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Heavy caseload forces sheriff to end stakeout

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — Sheriff's investigators who had been staking out a prepared gravesite for more than two days said Thursday it was just a coincidence they weren't there when the body of John Cruz, who had been kidnapped before the stakeout began, was dumped in the grave.

Officials said a personnel shortage forced them to give up their vigil 12 hours before the body was discovered and that the stakeout was unrelated to the kidnapping of Cruz.

Bexar County sheriff's Sgt. A.E. Ramon said, "We watched it for 24 hours for three days. It got to a point that a lot of the work was getting backlogged and we had to come in."

Ramon said the sheriff's department has a heavy caseload and a budget problem, also. He refused to elaborate, although he said investigators intended to return to the stakeout.

Officers said the shooting death of Cruz may be linked to the fact his family just received a \$2.4 million settlement in a lawsuit.

Sgt. Dalton Baker also said authorities believe the grave was dug for Cruz and are convinced he was shot there.

"I think it was just a coincidence

this happened while we weren't there," Baker said.

He said during the surveillance, deputies left the site several times and doubled back in the event they were being watched.

Cruz was abducted early Wednesday and his family received two telephone calls demanding ransom, authorities said.

"We all feel pretty comfortable that he did know who his killer was," Baker said.

Deputies began staking out the gravesite Sunday after it was discovered by children playing in the remote area in South Bexar County.

Officers abandoned the surveillance at 1:30 a.m. Wednesday. Cruz was last seen early Wednesday when he left his job at a convenience store about a mile from his home, a co-worker said.

At 3:15 a.m., the Cruz family received a telephone call from a man demanding \$26,000 ransom for the safe return of the son.

Homicide Lt. Albert Ortiz said a second call came at noon from a man saying the ransom had been increased to \$30,000.

The caller said he would call back at 3 p.m. to make arrangements to collect the money. The call never came.

Gov. White reverses his debating decision

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Gov. Mark White, appearing to reverse a decision by his campaign chairman, Thursday said he is willing to debate his Democratic primary opponents.

"We'll be pleased to debate them," White told his weekly news conference.

Earlier this week, White campaign chairman John Fainter wrote the League of Women voters to decline their offer for debate before the May 3 primary.

"Gov. White's state schedule is particularly heavy throughout the primary period, and we do not feel a debate during these months would be a productive commitment of the governor's time," Fainter's letter said.

But White, who last year promised to debate any Democratic or Republican candidates, said the letter was sent because the league's acceptance deadline was too early for his campaign to decide on a date.

"We just couldn't set it up on their schedule. We'll be glad to set it up on a convenient schedule," he said. "I'm going to be willing to debate candidates who have serious issues in this campaign to discuss."

White's comments followed a news conference by Democratic challenger Andrew Briscoe, who said the governor owes it to voters "to clarify the differences" between

himself and other candidates.

"Texans aren't as proud of Mark White's record as he is. And I welcome the opportunity to debate him," Briscoe said.

Also Thursday, White blasted leaders of two teacher groups — the Association of Texas Professional Educators and the Texas Classroom Teachers Association — who have criticized his proposal for drug testing of teachers and other workers if they are suspected of drug use.

"I doubt that their membership supports the position that they've taken. I believe that the overwhelming majority of the teachers in Texas totally support the position that there should never be a teacher in the classroom that's under the influence of narcotics," he said.

In other political developments: — State Treasurer Ann Richards, saying her office has earned an extra \$117 million for the state, announced she will seek a second term.

"That's \$117 million that didn't come from our taxpayers. The money is largely from additional interest earned from investing state funds at market rates," she said.

Ms. Richards, a Democrat first elected in 1982, also said her policies have saved \$1.13 billion in state expenses through more efficient Treasury practices, competitive bidding on a computer and increased efficiency in state agencies.

In Advance

A&M regents will consider allotting libraries \$1 million

By MONA L. PALMER
Staff Writer

During three days of meetings which begin Sunday, the Texas A&M Board of Regents will consider allocating \$1 million to Texas A&M libraries.

A report from A&M President Frank E. Vandiver's office says the Sterling C. Evans library ranks 42nd among its 105 peer libraries as a result of a history of inadequate funding.

The inadequacy of A&M's library forces faculty and students to seek resources at other institutions such as the University of Texas' library, which ranks sixth nationally, the report says.

The Target 2000 report states the library collection must be strengthened if the University wants to support the quality of faculty and students it is now attracting.

The money will be appropriated from the Available University Fund.

The board also will consider creating a bachelor of science program in genetics for A&M students.

Currently, the University offers a M.S. and Ph.D. in genetics.

The B.S. degree will give students a background in biology, chemistry, math, and physics and can lead to graduate or professional training in a business/law

career based on the use of biotechnology.

The regents also will act on a request to offer a bachelor of science degree in computer science at Texas A&M at Galveston.

A survey of prospective employers shows a need in the marine and maritime industries and related governmental agencies for graduates in this proposed program. A report from Dr. William H. Clayton, president of A&M-Galveston, says no similar program exists within the state and such a program is clearly within the role, scope and capability of A&M-Galveston.

Dr. Percy A. Pierre, president of Prairie View A&M, has submitted a request to establish the Institute For International Agribusiness Studies at Prairie View as a joint venture with A&M.

The institute will focus on research, development, training and application of agribusiness on a worldwide scale. The regents will vote on the institute's establishment during the meeting.

In other business the regents will:

- Vote on the guidelines for the 1986-87 operating budget for the University System.
- Consider a request by the Texas Engineering Experiment Station for physical facilities and special equipment.

Cisneros will discuss value of education in liberal arts

By FRANK SMITH
Staff Writer

SAN ANTONIO Mayor and Texas A&M Regent Henry Cisneros will speak about the value of a liberal arts education and how it has helped him in his career Monday at 5:30 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

The Career Planning and Placement Center and the College of Liberal Arts extended the invitation to speak to Cisneros.

Daniel S. Parsley, a liberal arts assistant, said the program was proposed to help inform liberal arts majors of career opportunities.



Regent Henry Cisneros

Cisneros graduated from A&M in 1968 with a bachelor's degree in English and received a master's degree in urban planning here in 1970. He went on to earn a master of public administration degree at Harvard and a doctorate in public administration from George Washington University at Washington, D.C.

In 1974 he took a teaching position at the University of Texas at San Antonio. A year later he was elected to the San Antonio City Council, on which he served until he was elected mayor in 1981. He was re-elected in 1983.

Cisneros was appointed to the A&M Board of Regents by Gov. Mark White last June following the March resignation of H.R. "Bum" Bright.

Cisneros serves as first vice president of the Texas Municipal League, co-chair of the International Trade Task Force of the National League of Cities and chairman of the Emerging Technologies Committee of the Council of Urban Economic Development.

He also has been an active part of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and the Texas Economic Development Commission.

— Dallas Court of Appeals Judge Charles Ben Howell declared himself a Republican candidate for Texas Supreme Court.

— U.S. Rep. Jake Pickle, who has represented central Texas in Congress since 1963, said he will seek another term.

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