



Where is Joan's heart?

staff photo by Irene Mees

Lisa Barber, a biomedical science freshman from Houston, plays pin-the-blackheart-on-Joan Jett at Rudder fountain. Tracy Cochran, left, the projects chairman for MSC Town Hall, and Kyle Benson, right

a junior accounting major from Longview, watch. Joan Jett and the Blackhearts will be at G. Rollie White Coliseum on April 28. The three participants who pinned their hearts the closest won two tickets.

# Months spent in jail could be 'for nothing'

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — A man who spent nine months in jail to appeal his trespassing conviction may have stayed behind bars for nothing because no official record was kept of his trial.

In a case the 1st Texas Court of Appeals has called "shocking to our sense of justice," Cleveland Hicks Jr., 24, spent seven months in the Harris County Jail awaiting his June 1982 trial because he could not pay the \$400 bond.

After his conviction and a six-month jail sentence, he decided to appeal, and because he could not afford the \$2,500 bond set by County Court at Law Judge Jimmie Duncan he went back to jail for nine more months.

The appeals court criticized Duncan for not releasing Hicks after the trial stage, even though he had asked to appeal, because he knew Hicks already had served the maximum sentence plus one month.

After he got a new lawyer, Hicks was released on a \$100 personal recognizance bond. Duncan said he was surprised

Hicks was still in jail. But now some officials say Hicks may not get a genuine appeal.

Attorney Ron Mock, the court-appointed lawyer who represented Hicks at his first trial, said that by law the appeals court will have to affirm the conviction because there is no official record of the trial for them to review.

Mock said he does not remember why he did not ask that Hicks' trial be recorded. In some misdemeanor courts, court reporters record trials without

having to be asked.

Mock said that at the trial he did not expect to appeal since he already spent seven months in jail and only was sentenced to a few months.

Attorney Leta Moeller, Hicks' new lawyer, said the lack of trial record dims Hicks' hope to clear his name on appeal, she said she was not sure she would concede that the appeal was

Hicks was convicted of trespassing to leave the Methodist hospital employment office out a job application.

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## Vietnam vet lauds Texas dioxin study

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — The commander of the United Vietnam Veterans in Texas praised the state's efforts to identify problems caused by Agent Orange exposure — efforts he said the U.S. government was hesitant to pursue because of the potential expense it would face in medical aid.

"What it (the Texas study) will do, hopefully, is to provide the missing link that the Veterans Administration and the U.S. government claim is not now in existence, and that is to furnish credible, medical evidence to link dioxin to the health problems suffered by the veterans," Dan Jordan said Monday.

The research program was the result of a bill passed in the 1981 legislative session. Another measure introduced this session would strengthen the program by setting up an advisory committee of veterans, doctors and medical researchers to oversee Agent Orange studies.

The federal government used the chemical as a defoliant in

Vietnam from 1962-1970. More than 60,000 veterans have filed suit alleging ill effects to themselves and their children from their exposure to the herbicide.

To mark Vietnam Veterans Day in Texas, lawmakers and a veterans organization sponsored a photographic exhibit in the state Capitol that graphically depicted birth defects and other physical problems allegedly traced to exposure to the dioxin-based Agent Orange.

Jordan said the government would have to pay affected veterans more than \$100 million a year for several decades if it admitted responsibility for Agent Orange-related maladies.

"It is ultimately a question of economics," Jordan said at a news conference. "We've seen historically a pattern of government handling of incidences like this, especially in situations involving veterans, where the government has stonewalled, has drug its feet, has attacked scientists and disputed their stand on the issues."

## Exxon employee finds second bomb

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — An Exxon service station employee, who pulled a garbage bag out of the opening of an underground gasoline storage tanks, said it never occurred to him initially that the object might be a bomb.

"I thought someone had stuffed a garbage bag down in the opening of the tank," Richard Ryan said Monday after finding the second bomb hidden in a Dallas-area Exxon station in three days.

"I pulled the bag out and took it into the station and began cutting it open. I hit a pipe and realized it might be a bomb. I walked back outside with it and set it out near the street and called police."

An Exxon spokesman said there was no extortion attempt connected with Monday's incident.

A demand for more than \$100,000 was telephoned to Exxon regional headquarters in

Dallas before a small bomb exploded in a trash can at a suburban Grand Prairie station Friday afternoon. No one was injured but the blast shattered the rear window of a nearby police car.

A police bomb squad took Monday's pipe bomb to the department's shooting range and detonated it. Spokesman Ed Spencer said fragments of the bomb would be analyzed by the FBI to see if the two cases were related.

Agents for the FBI refused to comment on the case. Police Monday had no suspects in either case.

Spencer said police explosives experts could not determine when the bomb had been set to explode.

"I was told it had the potential of giving off a pretty good blast," Spencer said. "We don't have any suspects and don't know where the bomb came from."

# CELEBRATE

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