

# Added stress of spring, summer causes year's peak suicide rate

United Press International  
DALLAS — More people may be depressed during the Christmas holidays, but the head of a suicide prevention organization says most people kill themselves in late spring or early summer.

"We think that what happens is that the warmer weather gives people more energy, and they go ahead and act out their suicidal thoughts," said Charles Vorkoper, director of Suicide Prevention of Dallas Inc.

About 1,000 people a year call the 24-hour hotline to discuss their suicidal thoughts, and Vorkoper said

the peak number of calls comes during the Christmas holidays. The highest number of suicides in Dallas, however, is usually recorded in late April and early June. There are some other theories about why people are more prone to kill themselves in this time.

"The end of spring is traditionally a time of change — school is out, people move, change jobs and get married," Vorkoper said. "All of these things can cause added stress. There's also a lot of expectation that summer will bring happiness, and when this doesn't happen it can in-

crease depression."

Vorkoper said the most important thing a friend or relative can do when someone appears suicidal is talk about it.

"Many people, including some mental health professionals, are afraid to talk to someone about suicide," he said. "They incorrectly believe that talking about suicide may encourage someone to actually commit suicide."

Vorkoper says research shows that eight out of 10 persons who commit suicide have discussed it

and given definite warnings beforehand.

"Most people with suicidal thoughts are not fully intent on dying, and they gamble with death, leaving it to someone else to save them."

For this reason, says Vorkoper, it can be very important to talk to someone about potential suicide and try to convince them to stay alive and solve their problems.

"It's not true that stopping someone from killing themselves is useless, since the person will just kill themselves later," he added.

"Actually, individuals who wish to kill themselves are suicidal only for a limited period of time," he said.

But getting through one suicide crisis does not mean the danger is over.

Vorkoper said most suicides occur within three months after an individual starts to improve from his or her problems.

"After a suicidal crisis, when the individual starts to improve, there's a likelihood that another suicide attempt will be made," he said. "This happens because the individual now has more energy to put his morbid thoughts into action."

# Man photographs burglary of neighbor's house, pictures develop into prosecution

United Press International  
DALLAS — Gerald Campbell's photos were hazy, somewhat fuzzy and probably wouldn't even win an honorable mention at a local photographic contest.

But they proved winners at District Court No. 4 this week for prosecuting attorneys Andy Anderson and Christopher Milner who parlayed them into a 45-year prison sentence for 23-year-old Alfred Earl Burney.

Campbell, using only a pocket

camera, calmly filmed Burney's burglarizing or a nearby Garland, Texas, home.

"It was an exercise in courage — an act above and beyond the duties of an ordinary citizen," said Judge John Mead who presided over the case.

After seeing the photos — including one showing a very surprised and stunned burglar reaching for the camera — the jury took only 11 minutes to convict Burney and only eight more minutes to send him to prison.

Campbell shot several pictures of Burney attempting to carry off an \$800 stereo and a portable television set, then confronted Burney on the front steps.

"I wouldn't take that if it's not yours," he told Burney.

"Why not?" Burney responded.

"Because my wife's calling the police," Campbell said.

As Burney dropped the television set and ran, Campbell took another picture.

# Analyst's brother accused in UH investment scandal

United Press International  
HOUSTON — Two men made a combined profit of about \$103,000 from the sale of their interest in a brokerage firm that did extensive business with the University of Houston, according to court testimony.

Mel Covington, president of Covington Knox Inc., said the firm

bought the shares from Patrick Sullivan of Compton, Calif., for \$95,000 and the shares of Roger Knox for \$75,000.

Sullivan is the half-brother of fired UH financial analyst Samuel Harwell.

Harwell was fired for his pyramid-style investment of UH funds in short-term government securities known as Ginnie Maes. The school has not determined the amount of losses it suffered during the time Harwell controlled the investments.

Covington testified he and Knox drew salaries of \$10,000 a month while they were in the partnership.

Covington has been the sole owner of Covington Knox, Inc., since March.

He testified that Sullivan re-

ceived almost \$60,000 in consultant fees for several months work.

The testimony came during a hearing before State District Judge Wyatt Heard. The firm is trying to have dissolved an earlier court order which placed CKI in receivership.

The receivership action was taken last month at the request of the state attorney general's office and the State Securities Board. They have alleged that Harwell and the firm's owners engaged in a scheme to defraud the university.

The university claims CKI owes it more than \$475,000 because of the fraud.

Harwell used his position to speculate in short-term investments of government securities and allegedly aided his half-brother in other schemes.

# State crime organized, but no Mafia

United Press International  
DALLAS — There is organized crime in Texas, but there is no one "family" which controls it, says a U.S. Justice Department attorney.

Doug McMillan has recently been assigned to Dallas to operate the Texas section of the Organized Crime Strike Force for the Southeast.

"There is no monolithic control of organized crime in the state of Texas — even in Dallas or Houston," McMillan said. "It is not a classic situation where one 'family' controls organized crime activity in the area."

He said organized crime in Texas is active in criminal activity ranging from gambling and narcotics to sophisticated white-collar crime and moving into legitimate business. He identified "organized crime" as illegal activities engaged in by members of criminal syndicates in the United States.

"There's no question that any number of organized crime groups have tentacles that extend into Texas, as is true of most other states," he said.

McMillan said Dallas' central location made it an attractive site for the Texas unit.

He said the only aim of the strike force operations, established in Texas last month, is to develop cases against organized crime that can stand up in court.

# Frankenstein' tryouts June 19-20

Tryouts for the Premier Player's production of the Mary Shelly classic "Frankenstein" will be held at 7 p.m. June 19 and 20 in the Ruder Forum.

Interviews for technical crew members will be held at the same time. Tryouts are open to high school students or 1978 graduates or now enrolled in a university.

The show, which will run July 26 through 29 at Texas A&M University, is Tim Kelly's rendition of the early 19th century gothic horror novel.

This production will mark the 15th season of the theater group on the Texas A&M campus.

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