in the long run."

*Jan. 22, 2003, 10:28PM*

# **Soldiers focus on mission ahead**

## **General says morale is high as troops prepare to deploy**

**By JOHN W. GONZALEZ**

**Copyright 2003 Houston Chronicle**

FORT HOOD -- They've trained for many months, here in the Central Texas hills, in the sands of California's Mojave Desert and in Kuwait.

Now, with fresh orders from President Bush to deploy to Southwest Asia, it's time for the real thing, and leaders of the 16,000 troops of the 4th Infantry Division (Mechanized) said Wednesday they're fully braced for combat.

"Morale is extremely high. The soldiers are excited. They understand the importance of their mission," said Maj. Gen. Raymond Odierno, the division's commanding general.

"But not only are they excited, they're focused. They're focused on getting the job done ... on doing what's right ... and meeting whatever requirements we might have," said Odierno.

"We are prepared and ready and we will do whatever our country asks," he added.

His troops -- 12,000 based here and 4,000 at Fort Carson, Colo. -- soon will ship out to unidentified locations in the 25-nation jurisdiction of the Pentagon's Central Command, which stretches from Afghanistan and Iraq to the Horn of Africa. The troops comprise the bulk of a multi-unit deployment dubbed "Task Force Ironhorse."

Moving the division's substantial quantity of gear, including tanks, trucks and other heavy equipment, is cumbersome but ahead of schedule, even though it's the biggest deployment from Fort Hood since Desert Storm in 1991, officials said.

If negotiations with Iraq fail and war begins, Odierno said his units will add a new dimension to the fray as the world's first digitally enhanced heavy division. He said its array of computerized gear aboard tanks and other vehicles should improve battlefield coordination and make it easier to distinguish friendly forces from enemy troops.

"We have the latest equipment for biological and chemical protection that the Army has and the soldiers

know how to use it," Odierno added.

The general said there are still some anxieties among the troops, in part because they don't know exactly when they're leaving, where they're going or when they will return. But as professional soldiers, they're well prepared for their mission, Odierno said.

"I want to make sure everybody knows that America can be very proud of their service men and women who are deploying as part of Task Force Ironhorse. As we speak, they are hard at work ... preparing not only their equipment but also themselves and their families for what's ahead," Odierno said.

Some troops will stay behind as a "rear detachment" to help families cope with their loved ones' absences, he said. Though he declined to speculate on the duration of the mission, other officials have said the soldiers would be gone at least six months.

Complex preparations for the division's journey overseas are going well, said Lt. Col. Ted Martin, commander of the 1st Squadron, 10th Cavalry, better known as the "Buffalo Soldiers." The squadron uses digitized M1-A2 tanks and Bradley fighting vehicles, helicopters and mortars to find the enemy and prepare the battlefield for regular combat troops.

"For the past six or seven months, we've been really focusing on our reconnaissance tasks, with almost unlimited time in the field," he said.

"About 96 hours ago, we were out about 40 kilometers away firing our main gunnery. So my soldiers just completed their latest gunnery qualification exercises when we got the word the president wanted us over in the Central Command area of operations," Martin said.

"Right now, the soldiers are totally focused on getting their equipment prepared for deployment and moving out," he said, adding that a base chaplain has been busy making the rounds among younger troops.

"This is a very traumatic event for everybody," Martin said. "This is an awesome experience."

*Jan. 22, 2003, 10:29PM*

# Dining out in Dallas will be less smoky under new ban

**Associated Press**

DALLAS -- City leaders snuffed out smoking in restaurants Wednesday, passing an ordinance that exempts stand-alone bars, pool halls and tobacco shops that have separate areas for smoking.

The ban, approved 10-3 by city council members, also bans smoking in public places, including hotel bars and lobbies, country clubs, bingo halls, hospitals, libraries, schools and transit system vehicles. Many of those places already ban smoking or had areas restricted by the city.

Proponents of the Dallas ban, including Mayor Laura Miller, said only a ban can protect restaurant patrons and workers from secondhand smoke.

"Our most important role is to protect the health and safety of our citizens," said Councilwoman Elba Garcia.

But some restaurant owners argued it will cost them money or even force businesses to close if the ban drives customers to nearby suburbs.

William Moede, owner of a north Dallas restaurant, said he polled his customers and many will dine in nearby Richardson after the ban goes into effect March 1. That means he will have to lay off employees.

Economist Bernard Weinstein said the loss of smoking customers will further reduce sales tax revenue that already has been lagging, leaving Dallas with a budget shortfall.

"It's bad public policy in view of Dallas' weakened economy," he said.

Miller said studies show that cities that ban smoking do not suffer long-term economic losses.

Steven Holt, a musician who has performed at Dallas venues, said he welcomes the change because he has been "slowly poisoned" by unhealthy levels of secondhand smoke.

"As a musician, I don't feel I should be forced to choose between myself and a paycheck," he said.

Most of the council backed away from Miller's original proposal to ban smoking in stand-alone bars and pool halls, a further restriction they say will not be considered in the near future.

Still, some on the council argued that smoking restrictions should be decided by the business owner, not a government body. Some eateries already have installed air ventilation systems or closed smoking areas due to customer preference.

"It's so easy to go after smokers now," said Councilwoman Sandy Greyson. "Smokers are like the new lepers."

Dallas' previous law required restaurants with more than 50 seats to provide a nonsmoking section that must be separated from the smoking section by 4 feet of floor space.

The restaurant ban, which was recommended by the council's health committee, is stronger than a measure proposed in August by the city's Environmental Health Commission. That proposal would have required separate ventilation systems to ensure that smoke does not enter nonsmoking areas.

Plano and Arlington also have ordinances requiring separate ventilation systems in most restaurants.

Boston and New York also have recently endorsed comprehensive smoking bans.

The Boston law bans smoking in all public indoor workplaces, including restaurants and bars. New York, which already had a law that prohibited smoking in restaurants with more than 35 seats, now will ban smoking in almost all restaurants and bars.

*Jan. 22, 2003, 10:26PM*

# **Jury indicts ex-convict in alleged securities plot**

**By KEVIN MORAN**

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A Houston federal grand jury Wednesday indicted a Galveston County ex-convict on charges of securities fraud that allegedly cost brokerage houses \$7 million.

Harris Dempsey "Butch" Ballow, 59, of Tiki Island has been in custody since being arrested Nov. 27 by FBI agents who spent more than two years investigating his securities and other financial transactions.

Ballow set up numerous sham corporations, some in the British Virgin Islands and Panama, the indictment said.

Shortly after his arrest, Ballow told a judge he was not guilty of mail fraud, wire fraud or money laundering.

The indictment charges him with:

- Three counts of mail fraud for allegedly sending fraudulent corporate documents through the mail in 1998.
- Three counts of wire fraud for allegedly causing money to be transferred electronically while conducting a fraudulent scheme in 1998.
- Four counts of money laundering for allegedly using the proceeds of illegal activity to cover checks he caused to be written in October 1998.
- Two counts of making monetary transactions greater than \$10,000 each that affected interstate commerce.

The indictment also says prosecutors will ask a judge to order Ballow to forfeit \$15 million. If the government can't find cash assets, prosecutors said, they will seek forfeiture of any property Ballow owns.

The \$700,000 Tiki Island home in which Ballow and his wife, Robin, have lived for a decade is under title in the name of one of the allegedly sham corporations he set up.

Among other firms, prosecutors say, Ballow defrauded Salomon Smith Barney of nearly \$800,000; Midwest Discount Brokers of \$1.9 million; and Phoenix-based Paradise Valley Securities and Baltimore-based clearing broker BT Alex Brown suffered a combined loss of \$2.3 million.

Wednesday's indictment names 11 corporations through which Ballow allegedly conducted fraudulent securities schemes. The companies were established between April 1996 and October 1998.

FBI agents raided Ballow's house in March 2001, taking computers and documents.

Through attorneys who represented him in civil cases, Ballow has repeatedly denied wrongdoing.

A July 29, 2001, Houston Chronicle report reviewed, among other things, a civil securities fraud case in which a Harris County jury awarded Houston businessmen Jakie Sandefer and Steve Smith an \$8.5 million judgment against Ballow.

Attorneys and a private investigator hired by the pair uncovered scores of brokerage and bank accounts they maintained Ballow used to conduct stock frauds.

"Butch Ballow has initiated and directed cash and securities in excess of \$100 million through the accounts of his various sham corporations" between 1999 and 2001, Houston attorney Geoffrey Bracken said in court documents.

After Ballow's arrest in November, Assistant U.S. Attorney Mary Jane Harmon said the fraudulent activities on which the government based its charges represented "just the tip of the iceberg" of Ballow's illegal doings.

Harmon said losses by individual investors who bought Ballow-related stocks cannot be calculated.

On July 31, 2001, a Securities and Exchange Commission lawsuit asking a judge to force Ballow to turn over \$1.4 million he allegedly made with a stock fraud scheme. The suit is pending.

Besides being sued dozens of times over business deals and unpaid loans and bills, Ballow served 19 months of a five-year sentence in a federal prison in Big Spring before being paroled in late 1989. He had pleaded guilty to wire, mail and credit card fraud connected with a telemarketing scheme touting free vacations.

In 1988 in Val Verde County, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison for defrauding an investor in one of his businesses of \$17,000.

*Jan. 22, 2003, 10:34PM*

# **Orchestra hits sour note with musicians**

## **Players say symphony plans to cut salaries, jobs**

**By CHARLES WARD**

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The Houston Symphony Society plans to cut five positions from the orchestra and impose a 14 percent pay cut Feb. 1, the musicians' spokesman said Wednesday.

In response, the players have filed a complaint with the National Labor Relations Board, alleging unfair labor practices.

"The charges are absolutely without merit," said Art Kent, senior director for public affairs for the society, which operates the orchestra.

He would not comment on the ongoing contract negotiations.

The two sides have been negotiating a contract to replace the previous 4 1/3-year agreement that expired Oct. 5. The society said in sessions late last week that it would impose new contract conditions next month, according to the players.

The biggest change in the society's proposal is eliminating five full-time positions in the string section, said Dave Kirk, the musicians' spokesman and principal tuba player.

The symphony has 97 players, a minimum specified in the expired contract. No minimum number of string players is specified; currently there are 61. Many internationally recognized orchestras have more than 100 musicians.

According to the players, the society plans to impose a major salary cut but will retain the current 52-week season. The minimum salary would shrink 14 percent to \$63,960 annually from the current \$74,100.

That would take Houston several thousand dollars below the lowest salaries at other full-time American orchestras.

Earlier, the society proposed cutting salaries by eliminating several of the nine weeks of paid vacation

musicians currently receive.

Behind the negotiations is a battle over how to maintain the artistic excellence that the Houston Symphony has achieved since the late 1980s.

The orchestra is once more facing significant financial problems. The society reported a \$1.6 million deficit for the 2001-02 season and has projected a \$2.3 million deficit for the current one.

To guarantee long-term stability, the society says it has to eliminate the orchestra's decades-old tradition of deficits and financial crises. It is trying to cut costs and increase revenue.

The musicians argue that changes such as cuts in salaries or the size of the orchestra eventually will reduce the artistic quality by forcing members to move to other orchestras.

Employers may impose new contract terms when negotiations have reached an impasse, according to labor law. However, the musicians do not believe talks are at an impasse, Kirk said, adding that the negotiating committee has made several cost-cutting proposals.

The orchestra has not met as a whole to discuss the latest developments, he said.

The NLRB complaint includes charges that the society has made unilateral changes in schedules and programming without consulting the players' artistic advisory committee and has refused to supply enough information for musicians to evaluate the orchestra's fiscal condition.

In September the society eliminated 11 concerts from three series and reduced non-musician staff by 15 percent, or nine positions.

The orchestra's next performances are Saturday's two concerts with Mariachi Vargas de Tecalitlán of Mexico, the Jan. 30 gala with cellist Yo-Yo Ma and the Feb. 1-3 opening of a four-week festival of Shakespeare in music led by music director Hans Graf.

*Jan. 23, 2003, 12:00AM*

# Old ferry, new life as reptile museum

By **RICHARD STEWART**

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**FREEPORT** -- Like a retired sailor who is tired of life on the beach, the Cone Johnson is waiting to go to sea again.

This time the ferry that spent 45 years carrying cars and people across Galveston Bay is due to become a reptile museum in New York City.

Built in 1950, enlarged in the 1970s and taken out of service in 1995, the vessel sits on the banks of the Brazos River Diversion Channel. It looks forlorn and abandoned, its windows broken, the victim of time, vandals and the elements.

An aging white-and-pale-green paint job even covers most vestiges of the boat's grand old name. Its namesake was a force in Texas politics for almost 50 years. It now sports the name "Empire," a leftover from a failed scheme to make it into a gambling boat.

After six years of slumber at a dock maintained by Muchowich Offshore Oil Services, the 237.5-foot-long vessel was auctioned on the Internet last October through eBay.

"I saw that and knew I had to have it," said Steve Kates, director of the Long Island Reptile Museum in New York.

"I had to save it. It's perfect for us."

Kates' museum is in Hicksville, N.Y., 30 miles from Manhattan. He's long wanted to build another museum in the heart of the city, but property costs were prohibitive.

He plans to reconfigure the Cone Johnson to provide 15,500 square feet of space and dock it at a Manhattan pier.

The old wheelhouses and superstructure will be removed and the asphalt scraped off the decks. A structure will be built over the decks that once held cars and trucks. Visitors will be able to see hundreds of different snakes, lizards, alligators and other reptiles on display. "We'll even have dinosaur skeletons," Kates said.

The Cone Johnson name will be restored.

Kates plans to have the preliminary work done in Freeport and the boat towed to New York in about four months for final construction. The two big diesel engines and electric propulsion motors will be removed, he said.

The refit will cost \$3 million, Kates estimates, and the tow to New York will cost another \$150,000 to \$300,000. At those prices the ferry will still be cheap real estate for Manhattan, he said.

The cheapest part of the process was buying the boat, Kates said. His winning bid was \$35,000.

Nobody is making money on the sale of the boat, said Kathy Welsch, who arranged for the eBay auction. Her friend, Marilyn Stanley, operates the offshore oil rig supply-boat company that has the dock where the vessel is parked. The sale won't pay the six years of unpaid dock fees, she said.

The sale did give Welsch other ideas. She's planning to create a weekend crafts market at the dock and periodically have auctions of engines, boats and other items from the marine industry.

The Cone Johnson may end up in New York, but it was born in Galveston's Todd Shipyards. For the first half of its life, the boat was painted yellow with dark green trim. In the mid-1970s the hull and deck were lengthened by 60 feet, and the paint scheme was changed to red, white and blue.

"They built the hull upside down and built the upper part separate and put it on after the hull was turned over," said Dr. Cone Johnson, 76, of Denton. The boat was named for his great-uncle. The younger Johnson was in medical school in Galveston in 1950 when he helped his aunt Ethel, the elder Johnson's widow, swing a bottle of champagne against the hull to christen it.

His great-uncle was a perfect namesake for the first of three "modern" ferries built for the state highway department, Johnson said.

Born in Georgia in 1860, Cone Johnson came to Tyler in 1880, became a lawyer, and was elected to the Texas House in 1886 and the state Senate in 1888. Always a progressive campaigner for reform, he helped create the Texas Railroad Commission. He was also a staunch prohibitionist.

He served as a solicitor in the U.S. State Department before the United States entered World War I and was influential in both state and national politics. In 1927 he was appointed to the highway commission, where he served until his death in 1933.

Johnson was only 7 when his great-uncle died, but he remembered him as "a very kind man." Every birthday he sent the boy a postcard with two slits cut into the card and a \$20 gold piece inserted in the slits. "That \$20 gold piece always arrived," Johnson said. "I guess people were more honest then."

The elder Johnson had no children and left his young namesake the money to pay for his education.

Like many other Texans, the younger Johnson loved taking the 20-minute voyage across the bay on the boat. "When I was in medical school and married with small children, I didn't have much money, so it was cheap entertainment for my family," he said.

He recently visited the old boat with his friend, Patti Haworth, and found it still had magic.

"I had asked her hundreds of times to marry me, and she always said no," Johnson said. While standing in one of the old wheelhouses, she handed him a little box. Inside he found a piece of silver paper with one word written on it -- "yes."

"There's no doubt what the `yes' meant," Johnson said with a laugh.

Jan. 22, 2003, 10:28PM

# Hispanic population surge follows trend

## Census shift seen in city for decades

By **LORI RODRIGUEZ**

**Copyright 2003 Houston Chronicle** Minority Affairs Writer

A local immigration expert said Wednesday that this week's Census report showing Hispanics are officially the largest minority group in the country could portend a shift in relations among the nation's ethnic groups -- a shift that began in Houston decades ago.

"What's been happening in Houston and is now happening in the rest of the country throws another variable into the question of racial and ethnic America," said Nestor Rodriguez, a sociologist at the University of Houston and co-director of the Center for Immigration Research.

"Minorities are no longer just African-Americans. There are other groups, and Hispanics, especially, more and more want to play the role they have geographically established by their numbers."

Rodriguez, who has just completed a study on black and Hispanic relations, predicts increasingly complex relations between the two minority groups, particularly as one population booms and the other declines.

"It doesn't necessarily mean competition," Rodriguez said. "Hispanics are not saying we need to compete with blacks. Hispanics are saying we need equity. We need fairness."

The Census Bureau announced Tuesday that the nation's Hispanic population had grown to 37 million by July 2001, surging past the black population of 36.2 million.

But in Texas, Hispanics have been the state's largest minority group since at least the 1980 Census, the first time the count included a comprehensive Hispanic-origin question.

"Hispanics surpassing blacks nationally wasn't a big surprise to us, but it seems to have hit a lot of other people as a surprise," said demographer Steve Murdock, director of the Texas State Data Center at Texas A&M University.

"Why this is such a big story outside of places like Texas is that there's still a widespread perception that the main minority in the U.S. is black.

"There's not an understanding of the role of Hispanics. Maybe now, that will start to change."

In the 2000 Census, Hispanics overtook Anglos to become the largest ethnic group in Houston and the state's four other largest cities; they accounted for 60 percent of Texas' total growth through the 1990s.

Hispanics now number nearly one of every three Texans, growing from 26 percent in 1990 to 32 percent in 2000. Blacks are 11.5 percent of the state population and Asian and Pacific Islanders are 2.8 percent.

Anglos in 2000 dropped to 53 percent of the state's population, from 60.6 percent in 1990. In a harbinger of the national shift, Houston's Hispanic share of population in 2000 jumped to 37.4 percent of residents, or 730,850 people, up from 27.1 percent in 1990. Anglos, meanwhile, dropped from 42 percent 10 years ago to 31.5 percent, or 614,621.

Blacks, historically the dominant non-Anglo group in Houston, increased their numbers by 46,000 during the decade but shrank proportionally from 27 percent to 25 percent.

In Harris County, the Hispanic share of population surged from 22.9 percent in 1990 to 32.9 percent in 2000. The black share dipped slightly, from 18.7 percent in 1990 to 18.5 in 2000.

The Anglo share of the population suffered a more profound drop, from 54.2 percent of county residents to 42.8 percent.

"It's not just about blacks and whites anymore. It's about blacks, Hispanics, whites and everybody else," Murdock said.

His demographic prediction: An increasingly old and shrinking white population coupled with a growing, younger, less-educated and less-skilled minority work force, most of it Hispanic.

"This will start to create a national awareness," said Murdock, of the widely covered census announcement.

"That's critical to shaping public policy."

Census figures are used by Texas lawmakers to draw political districts and reapportion congressional seats. The data are also used to allocate \$185 billion in federal funds to states and communities.

*Jan. 22, 2003, 10:13PM*

## **A DUAL EFFORT**

# **Study: Combining lifestyle change with drugs cuts heart risks**

**By DEBORAH MANN LAKE**  
**Special to the Chronicle**

Bob Casson woke up from a diagnostic heart catheterization procedure to bad news. One of his arteries was 90 percent blocked, a surgeon told him, and he would need immediate bypass surgery.

That was all the motivation Casson needed to change his lifestyle by eating a diet extremely low in fat, exercising and taking cholesterol-lowering medication.

Now a new study has shown that Casson's motivation makes him three times less likely to suffer a coronary event than someone who only takes medication or only changes his lifestyle.

The study appeared in the Jan. 15 issue of the Journal of the American College of Cardiology.

"The real lesson of the study is that there's a certain effect with a lifestyle change and there's a certain effect with medication, but when you put the two together, there's a profound effect on survival," said Dr. K. Lance Gould, professor of cardiology at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston.

Gould, chief investigator of the study examining the habits of 409 patients with heart disease, said other studies had shown the benefits of exercise and the benefits of powerful cholesterol-lowering medications such as lipids, but no studies had put the two together.

Heart disease is a genetic and environmental disease, Gould said, and treatment should address both issues.

"A lot of people do the medication, but don't do the lifestyle," Gould said. "Or they'll change the lifestyle but don't want to take the drugs. They figure that surgery will take care of it, and that's just not the case. For those who care about doing both, this provides scientific proof."

For the study, Gould divided patients of several participating doctors into three groups: the "maximal" group that made the most changes, including a diet with 10 percent fat; the "moderate" group that did

either lifestyle or medications; and the "poor" group that did not change their lifestyle and did not take medication. The patients took a special test called positron emission tomography (PET) imaging, which measures blood flow through the arteries around the heart, to establish a baseline.

Thirty months later, the patients underwent another PET scan to see if blood flow had improved. Five years later, those patients were again evaluated to see how they had done and whether the PET scan was a true indicator of later heart trouble. It was.

Only 6.6 percent of the maximal group suffered a heart attack that led to surgery or death, compared to 20 percent of the moderate group and 30 percent of the poor group.

Four years after he suffered chest pains and underwent the catheterization, Casson has yet to have heart surgery. His cholesterol dropped 90 points in the first 30 days after beginning his new lifestyle and is now down to 155. (Doctors say it should be below 200.) His triglyceride count has also dropped dramatically and his high blood pressure is under control.

He runs three times a week and does stomach crunches every morning. He and his wife eat lots of chicken and venison that are grilled, not fried, he said.

Casson was closely monitored for more than two years after the initial PET scan because studies have shown it takes two years for the benefits of diet, exercise and medication to reverse the risk. "Basically, I'm on cruise control now," said Casson, whose mother and father both suffered from heart disease and whose brother had a heart attack at 56. "By doing the diet and medication, I figured I save \$75,000 (the cost of a bypass) and six weeks of work. Dr. Gould is very straightforward. Do you want to live or die?"

The next step in his research, Gould said, is trying to identify people who may have a heart attack because of a genetic defect in the plaque structure in the arteries.

"Is there a non-invasive way to tell that someone has an unstable plaque structure and will have a heart attack anyway? That technology is not currently available, but we think if we redesign the PET imaging, we could develop it," Gould said. "It might be able to save a young person like Darryl Kile (the baseball player who died of heart disease in June) by identifying high-risk people in their 20s and getting them on the right diet with the right medications."

Jan. 22, 2003, 7:17PM

## Of note

### **Program targets veterans with breathing problems**

Veterans who have trouble breathing because of emphysema, asthma or bronchitis may be eligible to participate in a Baylor College of Medicine and Houston VA Medical Center research study on reducing depression.

Research Aimed at Depression and Anxiety Reduction is an educational program to help people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease deal with emotional problems.

The program includes eight weekly, one-hour classes and three follow-up visits. The cost of the study is free. Participants receive up to \$130 after completing the entire study.

For more information call 713-794-8692.

### **Group offers scholarship to area nursing students**

The Healthcare & Nursing Education Foundation is offering academic scholarships up to \$4,500 per year to those interested in pursuing a nursing career. Eligible applicants include anyone planning to attend a college or university located in the greater Houston area for the fall 2003 semester.

For an application, visit the group's Web site at [www.hnef.org](http://www.hnef.org) or call 713-802-7865, or send an email to [cgeorge@familyservices.org](mailto:cgeorge@familyservices.org) with "Scholarship Application" in the subject line.

The deadline for submission is March 28, 2003.

### **Hearing, speech center hosts weekend workshop**

The Center for Hearing and Speech will host author, educator and speaker Dr. David Luterman, who will talk about the effects of deafness on the family system.

His workshop will be 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday at the Center for Hearing and Speech, 3636 West Dallas at Shepherd.

Audiologists and speech/language pathologists who attend will receive six hours of continuing education credits.

The program is \$35 for audiologists and speech/language pathologists and \$10 for parents.

For more information, call 713-523-3633.

### **Pregnancy preparation subject of free seminar**

Learn more about pregnancy and childbirth at a Preparing for Pregnancy seminar 9:30 a.m to noon Feb. 1 at Cypress Fairbanks Medical Center. The educational seminar, which is free, will include an informal meet-and-greet session with the hospital staff as well as presentations.

All registered participants will receive a pregnancy kit, which includes a pregnancy test and ovulation predictor coupons and a baby-due date calculator.

Cypress Fairbanks is located at 10655 Steepletop Drive.

To register call 1-800-681-2733.

### **Chronic headaches focus of support group meeting**

A holistic approach to treating chronic headaches will be the subject of the next Houston Headache Support Group. The meeting will be at 7 p.m. Monday at Memorial Hermann Southwest Hospital, 7600 Beechnut , Pavilion Location Concourse Level Austin Rooms 1 and 2.

For more information, call 713-660-9140.

### **Treatments for disorders to be discussion topics**

New treatments for Tourette's disease, attention deficit disorder and obsessive compulsive disorder will be discussed at a symposium 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Friday at the Houston Intercontinental Hotel, 2222 West Loop South.

Tourette's syndrome is among the most frequently misdiagnosed disorders and is often confused with hyperactivity and nervousness. Attention deficit disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder commonly accompany this genetic, neurological disorder. Despite the common belief that it is a rare disorder, Tourette's syndrome is a common condition affecting about 3 percent of the general population.

For more information or to register, visit [www.bcm.tmc.edu/cme](http://www.bcm.tmc.edu/cme) or call 713-798-8237.

### **Parents should be aware of strep throat symptoms**

Sore throats are extremely common in young children. So how do parents know when it's time to visit the doctor?

For starters, parents need to look for symptoms such as fever, headache, swollen tonsils and lymph glands, and pain when swallowing. Also, if the back of the throat is red with white patches, it's time to grab your keys and head to your pediatrician.

"Strep A is contagious and more often occurs in children ages 4 and up," said Dr. Carol Baker, an infectious disease specialist at Texas Children's Hospital and professor of pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine.

If strep throat is confirmed, your child will be given an antibiotic. It is important that your child takes all the medication as directed by the doctor. If your child's temperature is normal, he or she can return to day care or to school 24 hours after starting the medication.

*Jan. 22, 2003, 10:29PM*

# 'Buddy' Weaver, firefighter for 40 years

**By ROBERT CROWE**

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Marion Jasper "Buddy" Weaver Jr., a 40-year veteran firefighter who became a district chief in Kingwood after it was annexed by Houston, died Jan. 16. He was 63.

He is believed to have suffered a heart attack, said his older sister, Marilyn Ann Dillen.

Weaver was a district chief for 25 years before retiring in October from Fire Station 102 in Kingwood.

"He was the type of chief always involved in the Fire Department," said Capt. Walter Dyer. "He used to call us his `boys' and regarded us as his second family. That's not unusual within the brotherhood of firefighters, but he took it to another level."

Kingwood residents were upset about Houston annexing the area, but Dyer said Weaver made sure his firefighters provided the best service there.

"Chief Weaver would let the people know he didn't set city policies, but he was there to serve the citizens with good fire service," Dyer said.

Weaver coached Little League baseball in Bellaire when his children were growing up. Friends and family said Weaver, who loved NASCAR auto racing and fishing for trout and redfish, had an uncanny knack for remembering people's names.

"He never met a stranger, and if he met you just once, he knew your name a year later," Dillen said. "You couldn't walk into a place where he didn't know someone."

The only son, Weaver was lovingly teased by his three sisters but spoiled by his parents and grandparents, Dillen said.

Inspired by his firefighter uncle, Weaver became a Houston firefighter when he was 23, after serving two years in the Army.

Friends and family said Weaver once drove a firefighter suffering smoke inhalation to a hospital in an ambulance when he believed medics were working too slowly.

"People always laugh about that," Dillen said, "but he wanted to make sure the kid got medical attention."

Weaver is survived by wife Mary Nell, four children, three sisters and many grandchildren.

Services were held Tuesday at Forest Park Woodlands Chapel.

### **Deaths elsewhere**

Pulitzer Prize-winning cartoonist **Bill Mauldin**, who as a young Army rifleman in World War II gave newspaper readers back home a sardonic, foxhole-level view of the front with his drawings of weary, dogface GIs Willie and Joe, Jan. 22 of complications from Alzheimer's disease, including pneumonia. He was 81.

**Burns W. "Bud" Roper**, a polling pioneer who relished tracking the twists and turns of American public opinion, Jan. 21 of lung cancer. He was 77.

**Barbara Wace**, a former Associated Press reporter who was one of the few female journalists to cover World War II from the European battlefields, Jan. 16 in London. She was 95.

Jan. 23, 2003, 12:01AM

## News briefs

Area

### **Lake Livingston search now a recovery mission**

GROVETON -- The search for two Houston-area teens turned Wednesday from a rescue mission to an effort to recover bodies.

Trinity County Chief Deputy Sheriff Richard Steptoe said so much time has passed since Melissa Mercer, 17, and Kevin Young, 17, were seen, emergency workers can only assume they drowned Sunday night on Lake Livingston. Crews began dragging the lake's north end Wednesday, Steptoe said.

The Jersey Village High School students took an open-bowed aluminum boat on the lake Sunday afternoon, and rescue workers found it on the shore Monday. The cover was off its outboard motor, indicating engine trouble.

Pictures of Young and Mercer were put on a billboard off Interstate 45 near Willis on Wednesday in hopes of sparking someone's memory. Information can be left with the Sheriff's Department at 936-642-1424 or Texas EquuSearch at 1-877-270-9500.

### **Guest charged in death of his 70-year-old host**

A house guest has been arrested and charged with murder in the stabbing death of an elderly southwest Houston man.

Robert Hugh Wilson, 70, was killed Monday night in his townhouse in the 11600 block of Chimney Rock, and his assailant damaged the back door to make it appear like a break-in, investigators said.

The suspect, Pius Vinton Smashed Ice, 37, of New Market, Md., returned to the home Tuesday and called 9-1-1, pretending he had just found Wilson's body, police said.

They said Ice, who had been staying with Wilson for six days, admitted killing him during a violent argument.

### **Man files a guilty plea over fake military papers**

A Houston man convicted of posing as a highly decorated war hero pleaded guilty Wednesday to possessing altered military discharge papers.

Paul Alan White, 47, entered his plea before U.S. District Judge Sim Lake, who set sentencing on both convictions for April 25. White could get two years in prison.

He pleaded guilty in December to unlawfully wearing the uniform of a Marine Corps warrant officer, adorned with the Navy Cross and other medals. White was of a lower rank and never served overseas.

Three veterans called his masquerade an affront to their service in the Marines. "It's called stolen valor," said Vietnam veteran and Purple Heart recipient Art Ramirez, 55. "It's just shameful."

### **City Council is divided over antiwar resolution**

The Houston City Council appears divided over a request from almost 2,000 residents that it adopt a resolution opposing war with Iraq.

Members of the Houston Coalition For Justice Not War presented a 1,960-name petition Wednesday calling for such a resolution.

Some on council favored discussing a resolution, but others expressed concern it would divert attention from city matters, such as police and fire issues.

### **Police seek information on missing disabled man**

A mentally disabled man vanished from his family's home in northeast Harris County early Wednesday.

Daniel Bosquez Jr., 45, who lives with his father, walked out of the home in the 11100 block of Maple Rock about 6 a.m. Wednesday while his father was making breakfast.

Bosquez left once before and was found 25 miles away, sheriff's Sgt. Bruce Williams said. Authorities are especially concerned today because of the cold weather.

Bosquez is 6 feet tall, about 200 pounds with black hair and brown eyes. He was wearing a light cloth jacket, blue jeans and mismatched slip-on shoes. Anyone with information is asked to call the Sheriff's Department at 713-221-6000.

### **Finalist is named for Galveston schools post**

GALVESTON -- A former Deer Park school superintendent has been named sole finalist for the top job in this city's school district at an annual salary of \$185,000.

Lynn Hale, who led the Deer Park district from 1987 to 1993, is expected to take over here in February. Hale, 64, of Kemah was unanimously named sole finalist by the Galveston School Board late Wednesday.

She was superintendent of the Arlington district from 1993 to 1998, reducing its annual budget by \$10 million and gaining voter approval of two bond issues.

### **No injuries reported in fire at UH campus**

A fire broke out Wednesday night at the University of Houston main campus but was brought under control within 30 minutes.

The blaze was reported about 9:45 p.m. on the second floor of University Center, 4800 Calhoun. There were no initial reports of injuries, UH officials said.

The University Center houses several lounges, restaurants and meeting rooms for students and faculty.

State

### **Dallas City Council passes smoking ban**

DALLAS -- City leaders snuffed out smoking in restaurants Wednesday, passing an ordinance that exempts stand-alone bars, pool halls and tobacco shops that have separate areas for smoking.

The ban, approved 10-3 by city council members, also bans smoking in public places, including hotel bars and lobbies, country clubs, bingo halls, hospitals, libraries, schools and transit system vehicles. Many of those places already ban smoking or had areas restricted by the city.

Proponents of the Dallas ban, including Mayor Laura Miller, said only a ban can protect restaurant patrons and workers from secondhand smoke.

But some restaurant owners argued it will cost them money or even force businesses to close if the ban drives customers to nearby suburbs.

### **Funeral set for family killed in plane crash**

HUNTSVILLE -- Weekend funeral services are set for an East Texas minister and his family killed when a small passenger plane crashed in Arizona.

Monty Price, 45, former minister of the Risin' Sun Cowboy Church in Trinity, was flying from Las Vegas to Midland on Jan. 8 when the two-engine Piper PA-23 crashed north of Flagstaff, Ariz.

The plane struck a tree and apparently broke apart on impact.

Also killed were Price's wife, Susan, 44; son Jake, 19; and Jake's girlfriend, Lendon Stovall, 19.

Services for the Price family will be at 3 p.m. Saturday at Cedar Grove Cemetery in Trinity, about 88 miles north of Houston.

*From staff and wire reports*

Jan. 22, 2003, 11:45PM

# AMR loss sets record; Southwest profitable

Reuters News Service

It's a tale of two airlines, with American Airlines posting on Wednesday the largest annual loss in the suffering aviation industry's history and crosstown rival Southwest cranking out profits for the 30th year in a row.

Fort Worth-based AMR Corp. is the parent of American, the world's largest airline. It posted a 2002 loss of \$3.5 billion, surpassing the record loss of \$2.1 billion posted by United Airlines' parent, UAL Corp., in 2001. Bankrupt UAL has yet to post full-year results, due next week.

In contrast, Dallas-based Southwest reported both a fourth-quarter profit of \$42 million and a full-year profit of \$241 million at a time when its bigger rivals are losing their shirts.

AMR shares plunged 23 percent lower at \$3.77 on the New York Stock Exchange, while Southwest fell 4 percent to \$12.30.

AMR's chief financial officer, Jeff Campbell, said during a conference call the airline had \$2.7 billion in cash at the end of the year, of which \$775 million was restricted for certain expenses, and it was burning through about \$5 million in cash daily. Those figures shocked some airline observers, but the CFO said American was far from ready to throw in the towel.

"I very strongly resist the chain of thought that says it is inevitable now that US Air and United have gone into bankruptcy that American must," Campbell said.

Sources have told Reuters the airline has hired bankruptcy lawyers in New York, however, at the firm of Weil, Gotshal and Manges.

After struggling all last year to win concessions from labor groups, UAL, the second-largest airline, filed for Chapter 11 protection in December, unable to finance debt payments as industry revenue continues to slump.

That followed US Airways Group's bankruptcy filing in August.

Southwest, the No. 6 U.S. carrier, flies only domestically and has some of the lowest costs and highest worker productivity in the industry despite its unionized work force.

"We were well-prepared for these bad times," said Southwest Chief Financial Officer Gary Kelly during a conference call.

Southwest is still taking delivery of planes, boosting capacity and gaining market share from rivals. It has 413 planes on order and options from Boeing Co. to cover about a decade.

Analysts lauded the results at Southwest but were concerned about the cash drain at American.

Except for Southwest, with revenues off about 20 percent from levels two years ago, the major U.S. carriers are expected to lose between \$8 billion and \$10 billion in 2002. That compares with a combined 2001 loss of about \$7 billion.

*Jan. 22, 2003, 10:47PM*

# Apache stock issue raises \$553 million

**Copyright 2003 Houston Chronicle**

Apache Corp. said Wednesday it has raised \$553.7 million in a stock sale to help finance its \$1.3 billion purchase of oil and gas properties from BP.

The Houston-based exploration and production company sold 9.43 million shares at \$61 each, in an offering managed by Morgan Stanley & Co.

The original plan was to sell 6.2 million shares, but the number was upped to 8.2 million. Underwriters had an option to purchase an additional 1.23 million shares, all of which were exercised.

The remainder of the transaction, Apache's largest ever, will be funded with internally generated funds and with debt.

The bulk of the acquisition involves the Forties, a legendary field discovered in 1970 that marked the North Sea as an oil and gas province.

The other portion involves properties in the Gulf of Mexico, which will make Apache the largest acreage holder on the Continental Shelf. Its oil and gas production is expected to go up by 29 percent.

The Gulf acquisition will close by March 31, with the North Sea acquisition expected to close late in the second quarter.

Apache's stock closed Wednesday at \$61.95, a decline of 14 cents. For the year to date, its stock is up 8.7 percent, while the gain during the past year is 37 percent.

Jan. 22, 2003, 10:30PM

# Identity theft complaints double, leading fraud list

## Associated Press

WASHINGTON -- The government received twice as many complaints about identity theft last year over 2001, with victims reporting hijacked credit cards, drained bank accounts and tarnished reputations.

"This is a crime that is almost solely on the shoulders of the victim to resolve," said Beth Givens, director of the Privacy Rights Clearinghouse, a San Diego-based consumer group. "They're beleaguered, they're tired, they're angry and it takes them a good deal of time to recover."

The number of identity theft complaints rose from about 86,000 in 2001 to about 162,000 last year, the Federal Trade Commission said Wednesday. The figures come from a database of 380,000 fraud complaints collected by the FTC, the FBI and scores of law enforcement and consumer groups.

Identity theft accounted for 43 percent of the complaints, topping the government's list of consumer frauds for a third consecutive year. Gripes about fraud in Internet auctions ranked No. 2 and accounted for 13 percent of complaints.

Up to 700,000 people in the United States may be victimized by identity bandits each year, the Justice Department says. It costs the average victim more than \$1,000 in expenses to cope with the damage to their accounts and reputations, the FTC has said.

Privacy advocates advise consumers to protect themselves from identity theft by checking their credit reports twice a year, shredding personal documents before throwing them away and cleansing wallets of old receipts and printed Social Security numbers.

Howard Beales, chief of the FTC's Bureau of Consumer Protection, said complaints about identity theft have increased along with greater public awareness of the problem, prompted by the agency's efforts and recent high-profile identity theft cases.

In 2001, the FTC began promoting a dedicated Web site and toll-free phone number for victims.

"What we're seeing increasingly is identity theft because some insider steals information and sells it," Beales said at a news conference.

In November, federal authorities in New York broke up what they called the biggest identity theft case in

U.S. history and charged three men with stealing credit information for 30,000 people. Prosecutors said the scheme began with passwords and records stolen from a software company.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said he has asked the FTC to issue and enforce security guidelines for businesses that collect sensitive financial information. The guidelines would include employee background checks and restricting access to customer information.

"We must now take companies to task when identity theft occurs under their watch and the company is at fault," Schumer said in an interview. He said he would propose legislation to tighten corporate security if the FTC does not address the issue.

FTC spokeswoman Cathy MacFarlane said the agency has met with Schumer's staff and is considering the proposal.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif. will introduce several bills in the next few weeks seeking greater protections for Social Security numbers and stiffer penalties for identity thieves, spokesman Howard Gantman said.

Jan. 22, 2003, 11:52PM

# Judge won't swallow suit about fast food

Reuters News Service

NEW YORK -- McDonald's Corp. won a major victory for the fast-food industry Wednesday when a federal judge threw out a widely watched lawsuit that blamed Big Macs, fries and Chicken McNuggets for obesity in children.

U.S. District Judge Robert Sweet said the plaintiffs, including a 400-pound teenager who said he eats at McDonald's every day, failed to show that customers of the world's largest fast-food chain were unaware that eating too much McDonald's fare could be unhealthy.

But the judge did not let McDonald's off the hook completely. Referring to Chicken McNuggets as a "McFrankenstein creation" of elements not used by home cooks, he said the plaintiffs could refile their case with information backing their claim that diners have no idea what is really in their food or that the products have allegedly become more harmful because of processing.

At issue, the judge said, is where to draw the line between personal responsibility and society's responsibility to protect individuals.

"If a person knows or should know that eating copious orders of supersized McDonald's products is unhealthy and may result in weight gain ... it is not the place of the law to protect them from their own excesses," the judge said. "Nobody is forced to eat at McDonald's."

Samuel Hirsch, a lawyer for the plaintiffs, said it was premature for McDonald's to celebrate the decision and that he planned to refile the suit within 30 days.

"There is language in the court's decision which strongly supports some of our arguments," he said.

Meanwhile, the ruling brought at least a temporary sigh of relief from corporate America, which feared fast food would become the next target of the trial lawyers, who have engulfed the asbestos and tobacco industries with litigation.

"We are hopeful this ruling will deter others from filing abusive, frivolous lawsuits that further encumber our judicial system. We maintain that this lawsuit was senseless and baseless, and this ruling confirms our position," the National Restaurant Association said.

The lawsuit was brought on behalf of overweight children who ate at two McDonald's restaurants in the Bronx borough of New York City.

The plaintiffs sought unspecified damages, blaming McDonald's for health problems that included diabetes, coronary heart disease, high blood pressure and elevated cholesterol.

The suit was one of at least four cases filed against McDonald's and other fast-food chains over the obesity issue. At least two cases have been dropped, and another is dormant.

McDonald's, based in Oak Brook, Ill., said it has been providing nutritional information about its food for 30 years and hailed the decision as a victory for common sense.

McDonald's stock showed little reaction to the ruling, rising 2 cents to close Wednesday at \$15.36 on the New York Stock Exchange.

Jan. 22, 2003, 10:30PM

# SEC OKs new rules for audits

## But limit dropped on tax consulting

**Los Angeles Times**

WASHINGTON -- The Securities and Exchange Commission on Wednesday approved new rules to bolster the independence of accountants from the companies they audit. But fierce industry lobbying killed a proposal to bar auditors from also providing lucrative tax consulting services to their corporate clients.

The action came as federal regulators scrambled to meet deadlines imposed by Congress to pass new protections for investors.

The rules "are not the end of the story," SEC Commissioner Paul Atkins said, alluding to charges that the agency is weakening some of the proposals that were made after scandals at Enron Corp., WorldCom and other companies shook public faith in the integrity of corporate financial information.

In recent weeks, the SEC has imposed new rules on corporate financial reporting; restricted senior executives from unloading stock during times when rank-and-file workers may not sell their own shares; and required companies to disclose whether they have a code of ethics for their officers and whether they have a financial expert on their audit committees.

The SEC had hoped to complete work today on a rule requiring lawyers to report evidence of misdeeds by their corporate clients. But a provision that lawyers blow the whistle to government officials has become so controversial that the commission may not be able to resolve it this week.

In addition, the SEC has scheduled a vote on a new requirement that mutual funds disclose how they cast their proxy votes at shareholders' meetings.

The issue of auditor independence flared up during the Enron debacle, after disclosures that auditor Arthur Andersen provided a broad range of services to Houston-based Enron and earned millions of dollars for services other than auditing.

The new rules prohibit auditors from providing a range of business activities to their audit clients. But it represented a retreat from earlier, more stringent SEC proposals.

Under the new rules, for example, auditors would still be allowed to help design tax shelters and other tax strategies for companies they audit if they receive preapproval from the company's audit committee.

SEC commissioners stressed that the new rules were at least as stringent as the Sarbanes-Oxley reform legislation.

For example, certain auditors would be prohibited from auditing the same company for more than five straight years and could not resume auditing that client for five years. The congressional legislation had called for a briefer, two-year cooling off period.

The SEC commissioners voted to prohibit the two most-senior accounting partners on a team auditing a company, and other partners deemed significant to the team, from working on that company's books for more than five or seven years, respectively.

SEC officials say the new rule goes beyond what was mandated by Congress -- rotation only of the top two partners. The public comment period brought objections from both the accounting industry and corporations.

They expressed concern about a potential "loss of expertise" among auditors working on a company's account, said Commissioner Cynthia Glassman. If the requirements prove not to go far enough, she said, the SEC or the new board overseeing the accounting industry created by the accountability law will impose additional safeguards.

SEC Commissioner Harvey Goldschmid said the new rules "greatly diminish the kinds of consulting work that auditing firms may do."

Audit companies would still be allowed to provide tax compliance, tax planning and tax advice to their clients, subject to advance approval from the company's audit committee. Auditing businesses rely on such services for a substantial share of their income and fought hard to make sure that they were not precluded from providing them.

Observers suggested Wednesday that it may be too early to assess how the cluster of new SEC rules will ultimately affect corporations and the nation's investors.

Barbara Roper, director of investor protection for the Consumer Federation of America, said the SEC "for the most part" had been carrying out the dictates of the Sarbanes-Oxley bill.

But she expressed concern that the regulators were easing their current financial reporting requirements for auditors, who would have greater latitude to lump auditing and other services together when disclosing their fees -- thereby making it harder to detect conflicts between auditing and nonaudit services.

Also Wednesday, the SEC approved rules to require mutual fund executives to certify the accuracy of their funds' financial reports. The commission also agreed to make companies disclose debt held in the type of off-balance-sheet entities that Enron and others used to hide losses.

The Associated Press contributed to this report.

*Jan. 22, 2003, 10:50PM*

# **KPMG expects SEC complaint**

**New York Times**

NEW YORK -- The accounting firm KPMG said Wednesday that it expected the Securities and Exchange Commission to file a civil complaint against the firm for its work as auditor for Xerox.

KPMG did not provide details of the reason for the anticipated complaint, which would probably be filed in federal court in Manhattan, and a spokeswoman for the SEC declined to comment. KPMG, which said it stood by its audits, said the complaint would probably name the firm, three current partners and one former partner.

"Today's charged regulatory environment has resulted in inappropriate actions being taken," said KPMG's chief executive, Eugene D. O'Kelly. "The result is a great injustice to KPMG and the four partners involved."

If the SEC files a complaint, KPMG would become only the second major accounting firm to face such charges in recent decades. The first was Arthur Andersen, which settled fraud charges in connection with its audit of Houston-based Waste Management in 2001, the year before it was driven out of business by the Enron scandal.

*Jan. 22, 2003, 10:53PM*

# Tech group will oppose film industry

**New York Times**

Some technology companies and consumer organizations are planning to announce today that they have formed a lobbying alliance to oppose regulations favored by the movie industry.

The idea for the organization, Alliance for Digital Progress, was born last year when Sen. Ernest F. Hollings, D-S.C., introduced a bill intended to prevent consumers from exchanging unauthorized copies of movies, music and TV shows over the Internet.

The measure, promoted by the Motion Picture Association of America, would have required technology companies to include anti-piracy technology in a range of devices.

The alliance is an effort to head off similar regulatory efforts, which the technology industry says will make it more expensive to produce their goods and make it harder for consumers. Members include Microsoft, Intel, Cisco and Digitalconsumer.org.

*Jan. 22, 2003, 10:49PM*

# Justices put limit on housing lawsuits

**Associated Press**

WASHINGTON -- The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that a fair housing law cannot be used to sue real estate company owners when their employees discriminate, a defeat for a mixed-race couple who had trouble buying a house in California.

The justices ruled 9-0 that the law outlawing racial discrimination in housing can be used to collect damages from those who discriminate and their companies. Company officers and owners cannot be sued separately, the court said.

Justice Stephen Breyer said that Congress, in passing the law in 1968 to help minorities rent and buy homes, did not say anything about individual liability for company owners.

The case stems from a 1997 lawsuit filed by Emma and David Holley, whose offer on a new home in the California desert was canceled by an agent who allegedly called them a "salt-and-pepper team."

Emma Holley is black, and her husband is white.

They sued the agent, the company he worked for and his boss.

The Holleys were joined in their suit by the builder, who sold the house in Twentynine Palms, Calif., for \$20,000 less than the couple was ready to pay.

The Bush administration had sided with the Holleys, arguing before the Supreme Court last month that the real estate company owner "exercised pervasive control" over the firm's affairs.

Breyer, however, said the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals was wrong to decide that company owners like David Meyer are "liable for the unlawful acts of a corporate employee simply on the basis that the owner or officer controlled (or had the right to control) the acts of that employee."

The case goes back to California to resolve other issues.

Jan. 22, 2003, 11:54PM

# Perfume maker smells success in space

By **MARK CARREAU**

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A rose is a rose, but those that grow in space may be more pleasing to the nose.

And maybe to a New York perfumer's bottom line.

International Flavors & Fragrances is having a rose's aromatic oils harvested aboard the space shuttle Columbia, brought to Earth, reproduced for consumer testing and then perhaps developed into a perfume to be sold in department and specialty stores.

The fragrance is being harvested from the popular hybrid mini-rose "Jenny O," which blossomed shortly after the Columbia lifted off.

Each day, astronauts use an electronic sniffer to take samples of the rose's aromatic oils.

Once the samples return to Earth on Feb. 1, the company will develop a perfume, which potential consumers will put to the smell test.

The astronauts also are gathering aromatic samples from a rice flower plant blossoming aboard Columbia. The scents from the rice and rose plants may be combined to produce a third, even more complex, scent.

The last out-of-this-world fragrance was an "Overnight Scentsation." A rose by that name flew in 1998 with the shuttle crew that included then-U.S. Sen. John Glenn. Its aromatic oils were introduced to Zen, a perfume sold by Shiseido, and the result was a hit.

The differences between fragrances of roses grown on the ground and those produced in space is pronounced.

Weijia Zhou, director of the Wisconsin Center for Space Automation and Robotics, a NASA-funded research group that helped International Flavors & Fragrances get the experiment aboard Columbia, has given "Overnight Scentsation" a before-and-after sniff.

"I have two bottles of the original essential oils, one labeled as `space' and one labeled `Earth.' I would

say they are different," Zhou said. "The space one is a mild and pleasant kind of aroma. The other is strong."

Researchers have learned from previous plant experiments in space that weightlessness alters their metabolisms in as-yet unpredictable ways, including the production of the aromatic oils used to produce fragrances.

International Flavors & Fragrance, which paid an undisclosed amount to put its research among Columbia's 80 experiments, wants to know why.

"We are fundamentally interested in understanding how natural growing conditions, such as light, water, and nutrients, determine a flower's fragrance," said Clint Brooks, the company's senior vice president for research and development. "These are obvious. But what about gravity? That is why we are doing this new experiment."

*Jan. 22, 2003, 11:46PM*

# El Paso fighting California order

**By MICHAEL DAVIS**

**Copyright 2003 Houston Chronicle**

El Paso Corp. is seeking to block a subpoena from the state of California that would give the state broad access to the company's records.

California, which is investigating allegations of market manipulation during the state's energy crisis, wants El Paso records related to false information its traders might have reported to trade publications, said Tom Dresslar, a spokesman for the state's attorney general.

Former El Paso trader Todd Geiger was indicted last year for giving bogus information to a publication that produces price indexes used to value natural gas. He pleaded innocent and is to go to trial March 24.

California has been scrambling to gather evidence of market manipulation as part of a special 100-day discovery period granted state officials by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in November on orders from the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco. That effort is scheduled to end Feb. 28.

Federal prosecutors in Houston have disclosed they have recordings of some 140 calls taped by El Paso traders.

California wants El Paso, Duke Energy Corp., Mirant Corp. and others to pay back billions of dollars on grounds that they broke federal rules and gouged consumers.

The companies say they did nothing wrong and prices rose when demand exceeded supply.

El Paso is making two arguments to have the subpoena quashed.

First, it says the subpoena was improperly issued to El Paso Corp., when it should have gone to a subsidiary that was involved in the California market, El Paso Merchant Energy.

Second, the company said California is asking for all of the documents the company turned over to the FERC and the U.S. attorney's office in Houston.

El Paso says the data is confidential.

"They can ask El Paso Merchant Energy for relevant documents, but they cannot just make a blanket request, 'Send me everything you sent to FERC,' " El Paso spokeswoman Norma Dunn said.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Judge H. Peter Young granted the request for the subpoena last week from the California attorney general's office and other agencies as the state pushes to win an estimated \$9 billion in refunds.

Dresslar said the state will oppose El Paso's efforts to have the subpoena thrown out.

"Judge Young obviously felt our request was justified," Dresslar said. "El Paso is now arguing that the requested documents fall outside of the purview of the refund proceeding. That argument doesn't hold water."

*Jan. 22, 2003, 10:51PM*

# Expert in hacking unlocks a secret to open real doors

**New York Times**

A security researcher has revealed a little-known vulnerability in many locks that lets a person create a copy of the master key for an entire building by starting with any key from that building.

The researcher, Matt Blaze of AT&T Labs-Research, found the vulnerability by applying his area of expertise -- the security flaws that allow hackers to break into computer networks -- to the real-world locks and keys that have been used for more than a century in office buildings, college campuses and some residential complexes.

The attack described by Blaze, which is known by some locksmiths, leaves no evidence of tampering. It can be used without resorting to removing the lock and taking it apart or other suspicious behavior that can give away ordinary lock pickers.

All that is needed, Blaze wrote, is access to a key and to the lock that it opens, as well as a small number of uncut key blanks and a tool to cut them to the proper shape. No special skills or tools are required; key-cutting machines costing hundreds of dollars apiece make the task easier, but the same results can be achieved with a simple metal file.

AT&T decided that the risk of abuse of the information was so great that it took the unusual step of posting an alert to law enforcement agencies nationwide.

The paper, which Blaze has submitted for publication in a computer security journal, has troubled security experts who have seen it.

Marc Weber Tobias, a lock expert who works as a security consultant to law enforcement agencies, said he was rewriting his police guide to locks and lock picking because of the paper.

"I view the problem as pretty serious," he said, adding that the technique was so simple that "an idiot could do it."

The attack is not news to locksmiths, said Lloyd Seliber, the head instructor of master-key classes for Schlage, a lock company that is part of Ingersoll-Rand. He said he even taught the technique, which he calls decoding, in his training program for locksmiths.

In the paper, Blaze applies the principles of cryptanalysis, ordinarily used to break secret codes, to the analysis of mechanical lock designs. He describes a logical, deductive approach to learning the shape of a master key by building upon clues provided by the key in hand -- an approach that cryptanalysts call an "oracle attack."

The technique narrows the number of tries that would be necessary to discover a master-key configuration to only dozens of attempts.

*Jan. 22, 2003, 11:54PM*

# Winter extremes good news for natural gas futures prices

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NEW YORK -- Natural gas futures gained 4.4 percent Wednesday to the highest level in 23 months as frigid weather in the Midwest and East boosts heating demand, shrinking fuel supplies from last year.

U.S. gas inventories, below normal after a cold snap in early December, probably fell 9.2 percent last week, analysts' estimates showed.

Gas for February delivery rose 24 cents to \$5.673 per thousand cubic feet on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Prices were up 35 percent from the end of November and have more than doubled from a year earlier.

Crude oil futures fell on both sides of the Atlantic on Wednesday as worries about supplies from Venezuela and Iraq eased.

And Saudi Arabia said the country stands ready to increase supply to ensure market stability.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, light, sweet crude for March delivery slipped 34 cents to settle at \$32.85 a barrel.

Petroleum products futures were mixed, with gasoline losing some ground and heating oil surging amid cold weather and a rally in natural gas futures.

February heating oil futures rose 1.72 cent to close at 91.19 cents a gallon. February gasoline closed with a loss of 0.17 cent at 89.93 cents a gallon.

In London, March Brent closed down 40 cents at \$30.34 per barrel.

Jan. 22, 2003, 10:51PM

# Don't you dare say 'freedom of expression'

**New York Times**

Freedom of expression, it turns out, may not be for everyone.

Kembrew McLeod, an artist and assistant professor at the University of Iowa, believes that "freedom of expression" -- or at least the phrase -- belongs to him, because he registered it as a trademark in 1998. And now that AT&T is using the phrase in some print ads, he wants them to stop.

On Wednesday, McLeod sent AT&T a "cease and desist" letter, partly because consumers might infer a link between the company and McLeod's anti-corporate journal, Freedom of Expression. The bigger idea behind his legal action, he said, was to object to corporate power over words, speech and even ideas.

"I do want to register my genuine protest that a big company that really doesn't represent freedom of expression is trying to appropriate this phrase," he said.

AT&T has not received the letter and would not comment before it does, said Jeff Robert, a company spokesman.

While it may seem unlikely that McLeod will be able to push around a corporate titan like AT&T, stranger things have happened on the bizarre battleground of intellectual property, trademark and copyright law.

The notion of intellectual property became tabloid fodder back in 1993 when NBC lawyers tried to prevent David Letterman from taking skits like Stupid Human Tricks from *Late Night* to his new CBS show.

By last October, the premise was pervasive enough to drive a plotline on an episode of HBO's *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, in which comedian Richard Lewis tries to prove he coined the all-purpose pejorative, "blank from hell" (as in "nanny from hell").

*Jan. 22, 2003, 10:49PM*

# AOL, HP link up on messaging

## Washington Post

America Online, faced with sluggish business prospects, moved Wednesday to generate a new stream of revenue by teaming with Hewlett-Packard Co. to develop and market AOL's instant-messaging service for corporate use.

While AOL brings a giant user base and proprietary software to the partnership, Hewlett-Packard brings relationships with businesses and the technical ability to devise ways to save and secure instant messages.

Millions of people use AOL's free instant-messaging software at work, on cell phones and at home; the company claims 195 million registered users. But businesses, lacking the ability to document instant messages, have been reluctant to adopt them.

Many industry analysts predict that instant messaging will eclipse e-mail in the workplace as a tool for internal communication or a way to confirm transactions. Gartner Inc. says it could happen as soon as 2005. The market leader is International Business Machines Corp., which sells its SameTime instant-messaging service to businesses. Microsoft Corp. and Yahoo both are working on instant-messaging systems for businesses.

No financial terms of the AOL-Hewlett-Packard partnership were disclosed. Hewlett-Packard signed a technology-licensing agreement with AOL, which will earn fees once Hewlett-Packard sells AOL Instant Messenger to businesses.

Bruce Stewart, an AOL senior vice president, said in an interview that America Online's agreement with Hewlett-Packard is the biggest and most important partnership the company has to go after the business market for instant messaging. AOL is free to make similar deals with other companies, he said.

For AOL, with declining ad revenue and sluggish subscriber growth in its core business of connecting users to the Internet, sales from instant messaging could help the company return to financial health. The company said it has no plan to charge consumers for instant messaging.

While there are protocols that enable people to send e-mail to one another no matter what computer system they are using, instant messaging is evolving differently. One factor that has slowed commercial adoption of instant messaging is the existence of incompatible networks.

*Jan. 22, 2003, 11:52PM*

# **New contract officially ends port strike**

**Associated Press**

SAN FRANCISCO -- The labor dispute that shuttered West Coast ports for 10 days last fall and hamstrung Pacific trade formally ended Wednesday when dockworkers and shipping companies overwhelmingly approved a new six-year contract.

Nearly 90 percent of International Longshore and Warehouse Union members who voted approved of the multibillion-dollar deal, which should bring labor peace to 29 major ports that badly need to modernize -- and should be able to do so under the pact.

More than 7,400 members voted for the deal, while nearly 900 voted against it, the largest margin of victory for any longshoremen's contract, according to union officials. Voter turnout was 85 percent.

The Pacific Maritime Association, which represents shipping lines and terminal operators, also said its member companies had "overwhelmingly" ratified the deal.

The deal includes no-cost health insurance and a 60 percent increase in pensions. By 2008, a union member will receive an annual pension of \$1,800 multiplied by the number of years worked -- a 30-year veteran, for example, would get \$54,000 per year in retirement.

Salaries would increase 12 percent by the end of the six-year contract, giving the average longshoreman around \$90,000 in annual pay.

In exchange, union members would accept a new wave of computer technology that would speed the flow of goods through already congested ports. Increased efficiency would hit the work force, but not too hard. The contract would guarantee that all current union members keep their jobs, but as they retire, about 400 positions could be lost.

*Jan. 22, 2003, 10:48PM*

## Local earnings

Consolidated Graphics reported a rise in third-quarter sales and net income as the commercial printer gained market share and improved the performance of recently acquired companies. Results were ahead of company expectations, and the revenues were a record. The same quarter was weak the previous year because of the Sept. 11 attacks. Qtr. to Dec. 31 2002 2001

Revenues 186,296,000 153,750,000

Net income 5,747,000 3,574,000

Per share (basic) 0.43 0.27

Per share (diluted) 0.42 0.27

Houston-based Consolidated Graphics is a commercial printing company.

Jan. 22, 2003, 10:59PM

## AT HOME

# Electronic sitters evolve, but some still beat others

By ANNE REEKS  
Special to the Chronicle

To know the Internet is to love it -- and to hate it.

On the one hand, there's the delight of e-mailing friends and relatives, and Web-surfing for entertainment and information. On the other, there's the scourge of spam, smut and stupidity encountered in the process.

Either way, we don't trust the Internet with our children, who are using computers and going online in droves. If looking at the kid in the next room doesn't convince you, recent Census Bureau statistics bear out the increasing use of computers and the Internet among children. That's provoking a lot of worries and assorted attempts to tame the Internet.

The government has waded in with the Children's Internet Protection Act, which requires schools and libraries that receive federal funds to block access to inappropriate content. The measure as it applies to libraries was struck down on First Amendment grounds and is on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Surprisingly for the civil libertarians among us, myself included, the software Internet filters that this act mandates work pretty well. They can keep out the bad stuff without preventing children accessing worthwhile content that might contain the same words, according to a new study.

However, the filters have to be set up right or they will throw out the baby with the bath water. The Harry J. Kaiser Family Foundation found that the Internet filters most often used by schools and libraries block pornography without thwarting access to health information online -- but only if they are not set at most restrictive levels.

The study, See No Evil: How Internet Filters Affect the Search for Online Health Information (see a summary at [www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org)), said that when filters are set at their least restrictive, they incorrectly block an average of 1.4 percent of health sites versus 24 percent blocked when most restricted. At the intermediate level, filters unintentionally block only 5 percent of all health sites. Not bad.

On other fronts, a children-only Internet domain -- .kids.us -- is in the works, and Internet service providers are rushing to address concerns about children's online safety. Three major Internet service

providers trumpet new and improved Internet-limiting tools, called parental controls, as key selling points.

Here's a rundown on the latest in parental controls:

AOL 8.0, the first to provide parental controls -- in 1994 -- offers three age categories for restrictions on Web access: 12 and under, 13 to 15, 16 to 17. And it has a timer to limit when and how long kids are online. At the youngest, and most restrictive setting, children have minimal Web access and e-mail. At the oldest, and least restrictive level, only violent or explicitly adult content is blocked.

Although its age categories are broad, 10- to 12-year-olds surely would rebel at confinement to the kiddie pool -- the AOL Kids Only Channel, and options for fine-tuning the settings are few, the controls are easy to set up and well-suited to beginners.

MSN 8 has more sensible age categories: 9 and under, 10 to 12, 13 to 17. It allows parents to choose specific types of Web content they want children to have access to (or not) and sends an automatic e-mail when kids try to access a blocked site or mail recipient.

The trade-off is, setup takes more time and trouble if parents don't accept defaults. Still, MSN's customizing options and the ability for parents to remotely approve a restricted site make it a good choice for Web-savvier families.

SBC Yahoo, with only two age categories, under 13 and 13 to 18, and complicated setup, has little going for it, but the wonderful Yahoo!igans Web directory, which is a safe harbor for newbies. Neither as user-friendly as AOL nor as customizable as MSN, it even asked nosy questions about kids: full name, birthday, gender.

Not to be forgotten amid all the legal and technical tools to rein in the Internet is the importance of old-fashioned down-home supervision. Nobody and nothing can do that better than parents, one kid at a time.

"You still have to do your job," says Parry Aftab, executive director of WiredSafety.org. That includes talking about family rules and values, online safety and what to do when something untoward happens. Parents don't have to be Internet wizards to do those things.

"It's not about technology," Aftab says. "It's about common sense and how it applies online."

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*Anne Reeks is a Houston freelance writer, software reviewer and contributing editor to Parenting magazine. Her e-mail address is A4anne@swbell.net.*

*Jan. 22, 2003, 10:48PM*

## **WORKING@HOME**

# **Sony adds fun to video, business presentations**

**By CHERYL CURRID**

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If you are looking for a secondary business computer for your home office, check out Sony's VAIO W Series PC (PCV-W10) one-piece computer.

Aside from offering unusual features -- like a superwide flat-panel screen, great built-in speakers and a sleek design -- Sony has packed software inside that can add sizzle to business presentations. It's too much fun to call it work.

This is a perky computer that has a different footprint from most. It's great to put on a kitchen desktop or in a den. Because it comes with plenty of multimedia extensions, you could like it simply for kicking back and watching a DVD.

For me, the best part was Sony's crazy moviemaking software called MovieShaker. This program takes a clip of your video and lets you select a mood for it. You can give it a pensive, happy, excited or kooky mood. You can also add a custom title and choose whether you want the audio on the movie clip to play.

That's it. Your work is over. From there, it takes control of all the bits and bytes to take pieces from your video and randomly play them with music, effects and text that match the mood for 30 seconds.

This software is auto-auto. You've given control to the computer. The software picks what clips it uses, as well as the transitions between clips.

The results are amazing. I tried a dozen different selections and was pleased with each one. Some of the scenes it created would have taken hours to do on a regular video editor. But keep in mind, you get what it gives you. If you want to edit the final product, you'll have to export it, then read it back into an alternate video editor.

If you want to take control of transitions and clips, it's a different story. You have a lot more work to add in the pieces and transitions yourself. Still, MovieShaker is a great way to take video and make it look professional. You can use the shaken clips as a part of a presentation or as a self-running demo. It can even be added to a PowerPoint presentation and played from inside that software.

The PCV-W10's design fits into any lifestyle. It is based on an all-in-one design, and when you are not using it, the keyboard folds up to give you extra space.

The computer is based on Intel's Celeron 1.6 gigahertz chip, comes with built in Ethernet port, card slots for PCMCIA Type-II, and connectors for I.Link (IEEE 1394) and USB devices. The flat panel display is 15.3 inches wide and uses a wide aspect ratio.

The guts of the computer sit behind the three-quarter-inch screen in a 2 1/2-inch attached compartment. They've cleverly packed in 512 megabytes of RAM, 60 gigabytes of hard drive, a 400 MHz front side bus, an SIS650 Integrated Graphics card with a 2-D and 3-D accelerator, and 32 MB Shared Graphics Memory. Embedded into its chrome sides is a CD-RW/DVD-ROM combo drive.

At a list price of \$1,599, Sony has created a stylish computer that can go anywhere in the house. It's a great example of technology that's both fun and functional. One caution: Beware of using MovieShaker and use it only after your work is complete for the day. Once you start, you'll find it's too much fun to put down.

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*Cheryl Currid is president of Currid & Co., a Houston technology research and analysis firm. For more information, visit [www.currid.com/labs](http://www.currid.com/labs). E-mail comments to [labs@currid.com](mailto:labs@currid.com).*

*Jan. 23, 2003, 12:16AM*

## **Briefs: Houston and state**

### **Canadian division is sold by Dynegy**

Constellation Energy Group said Wednesday it had purchased the electricity division of Dynegy Canada.

Terms weren't disclosed, but the deal gives Constellation, based in Baltimore, electricity contracts for about 65 commercial and industrial customers.

Constellation is also taking on four employees. Dynegy Canada is a subsidiary of Houston-based Dynegy.

The sale is consistent with Dynegy's plans to shed assets that don't fit its core strategy.

### **Phone companies announce merger**

Two phone companies, Birch Telecom and Ionex Telecom, announced Wednesday that they will merge to create a company that will compete with SBC Communications.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed, but a group of investors that includes the major backers of Ionex, based in the Dallas suburb of Addison, will provide more than \$40 million in funding.

The new company will retain the Birch name and operate on Ionex's network. It will be based in Kansas City. The combined company will serve over 500,000 telephone lines, mostly in Texas, Oklahoma, Missouri and Kansas.

### **Investors buy stake in newspaper firm**

A New York investment firm said Wednesday it will pay about \$100 million for a controlling interest in Westward Communications, which publishes 61 community newspapers in Texas and Colorado.

The investment firm, American Securities Capital Partners, said it acquired Westward from an investor group led by Stonehenge Partners, a private-equity investment firm based in Columbus, Ohio.

Westward owns two Houston-area daily newspapers, the Courier in Montgomery County and the Pasadena Citizen. It also operates 59 paid and free community weeklies, including 29 in the Houston area. Westward is based in The Woodlands.

Jan. 23, 2003, 12:17AM

## Briefs: Nation and world

### Motorola shares tank after profit forecast

CHICAGO -- Motorola said Wednesday its first-quarter sales in all of its units would be lower than fourth-quarter levels, but the world's No. 2 mobile phone maker was upbeat for full 2003.

Shares fell by as much as 3 percent as some analysts expressed doubt about Motorola's ability to meet its full-year sales and earnings target after a projected weak first quarter.

Schaumburg, Ill.-based Motorola also said it expected global industrywide handset demand to rise as much as 10 percent this year after flat growth the last two years.

The forecast was in line with its competitors' but raised skepticism among some analysts.

### Freddie Mac reaudit to mean restatements

McLEAN, Va. -- Freddie Mac said Wednesday that its earnings for 2002, 2001 and possibly 2000 will be restated upward because of changes in accounting for some transactions.

The mortgage-finance company is reauditing prior years with auditor PricewaterhouseCoopers, which replaced the defunct Arthur Andersen.

### Moody's faces suit over junk rating

NEW YORK -- Compuware Corp. has sued Moody's Investors Service, alleging that the credit rating agency's decision last August to downgrade the company to junk status, which caused its shares to fall 16 percent, constitutes defamation.

Compuware, a Farmington Hills, Mich.-based software maker, filed suit this week in a federal district court in Detroit, also alleging breach of contract, fraud and securities violations.

Alan Bromberg, a securities law professor at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, said Moody's, as it has done in prior suits over ratings, might raise a First Amendment defense that in downgrading Compuware it was performing a public service, and that its cut constituted protected opinion.

### Microsoft seeks pause on blending in Java

WASHINGTON -- Microsoft Corp. asked a federal appeals court Wednesday to shelve a lower court order that would force it to start incorporating Sun Microsystems' Java programming language in its Windows operating system.

The world's largest software company filed an emergency motion with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit in Richmond, Va. seeking a stay of the Java "must-carry" order until the court considers its challenge of the order.

Microsoft is hoping to overturn an order issued this week by U.S. District Judge J. Frederick Motz in Baltimore that requires Microsoft to begin putting Sun's Java into Windows within 120 days after the order is entered.

Motz said in an opinion issued Dec. 23 that the Java "must-carry" order was needed to remedy Microsoft's past antitrust violations and level the playing field between Java and Microsoft's .NET Web services.

### **AOL Time Warner to unload book unit**

NEW YORK -- AOL Time Warner is seeking to sell its book publishing division to pay down some of the heavy debts taken on with AOL's acquisition of Time Warner, people involved in sale discussions said.

The company retained the investment bank Merrill Lynch to approach publishers and investment funds about a possible deal. But in the current bear market, getting a decent price may be difficult, and there is no guarantee a buyer will emerge.

*Bloomberg News, Reuters, the Associated Press, the New York Times and Chronicle staff contribute to this report.*

*Jan. 23, 2003, 12:51AM*

# Clonaid executive refuses to answer questions about cloning claim before Florida family court judge

**Associated Press**

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. -- The vice president of Clonaid, which says it has now cloned three babies, was ordered Wednesday to appear in court next week after refusing to testify in detail about the headline-grabbing claim many experts consider to be a hoax.

The executive, Thomas Kaenzig, said his company wasn't incorporated anywhere and said it had kept him largely ignorant about its operations. He said he didn't know the location of Eve, the baby his company says is the world's first clone.

Testifying by telephone from his Las Vegas home, Kaenzig refused to answer most questions, even when threatened with contempt by Circuit Judge John Frusciante. The judge, who is deciding whether to appoint a guardian for Eve, ordered Kaenzig to appear in court next Wednesday.

Clonaid announced the birth of a girl the company nicknamed Baby Eve last month, but has not provided details about her or made her available for independent tests. Clonaid said Wednesday that a third cloned child, a boy, had been born in Japan. Clone No. 2, a girl, was purportedly born to a Dutch lesbian Jan. 3.

A Clonaid spokeswoman said company president Brigitte Boisselier would hold new conference Thursday in Toronto to talk about the latest births.

In Japan, a spokeswoman for the Japan Raelian Movement said Thursday that the Japanese baby is a clone of a 2-year-old boy who died in an accident 18 months ago. An Asian woman not of Japanese nationality served as the surrogate, she said.

Clonaid was founded by the leader of a sect that believes aliens created life on Earth and has said five clones were expected to be born by Feb. 5. Many scientists have said only independent testing would confirm whether the claim is true.

The hearing was scheduled after a Miami attorney filed a petition seeking a guardian for Eve, saying he wanted to protect the interests of the child -- even though no one has seen her.

Kaenzig said he had Boisselier's word "the child is being taken care of." Frusciante, a full-time family court judge, said parents of starved and abused children tell him that every day.

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On the Net:

Clonaid: <http://www.clonaid.com>

AP-WS-01-23-03 0122EST

Jan. 22, 2003, 10:41PM

# Bush appointee to AIDS panel has called disease 'gay plague'

By CECI CONNOLLY  
Washington Post

WASHINGTON -- The Bush administration has chosen Jerry Thacker, a Pennsylvania marketing consultant who has characterized AIDS as the "gay plague," to serve on the Presidential Advisory Commission on HIV and AIDS.

Next week, Health and Human Services Secretary Tommy Thompson is scheduled to swear in several new commission members, including Thacker, a former Bob Jones University employee, who says he contracted the AIDS virus after his wife was infected through a blood transfusion.

The 35-member commission, which makes recommendations to the White House on AIDS prevention, is the latest incarnation of a panel that has existed in various forms since the Reagan administration. Earlier commissions issued reports strongly critical of the national response to the AIDS crisis, nudging the government and the pharmaceutical industry toward greater action.

On his Web site and elsewhere, Thacker has described homosexuality as a "deathstyle" rather than a lifestyle and asserted that "Christ can rescue the homosexual." After word of his selection spread through the gay community, some of the material disappeared from the Web site. Earlier versions of the material that referred to the "gay plague," for instance, had been changed as of Wednesday to "plague."

Administration health officials speaking on condition of anonymity confirmed Thacker's appointment, saying he was part of a diverse group that includes a member of the board of directors of the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay and lesbian advocacy group; an AIDS adviser to the World Bank; and a state public health officer.

"This individual is an extremist ideologue who persecutes and demeans an entire class of people impacted by this disease," said David Smith, spokesman for the Human Rights Campaign. "That type of person has no business advising the president of the United States on how the government should address the epidemic."

Carl Schmid, a Republican gay activist who worked on President Bush's 2000 campaign, said he was disappointed and frustrated that HHS disregarded warnings that Thacker's selection would overshadow the valuable work of the commission.

"We need to have a scientific-based approach to the problems of HIV-AIDS and not this radical agenda he's pushing," said Schmid. Aside from the harshly anti-gay tone of Thacker's rhetoric, Schmid said his objection is his aggressive lobbying for abstinence-until-marriage education.

"Abstinence-until-marriage does not help anyone in the gay community because we can't get married," he said. "If you are a gay youth, who is addressing your concerns?"

*Jan. 22, 2003, 10:12PM*

## **Excerpts from readers' letters**

Excerpts from some of the letters sent recently to World War II cartoonist Bill Mauldin, who died Wednesday of complications from Alzheimer's disease. The letters were requested by his family:

"You have managed to capture the irony, double standards and outright insanity of Army life in a way that allows us to laugh at ourselves and our leaders and keep moving forward in the face of adversity." -- Staff Sgt. Jay R. Boltin, stationed in Kandahar, Afghanistan.

"Dear Bill, ... Willie and Joe were like a secret weapon on our side. Our platoon driver brought out chow to our gun section in big green containers. He also brought us the Stars and Stripes that was far more popular." -- Carl Siegel, Carol Stream, Ill.

"From one 80-year-old G-I to another 80-year-old G-I, Just to let you know I was one of the G-Is who always looked forward to your cartoons in Europe. I was in a 4.2 mortar battalion that supported the 3rd Division infantry many times, especially on Anzio and southern France. I always admired your Willie and Joe because I think every combat unit had the Willie and Joes, including myself." -- William Gallagher, Philadelphia.

"You can't believe how the men wounded or sightless would look forward to Willie and Joe because that was their life at the time." -- Joe Carrigan, 77, of Lombard, Ill., who worked at field hospitals in Europe and would describe the cartoon to the wounded and then read the caption.

Jan. 22, 2003, 10:12PM

# Bill Mauldin, lauded cartoonist, dies

## Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner created wartime characters Willie and Joe

By **RICHARD SEVERO**  
**New York Times**

Bill Mauldin, the Army sergeant who created Willie and Joe, the cartoon characters who became enduring symbols of the grimy, irrepressible U.S. infantrymen who triumphed over the German army and prevailed over their own rear-echelon officers in World War II, died Wednesday in Newport Beach, Calif. He was 81.

After Willie and Joe won the war, Mauldin became a syndicated newspaper cartoonist and went on for more than 50 years to caricature bigots, superpatriots, doctrinaire liberals and conservatives and pompous souls in whatever form they appeared. He twice won the Pulitzer Prize, first in 1944 for his World War II work, again in 1959 for his commentary on Soviet treatment of Boris Pasternak. Mauldin gave up regular cartooning assignments in the early 1990s.

Andy Mauldin, one of the cartoonist's seven sons, said that his father died of complications from Alzheimer's disease, including pneumonia, at a Newport Beach nursing home.

During the war, he excoriated self-important generals, insensitive drill sergeants, palate-dulled mess sergeants, glamour-dripping Air Force pilots, and cafe owners in liberated countries who rewarded the thirsty GIs who had freed them by charging them double for brandy. He was nothing short of beloved by his fellow enlisted men.

But no Mauldin characters were more memorable than Willie and Joe, the unshaven, listless, cynical dogfaces who spent the war fighting the Germans, trying to keep dry and warm and flirting with insubordination. They were the stars of *Up Front*, Mauldin's wartime best seller, and their exploits were reported regularly in service publications, including Stars and Stripes and the 45th Division News. Their likenesses were found in pup tents and bivouacs from Brittany to Berlin, tacked up next to the glossies of those other GI favorites, Betty Grable and Dorothy Lamour.

Willie and Joe were the guys who always got sentry duty when it rained or snowed and shrapnel in their backsides whenever they left their foxholes. It was they who contended with lice and fleas, complained about the K-rations, drank grappa and other strong brews made from suspicious ingredients, slept in rat-

infested barns, and suffered the incessant, grinding, morale-destroying boredom that only the infantry soldier knows.

Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, the supreme Allied commander, looked forward to their adventures and Gen. Mark Clark so appreciated them that he saw to it that Mauldin got a specially equipped Jeep in Italy so that he could go where he wanted. Gen. George Patton was one of a small minority who had no use for them.

Willie and Joe and their creator made the cover of Time magazine in 1945 -- the year after Mauldin won his first Pulitzer -- and Mauldin came home from the war a celebrity.

After the war, Mauldin seemed lost for a time. He covered the Korean War briefly for Collier's. In 1958, he visited Dan Fitzpatrick, editorial cartoonist for The St. Louis Post-Dispatch, who disclosed that he was planning to retire. Mauldin applied for the job, got it, and won a second Pulitzer Prize in 1959 on the plight of the Russian author Boris Pasternak. The cartoon showed two prisoners in Siberia, one of whom said to the other, "I won the Nobel Prize for Literature. What was your crime?"

Mauldin remained with the Post-Dispatch until 1962, when he joined the Chicago Sun-Times. He seemed to regain his old form and was for years regarded as one of the most influential cartoonists of his day.

Mauldin delighted in his jousts against Sens. John E. Stennis and Theodore Bilbo of Mississippi, a couple of Democrats who preached the virtues of segregation; Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy, the Republican from Wisconsin who saw communists and their sympathizers seemingly everywhere; Gen. Francisco Franco of Spain for his oligarchical oppression; Charles de Gaulle for his expansive dreams of French destiny, and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev for his bluster.

Jan. 22, 2003, 8:44PM

# Rove says Americans will back war in Iraq

By **BENNETT ROTH**

Copyright 2003 Houston Chronicle Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON -- Even as new polls show public nervousness over a U.S. confrontation with Iraq, White House political adviser Karl Rove Wednesday predicted "the support will be there" if the president makes the case for military action.

In a rare but wide-ranging session with reporters, Rove downplayed his role as the president's political guru and sought to counter criticism that domestic backing for Bush's Iraq policy was weakening.

He pointed to polling data from just before the 1991 Gulf War that showed Americans less supportive of war then than they are now.

However, once that war began, support for the first President Bush skyrocketed. Rove also noted that, according to a variety of polls, overall American support for military action has not changed substantially since the summer.

Rove and other administration officials spent much of the day pressing those points in the face of a new ABC-Washington Post poll that showed seven in 10 Americans want to give United Nations weapons inspectors more time in Iraq.

Rove said that Bush will begin making a case for confronting Baghdad, including using the high-profile State of the Union address to Congress on Tuesday. However, he cautioned not to expect too much from the nationally televised address.

"I don't think you will see this be the definitive speech on Iraq," Rove said.

Rove has been viewed as one of the most influential players in the White House where he has a key role in crafting policy positions and political

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strategy. He is credited with engineering Republicans' historic electoral successes in November.

But Rove ridiculed media accounts that portrayed him as one of the most powerful men in Washington.

"I do think most of what passes for coverage of my role tends to exaggerate," he said. "I think this town can only operate successfully through myth. And one of the great myths is there has to be some great Svengali-like person sitting in the White House."

Nevertheless, Rove has helped steer the president's policies on such hot-button issues as abortion, which was on the minds of many Americans on Wednesday as the nation marked the 30th anniversary of the Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion.

While some of the president's supporters hope the White House can get the abortion decision overturned, Rove made it clear that Bush intends to take smaller, politically realistic steps to limit the procedure.

"I think the practical and the possible is a ban on a particularly gruesome procedure, partial-birth abortion," he said, adding that the president also hoped to get Congress to pass a ban on cloning.

Despite the possibility of war, Rove said he didn't expect the president to call for the kind of sacrifices that were required during World War II, when food and fuel were rationed. He said that Bush, instead, has asked Americans to volunteer for emergency services organizations and to help the less fortunate.

Rove also took issue with criticism that the president has sided with wealthy interests and rolled back environmental reforms.

"This president is a populist," he said. "Given a choice between Wall Street and Main Street, he will chose Main Street any time."

[declaration inconsistent: 12/19](#)

• [U.S. Ambassador to U.N. John Negroponte on the Iraqi declaration: 12/19](#)

• [Official says most data in Iraqi nuclear filing is old: 12/13](#)

• [President Bush's speech on U.N. vote for resolution: 11/8](#) / [Audio](#) / [Text](#)

🔊 **Audio:**

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• [Bush remarks before student summit in Prague \(11/20\)](#)

• [Text of U.N. Security Council resolution 1441 \(11/8\)](#)

• [Chronology of key events since 1990](#)

• [Text of Britain's dossier of Iraqi plans to allow weapons inspectors \(9/2002\)](#)

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Video, audio courtesy [The](#)

[White House](#) and [The Associated Press](#). (Free [Real Player](#) required)  
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Thursday, January 23, 2003 Updated 12:20 AM

## Hot topic: Iraq

### Inspection criticized

**Associated Press**

Cars pass along a road between a portrait of Iraqi President Sadaam Hussein and the Youm Al-Nid'a Mosque in Baghdad, Iraq, today. The sheik of the mosque, Quteiba Saadi Amash, expressed outrage at the United Nations and the United States, claiming that U.N. weapons inspectors entered the mosque to carry out investigations on Monday.

### Top Stories

- [Allied support could ease U.S. burden](#)  
Even if there is substantial allied resistance to an invasion of Iraq, the United States will be prepared to attack with a force of 150,000 by middle to late February, according to military experts and U.S. officials.
- [More than 20,000 called up for active duty](#)  
More than 20,000 National Guard and reserve forces reported for active duty this week as the Pentagon continued its buildup for a possible war with Iraq.
- [Allies skeptical of Iraq strike are on hot seat](#)  
Bush administration officials said on Wednesday that next week they would confront France, Germany and other skeptics of military action against Iraq by requiring them to agree publicly that Iraq had defied the Security Council.

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### RESOURCES

**Video:**

- [Saddam says enemies would face 'suicide' at gates of Baghdad: 1/17](#)
- [State Department's Boucher says Jan. 27th is not a deadline for war in Iraq: 1/16](#)
- [Inspectors find empty missile shells: 1/16](#)
- [Iraqi general says Iraq has no illegal weapons: 1/16](#)
- [Britain's Blair says Iraq must be disarmed by force: 1/15](#)
- [Britain's Blair says oil is not the issue in Iraq: 1/15](#)
- [U.N. teams inspect a palace in Baghdad: 1/15](#)
- [Bush warns time is running out for Iraq: 1/14](#)
- [U.N.'s Annan says peace is possible: 1/14](#)
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- [Text of U.S. reaction: 9/2002](#)
- [A Decade of Deception and Defiance:](#) A background paper for Bush's 9/12 U.N. speech
- [CIA Factbook on Iraq](#)
- [White House on Saddam and Iraq](#)

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Thursday, January 23, 2003 Updated 1:22 a.m. CST

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## TODAY'S TOP STORIES

## Some jurors can 'relate' to defendant in Harris trial

Nine women and three men were picked Wednesday afternoon to hear the case of Clara Harris, 44, who is charged with killing her husband, David Harris, in the parking lot of a Nassau Bay hotel the evening of July 24. Under questioning from the prosecution, four of the 12 jurors said they could "emotionally relate" to Clara Harris.

• [Photo gallery: From the arrest to the trial](#)

## Mexico picks up the pieces



Andrew Innerarity / Chronicle

A Mexican flag hangs from a damaged home in Colima, Mexico Wednesday the day after the area was struck by a large earthquake. At least 25 were killed and 300 people were injured. [Full story.](#)

- [Bureau-less stations get to quake scene quickly](#)
- [Agencies begin to assess need, organize relief](#)
- [Terremoto remece ciudad de México](#)
- [Noticias, deportes y más de Houston Chronicle](#)

## Officials debate size of sidewalks along rail line

## Lotto winners in Brownsville, Grand Prairie

## Police chief's lawyer: Vendetta led to charges

## Effect of gun laws on crime rate uncertain

## Shakira reconjurs Madonna's winning formula

## Texas gives Conrardt 800th career victory

## OTHER NEWS

## Metropolitan

- [School sued for indecision on gay club](#)
- [Old ferry, new life as reptile museum](#)

HOUSTON CHRONICLE  
**78th TEXAS  
 LEGISLATURE**

**street fashion** Student dons **New York City** fashions for a night out. Requires [Flash 6](#) player.

## LOCAL BANDS

**Spotlight on: Modulator**

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**Aeros 6,**

**Wolf Pack 0**

## TODAY IN HOUSTON

## WEATHER:



**High:** 44°

**Low:** 23°

**Current:** 42°

Clear

**Wind Chill:** 34

**Humidity:** 53%

**Wind:** North 18

**Pollen:** Moderate

**Ozone:** No warning

## GETTING AROUND

- [Road closings](#)

### North Freeway:

Southbound, Greens to Beltway 8 North, two alternate lanes closed 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

- [Real-time traffic](#)

## JUST FOR FUN

- **Kronos Quartet:**

Music and space exploration link up in a concert featuring *Sun Rings*, a new composition created via a collaboration with NASA. At 8 p.m. at the Wortham Theater Center's Cullen Theater. Call 713-227-4772

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**Arts and Entertainment**

- [Players say symphony plans to cut salaries, jobs](#)
- ['American Idol 2' leads ratings bonanzas](#)
- [Wood's grouping with the Stones is only natural](#)
- [The Kinsey Sicks dish out the drag -- in harmony](#)
- [Video Notes: Bostwick over the top as 'Dalmatian'](#)

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**ON TV:**

- ***The Surreal Life:***  
The cast puts on a talent show. Isn't the housemates' lack of talent the whole point of this series? At 8 p.m. on the WB.
- **[TV listings](#)**

**The Inside Story:**

The scoop on The Chronicle.

**Adsite:** Advertising information for **print** and **online**.

**COMING THIS WEEK**

Don't like football? TV writer Mike McDaniel offers a look at what else is on television on Super Bowl Sunday. **Saturday in Houston.**

**INSIDE**



**2002: Year in Review:** A

look at the good, the bad and the follies.

**The Homegrown PC:**

Don't buy your next PC - build it! It's easier than you think, and to make the process even more painless, we've put together an **interactive tutorial.**



**Q&A: Ask NFL writer John McClain a**

question about the Texans or the NFL. We'll post his **answers to the best questions.**

**The News Bizarre:**

Check out the news that's odd, funny or just downright weird.

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Thu. Jan. 23, 2003

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Thursday, January 23, 2003 Updated 1:22 AM

## Sports

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### Marathon match

**Associated Press**

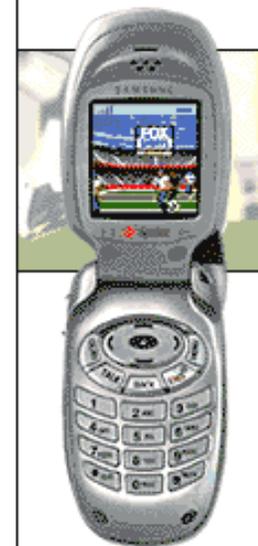
Andy Roddick throws a shirt into the crowd after defeating Younes El Aynaoui of Morocco 4-6, 7-6, 4-6, 6-4, 21-19 Wednesday at the Australian Open. The match lasted 4 hours, 59 minutes, one of the longest matches in the history of the Open era. The 20-year-old Roddick, winner of the U.S. Men's Clay Court in Houston, qualified for the first semifinal in a major of his career. **Full report.**

### Top Sports Stories

- [Yao tires of questions about fatigue](#)  
Yao Ming was tired. On the court, he said, he felt fine. But he had grown almost unbearably tired of questions about how tired he was. Asked directly if he was wearing out, he said simply, "No." After Yao explained a few more times that he was not tired, really, most were convinced he was actually pretty tired.
  - [Lopez: Francis is the one who has to lead way](#)
- [Biggio talking two-year extension with Astros](#)  
Craig Biggio's hopes for a contract extension got a serious boost Wednesday afternoon after owner Drayton McLane Jr. granted him an intimate meeting. Always one to listen to his players, McLane vows to have an answer for Biggio by Tuesday or Wednesday.
  - [Dierker shifts focus to book](#)
- [Texas gives Conradt 800th career victory](#)  
University of Texas defeated Texas Tech 69-58 Wednesday night as Longhorns coach Jody Conradt posted her 800th career victory.

**SCOREBOARD****AHL:**[Aeros 6,](#)[Wolf Pack 0](#)**ASK JOHN  
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McClain  
answers****[your questions  
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- [Callahan has emerged out of Gruden's shadow at Oakland](#)

Bill Callahan is not Jon Gruden. In fact, Callahan was a relative football nobody last year when Oakland Raiders owner Al Davis tabbed him to replace Gruden. On Sunday, Callahan will find himself on television's biggest stage when the Raiders face Gruden and the Bucs in Super Bowl XXXVII.

- [Sapp, Media Day a match heaven sent](#)
- [Pro Bowler Robbins anchors Raiders ship](#)
- [Romanowski's true colors are silver and black](#)

- [It's an all-Williams final at Australian Open](#)

Serena rallied from two breaks down in the final set to beat Kim Clijsters 4-6, 6-3, 7-5 in the Australian Open semifinals today and set up a fourth straight major final against her sister Venus.

- [Roddick a survivor in classic test of wills](#)  
 Andy Roddick won one of the longest matches of the Open era Wednesday, beating Younes El Aynaoui in a fifth set that ended 21-19 to reach the Australian Open semifinals.

- [Memphis gets revenge against UH](#)
- [Sophomore stars bring scoring, versatility to Rice](#)
- [Aeros take to road in impressive style](#)
- [Houstonian to coach U.S. men at Worlds Gymnastics](#)

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## Entertainment

## NewsHeadlines

**Berlin Film Festival showcases heavy-hitters**

Associated Press

New movies from Spike Lee, Steven Soderbergh, Spike Jonze and George Clooney are among the films in competition for the top Golden Bear award at this year's Berlin Film Festival.

- [TV Land to send Andy and Opie on walk to fishing hole](#)
- [Fatboy Slim, wife separate after three years](#)
- [Combs may be near new record deal with Universal](#)
- [Grammer may end 20 years of playing Frasier on NBC](#)
- [Bee Gees name died with Maurice, Gibb brother says](#)
- [MSNBC talk show host Nachman diagnosed with cancer](#)
- [Reeve arrives in Australia to speak at fundraiser](#)

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## Inside Entertainment

**In Theater**

Kinsey Sicks singers drag in harmony

**In Music**

Wood looks back at 25 years with the Rolling Stones

**In TV**

Simon's negative, but reality ratings still positive

**In Video**

Bostwick goes over the top as 'Dalmations' dog

**street fashion**

Student dons **New York City** **fashions** for a night out. Requires **Flash 6** player.

## LOCAL BANDS

**Spotlight on:**  
**Modulator**

## CLUBS &amp; BARS

**Check out:**  
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## THE LIST

**Nielsen rankings for Jan. 13-19**

1. Football: Tennessee at Oakland, CBS, 41.4
2. *CSI*, CBS
3. *Friends*, NBC
4. *ER*, NBC
5. Football postgame, CBS
6. Golden Globes, NBC
7. *Law & Order*, NBC
8. *Scrubs*, NBC
9. *Joe Millionaire*, Fox
10. *The Bachelorette*, ABC

**Top 20 shows**

## EXTRAS

**Festivals:** Find details on Texas fairs and festivals

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**The stuff of burritos**

Daniel Vargas looks at fixings that tip the scales while Alison Cook presents the case against these monstrous mutants



**'That Old Ace in the Hole'**

Read an excerpt from *That Old Ace in the Hole*, by Annie Proulx. Plus excerpts from other recently reviewed books.

**Fine Arts Calendar:**

An annual guide to the Houston arts scene

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**Preview:** Weekly entertainment guide

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**Zest:** Sunday arts and entertainment magazine

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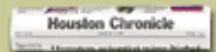
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Thursday, January 23, 2003 Updated 12:17 AM

**Business Finance & Markets****BY E-MAIL:** You can receive this section by e-mail.**The Chronicle 100:** Houston's top businesses**Stock ownership shoots up**

Associated Press file

People passing by watch President Bush discuss his economic plan earlier this month on the Boston Stock Exchange's street-level data wall. His plan includes reducing or ending taxes on dividends.

- **Burns:** Take steps to limit exposure to rising interest rates
- **Stock ownership shoots up**  
Slightly more than half of U.S. households owned stock in 2001, compared with about a third only a decade earlier as the Wall Street boom of the 1990s pushed stock ownership to record levels.
- **Dow, S&P have lost all of 2003's gains**  
Wall Street gave up the last of its New Year's rally Wednesday, falling for a fifth straight session as investors unloaded shares following tepid earnings from J.P. Morgan Chase and Eastman Kodak.
  - **J.P. Morgan posts big loss over Enron and other woes**
  - **AMR loss sets record; Southwest profitable**
  - **Apache stock issue raises \$553 million**
- **Identity theft complaints lead fraud list**  
The government received twice as many complaints

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about identity theft last year over 2001, with victims reporting hijacked credit cards, drained bank accounts and tarnished reputations.

- [Judge won't swallow suit about fast food](#)

McDonald's Corp. won a major victory for the fast-food industry Wednesday when a federal judge threw out a widely watched lawsuit that blamed Big Macs, fries and Chicken McNuggets for obesity in children.

- [SEC OKs new rules for audits](#)

The Securities and Exchange Commission on Wednesday approved new rules to bolster the independence of accountants from the companies they audit. But fierce industry lobbying killed a proposal to bar auditors from also providing lucrative tax consulting services to their corporate clients.

- [KPMG expects SEC complaint](#)

- [Tech group will oppose film industry](#)

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  - [El Paso fighting California order](#)
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  - [Warmer weather cools natural gas rally](#)
  - [Hopes for quick end to crisis in Venezuela quickly deflate](#)
  - [Schlumberger write-downs mean \\$2.86 billion quarterly loss](#)
- **Jan. 21, 2003:** [PUC: Deregulation savings exceed \\$1.5 billion](#)
  - [Despite Venezuelan crisis, Lyondell hikes refining](#)
- **Jan. 19, 2003:** [Oil-for-royalties deals questioned](#)
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  - [Early plans released for Alaska oil drilling](#)
- **Jan. 18, 2003:** [ChevronTexaco launching unit for natural gas](#)
  - [National Oilwell buys Halliburton division](#)
  - [Regulators go after El Paso records](#)
  - [Reliant, Dynegy see shares move up](#)
  - [BP will chop 350 jobs in Houston](#)
  - [Tough talk on Iraq lifts crude further](#)
- **Jan. 17, 2003:** [Oil majors cautious as profits set to leap](#)
  - [Mexico to boost oil output, but it won't flow northward](#)
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Continuing coverage of Enron's rise and fall

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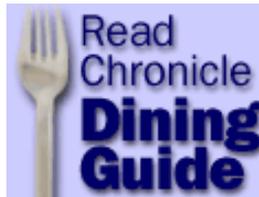
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Click on the first letter of the neighborhood you want to research.

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**Choosing a neighborhood**

At first glance, the variety of choices available in Houston neighborhoods and communities may seem overwhelming. But with all these choices, it's worth the time to explore Houston's neighborhoods. To help in your search for the location that is right for

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**Home Front:** Choosing a neighborhood in Houston.

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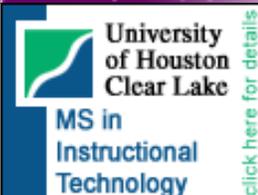
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Find out how much you would need to make in your new city to keep your current lifestyle

### [The Moving](#)

**Calculator:** Get a ballpark estimate of what it will cost to ship your household goods

### [The Relocation](#)

**Wizard:** Create a custom timeline to help you cope with all the details of relocating

### [Relocation Crime Lab:](#)

Compare crime statistics in different cities

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## Small Business

### This Week's Small Business Stories

- [Online ticketing company carves niche in market](#)

They say if you build a better mousetrap, the world will beat a path to your door. Houston-based Extremetix thinks the better trap in the developing print-your-own-ticket market is its ClicknPrint Tickets system.

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[Daily summary of Western natural gas futures](#) from the Kansas City Board of Trade. [10-minute snapshots](#) of daily trading also available.

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[Late-breaking Texas business press releases from PR Newswire and Business Wire.](#)

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**Hot Topic:**  
Continuing coverage of Enron's rise and fall




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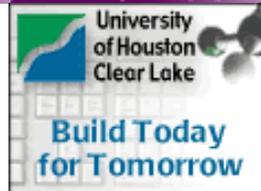
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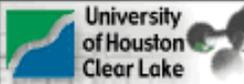
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Archie -- ( <a href="#">19K</a> ) or ( <a href="#">10K</a> )	<a href="#">Beetle Bailey</a>
B.C. -- ( <a href="#">20K</a> ) or ( <a href="#">10K</a> )	<a href="#">Better Half</a>
Baldo -- ( <a href="#">26K</a> ) or ( <a href="#">13K</a> )	<a href="#">Between Friends</a>
Ballard Street -- ( <a href="#">16K</a> ) or ( <a href="#">8K</a> )	<a href="#">Bizarro</a>
Big Picture -- ( <a href="#">25K</a> ) or ( <a href="#">13K</a> )	<a href="#">Blondie</a>
Boffo -- ( <a href="#">26K</a> ) or ( <a href="#">13K</a> )	<a href="#">Buckles</a>
Boondocks -- ( <a href="#">28K</a> ) or ( <a href="#">14K</a> )	<a href="#">Crankshaft</a>
Cathy -- ( <a href="#">22K</a> ) or ( <a href="#">11K</a> )	<a href="#">Crock</a>
Charlie -- ( <a href="#">12K</a> ) or ( <a href="#">6K</a> )	<a href="#">Curtis</a>
Cleats -- ( <a href="#">30K</a> ) or ( <a href="#">15K</a> )	<a href="#">Dennis the Menace</a>
Close to Home -- ( <a href="#">19K</a> ) or ( <a href="#">9K</a> )	<a href="#">Dinette Set</a>
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Dick Tracy -- ( <a href="#">25K</a> ) or ( <a href="#">13K</a> )	<a href="#">Family Circus</a>
Dilbert -- ( <a href="#">20K</a> ) or ( <a href="#">10K</a> )	<a href="#">Fast Track</a>
Doonesbury -- ( <a href="#">34K</a> ) or ( <a href="#">16K</a> )	<a href="#">Funky Winkerbean</a>
Drabble -- ( <a href="#">22K</a> ) or ( <a href="#">11K</a> )	<a href="#">Grin and Bear It</a>
For Better or Worse -- ( <a href="#">42K</a> ) or ( <a href="#">19K</a> )	<a href="#">Hagar the Horrible</a>
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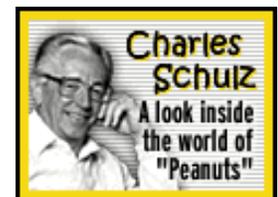
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## Arts

- **The Bayou City Blues Drum & Bugle Corps** is seeking additional members to participate in their hornline, drumline and color guard. The group rehearses every Friday, 7:30 to 10 p.m., at Sharpstown High School, 7504 Bissonet St., and performs on a regular basis in parades and field shows. Call 713-756-9288, or visit [www.bayoucityblues.org](http://www.bayoucityblues.org) for additional information.
- Visit the **Houston Maritime Museum** now open at 2204 Dorrington near Holcombe and South Main. Exhibits include more than 50 historic ship models, maps, prints and historical relics. Additional features include a gift shop, lecture hall, library and "The Ship Yard" where a museum representative creates and restores historical model ships. Lectures can be scheduled for all age groups. Admission is free. Hours: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. M-F and by appointment. Call 713-666-1910.

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## Churches, synagogues and other places of worship

- **Cypress Creek Christian Church** is offering a workshop for engaged couples and newly-weds on Nov. 9 and 10, 2001. The workshop is based on the book "Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts -- Seven

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Questions to Ask Before (and After) You Marry" by Drs. Les & Leslie Parrott. Cost is \$100 and includes materials and workbooks and meals. Contact: the Gallatins at 281-370-4181 or the Church at 281-376-7113

- **Mt. Ararat Baptist Church**, located at 5801 West Montgomery Road, is sponsoring a Veterans Recognition Program at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Nov. 7, 2001. The program will feature a theatrical performance entitled, "Ain't Nobody Gone Turn Me 'Round" by members of the Buffalo Soldiers National Museum. For additional information, call 713-692-9974.

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## Civic functions and news

- **The First Ward Civic Council** meets the first Thursday of the month at Impact Church of Christ, 1704 Weber, on the corner of Weber and Colorado. Meetings start at 6 p.m. All neighbors are welcome. Current projects include canvassing for approval of a Tax Increment Reinvestment Zone and for a Historic District Designation. For more information, call Bert Tibbits @713-228-5604.
- **The Washington Avenue Coalition (WAC)** meets the second Monday of the Month at Leo's on Washington at 6 p.m. It is open to all residents and businesses along the corridor. The coalition is comprised of Neighborhood Civic Associations along the Washington Avenue Corridor and those along the Houston Avenue Corridor. The neighborhoods are the First Ward Civic Council, Magnolia Grove Civic Club, Old Sixth Ward Neighborhood Association, West End Business Group, West End Civic Club, and Woodcrest Civic Association. The coalition seeks to work together to beautify the Washington Avenue Corridor and the Houston Avenue Corridor; to foster stronger community relationships; and to define neighborhood goals and issues.
- The **Old Sixth Ward Community Development Corporation** has changed its name to **Avenue Community Development Corporation**. The name change reflects the changes in the boundaries of the areas it services. These are all the neighborhoods along Washington Avenue including the Old Sixth Ward, the First Ward, Woodcrest, Cottage Grove, Rice Military, West End, and Magnolia Grove. For more information about how to help this non-profit corporation, please call Phil Huval at (713) 864-8099.

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## Clubs and associations

- **American Business Women's Association, League City Charter Chapter**, is a group of career-minded professionals who support the goals of the organization.

help families, the homeless, the environment and more.



Looking for crime statistics in your neighborhood? The [Houston Police](#)

[Department](#) is at your service. Its new site offers dated reports, plus a whole lot more.

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The [United Way](#) distributes money to a wide range of local groups serving many community needs. To discover more about the contributions of these varied groups, the [United Way of the Texas Gulf Coast](#), or visit our [profiles of United Way agencies](#).

ABWA's mission is to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support, and national recognition. The League City Charter Chapter meets on the third Thursday of every month at the South Shore Harbour Country Club at 4300 South Shore Blvd, in League City. For additional information on ABWA, search the ABWA national organization Web site at <http://www.abwahq.org>, the League City Charter Chapter Web site at <http://www.abwa-lccc.org>, or contact Mary C. Thomas, 281-483-1091.

- **American Business Women's Association, Odyssey Charter Chapter**, is a group of career-minded professionals who support the goals of the organization. ABWA's mission is to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others group personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support, and national recognition. The Odyssey Charter Chapter meets on the second Tuesday of every month at the Baybrook Mall Olive Garden Restaurant. For additional information on ABWA, search the ABWA national organization Web site at <http://www.abwahq.org> or contact Nancy Hutchins, 281-482-5607.
- **The 1960 Area Singles Group** meets at 7 p.m. each Friday evening at Rick's Loft on the corner of FM 1960 West and T.C. Jester. Upcoming events include sailing, a boating/picnic/camping week-end ,and a fundraiser for a local women's and children's shelter. For more information contact For more information contact Sue at 281/586-8045 or Mary at 281/580-6279.
- **The 1960 PC Users Group** is a local computer support group just waiting to help you learn more about your PC and become more productive using it. The group is a community organization serving residents of the Houston area. General meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month. Visitors of all ages are welcome. For more information visit <http://www.1960pcug.org> or call 713-788-0683.
- **Ad 2 Houston**, a non-profit professional organization for people 18-31 in the communications industry, is seeking new members. For more information, please contact Kathryn Giansanti, membership director, at 713-862-2006.
- **The After Hours Network** sponsors many programs. For more information, call Jon E. King a 981-9595.
- **The WINGS Chapter of ABWA (American Business Womens Association)** is a group of career-minded professionals who support the goals of the group and each other. WINGS is an acronym for "Women Involved Nurturing Growth & Support." ABWA's mission is to bring together businesswomen of diverse occupations and to provide opportunities for them to help themselves and others grow personally and professionally through leadership, education, networking support, and national recognition. For general membership information, visit the Web site at <http://www.fhpw.org/abwa-wings> or

contact Cathy James via e-mail at [cmjdaj@swbell.net](mailto:cmjdaj@swbell.net).

- **The Association of Authors and Publishers**, a non-profit group, meets the first Thursday of each month at St Mark's Episcopal Church, 3816 Bellaire Blvd, Houston, Texas 77005. Networking begins at 6:30 p.m., and the meeting is from 7-8 pm. AAP is comprised of authors (and would-be authors), editors, artists, printers, publishers, self-publishers, marketers, distributors, booksellers --- anyone associated with the production, developing, marketing and distribution of books. Our speakers bring valuable information about all aspects of book publishing and marketing and about being a publishing entrepreneur. Topics have included co-publishing ventures, auxiliary product lines, getting booked on radio shows and marketing your book before it's printed. Guests are always welcome. For more information, visit the AAP web site at <http://www.authorsandpublishers.org> or contact John Martin at [editor@boldcreative.com](mailto:editor@boldcreative.com) or call him at (713)690-2653.
- **The Association of Internet Professionals** is seeking members in Houston. For more information, contact Amy Tatge, 713-850-7751 or <http://www.association.org>
- **The Bellaire Area Mothers of Multiples** invites all area mothers and expectant mothers of twins or higher-order multiples to attend its monthly meeting, held the second Wednesday of each month. BAMOM is a non-profit support group affiliated with Texas Mothers of Multiples and the National Organization of Mothers of Twins Clubs, Inc. It draws members from the Bellaire, West University and Meyerland/SW Houston area. The club is dedicated to offering supportive networking, education, and research to its members. Prospective members may receive a complimentary issue of the club newsletter by contacting Colleen Gold at (713) 665-1217.
- **The Cherokee Cultural Society of Houston**, meets each first Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m. at the Houston Regional HIV/AIDS Resource Group, 500 Lovett, Suite 100, a block south of Westheimer and three blocks east of Montrose. Fascinating programs and speakers focus on Cherokee heritage and current events. Meetings are open to all who are interested; no admission fee. For more information call 713-866-4085, or visit the group's [Web site](#).
- **Child Care Professionals of Houston**, a group of registered child care providers, meets at 7:15 p.m. the fourth Thursday of every month at the Cornerstone United Methodist Church in Copperfield. For more information, call (281) 463-4049 or (281) 550-5204.
- **The Clear Lake Amateur Radio Club (CLARC)** is open to anyone interested in Amateur Radio. CLARC was founded in 1987 and is an ARRL Special Services Club. Monthly meetings held on the third Wednesday of every month at 7 p.m. at the Webster Volunteer Fire Department 17100 Texas Avenue. VE test sessions, and Newsletter. We offer training for people who want to obtain their Amateur Radio (HAM) licenses. Information on CLARC can be found at [www.clarc.org](http://www.clarc.org).
- **The Clear Lake Communicators** holds its weekly Toastmasters meeting every week on Thursday. This is a

daytime lunch meeting from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. (You can bring your brown bag lunch if you desire) The meeting location is at the Wyle Laboratories at 1100 Hercules, Suite 305, Houston, TX (In Clear Lake across the street from the Carlson Wagonlit Travel agency). For more information on a friendly and great way to meet people, learn on how to improve your speaking skills, and network, Call Allen Prescott at 281-282-3281 or e-mail [allen.e.prescott@usahq.unitedspacealliance.com](mailto:allen.e.prescott@usahq.unitedspacealliance.com).

- **The Civil Air Patrol - Sugar Land Composite Squadron** meets on Tuesday evenings at Hanger 108 on the West side of Sugar Land Airport. Meetings are open to the public, and anyone with an interest in aerospace or emergency services is invited to attend. Cadet members will receive nine free orientation flights in a Civil Air Patrol aircraft. The Civil Air Patrol's Cadet program is designed to provide youth ages 12 - 18 with a high quality program that enhances their leadership skills through an interest in aviation, and simultaneously provide services to the United States Air Force and the local community. For more information, call Martin Wehmeier, the squadron's public affairs officer, at 281-438-0728.
- **The Davy Crockett Dulcimer Society** holds an night of fun and great music on the fourth Saturday night of each month at the Wooden Nickel Restaurant in Crockett, Texas. Anyone who plays an acoustical instrument or just enjoys good family music is welcome. At 4 p.m. the club offers beginners and advanced classes on playing the mountain dulcimer. At 7 p.m. the jam starts and continues until 10 p.m.. There is no charge to attend this festival of music that encompasses blue grass, folk, gospel, and traditional favorite tunes. For more information, see the club web site at <http://www.intrastar.net/~tmason/davy.htm>
- **Easthaven Civic Club Inc.** meets the second Monday of each month except December at the Easthaven Baptist Church, 9321 Easthaven St., in the old chapel. Enter under the bell.
- **The Esperanto Society of Houston** meets at 10 a.m. on the third Saturday of each month. Meetings are held in conference room 2 of the Julia Ideson building across from the main Houston Public Library building downtown. Several activities in Esperanto are planned for each meeting. Esperanto is an international language designed to break down communication barriers among peoples while preserving their cultural identity. For more information, call president Gil Guillory at (281) 362-8061 or (713) 753-2724 or email him at [gil@intergate.com](mailto:gil@intergate.com)
- **The Fort Bend County Chapter of American Business Women's Association** meets the first Thursday of each month at the Quail Valley Country Club in Missouri City. For more information, see the group's Web Page at <http://www.compassnet.com/lornas/abwa.html> or send email to [lornas@compassnet.com](mailto:lornas@compassnet.com).
- **Galveston County Gem & Mineral Club** meets each first Thursday of the month at 7:30 p.m. in the Texas City Nessler Civic Center (2010 5th Ave. No.) for rockhounds of all ages to share their common love of gems and minerals. Call 409-938-0718 or 409-938-7607 for more

information.

- **The Greenspoint Chapter of the American Business Women's Association** meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at the Greenspoint Club, 16925 Northchase Dr. Call (713) 868-1333 for further information.
- **Guitar Houston** is a non-profit 501© organization dedicated to promoting the classical guitar and historically related plucked instruments like the lute. GH has monthly performance meetings that are free and open to public. In addition, GH also presents world-class classical guitarists in a yearly concert series. Membership includes a monthly newsletter, free masterclass attendance, concert ticket discounts and access to private lessons with top players from around the world. For more information visit the Web site at <http://www.guitarhouston.org>.
- **Habitat for Humanity Galveston** meets at Rosenberg Library 2310 Sealey, Galveston (763-8854 -- library number). Please join us in helping to eliminate substandard housing in our area. Meetings are at 6 p.m. on the 2nd Wednesday of the month and 9 a.m. on the 4th Saturday of the month For further information or directions, please call Robin O'Toole (409)-747-1886 or e-mail [robin.otoole@UTMB.edu](mailto:robin.otoole@UTMB.edu)
- **The Houston Chapter of American Production & Inventory Control Society**, the Educational Society for Resource Management, holds Professional Development Meetings the third Thursday of every month, except July and December. The meetings are located at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, 12801 Northwest Freeway at 290 & Pinemont. Registration begins at 5:30 pm, dinner and the Business Meeting are at 6:15 pm and the Keynote Speaker is at 7:00 pm. Reservations are recommended and should be made by the Tuesday prior to the meeting. To make reservations or for information on the monthly topic, call (713) 952-7266 or visit [www.apics-houston.org](http://www.apics-houston.org).
- **The Houston Area Woodcarvers** meet the third Saturday of each month (except October). from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bayland Park Meeting Room, 6400 Bissonet. For more information, visit the Web at [www.geocities.com/Tokyo/Pagoda/6149](http://www.geocities.com/Tokyo/Pagoda/6149).
- **The Houston Chapter of the Risk & Insurance Management Society, Inc.** is a non-profit organization dedicated to the advancement of the professional standards of risk management. Established in 1950, RIMS has grown from a network of 5 to 95 chapters across the United States and Canada. Its membership is comprised of more than 4,300 corporations, institutions and governmental bodies and includes 90 percent of the Fortune 1300 lists. The Houston Chapter has more than 130 corporate members. The chapter functions as a clearinghouse for information on risk management and sound insurance procurement practices. Among the objectives: To aid in maintaining a reasonably competitive insurance market to the interest of all consumers of insurance, to foster a minimum of regulations with due regard to the financial stability of underwriters and the financial integrity of the insurance contract, to collect and disseminate statistics and other

information dealing with risk management, and to cooperate with producers, underwriters, regulatory bodies or agencies. For more information contact the Houston RIMS Chapter President, Sheryl Bittick, Corporate Risk Manager, Weingarten Realty Investors, 2600 Citadel Plaza, Houston, TX 77088. Or, call 713-866-6978, or by email at [cbarnes@bcm.tmc.edu](mailto:cbarnes@bcm.tmc.edu)

- **The Houston Inventors Association** is a nonprofit organization of inventors helping inventors. The group meets at 7 p.m. on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month (except December) at the Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet (one block west of Hillcroft). Drinks and sandwiches are available before the meetings. The association provides information, resources, and networking for inventors, entrepreneurs, and those interested in the invention process. General meetings with guest speakers are held on the fourth Wednesday and workshop meetings discussing specific topics are held on the second Wednesday. For more information contact Ken at (713) 686-7676 or Chuck at (281) 326-1795 or visit the website at [www.inventors.org](http://www.inventors.org).
- **The Houston Model Yacht Club** promotes competitive radio-control sailing in the Houston area. We sail the Thunder Tiger Victoria, the East Coast 12 Meter, the Star 45, and scale models of tugs, workboats, and shrimp-boats. We are a recognized club of the American Model Yachting Association and welcome all interested parties. We have monthly regattas and more information on our activities can be found at <http://www.hal-pc.org/~evor> or you can contact Oliver Tse at 281-343-7838 or Ted Cooper at 281-342-1658.
- **The Houston Osteoporosis Society** meets the second Thursday of each month from 10:45 a.m. to noon at the Memorial Rehabilitation Hospital, 3033 N. Gessner, Conference Room 4. Meetings are open to the public, and refreshments are provided. For more information, call (281) 493-6883 or (713) 690-7303.
- **The Houston Osteoporosis Support Group** meets the second Thursday of each month at the Memorial Hermann Spring Shadows Pines, 3033 N. Gessner (near Clay Rd.), Conference Room #4. Meetings are from 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon. There is a different speaker program each month, and there is no charge to attend unless specified. For general information, call (281) 493-6883 or (713) 690-7303.
- **The Houston Planning Forum (formerly Strategic Leadership Forum)** meets for lunch on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:30 a.m. at The Courtyard on St. James, 1885 St. James Place. Call (713) 908-0211 or email [dottie@kerr-solutions.com](mailto:dottie@kerr-solutions.com) for further information.
- **The Houston Section of American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)** is an international professional society for all aerospace enthusiasts. The Houston Section is primarily composed of NASA engineers but is open to the public. For more information about the club, call Dan Selters at 281-333-7312.
- **The Houston Underwater Photographic Society** is a non-profit organization formed to encourage interest and

promote participation in underwater photography and videography. Each meeting includes a speaker presentation and slide contest. Attendance is free to the public. Meetings are generally held at 7 p.m. the first Monday of each month, always at the Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet. Since the dates occasionally vary from the first Monday, it is a good idea to check the current month's newsletter on the club Web site at [www.hups.org](http://www.hups.org) for the latest information.

- **Houstonians for Secular Humanism** is a non-profit community organization committed to promoting science, reason, education, ethics, and other humanistic values in a non-religious context. It is associated with and operates in cooperation with The Council for Secular Humanism and is a member of its Alliance of Secular Humanist Societies. HSH is also a member of the Houston Humanist Alliance. Founded in 1998, HSH seeks to further its goals through educating the public, networking with similar groups, and helping others in the community. Activities include education of the public; social gatherings consisting of informal discussion groups, book clubs, meetings, and guest speakers; civic and volunteer work; media watch and response in cases involving science and pseudo-science the "paranormal"; networking with local humanist groups in other areas; publishing of the HSH newsletter. For more information, visit the Houstonians for Secular Humanism web site at <http://www.flash.net/~dts2000/index.html>
- **The Institute of Management Consultants - Houston Chapter** meets for breakfast on the fourth Fridays of each month at 7 a.m. at The University Club in the Galleria Post Oak Tower. Meetings are open to guests, but reservations are required. Call (281) 722-8255 or email [jmc@kerr-solutions.com](mailto:jmc@kerr-solutions.com) for further information.
- The meetings for **Justice For All** are held the second Wednesday of every month at 6:30 p.m. at the Aramco Building Auditorium, 9009 W. 610 Loop at N. Braeswood.
- **Katy Aquatics Masters Swimming** is a non-profit organization that provides for the community of West Houston and Katy. The team offers the opportunity for triathletes, cyclists and novice and expert swimmers to improve their swimming endurance, stroke mechanics and overall health and vitality. We practice Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 6-8 p.m. and every other Saturday from 8 to 10 a.m. Workouts are held at Katy High School and occasionally at Taylor High School. Participants must be 19 years or older with no upper-age limit. Participants must also be able to swim 50 yards freestyle without stopping. For more information contact Derek Piester at 281-829-1516 or email: [piester@flash.net](mailto:piester@flash.net).
- **The Katy Prairie Promenaders** square dance every Friday night from 7-10 p.m. at Mary Jo Peckham Park in Katy. The club caller is Fred Goynes. For additional information, please contact Carolyn Smith at 281-392-0713.
- **The Katy Toastmasters Club** meets the first three Thursdays each month from 7:30-9 p.m. at Cinco Ranch U of H Campus, 4242 S. Mason Road near Westheimer. Call 281-983-8245 for more information.

- **All the residents of the Larkwood subdivision** are invited to attend its bi-monthly meetings. They are held at 7:30 p.m. on the second Tuesday of every month at the Bank One Building, Fondren and Bissonnet.
- **The Lone Star Chapter of the American Merchant Marine Veterans** meets the second Tuesday of every month at 11 a.m. at the Seaman's Club, Port of Houston. For further information write to The Lone Star Chapter, AMMV, 8150 S. Loop East #208, Houston, TX 77017-1747. All former or present mariners, Navy Armed Guard, all service veterans, and Merchant Marine Academy and Maritime Academy graduates and students are welcome. We are especially looking for World War II mariners who have not received their deserved veteran status from the U.S. government.
- **The Manuscriptors Guild of Houston** meets the first and third Friday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at Canterbury United Methodist Church, 12143 Bellaire Blvd (between Kirkwood and Cook) in southwest Houston. The Manuscriptors Guild is a community of writers from the novice to the professional. It is a place of inspiration as well as motivation. Writers are able to participate in a common atmosphere with members who believe in the written word. Meetings include critique committees, professional speakers, workshops, networking, parties and social extravaganzas. Membership includes a subscription to The Writers Forum, a monthly publication of The Manuscriptors Guild. For additional information call (713)455-4675 or visit our web site [Manuscriptors Guild](#).
- **The Mended Hearts**, a support group for cardiac patients and their families, meets the first Monday of each month. Call Bob Turnbull at (409) 321-4115 or email him at [turnbull@mcia.com](mailto:turnbull@mcia.com) for more information.
- **The Men's Cancer Support Group of St. Martin's Episcopal Church** meets the first Wednesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Activity Center's Fireside Room, 717 Sage Road. For more information, call 713-621-3040.
- **The Humble Area Chapter (2308) of the National Association of Retired Federal Employees** meets at the Humble City Cafe on the third Monday of each month with the exception of December. The cafe is at 200 Main St. in Humble. Lunch is from 11:30 a.m. until 1 p.m. with the meeting beginning immediately after lunch. Visitors are welcome. Call 281-359-9266 for additional information.
- The Houston Chapter of the **National Federation of the Blind** meets on the third Saturday of each month at the Houston Public Library's main branch, 500 McKinney. Meetings begin at 2 p.m. each month. For more information contact James Skelton at 713-957-4520.
- **The National Space Society, Clear Lake Area Chapter**. CLA-NSS holds meetings on the first Monday of each month beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the Parker Williams Branch of the Harris County Library, 10851 Scarsdale Blvd., in Houston. Members are citizens interested in space exploration. Everyone is invited to attend. Call Murray Clark at 281-367-2227 after 7 p.m.
- **The Native Plant Society of Texas** meets at 7 p.m. the third Thursday of every month at the Houston

Arboretum. Meetings are free and open to all. Members receive state and local newsletters, a list of suggested native plants for Houston, a list of books for suggested reading on natives, plus other benefits. Cost is \$20 for individuals and \$50 for patrons. For more information, call Glenn Olsen at (281) 8144.

- **Overeaters Anonymous of Houston** has established a web site offering a local meeting list, news of upcoming events, and general information about the organization. Visit it at [www.oahouston.org](http://www.oahouston.org).
- **The P. G. Wodehouse Society Literary Society** will meet Friday, March 30th, at Barnes & Noble on Westheimer near Gessner at 7:00p.m. The meetings are open to the public, please join us. The book for this meeting is THE UNCOLLECTED WODEHOUSE, available at Barnes & Noble. For questions about TWS please e-mail: [Rudersdorf@pdq.net](mailto:Rudersdorf@pdq.net).
- **The Philippine Nurses Association of Metropolitan Houston** holds its monthly meeting every third Thursday of the month at the Gold Ribbon Bake Shop and Restaurant on West Holcombe near the Medical Center. Included in every meeting is an hour of health-care-related presentations for which participants receive one CEU credit. Non-members pay \$5. For more information, please call Cleo Robinett at 281-859-5047.
- **The San Jacinto Model Railroad Club**, founded in 1953, is the granddaddy of Houston model railroad clubs. The club cooperates with the National Model Railroad Association and NMRA Lone Star Region Division 8. It is made up of about 130 men and women who model in scales ranging from Z to 1-1/2" live steam. Five of the clubs members have been awarded the prestigious Master Model Railroader award by the NMRA, and a number of layouts have been featured in national model railroad publications and video productions. Members of the club have also served as national officers in the NMRA. Meetings are open to the public and are held at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month, usually at the Bayland Community Center, 6400 Bissonnet. For more information contact Dale Farney at 281-931-7311.
- **Sharpstown Toastmasters Club**, one of the oldest Toastmasters Clubs in Houston, meets every Tuesday night from 6:30-8:30 p.m. in the Community Room of Sharpstown Mall, on the second level next to the food court and above the movie theater. Sharpstown Mall is at the Southwest Fwy. (U.S. 59 S.) and Bellaire Boulevard. The club is open to anyone interested in improving his communication and leadership skills. Contact Judy Ragland at (713) 266-9688 for more information.
- **Single Parent Family Club of West Houston**. Hang out and do fun things with other single parents and their kids! Join us for dinners, dances, picnics, trips, camping, playdates, babysitter network, and more. Meet new friends for you and your kids. Single parents of all ages, toddlers to teen-agers, welcome. Custodial / non-custodial members. For more information call 281-578-5953. Leave message and one of our friendly members will return your call.
- **The Society for Software Quality, West Houston Chapter** meets on the second Wednesday of each month at BMC Software, 2101 CityWest Blvd. Registration is at

11:30 a.m., and the meeting is from noon - 1 p.m. For more information contact Mike Giordanelli at 281-584-1865 or visit our website at

<http://www.bullpenmarketing.com/ssq>.

- **The Space City Branch 159 of the Fleet Reserve Association and Unit 159 of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Fleet Reserve Association**, are non-profit organizations that meet the second Sunday of every month at 2 p.m. at the FRA Branch home in Pasadena. All Active Duty, Reserve, and Retired members of the U.S. Navy, U.S. Marine Corps, or U.S. Coast Guard, and their families are eligible for membership. For further information write to Fleet Reserve Association, 4810 Pine Avenue, Pasadena, Texas 77503 or contact (281) 238-9441 or email [mdchancebr159@aol.com](mailto:mdchancebr159@aol.com).
- **Texans Against Gun Violence Education Fund** is a non-profit, volunteer, 501c-3 organization working to reduce gun violence in the Houston area. We especially need volunteers who can help with public relations activities. For more information visit our homepage: <http://www.insync.net/~tagvhou> We can also be reached at 13164 Memorial Drive #160,77079, phone 713-827-8916, fx-713-827-1860, email [tagvhou@insync.net](mailto:tagvhou@insync.net).
- **The Texas Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty** meets from 7-9 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month at its office in the SHAPE Center, 3903 Almeda. The office is open every Tuesday from 2-9 p.m. Volunteers for needed telephone work, mailings, answering mail from death row prisoners and sending newsletters. Phone 713-523-8454 or during office hours at 713-521-0629. Email is [tcadp-post@juno.com](mailto:tcadp-post@juno.com).
- **The Houston chapter of the Texas Economic & Demographic Association** meets regularly. For more information, contact TEDA/Houston Executive Secretary Edith Chambers at 713-844-3618 or at [edithchambers@houston.org](mailto:edithchambers@houston.org).
- **The Texas Gulf Coast Association for Healthcare Quality (TGCAHQ)**. Non-profit organization provides education and networking opportunities to enhance healthcare professionals' ability to measure and improve quality in healthcare services. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. For more information visit the Web site at [www.tgcahq.com](http://www.tgcahq.com) or write to Texas Gulf Coast Association for Healthcare Quality, P.O. Box 301121, Houston 77230-1121.
- **District 29 of the Texas Nurses' Association** has various programs. Call Jean Ivey at 409-772-8233 for further information.
- **The Texas Outlaws Flyball Club** is taking applications for its premiere racing season. Flyball is a dog relay race in which four dogs run 50 feet, jump 4 hurdles, catch a tennis ball in the air, and then run back to the start line, releasing the next dog. Tournaments are held almost monthly in various parts of the state. Contact Carol Friedman at (713) 667-3813 for additional information.
- **Toastmasters Cy-Fair Super Speakers: Toastmasters Club 5916**. The Toastmasters program will help you to develop your communication skills and open doors in your personal and professional life. Instead of laboring in an academic setting, or spending up to thousands on

costly seminars, you learn in a self-paced atmosphere of understanding and helpful fellowship. Meeting every Monday night from 6:30 p.m. until 8 p.m. at the Cy-Fair Houston Chamber of Commerce, 11050 FM 1960 West, Suite 100, guests are always welcome at this Toastmasters Club. You don't need an invitation, all you need to do is show up! (But you might want to contact someone at the club first to make sure the meeting is going on as scheduled.) You may take part in the meeting if you wish, or just watch and listen. For more information, visit our [Web site](#), or contact David E. Stoll, vice president of education, at 281-281-955-8060 in the evenings, or email [destoll@houston.rr.com](mailto:destoll@houston.rr.com).

- **The Vintage Bicycle Club of Texas**, meets every third Wednesday of the month at Hickory Hollow 101 Heights Blvd. For more information on the club, visit the Website at <http://users.argolink.net>, or email [ybcoft@argolink.net](mailto:ybcoft@argolink.net), or call Juan DeLeon at 713-330-9073.
- **The West Houston Italian Club**, a social, charitable and Italian cultural organization formed in June 1990, meets the third Friday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the Glencairn Civic Center, 17030 Keith Harrow. For more information, call (281) 850-0651.
- **The West Houston Quilt Guild** meets at 7 p.m. the third Wednesday of each month at the Harris County Agricultural Extension Service Building on Bear Creek Drive. For more information, call (281) 859-4602.
- **USS Whetstone LSD-27** holds monthly meetings the first Saturday of every month. Please call Don "Huey" Hulen (SFP 3) for details at (281) 471-0224 or email him at [donhulen@io.com](mailto:donhulen@io.com) All former crewmembers are welcome.

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## Competitions and opportunities

- **The Klein Volunteer Fire Department** is actively seeking volunteers. The department provides fire protection for a portion of unincorporated northwest Harris County. It needs fire suppression and support personnel to assist in daily operations. For more information, see the department Web page at [www.kleinfiredpt.com](http://www.kleinfiredpt.com) or call between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. at 281-376-4449.
- **Leauge City Volunteer Fire Department** is in need of volunteers. The department is comprised of four stations, with more than 90 members, and a ladies auxiliary, serving approximately 60,000 citizens within the community. It needs fire suppression and support personnel to assist in daily operations. Training classes are available twice a year. For more information, see the department Web page at [www.lcvfd.com](http://www.lcvfd.com) or call 281-332-1311.
- **The Mickey Leland Center on World Hunger and Peace** at Texas Southern University has a constant need for volunteers. Those who are willing to work a few hours or those who can devote days to helping the center

assist area residents should contact Sherill Carrington, director of programs, at 713 313 7451 or email her at [mickeyleland@hotmail.com](mailto:mickeyleland@hotmail.com) for additional information.

- **Windows of the World (WOW) Reading Enrichment Program**, sponsored by the Peace Community Development Corp., a tax-exempt 501(c)3 non-profit agency serving the Fifth Ward, is offering employment and volunteer opportunities for retired persons and high school and college students. The WOW program is sponsoring an after-school program to provide activities in arts and crafts, recreation, homework assistance, music, dance, Spanish and drama. Please contact Dr. Mildred Bright at 713-227-3223 if you are interested in working with elementary-aged students.
- **The Kelsey-Seybold Foundation for Medical Research and Education** is in need of volunteers to make reminder phone calls to women scheduled for their annual mammograms. One person is needed each morning for approximately 2 hours. Training will be provided. For more information contact Sonna Alton at (713) 442-1219.

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## Events and activities

- The **Urban Business Initiative** will host a series of six business education seminars for entrepreneurs and small business owners beginning May 18 and continuing through June 29. The free classes will be held at Houston Community College, SE campus from 10 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. on Saturday mornings. Topics include: Business Planning, Finance 101, Finding Funding for Your Business, Computers in Business, Marketing, and Business Etiquette and Soft Skills. Participants must attend all six classes. Class size is limited to 20, and participants must be located within the 610-Loop. For more information or to register for the seminars, call 713-222-8085.
- **Young People's Beginning Experience** will be holding a retreat June 28-30, 2002. YPBE is a Catholic sponsored, but non-denominational retreat designed to give support, understanding, and guidance to teenagers in a safe environment. The weekend of healing and growth is for teenagers between the ages of 12 and 19 who have experienced the death of a parent or whose parents have had a divorce or separation. For more information or to register go to: [www.geocities.com/houstonteenbe](http://www.geocities.com/houstonteenbe) or e-mail [houstonteenbe@yahoo.com](mailto:houstonteenbe@yahoo.com). You can also call Gloria Bustillo at 713-741-8776. Cost for the weekend is \$85.00 and includes all materials, two nights lodging and all meals, and the registration deadline is June 20, 2002.
- **The Houston Arboretum**, 4501 Woodway, holds various classes for adults and children. For more information, call (713) 743-1060 or (713) 681-8433.

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## Reunions

- **Houston Technical Institute (HTI) Class of 1972** is seeking alumni for a 30-year reunion to be held in the fall. Contact Lydia at 713-673-3237 (e-mail [rubia1210@hotmail.com](mailto:rubia1210@hotmail.com)) or Esmeralda at 281-987-1326 (e-mail [esmeraldacervantes@yahoo.com](mailto:esmeraldacervantes@yahoo.com)).
- **Stephen F. Austin (HISD) Class of 1993** is seeking all alumni in the Houston and surrounding areas for a 10-year reunion to be held Summer 2003. Contact Alfred at (713)978-3804 or Susana (713)331-7767 or send e-mail to [AustinReunion93@hotmail.com](mailto:AustinReunion93@hotmail.com). You can also visit their Web site at [www.sfa93.com](http://www.sfa93.com) to register or for information.
- **The Houston Chapter of the Texas Southern University Alumni Association** is looking for all alumni in the Houston and surrounding areas. For more information, call the Houston Chapter office at 713-641-0001 or send e-mail to [TSUHoustonAlumni@aol.com](mailto:TSUHoustonAlumni@aol.com).

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## Self-help

- **Clutterless in Houston** is a free self-help group for people who have a challenge with clutter or hoarding in their lives. The groups meets every Tuesday, 8 - 9:30 p.m. at First Church of Religious Science 6600 Harwin Drive. For more information, please call 409-763-1908.

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## Social services

- **Adopt 2000** is working to place more than 700 Houston-area children in need of permanent homes. Waiting children are six years and older, minorities, and sibling groups. Find out how you can make a difference by becoming an adoptive parent. For more information, call Adopt 200 at 1-800-613-3199, or visit [www.adopt2000houston.org](http://www.adopt2000houston.org).
- **Associated Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston** is looking for African-American and bi-racial families who will consider adopting children. The charity says there is a special need for such adoptive families now. For more information, please call Mary McDonald at 713-526-4611, extension 3242.
- The mission of the **Arthritis Foundation** is to support research to find the cure for and prevention of arthritis and to improve the quality of life for those affected by the disease. Volunteers are needed for special events, the speaker's bureau and clerical work. Please contact Sonia Soto at 713-529-0800 or by email at [SSoto@arthritis.org](mailto:SSoto@arthritis.org) for additional information.

- **The Epilepsy Foundation of Southeast Texas and the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston** offer medical services to adults diagnosed with seizure disorders and who have little or no income. In addition, the foundation provides support groups, information and referral, community education, children services programs and professional education. For more information call 409-839-2950 or 409-839-2951. Toll free: 1-888-548-9716. Website: [www.efset.org](http://www.efset.org).
- **The Interstitial Cystitis Association** needs volunteers in the Houston area to run support groups for patients suffering from interstitial cystitis, a painful bladder disease. If you are interested, please contact the state coordinator, Martha Billman at (972) 682-9658, or Co-Support Leaders Lou Stevens at (281) 488-0698, or Geneva Tillian at (281) 488-1234. You may also email Stevens at [vlstevens@pdq.net](mailto:vlstevens@pdq.net)
- **Brazos Valley Doberman Rescue Inc.** is a non-profit organization dedicated to the rehabilitation and adoption of purebred Doberman Pinschers in and around Brazos Valley, Texas. Our mission is to try and find quality homes for the many abused, neglected, abandoned, or stray Dobermans as possible. For more information visit our web page at <http://PersonalWebs.myriad.net/snooks/>
- If you're pregnant and need help, contact the **Family Assistance Center** at 3806 Live Oak at Alabama. The number is 713-524-7801. In addition to Maternal Assistance, other programs include Mentoring For Positive Action (Males and Females) and Prevention Of Sexually Transmitted Disease Workshops. Community service hours are provided for those who need it. Volunteer counselors and non-client contact volunteers are also needed.
- Would you like to **help out a low-income apartment resident council**? Low-income apartment dwellers are organizing resident councils to deal with their landlords and with HUD and to take advantage of the health, education and self-advancement programs available to them. What's needed is someone to attend resident council meetings and help them get up to snuff on getting organized and involving the maximum number of residents. Our experienced core people will back you to the hilt. For more information, call Texas Action for Cooperative Housing, Sam Keeper, Phone (713) 524-0530; Fax (713) 529-9682. Or send email to [samkeeper@aol.com](mailto:samkeeper@aol.com)
- **The Brazos County Rape Crisis Center** in Bryan, Texas, offers "Anonymous, Confidential On-line Support Counseling Service" at its new home page at <http://rapecrisis.txcyber.com> This service is totally secure and the same as banks and stock brokerage firms use for transfer, on-line banking, credit card banking, and such. Users enter a password and code names that only they know to send messages to the center, which responds back, not knowing where the message came from. The email address shows up as anonymous. The center feels this service will allow victims to come forward and receive help without the fear of people knowing who they are. Their identity remains anonymous. For more information, call Sherry Hostetter, assistant director, Brazos County Rape Crisis Center. Email: [<http://www.chron.com/content/community/index.html> \(15 of 19\) \[1/23/2003 5:12:30 AM\]](mailto:bcrc@cy-</a></li></ul></div><div data-bbox=)

[net.net](#) Phone: (409) 268-7273. Fax: (409) 846-9313.

- **The Methodist Home** continues to seek two-parent foster families of all ethnic groups to provide 24-hour foster care for young children. For more information, call Barbara Lee at (713) 682-8911.
- **Texas Polio Survivors Association (TPSA)** provides informative meetings and soon will offer more support in the way of durable medical equipment to polio survivors. A post-polio clinic is held every Monday and Tuesday at The Institute for Rehabilitation & Research in the Medical Center at 1333 Moursund. The main number there is 799-5000 if one needs to reach the clinic. The TPSA number is 690-0695; leave a message if the volunteer isn't there. Another organization provides -- free of charge -- durable medical equipment, such as wheelchairs, bath and shower chairs, crutches, and hospital beds (when available) to people who have no other resources. This volunteer organization is called **Health Equipment Recycling Coalition (HERC)** and is in the Multiservice Center, 1475 W. Gray. It accepts donated equipment; call 524-1217.
- **The S.I.R.E. Therapeutic Riding Program** in the Hockley/Tomball area northwest of Houston needs volunteers. They may work directly with the clients and other volunteers, serving as a sidewalker or a horse handler, or they may prefer to help "behind the scenes" with fundraising, publicity, booths, bulk mailings, special events or working in the office. Previous experience with horses is helpful but not mandatory except for those serving as horse handlers. Volunteers who work directly with the horses and riders must be at least 14 years old and must attend a two-hour training session. Please contact SIRE at (281) 356-7588 for more information.
- **The Unique Advantage Exchange Program (UAEP)**, a non-profit organization founded in 1988, in Michigan, is in need of Host Families for high school foreign exchange students who wish to come to America in January and August. Arriving in January for second semester and August for the new school year, are some very nice students from many different countries. These students are very eager to learn more about the "American Way of Life" firsthand by living with an American family during the school year. Students speak fluent English, are fully insured, come with their own spending money and have a strict code of conduct to follow. Host families are asked to provide a home-away-from-home. If your family is interested in hosting a student from another part of the world, please call: Unique Advantage Exchange Program at (248) 634-8415 We hope that you will join us in giving these students a warm welcome to our country and your community. (We are also looking for Area Representatives in your area.)

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## Sporting events

- **The Houston Athletic Rugby Club** is a not-for-profit

organization that is recruiting men and women to play rugby. The club practices each Tuesday and Thursday evening, 6:30 p.m., at the Westland YMCA, 10402 Fondren Road The club fields two competitive premier men's sides, a competitive women's side and an Over-35 social side. For more information log on to [www.houstonrugby.org](http://www.houstonrugby.org) or call the club hotline at 281-754-4540.

- **The Houston Women's Flag Football League** is currently recruiting new players and teams. The league typically starts in October and runs through February. PJ's Softball Park in Spring, TX is the home field. There will be a skills clinic for new and returning players in late summer or early fall. Please visit our web site at [www.hwffl.org](http://www.hwffl.org) for events and more details. Or call 713-540-4843.
- **Katy Aquatics Masters Swimming** is a non-profit organization that provides for the community of West Houston and Katy. The team offers the opportunity for triathletes, cyclists and novice and expert swimmers to improve their swimming endurance, stroke mechanics and overall health and vitality. We practice Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays from 6-8 p.m. and every other Saturday from 8 to 10 a.m. Workouts are held at Katy High School and occasionally at Taylor High School. Participants must be 19 years or older with no upper-age limit. Participants must also be able to swim 50 yards freestyle without stopping. For more information contact Derek Piester at 281-829-1516 or email: [piester@flash.net](mailto:piester@flash.net).

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## Support groups

- **The Baytown Texas Chapter of The Compassionate Friends**, a self-help support group for bereaved parents, grandparents, and siblings, meets on the fourth Monday of each month. Meetings are held in the conference room of Transitions Outreach, Inc., 4721 Garth Road Suite E, Baytown. For more information or for directions please call Lois Walstead at 281-424-5760 or Carol Mendelovitz at 281-422-3517.
- **The Sugar Land-Southwest Houston Chapter of The Compassionate Friends** meets on the second Wednesday of every month at First Presbyterian Church of Sugar Land, 502 Eldridge Rd, Sugar Land 77478. Everyone is welcome; there are no fees or dues. For more information, phone 281 980-4350 or visit our Web site at [www.tcfsugarland.org](http://www.tcfsugarland.org).
- **Cypress Creek Couples Corner** meets the 3rd Saturday of each month at Cypress Creek Community Center at 7:00 p.m. to discuss issues facing married couples. Leader couples are trained by the Association for Couples in Marriage Enrichment (ACME) -- see the website at "[bettermarriages.org](http://bettermarriages.org)" for event schedule and additional information. Contact: Kay and Tom Gallatin 281-370-4181

- **Dialogue on Cancer** is an ongoing support group of the American Cancer Society designed to help patients, their families and friends better understand and learn to live with cancer. **Bosom Buddies** was initiated in 1995 as a support group for breast cancer survivors in Baytown and nearby communities. In 1996 the two groups combined and are endorsed by the Baytown Unit of The American Cancer Society. Sessions are informal and often include guest speakers and experts in fields relating to cancer prevention, causes, trends, coping skills, prosthetics, diet, exercise and more. Discussions are free and open to the public. Eight and ten people usually attend each meeting at the conference room of Transitions Outreach, Inc., 4721 Garth Suite E. For more information, contact Sue Weir at 573-1945 and Joy Boswell at 424-1419. For support, contact Susan Massman at 839-1338 or 425-6563 and Carol Mendelovitz at 424-5995 or 422-3517.
- **The For Men Only Cancer Support Group**, sponsored by the Anderson Network of the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center, meets the first Monday of every month from 7-8:30 p.m. at St. Martin's Episcopal Church, 717 Sage Road. For more information contact: Bill Cutshall at 713-644-9500 or the Anderson Network 713-792-2553.
- **gayDAR and For Mature Audiences Only** are two wellness communities at Bering Memorial United Methodist Church, 1440 Harold. gayDAR is a wellness community of 22-35 year-old gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered (GLBT) persons interested in making healthy connections and personal growth. gayDAR meets on Mondays at 7 p.m. in room 218. For Mature Audiences Only is an inclusive multi-issue health & wellness community for persons over 35 to celebrate the successes and share the challenges of midlife changes. FMAO meets on Tuesday nights at 7 p.m., also in room 218. Come share your wellness secrets and learn some new ideas. For more information about both groups, call 713-526-1017.
- **Houston Osteoporosis Support Group** meeting on Thursday, Aug. 9, *Osteoporosis Research and Treatment Update* by Clark McKeever, M.D., Orthopedist, Diagnostic Bone Density Institute and Associate Medical Director for inTouch Research. Meetings are the second Thursday of each month at Memorial Hermann Spring Shadows Pines, 3033 N. Gessner (near Clay Road), conference room No. 4. Meetings are from 10:30 a.m. to noon. There is no charge to attend, unless specified for a meal. For more information, call 281-493-6883 or 713-690-7303.
- **The Houston Area Parkinson Society**, is a nonprofit organization serving the needs of those impacted by Parkinson's disease. For more than 25 years, the organization has provided Tai Chi, support, physical, occupational, speech, and water therapies throughout the Houston Metropolitan Area. For more information, contact Anne Martin (713) 626-7114.
- **Transitions Outreach, Inc.**, a nonprofit corporation dedicated to helping individuals who are learning to live with a loss in their lives, is offering free support groups for anyone in the community who has experienced a loss of a family member or friend. Encouraging the sharing of

bereavement experiences in a safe and friendly environment has proven beneficial in the healing process. Understanding the grief process and the havoc it plays in daily life is a key to resolution. Learning new ways to cope with sorrow and how to regain control of life are topics of discussion. The groups will be facilitated by Carol Mendelovitz, LMSW, NCBF. If you or someone you know could benefit from a support group, please call 281-422-3517.

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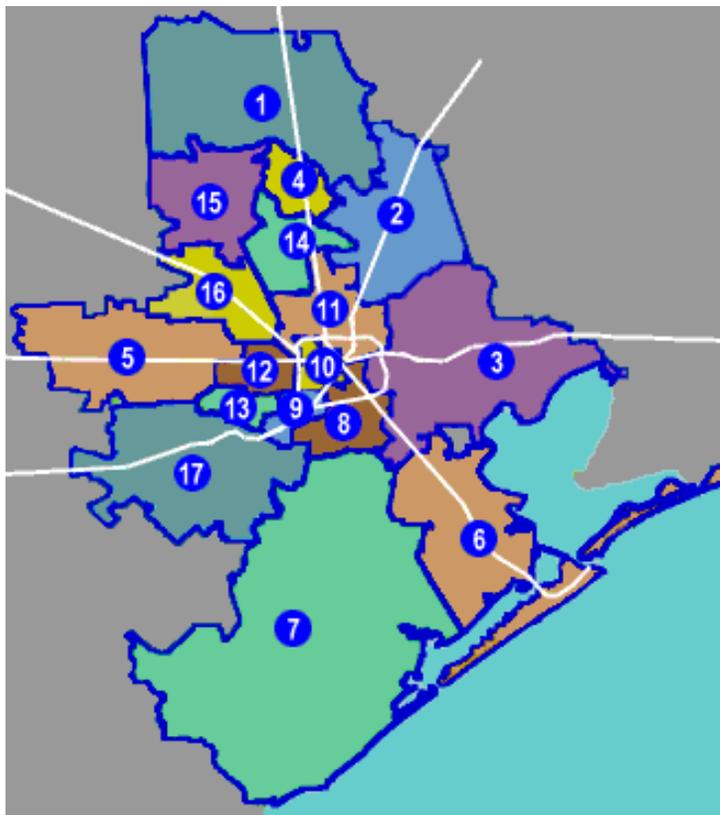
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## YELLOW PAGES

Thu. Jan. 23, 2003

**ThisWeekNeighborhoodNews****THIS WEEK**

Selected stories from your neighborhood weekly newspapers from the Houston Chronicle.

**BEST OF THIS WEEK****Water well sampling to expand in Cy-Fair**

Fearing that a dry-cleaning agent may have spread farther than thought, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality pledged last week to sample water wells in another Cypress-Fairbanks subdivision.

**Christmas trees to be placed along beaches**

The concept of putting Christmas trees in dunes along Texas beaches was first put into action more than 20 years ago by Charles Moss, a former Brazoria County marine agent. On Saturday, volunteers will go to Quintana County Park to assemble a fortress of old Christmas trees along the dune line between Surfside and Quintana in southern Brazoria County.

**HPD storefronts focus on neighbor disputes**

Last year a northeast community butted heads with a manufacturing company over the company's disruptive freight delivery schedule. Neighbors complained about the trucks' constant noise and erratic delivery schedules.

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**High school reform topic of meetings**

The high school reform movement is sweeping Houston classrooms. In an effort to involve and obtain input from the community, Parents for Public Schools, Houston A+ Challenge and the Houston Independent School District will host four town hall meetings at regional Houston high schools January through March.

**Museum District due improvements**

Wheels are in motion to create the Museum District Walk, an eight-block corridor promoting the Museum District along Bissonet/Binz, from Baynard to Crawford. Design funding for the pedestrian-and transit-oriented improvements are being fed by a \$140,000 Federal Highway Administration grant recently approved by Houston City Council.

**Artistic abilities earn student New York trip**

Student-artist Somala Muhammed crafted her own version of the American eagle months ago, never envisioning that it would earn her a trip to New York City.

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Thursday, Jan. 23, 2003

# Obituaries Death Notices

## DEATHS IN THE NEWS

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- [Mary Wilson, aided in WWII oil search](#)

## Death Notices and Guest Books for 1/23/2003

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**NOTICIAS PRINCIPALES DE HOY**

AP Foto/Guillermo Arias

Residentes de Colima, México, observan la destrucción que en su vecindario causó un terremoto el miércoles 22 de enero del 2003, con saldo de al menos 23 muertos.

## 25 muertos por poderoso terremoto en México

Por lo menos 25 personas murieron y 178 resultaron heridas por el terremoto que sacudió el oeste y centro del país, informaron el miércoles organismos de socorro. Casi la totalidad de las viejas casas de adobe de la ciudad de Colima, amanecieron en ruinas el miércoles.

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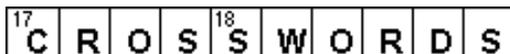
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- Do you have what it takes to solve our latest game? Put the pieces together in our [jigsaw puzzle](#). Select from many different puzzles. You'll need Shockwave to play.



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In [Gopher Patrol](#), Divot and his gang of marauding gophers have been chewing up The Sausage Links. Help Lumpy the Groundskeeper get the course ready for the Big Buck\$ Tournament by flushing the underground rodents out of the front nine with water. You'll need Shockwave to play.

- Go up against "THE GOOSE," "JUKES" and "BIG DADDY" in the [Free Throw Shootout](#).

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# Health

## A Dual Effort



**E. Joseph Deering / Chronicle**

Dr. K. Lance Gould, of the UT Medical School at Houston, observes a heart model. His study addresses the benefits of treating the heart with both lifestyle changes and medication. He says heart disease is a genetic and environmental disease and treatment should address both issues. **Full story.**

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A BMI of 30 or above is considered obese. (Requires [Flash Player 6](#) plug-in)

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Look up hospitals' track records on treating 25 medical conditions or surgeries, including stroke, bypasses and baby delivery, at the Texas Health Care Information Council's Web site.



[Printable forms](#) to let medical personnel know your health care wishes



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## Texas Children's Hospital

*Changing the face of healthcare,  
one child at a time.<sup>SM</sup>*

- [Doctors explore link between women athletes, knee injuries](#)

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CancerWise™ is a monthly electronic publication containing information about the latest advancements in cancer treatment and research, support programs and activities, and cancer prevention tips, among other related cancer news and information.

CancerWise™ is produced by The University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center. M.D. Anderson is one of the nation's original three Comprehensive Cancer Centers designated by the National Cancer Act of 1971 and is one of only 35 such centers today. For the past nine years, the institution has been ranked among the top two cancer centers in the nation in U.S. News & World Report's annual "Best Hospitals" survey.

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*Providing World-Class Care with a Heart*



## Health tips from St. Luke's

Glaucoma, one of the leading causes of blindness in the United States, is characterized by increased pressure inside the eyeball. If untreated, it can result in loss of sight. At highest risk are people with a family history of glaucoma, people who are diabetic, anyone over 60 and anyone taking certain blood-pressure medications or cortisone. To see an ophthalmologist or other specialist, contact [St. Luke's Physician Referral](#).

\* \* \*

St. Luke's Episcopal Health System is a comprehensive health system that meets the primary and tertiary healthcare needs of the Houston community. Established by the Episcopal Diocese of Texas, the System includes St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital, the St. Luke's Episcopal Health Network, St. Luke's Episcopal Health Charities and most recently, the Kelsey-Seybold Management, LLP. St. Luke's is home to the world-renowned [Texas Heart Institute](#), founded in 1962. The Texas Heart Institute at St. Luke's is consistently ranked in the [top 10 cardiovascular centers](#) in the United States by *U.S. News & World Report*.

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Read columns by former Chronicle medical writer [Ruth SoRelle](#), who now serves as senior director of special projects for Baylor College of Medicine.



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# HoustonLifestyle & Features

## Fighting a flood of high-waters



John Everett / Chronicle

Men stand to face a flood of criticism if they're caught wearing pants with hems that are too high, especially when wearing white socks.

- [Hoffman](#): The morning TV news race tightens
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Steve Campbell / Chronicle

A burrito is made to order for a customer at Chipotle Mexican Grill in downtown Houston.

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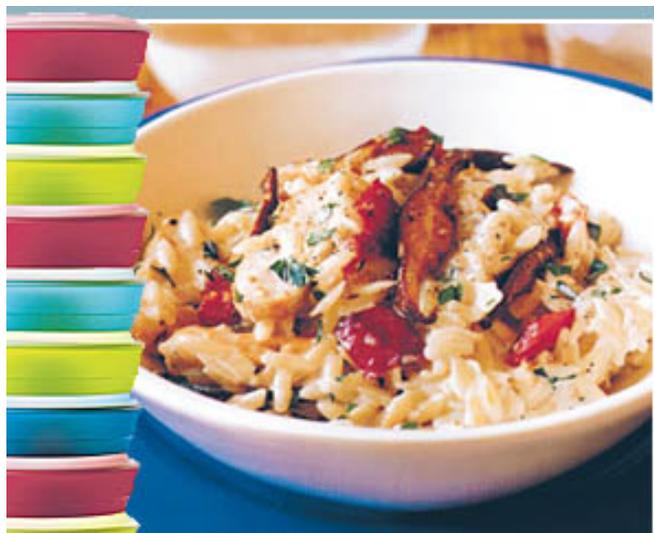
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# Food Cooking & Comment



## The Leftover DILEMMA

Buster Dean photos / Chronicle

Orzo With Chicken, Red Pepper and Shiitakes from *Food & Wine Magazine's Quick From Scratch One-Dish Meals Cookbook* offers the creamy taste of risotto without all the stirring. We've got even more [ideas for your leftover chicken](#).

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# Gardens

Illustration by Gladys Ramirez /  
Chronicle

Find out which **fruits, berries and nuts** do well in the Houston area and learn handy tips every gardener needs to help them grow.

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# Horoscope

## Today's horoscope

By JOYCE JILLSON  
Creators Syndicate

The Aquarius sun urges us to think outside the box. Additionally, Mercury is now direct after a long stint of traveling retrograde. What you see is what you get when it comes to communication in the coming months. No more guessing about what the other person really meant. If you don't like what you're getting, change what you're giving.

**ARIES** (March 21-April 19). Confidence rockets when you hear what people think of you. Still, you're in the process of reinventing yourself. Continue on with your plan to conquer the obstacles that kept you from winning before. You're almost there.

**TAURUS** (April 20-May 20). You're tempted to call an ex who has clearly moved on -- of course, you know what the response will be. A new love interest is recommended over pursuing the past. Inheritance and investment matters make it through the red tape.

**GEMINI** (May 21-June 21). At work, challenge yourself to bring even more to the meeting table. Those who are job hunting will feel less than motivated. Beat the lazy feeling, and get out the door. This is one of your luckiest days for finding a great position.

**CANCER** (June 22-July 22). Exceptional effort is required to understand issues that come between loved ones. Unless you are directly involved, it's better to just stay out of it. Taking risks brings good results, as long as you don't risk your health.

**LEO** (July 23-Aug. 22). Stay focused; a loved one uses you as an example of success. If you are having trouble returning calls in a timely manner,

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it's time to invest in a phone you love. Reinvest the money you are making back into the business.

**TODAY'S BIRTHDAY** (January 23). A year of great freedom is in store for you. For many, this month brings a second chance in love and in business. Loyalty is repaid next month when higher-ups give you promotions. Entrepreneurs have million-dollar ideas. Personal decisions made in June bring love into your life. Scorpio and Libra are hot prospects. Ask for a raise in July. Your lucky numbers are: 25, 35, 43, 11 and 5.

**VIRGO** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). You'll lose track of the progress you've made. Faith is tested even more in the evening. Display symbols in your working space to remind you how far you've come. Nudge loved ones to give you some much-needed encouragement.

**LIBRA** (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). Get rid of anything dead in your environment. This could be stale air, dried flowers or expired plants. Bosses, future clients and other potential sources of income assess your ability to grow and thrive based on what they see.

**SCORPIO** (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Don't rush forward with every good idea -- shrewd and purposeful wins the prize. Wait until Monday to hand in the final verdict, especially if someone's job is at stake. Accounting software could start you on the road to riches.

**SAGITTARIUS** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Learning to separate other people's problems from yours saves you time and money. Still, if there's a doubt, be more generous instead of less. Your classy attitude scores big. Return all calls before you leave work.

**CAPRICORN** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). Put in a good word for a colleague -- you can bet he or she is doing the same for you. Don't make decisions about love with your wallet. Time to yourself is the best thing you can do for your finances and your heart.

**AQUARIUS** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). Someone who disappointed you in the past wins you back. The desire to be exciting could get mixed into your business dealings. That's not all bad, but it's being real that will close the deal. Keep a big secret.



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Political players need you on their side and will woo you with gifts and promises. Don't loan money without thinking it over for at least two days. It's good for your career to accept invitations from a Gemini or Leo.

ASTROLOGICAL QUESTIONS: "I'm 24-year-old Taurus and have never had a boyfriend. Now, I finally have set my sights on a guy I really like. He's a Cancer born in 1975. He confuses me most of the time. He has a tendency to be nice and caring one moment and apathetic the next. There are instances that I feel like I'm being taken for granted. He has a longtime lady friend who is a few years older than he is. She's very close to him, and I think he likes her, even though he treats her like an older sister. She's an Aries. Do you think I should pursue this relationship? Do you think that if we ever become a couple, this lady friend of his will be an obstacle for us?"

Your attraction to him is mostly on a sexual level and hovers more around the infatuation area than being based on anything you could really build upon. He, on the other hand, is engaged in a more complicated sexual relationship with the Aries woman. Another man is coming into your life, bringing a love that's real and true. He's an earth sign (Taurus, Virgo or Capricorn) who will make your current messy scene seem like a blip in the screen 100 years ago.

CELEBRITY PROFILES: Axl Rose made a comeback in 2002, which diehard Guns N' Roses fans have been anticipating for years. Rose was distinct among the highly stylized '80s rock singers, with a voice known for its huge range and powerful tone. Air signs are born with a natural ability to hold, control and maximize breath. Breathing correctly is key for singers, so Rose's Aquarius sun sign has given him a definite edge.

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