

Monday, November 20, 1989

Citizens ponder murder

Racism accusations worry tiny town

MALONE (AP) — The mother of James Oliver King Jr. sits at the foot of her son's month-old grave, smoothing away pebbles and marking what would have been his 25th birthday.

She explains how she can hear him wailing and crying for his life as he continues to run desperately, caught now between heaven and hell.

And many who live in this small central Texas town where King died say they, too, are in a netherworld of sorts. They are trapped between a lost innocence and what they fear is the hopeless task of convincing outsiders they are not racists who killed a burglary suspect merely because he was black.

"This is never going to go away," said James Lucko, mayor of the Hill County town of about 300 and one of King's pursuers. "You may put it aside and forget about it for awhile, but it's never going to go away."

A few have promised as much, including one former mayor who plans to organize a protest march against the racism he contends struck down King.

He and a handful of others portray the burglary suspect's death in ghastly black and white terms, saying he was chased down like an animal and smothered because of the color of his skin.

But others say those charges are fueled by a merchant's grudge against the city and some business he has lost.

"It ain't right," said Martin Degner, a former mayor and former city judge. "Please, let us get back to our little of country life."

The words choke in his throat and tears are welling up in his eyes.

Super collider design changes spark debate

WASHINGTON (AP) — Suggestions that an engineering design might reopen the decision on where to build the \$5.9 billion superconducting super collider are "absurd and will not happen," Sen. Phil Gramm said Sunday.

Gramm, R-Texas, said he has known for about two weeks a potential existed for a major design change as scientists moved from the conceptual design to the engineering design of the collider.

The *Washington Post*, quoting unnamed U.S. officials and independent scientists, said the change could result in a smaller, less powerful collider that would be unsuitable for its chosen Ellis County site.

As currently planned, the collider would be a 53-mile underground oval where atomic particles would be hurled at each other by superconducting magnets. Scientists would collide the particles in an attempt to break them down further to test theories about the building blocks of the universe.

Congress recently approved the first \$225 million to build the collider over an eight-year period. The site around Waxahachie, south of Dallas, was chosen in November 1988 after a lengthy selection process involving many

Gramm said it was initially believed that the injector could be the same size as the one used at the Fermilab in suburban Chicago.

But because the super collider would be 10 times as powerful as the Fermilab accelerator,

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The problem, Gramm and the *Post's* sources said, is in the size of the mechanism that would inject proton beams into the 53-mile tunnel.

scientists believe the injector should be enlarged, the senator said.

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exception. To suggest this modification might reopen the site selection is absurd and will not happen."

He said super collider designers have several choices including:

- Designing a larger injector and add cost to project.
- Designing a larger injector but hold the project's overall cost down by making the underground oval smaller.
- Designing a larger injector but hold the overall cost by reducing expenses in other areas.

Gramm said the two-month Congressional recess will give him time to work with the Department of Energy to address the problem.

He said the newspaper's story was a "worst case scenario" and nearly everyone interviewed by the *Post* has opposed the project.

Deputy Energy Secretary Henson W. Moore told the *Post* a study due to be completed in December should give more reliable information concerning the project.

Study says inmates with AIDS get better care in Texas prisons

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — Texas prison officials say some parolees are committing crimes just to get back into prison where they can get current, humane, free and confidential AIDS care.

"I've seen a couple of guys back in the system two or three times," said Dr. Glenn Johnson, chief of professional services, which oversees health care in the Texas Department of Corrections. "They said they're back because they can get treatment here."

"We've come a long way," he said. "We're providing people with humane care. It's not part of their punishment to be denied care or be subjected to mistreatment."

The way the prison system handles AIDS victims has evolved since 1985, when AIDS patients were locked in individual rooms at the Ramsey III regional hospital.

Prison officials now say they have a model AIDS education and treatment program, the *Houston Chronicle* reported Sunday.

TDC inmates interviewed in 1985 said guards would taunt them by saying, "You're going to die," or announcing, "We got AIDS coming through," as they were led through a prison hallway.

At Ramsey III, AIDS patients were kept in individual rooms without access to radios, televisions or clocks. Inmates said they passed time by counting the number of bricks in the wall or the number of people who passed

by their heavily screened windows.

A 1988 U.S. Department of Justice study recommended that correctional professionals nationwide consider the Oregon and Texas prison systems' approach of "meeting the challenge of AIDS in corrections."

AIDS, acquired immune deficiency syndrome, is a disease that weakens the body's immune system and

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makes the victim susceptible to deadly infections and cancers.

In 1984, when the TDC began to keep such records, six inmates had AIDS. Today, 388 inmates are infected with the human immunodeficiency virus, or HIV, which causes AIDS. Thirty-six men and one woman have been diagnosed as having AIDS.

Houston, San Antonio remain in competition for economic summit

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — A team of senior advisers to President Bush visited Houston and San Antonio this weekend to gather information about the cities' ability to host the economic summit of industrialized nations next year.

The tour included stops at the Johnson Space Center, the Astrodome and the Alamo. The advisers are to report to the president, who is expected to choose a site soon.

Both San Antonio and Houston are considered finalists for the summit of leaders from the United States, Great Britain, France, West Germany, Japan, Italy and Canada.

White House staffers Charles Hagel, Fred Sainz and Judd Swift met Houston Mayor Kathy Whitmire at Rice University Friday

and visited the George R. Brown Convention Center and the Astrodome. They also toured the Johnson Space Center before leaving for San Antonio.

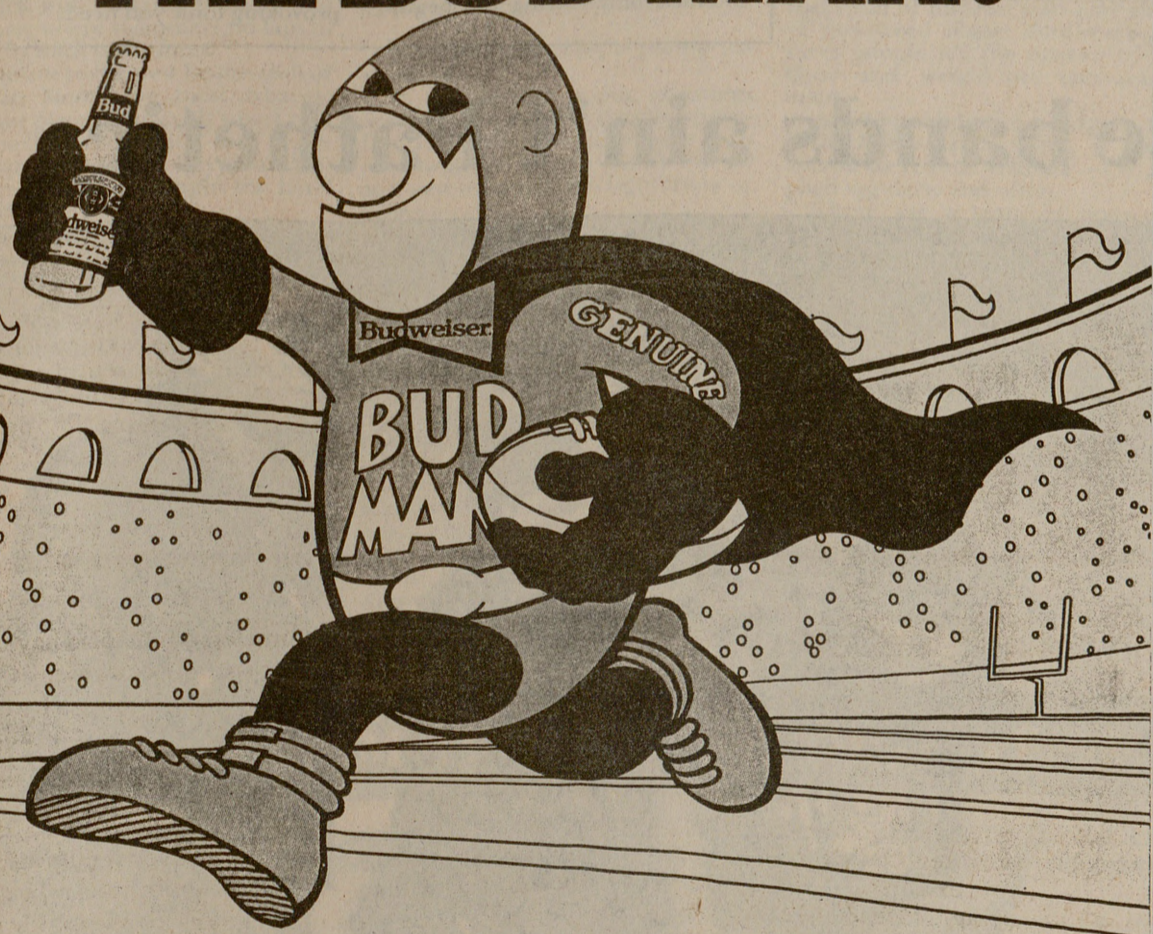
Whitmire pitched her city, saying Houston is accustomed to entertaining international visitors.

San Antonio Mayor Lila Cockrell stood at the Alamo Saturday and told the White House contingent: "We're standing here in front of the beautiful and historic Alamo, the shrine of Texas liberty."

"What better setting could there be for photographic opportunities with these heads of state?"

After the team's arrival Friday, the mayor said they attended a dinner at the residence of Charles C. Butt, president of H.E. Butt Grocery Co., in the historic King William district.

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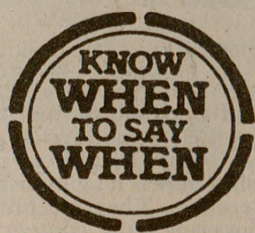
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