

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"I'm glad that you finally got registered. Too bad it was such an ordeal for you... you are okay, aren't you?"

Kidnapping

(continued from page 1)

Dalati, of the abduction, police said. A school associate said Reed has lived in Lebanon about eight years and converted to Islam before his marriage. The associate, who insisted on anonymity, said the couple have a five-year-old son, Tareq. In Washington, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said the administration was aware of reports of the kidnapping and of reports that Islamic Jihad was responsible,

and had no reason to doubt that the reports were true.

An anonymous caller claiming to speak for Islamic Jihad charged in a call to a Western news agency that Reed was a spy for the CIA and that "documents convicting him" were found on him.

The caller said, "We found out that his educational mission was a mere disguise for his espionage efforts."

Deficit

(continued from page 1)

of increased earnings by the permanent school and university funds, higher college tuitions and increases in other minor fund revenues, together with actions by the Legislature and the attorney general of Texas," Bullock said.

Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby was asked if Bullock's revised estimate means the state's financial problem is "less severe."

"No, it simply recognizes the legislative actions that have been taken and the assurance from the attorney general that the... lawsuit wouldn't

be settled in this fiscal year," Hobby said.

But he said the revised estimate is an encouraging note.

Bullock said oil prices averaged \$20.63 a barrel in fiscal 1986 but will average only \$15.11 this year, dropping total oil and gas production taxes by \$472 million.

Bullock also predicted that the state sales tax would inch up by only \$22 million and motor vehicle sales tax collections would drop by \$76 million.

'Man shortage' doesn't faze Miss America contestants

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — Miss America contestants, who frequently list a happy marriage and children among their goals, aren't worried about studies that show college-educated women have slim chances of getting married after age 30.

"I've read those polls and I just

go, 'pooh,' said Miss Kansas Heather Lynn Clark, 23, of Benton.

Miss South Carolina, Dawn Elizabeth Smith, 22, of Columbia, said, "The person who doesn't get married has chosen not to. It's just putting people in a statistic. I'm not worried about it."

Miss Oklahoma, Mignon Merchant of Edmond, said she hopes she

rumored man shortage for mature women isn't true.

But, she added, "I hadn't really thought: 'Oh, my gosh. I'm 25. I'd better start looking.'"

Earlier this year, a study by two Yale University sociologists and a Harvard University economist found that white, college-educated women who reach age 30 without

marrying only have a 20 percent chance of ever tying the knot, and the odds get worse as they grow older.

Black women in the same situation have only an 8 percent chance of marrying after age 30, according to the study based on a U.S. Census Bureau survey of 70,000 households.

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