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ASK ABOUT A BEALLS CHARGE CARD

'Bobby' to return to Dallas

AUSTIN (AP) — Actor Patrick Duffy said Thursday he will be resurrected on the television series "Dallas" — and he knows exactly how but he's not telling.

"I'm committed to keep it secret because we need the ratings," he said. "I am back and I can't tell you how, when, why and where or what my name will be. I know it, but I can't tell you."

Duffy played Bobby, J.R. Ewing's good-guy brother, on the hit TV show until the end of last season. On the final show, he was hit by a car and seemed to die in the hospital when he was taken off a respirator. In this year's shows, he was presumed dead. His grave at Southfork Ranch was shown occasionally.

Duffy spoke at an Austin news conference where he was introduced as the spokesman for a seat belt use campaign.

"I guess as a victim of a traffic accident I'm probably most qualified to talk about things like this," he said. "I'm the only person to be brought back from an actual death involving a traffic accident. The person who killed me was not recast."

Pressed for details about his return to "Dallas," he said, "I know all about it and you don't."

"I'm committed by my great mother network to not talk too much about this until I return to Los Angeles," he said.

Duffy will appear on the May 16 episode of "Dallas," a season-ender that producers hope will be a ratings blockbuster.

"I did not ask to come back," Duffy said, adding that sagging ratings forced producers to reassess and move back toward the original character of the show.

Robot foils suicide, police say

DALLAS (AP) — Max, the one-eyed robot that is the Dallas Police Department's latest crime fighter, earned a B-plus on his first active duty assignment by ending a tense four-hour standoff, police officials said Thursday.

The mechanical crime fighter convinced a 27-year-old man threatening suicide to surrender Wednesday night, police said.

Police decided to use Max when they were told that the man, who took his phone off the hook and didn't respond to bullhorn calls, had booby-trapped the front door with a high-powered rifle.

The man's friends told police Wednesday afternoon that he had taken a bottle of sleeping pills after arguing with his girlfriend, police tactical Capt. Dwight Walker said.

After Max smashed the window, the man came out with a pistol in his waistband, Walker said.

The man was listed in good condition at Parkland Memorial Hospital, a hospital official said.

Workers seek new job skills

ODESSA (AP) — Alton Rae said he grew up in Odessa thinking he would spend his life working in the oil fields.

That's before he was laid off from his welding job.

Now, he's in his second year of training at Odessa College for a new career as a medical technician.

A college administrator said he expects many people who lose jobs because of the current economic situation will train in new fields.

"People try to go back to school to get their job skills up," said Roger Coomer, Odessa College vice president for finance. "We're hoping for that, as long as people don't leave the area."

When the economy soured in 1983, the college's fall enrollment increased sharply, Coomer said.

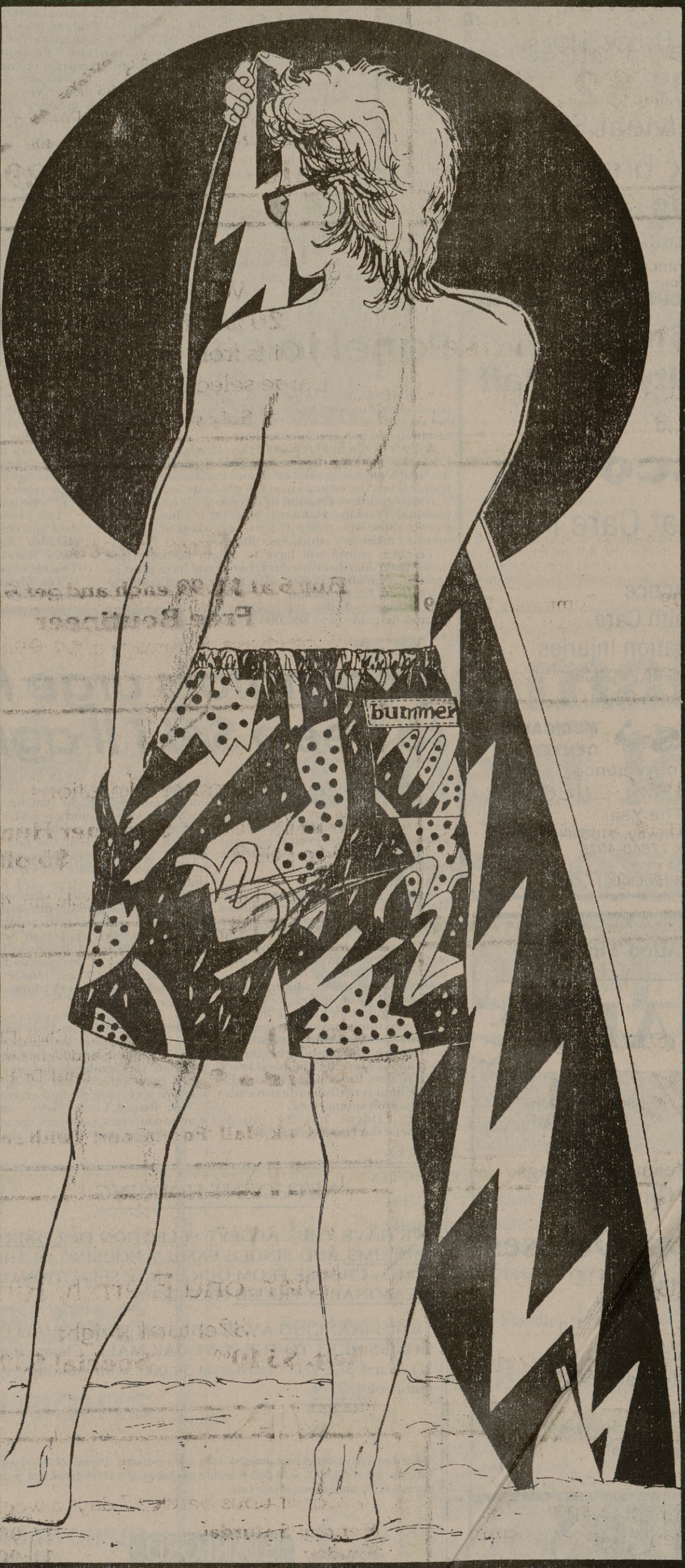
Rae, 30, said he was laid off in 1983.

"Back in '83 when the bust hit, the welding shops closed down," he recalled. Rae said his wife encouraged him to train for another type of work.

"I didn't want to follow work around. I'd rather have a steady job," he said.

Coomer said in a rapidly changing economy, having more than one skill proves useful.

"You never know what's going to be hot and what's going to be out for a while," he said.



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