

Commission tours countries

# Reforms key to U.S. aid

**United Press International**  
**SAN ANTONIO** — Mayor Henry Cisneros said he returned from Central America with "hundreds of new perceptions" but reinforced in his belief that the United States must seek social and economic reforms instead of military solutions.

Cisneros, returning from what he called a "very grueling, very tiring" week-long tour with the president's commission on Central America, criticized human rights abuses in the region, and said that economic aid

should be tied to social and political reforms.

He said the commission would probably recommend new economic aid for Central American countries striving for democracy, with attached guarantees that such aid be used "by the people who need it."

"We should press for a 'democratization' that more than just mimics the American system," he said. "But as a precondition, we're talking about internal freedoms, a government of laws, as we attempt to stand for something."

Cisneros characterized El Salvador as a nation whose "military and security forces are virtually out of control," and said human rights abuses there totaled about 500 a month in the form of disappearances, kidnappings, arrests and murders.

"That leads to an air of terrible insecurity and terror," he said. "Who may be the victim for what imagined reason?"

He said Guatemala was guilty of "gross human rights violations" by what he called its "tremendously efficient military institution."

Cisneros said a root cause of violence and instability in the region was the "grinding poverty" caused by sagging, debt-ridden economies.

Loans from the International Monetary Fund and private American Banks often have 17 and 18 percent interest rates, causing "terrible deficit situations," he said.

Although the trip was brief, Cisneros termed it a success and said he came away with "hundreds of new perceptions." The report he contributed to will be better because of the trip.

## Midland bank reopens today

**United Press International**  
**MIDLAND** — Backed by general community support and confidence, the new owners of the failed First National Bank of Midland say the bank will reopen today with business as usual.

The bank, bought by the RepublicBank Corp. of Dallas for \$51 million, has been renamed RepublicBank First National Midland. The Midland bank was the third in the area recently declared insolvent by federal banking authorities because of delinquent energy loans.

But bank officials and community residents, saddened by the demise of the 93-year-old bank, say they are confident the newly-opened bank will succeed.

A former security guard at the bank, Ernest Franklin, 48, said he withdrew his money six months ago from First National in anticipation of the bank's problems. Franklin said he was one of 25 guards laid off by First National earlier this year as a cost-cutting measure.

"Despite recent difficulties, we are convinced that the energy business is here to stay and will get better," said RepublicBank chairman James D. Berry.

But Berry warned the bank's 1,500 shareholders that unlike First National customers, their fate rests with Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. officials who will determine what happens to shareholders' investments in the bank.

According to a shareholders' statement, First National had equity of \$122 million in December 1982, which steadily dwindled to \$7 million on June 30 and \$862,000 on Aug. 31.

"I'll try it and see what happens," said Paul Olgin, 47, a native of Midland who plans to keep his money in the new bank.

Billie Hildreth, a 31-year resident of Midland, said she believes the bank will weather the crisis well.

"I think it's real sad. I hated to see it happen," she said. "But Midland always comes back. We've lost our stronghold, but we'll come back."

The statement to shareholders said the bank had exceeded its loan limits, loaned money to executive officers on favorable terms and failed to comply with securities laws and record keeping requirements.



Curious little fillies

staff photo by Guy Hood

Amy Beth Simpson, a resident of College Station, introduces herself to an Arabian filly while waiting

for her father to finish his ride during the Aggie Roundup held this weekend.

## High school athletics debated

**United Press International**  
**AUSTIN** — Texas high school athletic officials Sunday began debating whether the state takes football too seriously. The coach who watched Friday night's game in a bulletproof vest might agree.

The University Interscholastic League opened a meeting in Austin with an address from Dallas computer magnate H. Ross Perot, head of a blue-ribbon panel on education that

concluded high school athletics in Texas are out of proportion.

"Winning coaches and band directors are paid salaries far in excess of those paid to outstanding teachers," Perot said.

For losing coaches, however, the penalties can be harsh. Head coach Ronnie Davenport and two assistants at Crosby High School in Crosby, Texas, directed Friday's game in flack

jackets after receiving telephone calls threatening him with death if his team lost the game.

"Why would you want to kill somebody over a football game?" asked Virginia Stewart, whose husband Dennis is one of the coaches.

Perot, in opening the conference, conceded that athletics

and related activities, along with the speech and drama teams

sanctioned by the UIL, represented pockets of excellence in Texas otherwise mediocre scholastic scene.

But he said his committee, which released its controversial findings this fall, found schools in which only one hour in four was devoted to academics.

## King cobra missing a week, found safe in owner's home

**United Press International**  
**ELBERT, Colo.** — King Tut, a 14-foot king cobra loose for a week on a ranch near the eastern Colorado town of Elbert, has been found alive and well under a bed.

The venomous snake's escape began Oct. 6, when the bodies of Jerry L. Colyer, 28, and his wife, Pamela, 40, were found in a parked car on a rocky knoll near the Colyer family ranch 55 miles southeast of Denver.

The two died of carbon monoxide poisoning in an apparent suicide, said Elbert County Sheriff George A. Yarnell.

Pamela Colyer, who had been Jerry's stepmother before becoming his wife, raised snakes in her bedroom on the ranch house's second floor, Yarnell said.

On the day of the double suicide, she left a note stating "The king is loose."

Upon searching the house, all

20 of Mrs. Colyer's other "pets" were still in their cages, including a boa constrictor, a Burmese python and a tarantula.

Reptile expert Bob Elshire from the Black Hills Reptile Gardens in South Dakota found King Tut Saturday under Mrs. Colyer's bed.

"Gentlemen, we have a king cobra," Elshire announced calmly to his two assistants upon the snake's discovery. "And we also have an alive king cobra."

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