

Arson seen as possibility

# Hotel fire cause unknown

**United Press International**  
**FORT WORTH** — Investigators have not ruled out arson in the Ramada Inn fire that killed five people last week, although laboratory tests so far show no sign of gasoline or other fuel in the carpeting where the fire started.

"No accelerants were found in six of seven samples," Deputy Fire Chief Don Peacock told a news conference Monday concerning tests conducted by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms in San Francisco. "The seventh was inconclusive and the lab has requested an additional control sample from an

unburned area (of the carpet)," he said.

Officials of the Fort Worth fire department and the ATF planned to meet Tuesday to review the investigation and to coordinate their future activities, Peacock said.

The rolls of carpet had been left in a hallway of a two-story building at the five-building Ramada Inn Central during renovation.

Last Tuesday's pre-dawn blaze killed five guests at the motel: a woman from Texas, two men from Kansas, a man from Oklahoma and a man from Illinois.

Another 34 guests were treated for various injuries, including smoke inhalation, lacerations and broken bones received when they broke windows in their rooms and leaped out to escape the fire, which destroyed the 87-unit building. Peacock said officers were questioning motel employees and guests but had not singled out a possible arson suspect.

He said the absence of flammables would not rule out arson because the paper and plastic in which the carpeting was wrapped could have been quickly ignited by a match.

The Ramada Inn Central was

one of three Fort Worth hotels plagued by fires in the past week.

A two-alarm fire Sunday at the Hyatt Regency Hotel caused no injuries but called out 12 pieces of apparatus and 35 firefighters.

Fire officials said it was the fifth arson blaze at the Hyatt in 10 days.

Department spokesman Capt. Roy Knight said the fire began in a maid's closet on the sixth floor of the east tower of the downtown hotel, which housed about 50 guests. The guests were transferred to rooms in the hotel's west tower.

# Professor joins nuclear protest

**United Press International**  
**EL PASO** — Religious and academic figures joined about 100 other people at the entrance to Fort Bliss for an International Nuclear Disarmament Day demonstration.

John Haddox, a philosophy professor at the University of Texas at El Paso, said he was protesting the nuclear arms buildup "just to make people aware of the extremely danger-

ous position in which we find ourselves and to encourage the governments of the United States and the Soviet Union to continue to seek nuclear disarmament."

The protesters, who included the Rev. Jaime Madrid, chancellor of the Roman Catholic Diocese of El Paso, and the Rev. Forrest Johnson, a Unitarian minister, sang and prayed in the 100-

degree heat for about an hour Monday.

Madrid said a commitment to peace is "more than just the absence of war. We need to build peace, like a great cathedral. We must prevent the use of any nuclear weapons."

Fort Bliss is a 2 million-acre facility where guided missiles and other weapons are tested.

One of the protesters, Gene Keller, said he was taking part

because he wants his son, 11, to have a future.

"We need to take these billions of dollars we're spending on arms and spend it on the poor," said Trip Sullivan, one of the organizers of the demonstration. "We need to get rid of the Vietnam mentality that the way to save a village is to annihilate it."

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# Cars on Bolivar possible after ban

**United Press International**  
**GALVESTON** — Galveston County Commissioners have agreed to reconsider their ban on vehicles on a 1,500-foot stretch of beach on Bolivar Peninsula across the Galveston

Bay entrance to Galveston Island.

The commissioners agreed to the ban last June 6. Area residents and beachfront homeowners complained of traffic and trash. They have agreed to reconsider the ban because of complaints from merchants and other residents.

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The ban on Bolivar Peninsula beach traffic is not being enforced yet, and county commissioners have not indicated when they might reach a final decision.



**The longest mile** staff photo by Brenda...  
 Spencer Johnston, associate professor of genetics, takes a break from air-conditioned classrooms to get a little sunshine. Instead of taking the easy route across Welborn road, Johnston opts for maximum aerobic conditioning by jogging up the overhead walkway.

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**IN JUNE**  
**5:30 P.M. to 8 P.M.**

JUNE						
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**Search abandoned for drowned child**

**United Press International**  
**FREEPORT** — Sheriff's deputies called off the search for the last of four missing children still not found but believed drowned less than a mile from an area where warning signs had been taken for firewood.

The bodies of the other three were found Monday by Brazoria County officials on Sergeant Beach west of the San Bernard River and near the mouth of the river, a sheriff's spokesman said. Capt. Gene Smith said the body of Darrin Duhart, 13, had not yet been found.

Smith said signs warning people of treacherous water at the mouth of the San Bernard were not in place after the accident.

"I understand none of the signs were down there at the time," he said.

Smith said removal signs "goes on all the time" and that he got these people that signs down and use the firewood. There were posted.

He said the area where the children swam Sunday is the most dangerous county.

The three children were identified as Carrie S. Hart, 12, Anthony Duhart, 12, and Rick Oliveda, 9. All of the were cousins. Charlotte, 14, was rescued after her father, failed. She was in a federal court in Houston hospital intensive care unit.

One of the bodies was about 3:30 p.m. on the Beach west of the San Bernard River. The other two found about 90 minutes near the mouth of the river, a sheriff's office spokesman said.

The children were away as they swam near a bar at the mouth of the San Bernard River.

The body of the fourth child was taken to Brazoria General Home in Freeport.

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