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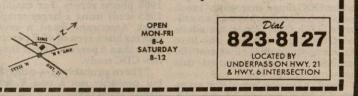
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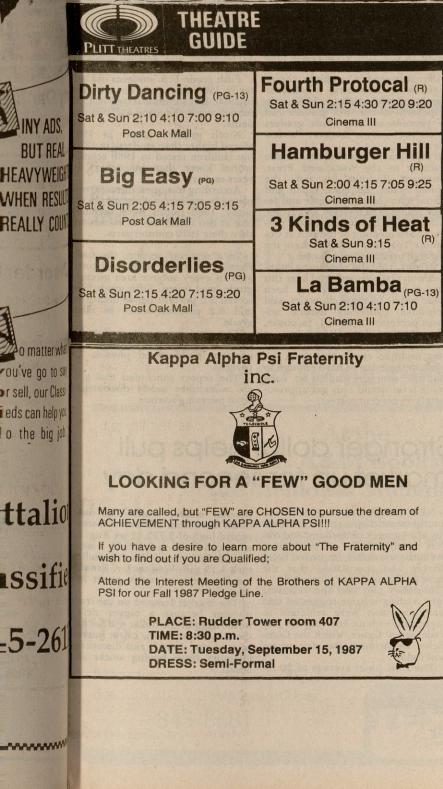
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Friday, September 11, 1987/The Battalion/Page 11

# **Owner of Herald buys** Houston Post

HOUSTON (AP) — An affiliate of MediaNews Group, owner of the Dallas Times Herald, said Thursday it had acquired the Houston Post from its Canadian owners for \$150 million in cash, just months after being rebuffed in an effort to buy the

larger Houston Chronicle. The purchase of the Post from Toronto Sun Publishing Co. of On-tario, Canada, marks the first time daily newspapers in the state's two largest markets have come under single ownership.

In March, MediaNews president William Dean Singleton bid \$415 million for the Houston Chronicle, but was turned down by the non-profit Houston Endowment Inc., which signed a deal with the Hearst Corp. for \$400 million. Hearst later upped its price to \$415 million after the state attorney general's office questioned the acceptance of the lower bid.

Singleton said he has been trying to buy the *Post* for a year, making two previous offers. He would not discuss any details of those offers.

The morning *Post* and the evening *Chronicle* have been engaged in a war similar to the battle between the Dallas Times Herald and the larger Dallas Morning News.

"We firmly believe that, under Texas ownership, the *Post* will thrive and grow in its competition with the New York-owned *Chronicle*, Houston's evening newspaper," Singleton said.

Gene McDavid, vice president and general manager of the Chronicle,

said he expects the war to continue. "The competition has been so severe, I can't imagine anything could happen to make it worse," McDavid

The Post's circulation for the pe-riod ending March 31 was 309,400 daily and 356,424 Sundays. For the same period, the *Chronicle's* circula-tion was 406,084 daily and 531,528 Sundays, according to the Audit Bu-reau of Circulation.

Singleton said the Post was bought by the Gloucester County Times Inc., a Woodbury, N.J., affiliate of Dallas-based MediaNews. The transaction is expected to be completed Nov. 1.

Toronto Sun Publishing bought the Post in 1983 for \$100 million from H&C Communications Corp., privately held by Oveta Culp Hobby of Houston and her son, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby Bill Hobby.

Sun president Doug Creighton said the newspaper has remained profitable since then, despite trou-bled economic times.

MediaNews will pay \$150 million in cash, plus an additional amount on March 31, 1993, based on the gross revenues of the Post over a ve-year period ending Dec. 31, 1992, Singleton said.

Sun Publishing will get \$1.25 for

# **Unexplained blood** confuses detectives, elderly home owners

each \$1 of additional newspaper revenue over an annual base equal to 1987 revenues, he said.

Donald Hunt, the *Post's* publisher since 1983, will remain, and Sin-gleton said he did not plan any reductions in the staff of 1,200.

"Don Hunt and his management team have met the challenge of op-erating profitably in the tough Texas economy while showing impressive growth both in advertising market share and circulation," Singleton said.

Singleton, 36, was little known in Texas media circles until last year

"We firmly believe that, under Texas ownership, the Post will thrive and grow in its competition with the New York-owned Chronicle, Houston's evening newspaper."

- William Dean Singleton, MediaNews president

when he acquired the Dallas Times Herald for \$110 million from Los Angeles-based Times Mirror Co.

He started his career as a parttime reporter at age 15 in his home-town of Graham, and six years later bought his first newspaper for \$10,000.

Singleton teamed with Richard Scudder, a fourth-generation New Jersey newspaper publisher, to ac-quire the *Times Herald*.

With the addition of the Post, Me-diaNews Group will own 27 daily newspapers and 28 non-dailies. The Post will be the 11th newspaper owned in Texas, one of eight states where MediaNews publishes where MediaNews publishes. "Singleton has a knack for pro-

ducing a profit pretty quickly in un-favorable situations," said Bruce Thorp, a newspaper industry analyst with the Washington, D.C., office of Lynch, Jones & Ryan. "He'll work to cut costs I'm sure as much as he can.

He likened the Post sale to the purchase of the Times Herald. He said he wasn't suprised the

Post sold for so much less than the Chronicle, "because the outlook for the *Houston Chronicle* is much more favorable." He cited the Chronicle's advan-

tages in circulation and advertising.

"The Post is not likely to be profit-able for several months," Thorp said. "It might require a comeback in the Houston economy for it to produce a profit.

"The battle will be to keep the paper alive. Singleton is pretty deter-mined to do that I'm sure."

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ATLANTA (AP) — Human blood found on the floors and walls of a house was not the same type as that of an elderly dialysis patient who lives there, but authorities still don't know where it came from, a State Crime Lab official said Thurs-

day. "It could be a homicide, it could Unward the lab's be a hoax," Larry Howard, the lab's director, said.

Detective Steve Cartwright said investigators had found no evidence of a crime, and police spokesman Marion Lee said officers were not assuming it was a hoax.

Police were called early Wednes-day to the home of William Winston, 79, and his wife, Minnie Clyde Winston, 77, who reported finding blood on the floors and walls of the house they have rented for 22 years. Lab tests Wednesday confirmed it

Lab tests Wednesday confirmed it was human blood. Howard said Thursday that test results showed the blood was type O, while Winston has type A. He said more samples from Winston and his wife would be tested, however.

Winston, whose blood is cleaned by dialysis machine at a clinic because of kidney problems, said he didn't know where the blood came from.

"I'm not bleeding," he said. "My wife's not bleeding. Nobody else was here.

Mrs. Winston said Thursday she was weary of all the attention the bizarre discovery had brought. "I still don't know where the blood

came from, and I'm tired of all these people asking me all these ques-tions," she said. "If anybody comes here today, I'm not going to open my door.'

She said the six-room brick house in southwest Atlanta was besieged with calls and visits Wednesday from those intrigued by the mystery.

"The phone rang all night, people

asking me questions," she said. "I'm fed up with all this.

Mrs. Winston told police she stepped out of the bathtub late Tuesday to find the floor covered with blood. She said she called her husband to "come look at all this red stuff coming out of the floors.



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quitted by a military jury Thursday night on charges that he had sex with Soviet women and lied to authorities about it but convicted him of a lesser charge. After deliberating about 21/2

hours, the Marine jury convicted Sufflebeam on two counts of der-eliction of duty. Those misdemeanor convictions, which could result in a 12-month military prison term, stemmed from Stufflebeam drink-ing in an off limits Moscow hotel har ing in an off-limits Moscow hotel bar on two occasions.

"I feel very much relieved," Stuf-flebeam said. "There was no way for the government to prove their case."

After the verdicts were read, the military judge, Marine Lt. Col. Eli-gah Clark, adjourned the proceedings for the day. Clark said the court-martial would resume Friday morning, when he would hear evi-dence to be used in sentencing Stufflebeam.

Stufflebeam could have faced 14 years in prison had he been con-victed on all nine counts.

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