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- infected scrapes ("road rash")

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- infected scrapes ("road rash")

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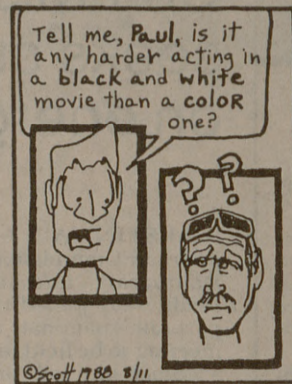
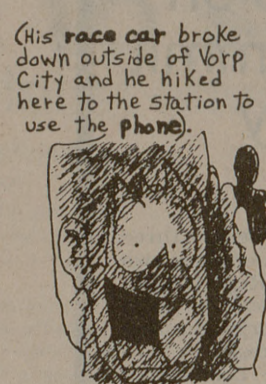
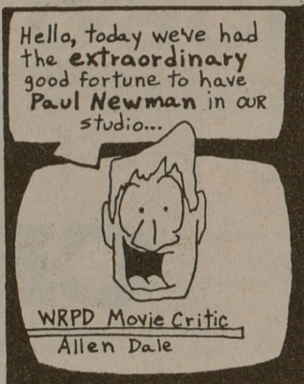
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Warped



Police videos of prostitute prompt department inquiry

FORT WORTH (AP) — Several Fort Worth police supervisors and vice squad officers are being investigated in the filming of a teen-age prostitute in a downtown hotel, the police chief said.

"An allegation was made that police officers working that operation went beyond the scope of their responsibility and took some inappropriate photographs and videotapes of the subject," Fort Worth Police Chief Thomas Windham said.

Police reports indicate the sixteen-year-old girl was videotaped and photographed by undercover officers who told her they were giving a bachelor party. The teenager had placed a classified ad saying that she was willing to do anything for one thousand dollars.

"It doesn't look good," Windham told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram when asked what the internal affairs investigation had turned up so far.

"At this point it's only a small number of officers and several supervisors involved," Windham added.

The chief declined to specify how many officers were involved.

The report filed after the teen-ager was arrested and identified two sergeants and four officers.

The inquiry could be wrapped up within a week, sheriff's spokesman Doug Clarke told the Associated Press, adding that it could be longer.

Shortly before the teen-ager was arrested July 27, she stripped, danced around the hotel room and fondled herself, the report said.

Internal affairs officers were seen carrying several boxes of videotapes, documents and other materials from the vice squad office the day after the undercover investigation, the Star-Telegram reported.

Police supervisors removed and replaced the locks on lockers belonging to vice officers later that day, the newspaper reported.

The teen-ager was paroled from a Texas Youth Commission facility after being charged with juvenile delinquency-prostitution, police said. Police records also show that Martin Vinson, 21, who showed up at the hotel with the teen-ager and reportedly negotiated a deal for the officers to have sex with her.

Texas family branches out, opens home to foster youths

BELTON (AP) — A household of three sons is a lot to handle. How about adopting eight more sons on top of that?

Welcome to the South family of Belton. Larry and Pam South had three sons of their own before branching out and opening their home to foster children. Many of their foster children — eight, to be exact — became the Souths' children.

"Our goal is to be an emergency shelter as foster parents," Pam said, which means they would briefly take in children from dangerous situations at any hour of the day or night. But foster children who come to the South house have a tendency to stay.

All of the Souths' adopted children were classified as "special needs" children with the adoption agencies, Pam said. One child is emotionally disturbed, one is mentally retarded, three have a learning disability called attention deficit disorder, one has cerebral palsy and one has epilepsy. Four of the children, who are bi-racial, are biological brothers, Pam said.

"When we were married, we wanted a large family," Larry said. After having three children, the Souths decided that there were "lots of kids in the world that need homes." So they began serving as foster parents and adopting.

"When you get married and think about having a large family, you don't think about how it will be," Larry said. "We talked about it, and now we're gradually getting there. I didn't think there'd be as much activity."

Both Pam's and Larry's parents "think we're absolutely crazy," Pam said. "My mother told me she thought I was the last person in the world who would have this many children."

Larry said his parents told him they love him. But both sets of parents say they love to see them come, and they love to see them go, Pam said.

"Why we're doing this is because we've seen the need," Pam said. "Es-

pecially with the older and hard-to-place children."

"Children need to have a place to go, a permanent family," Larry added.

Pam said there are lots of children available for adoption in this county but most are special needs children.

The state pays a subsidy to the adoptive parents of special needs children for their therapy, medication and other special expenses, Pam said, so they usually don't have any problems making ends meet.

Two sons, Phil, 20, and Ryan, 19, are at Texas A&M University. Paul, 17, will be a senior at Belton High School this fall, and hopes to attend college. That will leave eight. And 25-year-old Scott, who is mentally retarded, may eventually live in a trailer in back of their home, which is on an acre of land outside of Belton.

Pam says she gets names mixed up sometimes, like any mother will, but her problems are compounded. There are Bobby, 5; Robert, 3; and Albert, 6. Then, there are James, 11; Charles, 11; and Charles James, 7. But Bobby's birth certificate lists his name as Bobby and not Robert, and Charles James is now known as C.J.

"We're not confused, but the Scott and White health plan is," Larry said. The youngest at home is 3-year-old Tim, who the Souths took in when he was 6 weeks old. The adoption proceedings for Tim were final in April, Larry said.

Pam admits things can get a little crazy around the house. The day begins between 6 a.m. and 6:30 a.m. and doesn't end until around midnight. "Before coffee or anything else, the laundry goes in," said Pam, who does laundry "all day, every day."

Everyone helps out in the morning. One packs lunches, another makes breakfast, another cleans the bathroom, and so forth. The chores change weekly, Larry said. Every night, Pam lays clothes out for the younger children for the next day. The whole family eats dinner together at the same table.

Pastor resigns after members lock church

LIBERTY (AP) — A pastor who has been locked out of his Baptist church while a judge determines whether his ouster was legal has resigned, making the results of a court-ordered election moot, an attorney said.

Mike Fielder, an attorney representing Trinity Valley Mission Baptist Church members opposing the Rev. Melvin Lewis, said the pastor resigned late Monday before his ballots could be counted.

Lewis, pastor of the church since 1986, would not confirm or deny Fielder's claim Wednesday.

"I don't care to comment on that," Lewis said when contacted by telephone at his home in nearby Humble. He said he may make a statement on the matter next week.

Fielder said Tuesday that Houston attorney Ed Peine, who is Lewis' attorney, called him and said that regardless of the vote, Lewis had decided to resign.

"He said Lewis wanted to put an end to the strife and conflict and confusion going on in the church and the community," Fielder said.

About 50 church members unanimously voted Feb. 28 to fire Lewis and changed the locks on the doors of the 118-year-old church.

But Lewis declared the vote illegal, saying it wasn't properly posted, then broke the locks and reclaimed the church, according to a lawsuit filed July 13 by church members seeking his permanent ouster.

State District Judge Clarence Cain, who had restricted Lewis' access to the church to a half hour twice weekly while determining whether his ouster was legal, called for an election Monday and Tuesday to allow church members to decide Lewis' status.

But Lewis' resignation now makes the election moot, Fielder said.

The attorney said 43 votes had been cast as of 4 p.m. Monday and that no votes were cast Tuesday. He said the votes will not be tallied officially in light of the resignation, he said.

Critics of Lewis claim he has disrupted the church by dismissing many leaders; lambasted members from the pulpit; and refused to allow funerals at the church when other ministers were asked to conduct the services.

But his supporters say he has been an honest, dedicated pastor who took out a personal loan to keep the church going.

Office halts recovery of cruise ship fares

AUSTIN (AP) — A plan to seize the cruise ship Galaxy and recover fares for passengers who apparently got mutiny instead of luxury has been halted by the Texas Attorney General's office.

Hundreds of passengers complained earlier this year that they paid more than \$2 million for a Central American cruise and found mutiny and miserable conditions aboard the ship.

In midcruise, the passengers were forced to leave the Galaxy after the captain informed them he could no longer guarantee their safety because there was no food or water, they said.

About 50 of the Galaxy's crew members, described by the agent's brochure as a "friendly, attentive crew . . . always ready to cater to your every need," apparently became enraged over working conditions and pay arrangements.

Some of the crew members were arrested at a port in Costa Rica after a knife fight.

Assistant Attorney General Raul Noriega said he received nearly 800 complaints from passengers and would-be passengers from across the United States, asking for \$2.2 mil-

lion in refunds from Golden Cruise-tours Inc. of San Antonio, the agency that booked the tours and is no longer in business.

Last month, the state received a judgment against the company and its owners, but Noriega said Tuesday there are millions of dollars in liens against the ship that would keep Texas from receiving anything from its possible auction.

The owners of the ship never appeared in court to dispute the allegations.

"It's basically a lost cause," Noriega said. "I'm really upset that these people walked out of the state of Texas with all of this money."

"It kind of sticks in my throat, but there's nothing I can do about it."

Some passengers said Fernando Inigo, a part-owner of Golden Cruise-tours and the ship, was aboard the ship during the ill-fated cruise, but left at a Guatemalan port and never returned.

A travel agent in Seville, Spain, told the Houston Chronicle in a telephone interview in May that Inigo had come by her office with brochures touting the Galaxy as a \$100-a-night floating hotel.

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