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Woman named to state board

United Press International
AUSTIN — The 15 people sworn in Wednesday as new members of the State Board of Education included one new face — Dallasite Geraldine Miller, who initially was passed over for a spot on the appointed panel.

Miller, 49, was named to the spot by Gov. Mark White after J. Fred Bucy Jr. of Dallas announced he would be unable to serve on the board.

In a letter to White, Bucy said his job as an executive at Texas Instruments could cause a conflict of interest with his duties as a board member since TI sells computers and other learning aids to Texas public schools.

"While abstention from certain board deliberations would resolve the potential for conflicting inter-

ests, such a procedure would, in my judgment, be less than satisfactory," he said.

Bucy's appointment also had been opposed by Sen. Ike Harris, R-Dallas, who resides in Bucy's district. Under Senate rules, Harris would have had the power to block Bucy's appointment.

Harris said Miller had been his first choice for the board seat, although he thought Bucy was qualified.

Miller is a teacher and language therapist at Highland Park Presbyterian Church and also is vice president of Vance C. Miller Corp., vice president of Miller Condominium Corp. and president of Metro Search, Inc.-Realtors.

She received a bachelor's degree from Southern Methodist University and a master's degree from East Texas State University.

ACLU says group intimidates voters

United Press International
SAN JUAN — The American Civil Liberties Union Wednesday urged newly appointed Secretary of State Myra McDaniel to withdraw from the State-Federal Vote Fraud Task Force, alleging the body has the "subliminal purpose" of intimidating minority voters in the upcoming election.

James C. Harrington, legal director, released a letter he sent McDaniel during a news conference in which he introduced to the Rio Grande Valley Gara La Marche, the new executive director of the Texas ACLU.

The Vote Fraud Task Force is comprised of four Texas U.S. attorneys, all of them Republican appointees, the FBI, Texas Department of Public Safety and Texas Rangers. It was created during former Republican Gov. Bill Clements' term to ensure ballot security in Texas.

Last Friday, the task force conducted a news conference at San Diego, county seat of Duval County which has been notorious for vote fraud allegations dating back decades to the days of the George Parr political machine. Task force members, including U.S. Attorney Daniel Hedges of Houston, warned at the gathering they would be watching for any irregularities throughout Texas during the Nov. 6 election.

Harrington said the selection of San Diego as site of the news conference seems to mean the task force is concentrating on South Texas, where voters are predominantly Mexican-Americans.

"While the task force may appear on the surface to have a legitimate goal, my fear, which I believe is well-grounded in recent history, is that the task force has, as a subliminal purpose, the intimidation of minority voters from exercising their rights," Harrington told McDaniel.

Ten workers murdered near Guatemalan city

United Press International
GUATEMALA CITY — The bodies of 10 peasants who had been strangled and shot were found in a common grave on a coffee farm on the Pacific coast, Guatemalan police reported Wednesday.

Authorities speculated the bodies had been buried for some 24 hours before being discovered Tuesday night by passing farmworkers on the San Pedro plantation, near Rio Bravo, 54 miles southwest of Guatemala City in the rich agricultural lowlands of Suchitepequez province.

Police spokesmen said they had no clues on who the assassins were and did not know if the victims belonged to any peasant organization.

Peasants suspected of being tied to leftist guerrillas often are attacked by government security squads, and peasants suspected of working with the army fall prey to rebel attacks.

The bodies were taken to the morgue at the national hospital in

the provincial capital of Mazatenango to be identified by relatives, police said.

In other developments, army spokesman Col. Hector Rosales Salaverria said Wednesday that 101 Guatemalan refugees have returned from Mexico.

He said the refugees returned to Guatemala from the southeastern Mexican state of Campeche where the Mexican government has relocated refugees from the volatile border areas.

Some 46,000 Guatemalans, most of them Indians, fled into Mexico over the past four years to escape the civil war between the army and guerrillas.

Escorted by Mexican authorities, the refugees crossed into Guatemala Tuesday evening, and were immediately carried to the military base in Huehuetenango, 77 miles northwest of the capital, Salaverria said.

Border watch wanted

United Press International
SAN JOSE, Costa Rica — Costa Rica will ask a Contadora group border commission to monitor its shared border with leftist-ruled Nicaragua, the Foreign Ministry announced Wednesday.

The request follows a speech made by Nicaraguan Junta Coordinator Daniel Ortega at the U.N. General Assembly Tuesday, charging that rebels opposed to his Sandinista regime would invade Nicaragua from Costa Rica Oct. 15.


Foreign Minister Carlos Gutierrez said Ortega's charge was "false" and called on the Contadora Group — Mexico, Colombia, Venezuela and Panama — to monitor the border to prevent tensions, an official bulletin said.

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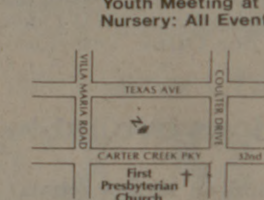
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