

# State and Local

## Uninsured parents win award in son's death

AUSTIN (AP) — A Brownsville hospital must pay damages to the parents of a boy who was refused treatment because his family did not have money or insurance, the Texas Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

Fermin Gracia Jr., 9, died Aug. 1, 1979, of complications that apparently developed after he was kicked in the stomach, according to court records.

The Supreme Court, without writing an opinion, said it found no reversible error in the Corpus Christi Court of Appeals decision upholding a trial court ruling.

The ruling granted \$850,000 to Fermin Gracia Sr. and his wife Guadalupe of Brownsville, parents of the boy.

The Gracias took their son to a Matamoros, Mexico, hospital July 16, 1979, after he was injured. After four days, the parents took him to Brownsville Medical Center.

Dr. Elias Lorenzana examined the child at the hospital's emergency room and recommended

that his parents take him to a pediatrician the next day, according to court records.

On July 23, the Gracias took their son to Valley Community Hospital in Brownsville, where he was diagnosed as having possible pancreas and liver injuries that could require surgery. But a hospital social worker determined that family had no hospital insurance and did not qualify for a financial assistance plan, according to court records.

According to records, the social worker told the parents the boy would be taken to John Sealy Hospital in Galveston, which she described as "the place where we usually send people that cannot afford to pay."

Experts differed on the cause of death.

Jurors ruled that Brownsville Medical Center and Valley Community Hospital were 90 percent responsible for the death. Lorenzana was held 10 percent liable.

## Mock trial of JFK's killer to be filmed

ODESSA (AP) — U.S. District Judge Lucius D. Bunton says he will preside over a televised mock trial of Lee Harvey Oswald when filming begins next week in London.

Bunton said Tuesday he does not expect the trial to be especially challenging and said the event will give history buffs a chance to take a second look at the 1963 assassination in Dallas.

London Weekend Television officials announced Wednesday they are negotiating with witnesses who testified before the Warren Commission, which investigated the assassination.

"I don't think it hurts us to look at events that created big changes in our history and try to make that de-

termination (about the presidential assassination) in our minds," Bunton told the *Midland Reporter-Telegram*.

An official with the London television company said Oswald will be represented by an empty chair. Oswald never was tried, having been shot dead two days after his arrest while being moved from one jail to another.

The Warren Commission concluded that Oswald was Kennedy's lone assassin.

Bunton, 61, said the prosecutor will be Vincent Bugliosi, the man who prosecuted Charles Manson. The defense attorney will be Gerry

Spence of Jackson, Wyo., the judge said.

Bunton said the filmed event is a semi-documentary. He said the producers initially asked a federal appeals judge to preside at the trial, but when he could not make the trial because of previous commitments, Bunton was asked to step in.

"Any judge would tell you it is a pleasure to try a case with good lawyers," said Bunton, who was appointed to the judgeship in 1979. He said the trial offers a good chance to reconsider a historic event.

"You have got to realize that this event occurred almost 23 years ago there are people who are married and have children who were not even alive at the time of the assassination," he said. "I just think it is good for history buffs."

Bunton said in 1963 there was no federal law applying to presidential assassinations and the case would have been tried in state court. But he said the producers decided to follow modern law making assassination a federal crime.

Officials said the program will be modeled on the company's recent mock trial of England's King Richard III, who is suspected of ordering the murders of his two young nephews in the 15th century.

## Commission may lower Texas oil, gas production rate

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Railroad Commission voted Wednesday to consider two oilmen's request to lower the oil and gas production rate to less than full production for the first time since 1976.

The production rate has been at 100 percent — with the exception of two months in 1976 — since April 1972. The allowable has been slightly lower in some fields where

the commission felt full production could produce waste.

In their petition, Dallas oilmen H.S. Bennett and William Burrow said full production has produced waste throughout the state. They asked the commission to set the production rate at 90 percent for most wells.

"The state, the country and the world is in the state of overproduction," Bennett said in a telephone in-

terview from his Dallas office. "It just seemed to us that if the state of Texas showed some leadership to bring some order out of what is chaos in the oil and gas business, the Railroad Commission could cut the allowable a reasonable amount that would not make much difference but would give a signal . . . and in doing so might give OPEC a little encouragement that the states recognize overproduction and were trying

to do something to alleviate the situation."

Commissioners Mack Wallace, Clark Jobe and Jim Nugent voted unanimously to refer the reduction request to an examiner for a full hearing. No date was specified.

Also Wednesday, the panel set a 100 percent August production rate for almost all Texas fields.

## Spreading word on A&M all in a day's work

By Jeanne Isenberg  
Staff Writer

Texas A&M University breeds news stories by the barrelful, and the Office of Public Information does its best to spread the word — locally, statewide and nationally.

Lane B. Stephenson, director of the Office of Public Information, says he is selling A&M primarily on a state and national level because locally, *The Bryan-College Station Eagle* and *The Battalion* already cover the University in detail.

"If you don't toot your own horn, you don't get recognized," Stephenson says. "But you must have something significant to say, and you must present it in an interesting

manner. Fortunately, there's a lot going on here."

The office sends out about 15 different news releases per week, he says, ranging from short announcements to more in-depth stories on such subjects as research programs.

Information comes to the office through a variety of sources, and Stephenson says he has organized his staff in much the same way as a newspaper's beat system.

Staff members cover designated areas around the campus, such as the different colleges and departments, and handle campus news except for sports and agricultural research and extension activities, he says.

The OPI doesn't just send out releases to publicize stories about A&M. It also publishes a book of possible news sources at the University.

The book lists names and numbers of people who can provide expert opinions on subjects from A to W.

When the space shuttle Challenger exploded on Jan. 28, Stephenson says, the office received scores of phone calls from the media because of A&M's known affiliations with NASA.

Stephenson says another method used to generate interest in the University is a tip sheet the office mails out. Containing a number of brief,

interesting story ideas, the tip sheet gives the media people the chance to develop an angle that a news release might have overlooked, he says.

Stephenson says his office has worked hard to build a reputation for telling it like it is and telling it quickly. Editors receive so many releases daily that they have become less receptive, he says, and when a source such as the University has developed a reputation for brevity, clarity and interesting ideas the editors are more likely to pay attention.

But despite his experience Stephenson says he can never tell what the media will find interesting enough to print.

### What's up

**Thursday**

**STUDENT GOVERNMENT:** applications for External Communications and Public Relations will be available through the summer months. Please come by 221 Pavilion from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to pick up applications. For more information call 845-3051.

**CO-OP STUDENT ASSOCIATION:** will meet at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder. For more information call Vara, 693-5306.

*Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.*

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	Our Price	Compare at		Our Price	Compare at		Our Price	Compare at
1/2 pts.	\$2.75	6.00	.59 pts.	\$930.00	1800.00	.78 pts.	\$1650.00	3300.00
.01 pts.	5.00	11.00	.60 pts.	945.00	1700.00	.83 pts.	1650.00	3300.00
.02 pts.	9.95	20.00	.61 pts.	975.00	1800.00	1.15 cts.	2495.00	5250.00
.03 pts.	14.95	29.00	.61 pts.	775.00	1500.00	<b>MARQUISE</b>		
.04 pts.	19.95	40.00	.65 pts.	975.00	1800.00		Our Price	Compare at
.05 pts.	29.95	65.00	.67 pts.	815.00	1700.00	.27 pts.	\$325.00	725.00
.06 pts.	33.00	70.00	.67 pts.	975.00	1790.00	.30 pts.	365.00	725.00
.07 pts.	38.00	75.00	.70 pts.	1295.00	2600.00	.30 pts.	365.00	725.00
.08 pts.	41.00	82.00	.71 pts.	1465.00	2850.00	.33 pts.	395.00	725.00
.10 pts.	63.00	125.00	.76 pts.	1195.00	2300.00	.35 pts.	425.00	850.00
.14 pts.	105.00	200.00	.84 pts.	1125.00	2350.00	.37 pts.	450.00	950.00
.15 pts.	111.00	225.00	.86 pts.	1625.00	2900.00	.49 pts.	975.00	1800.00
.16 pts.	118.00	235.00	.93 pts.	1650.00	2900.00	.50 pts.	895.00	1700.00
.18 pts.	135.00	270.00	.96 pts.	1560.00	2900.00	.70 pts.	1195.00	2300.00
.19 pts.	140.00	280.00	.97 pts.	1950.00	3450.00	.73 pts.	1235.00	2500.00
.20 pts.	165.00	250.00	1.00 cts	1520.00	3200.00	1.10 cts.	4340.00	8500.00
.23 pts.	235.00	470.00	1.00 cts	2100.00	4200.00	1.46 cts.	3750.00	7500.00
.27 pts.	270.00	500.00	1.00 cts	2150.00	4000.00	1.52 cts.	2750.00	5500.00
.28 pts.	325.00	525.00	1.00 cts	2095.00	4100.00	<b>PEAR</b>		
.34 pts.	445.00	695.00	1.03 cts	2775.00	4400.00		Our Price	Compare at
.35 pts.	445.00	695.00	1.06 cts	1875.00	3700.00	.30 pts.	\$350.00	725.00
.42 pts.	660.00	1275.00	1.08 cts	2795.00	4800.00	.47 pts.	1050.00	2100.00
.43 pts.	550.00	1100.00	1.08 cts	2395.00	4700.00	.54 pts.	1195.00	2350.00
.45 pts.	695.00	1375.00	1.09 cts	2825.00	4900.00	.62 pts.	1395.00	2750.00
.46 pts.	595.00	1250.00	1.09 cts	2825.00	4900.00	<b>MODIFIED RADIANT</b>		
.46 pts.	585.00	1200.00	1.24 cts	2875.00	5300.00		Our Price	Compare at
.48 pts.	795.00	1550.00	1.33 cts	3495.00	6900.00	.35 pts.	\$635.00	1350.00
.49 pts.	795.00	1550.00	1.41 cts	3900.00	7900.00	.93 pts.	1945.00	3800.00
.50 pts.	785.00	1500.00	1.51 cts	4975.00	8500.00	1.03 cts.	2600.00	5500.00
.50 pts.	750.00	1500.00	1.54 cts	4150.00	8200.00	<b>EMERALD</b>		
.50 pts.	765.00	1575.00	2.02 cts	8395.00	17000.00		Our Price	Compare at
.52 pts.	675.00	1350.00	2.03 cts	6875.00	13500.00	1.02 cts.	\$2495.00	4500.00
.52 pts.	875.00	1695.00	2.04 cts	7695.00	14250.00	<b>EMERALD</b>		
.53 pts.	810.00	1575.00	3.00 cts	12900.00	26000.00		Our Price	Compare at
.54 pts.	845.00	1695.00	<b>OVAL</b>				Our Price	Compare at
.54 pts.	695.00	1425.00		Our Price	Compare at		Our Price	Compare at
.55 pts.	875.00	1650.00	.25 pts.	\$195.00	\$450.00		Our Price	Compare at
.55 pts.	865.00	1650.00	.27 pts.	200.00	475.00		Our Price	Compare at
.56 pts.	895.00	1625.00	.38 pts.	285.00	525.00		Our Price	Compare at
.56 pts.	735.00	1495.00	.44 pts.	335.00	750.00		Our Price	Compare at
.56 pts.	895.00	1750.00	.71 pts.	1495.00	2900.00		Our Price	Compare at
.57 pts.	725.00	1450.00	<b>Largest Stock of Gold Coin Jewelry in the Area!</b>				Our Price	Compare at
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.59 pts.	850.00	1700.00	<b>TEXAS COIN EXCHANGE</b>				Our Price	Compare at
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