

Photo by CHRIS COX

Final countdown before finals

Peri Courtney, a sophomore accounting major from Texarkana, is getting a head start studying for her BANA 337 final next week.

# Gay reported competent despite tumor

**United Press International**  
LOS ANGELES — The father of slain soul singer Marvin Gaye is suffering from a potentially fatal brain tumor, but is mentally competent to stand trial on charges he shot his son to death, a psychiatrist testified Wednesday.

Physicians who diagnosed Marvin Gay Sr., 71, said he has a brain tumor the "size of a walnut." A defense attorney said that may have caused the behavior leading to the April 1 shooting during an argument.

"Mr. Gay is competent to stand trial," Dr. Ronald Markman, a court appointed psychiatrist, said in a written report.

"He is fully oriented, alert, aware of the nature of the proceedings and is open to suggestion and direction," the doctor said.

But after defense attorney Arnold Gold said further diagnosis of the tumor was needed, Superior Court Judge Michael Pirosh delayed ruling on Gay's competency until May 16.

Gold said the exact size and nature — whether benign or cancerous — of the tumor is unknown. But the attorney said it is "absolutely necessary" that the tumor be removed or Gay could be blind within months, and perhaps even dead.

He said outside court it was "certainly possible" the tumor affected Gay's behavior the day of the shooting, and indicated he may use that as a defense strategy.


In his report, Markman said, "When I first spoke to M. Gay, he was confused and somewhat disoriented ... he was aware as to the basis for his detention, but did state that he had shot his son."

"During the second interview Mr. Gay was less perplexed and quite responsive to my questions. He understood he was in custody for the death of his son

but was unclear as to the specific charges ... He was alert, cooperative and demonstrated adequate intellectual function."

Marvin Gaye — he added an "e" to his professional name — was a Grammy Award-winning singer whose hits included "Heard It Through the Grapevine" and "What's Going On." He was shot to death in the family home after an argument with his father.

The coroner's office reported Tuesday that Gaye had used cocaine several hours before his death but was not under the influence of the drug when he died.



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## Refugees guaranteed new home

**United Press International**

BANGKOK, Thailand — Vietnamese refugees rescued by a U.S. warship from a flimsy wooden boat arrived Wednesday in Thailand with guarantees they would be resettled in the United States or other nations of their choice.

A spokesman for the U.S. Embassy said the 40 refugees, almost half of them young children, were pulled off a 35-foot wooden craft in the Gulf of Thailand by the destroyer USS O'Brien last Sunday.

The spokesman said the O'Brien was headed to Pattaya Beach, 60 miles southeast of Bangkok, from the southern Thai resort island of Phuket when it spotted the crowded refugee boat with passengers waving and pleading for help.

"After determining the refu-

gee vessel was not seaworthy, O'Brien embarked the refugees and continued enroute to a port of call in Pattaya Beach, Thailand," the statement said.

One of the refugees was treated for dehydration by the medical personnel aboard the

O'Brien, but all the were reported in good health.

The Vietnamese were to be processed in Thailand for a maximum of 30 days and then be put board flights to the United States or other countries, the spokesman said.

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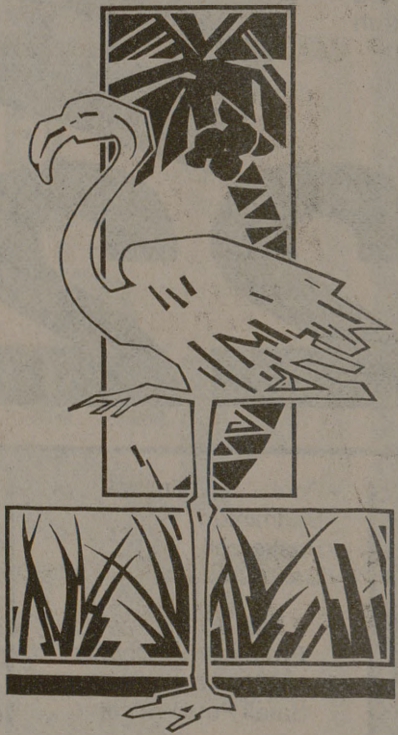
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