

# State & Local

## Dallas woman causes AIDS scare

DALLAS (AP) — Health workers are staffing phones and forgoing paperwork to keep up with requests for HIV tests and information from people fearful of an AIDS-infected woman who has said she is intentionally spreading the deadly disease.

Since a letter written by a woman who identified herself only as "C.J." was read over the air by Dallas radio personality Willis Johnson, health workers said they have seen greater public interest in preventing the disease, especially in minority communities.

In the letter, published in the September issue of Ebony magazine, the Dallas woman said she was getting revenge on the man who infected her with the acquired immune deficiency syndrome through a sexual encounter.

C.J. has made the threat of acquiring the fatal disease seem

## Public shows greater interest in prevention, information

"much more real" to several Dallas residents, said Alban Alfaro, education coordinator for the Dallas County Health Department.

"The ones who have been following C.J. closely," Alfaro said, "we noticed when we go out to conduct outreach, many times they would bring up C.J. and say, 'When are you guys going to catch C.J.?'"

Dallas County Health Department spokesman Michael Smerick says clinic staff has informed him that phone calls have dramatically increased since the article first appeared.

"The thing with C.J. is this person is very vocal," Smerick said. "We know this person is out there, but how many silent C.J.'s

are out there and how many silent C.J.'s are out there that don't know they have been infected with the disease?"

Dallas County reported 3,182 AIDS cases through July 31. The first case was reported in 1981. Statewide, 13,170 AIDS cases have been reported.

AIDS is a fatal disease that is transmitted through sexual contact, use of contaminated syringes and exchanges of bodily fluids. There is no known cure.

C.J.'s notoriety has prompted radio stations to ask health department officials to be guests on talk shows.

Church groups, especially traditionally black churches, and youth groups also have expressed

increased interest in AIDS seminars, Smerick said.

"Education to me is the way (to fight AIDS) and we've hit stone wall after stone wall 10 years after the fact," Smerick said.

"We still have schools that won't let us come in and talk about condoms. We still have groups that won't let us come in and talk about cleaning your needles."

The Dallas Police Department is not searching for the woman, although at least one officer is keeping a file on her.

A clerk in the Crimes Against Persons unit said the department has received numerous calls from people who say they know who C.J. is. But every one has identified a different person, the clerk said.

Police spokeswoman Eva Romero said the department is not looking for C.J. because no one has stepped forward saying they were infected by her.

## Artificial pump patient awaits heart transplant

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston-area man who is the world's recipient of a portable battery-powered heart pump said Tuesday felt so good he was not looking forward to an inevitable heart transplant.

"That's a hard question," Michael Templeton, 33, of Humble, said. "There are quite a lot of complications with a transplant."

"I feel so good. When I felt terrible, making a decision to have a heart transplant was a lot easier than when I'm feeling good and they say I have a heart transplant."

Templeton received the second of five HeartMate devices in operation Sept. 3 at the Texas Heart Institute.

The first recipient of the HeartMate, Larry Heinsohn, 52, Shreveport, La., died two weeks after it was implanted May 9. Physicians said at the time that Heinsohn's death was unrelated to the device because other organs had deteriorated during his illness.

Templeton suffers from idiopathic cardiomyopathy, a heart muscle disease of unknown origin. Without the device, he would have died.

"He was in a more or less moribund state," O. Howard Franz, chief of cardiopulmonary transplantation at the Texas Heart Institute said. "He's recovered well. Our hope and goal is to make the patient more mobile and to allow a more selective heart transplant. An important goal is to reduce the cost of health care."

Frazier said hospital bills approach \$200,000 for a heart transplant recipient without the cost of the actual operation since intensive care unit charges average \$4,000 per day. The electric pump, meanwhile, costs between \$40,000 and \$50,000.

Victor Poirier, president of Thermo CardioSystems Inc. and developer of the pump, said his device is the product of 25 years and \$15 million of research.

"This has not happened overnight," Poirier said.

His company is a subsidiary of Thermedics Inc. of Woburn, Mass. The titanium pump is four inches in diameter and 11/4 inches thick and weighs about two pounds.

## Authorities reopen case for testimony

CHILDRESS, Texas (AP) — A Childress County grand jury is seeking testimony from additional witnesses in the death of a Childress teenager who was found hanged in 1988.

The death of 17-year-old Tate Rowland had been ruled a suicide, but authorities have reopened the case to determine if the death was part of a cult ritual.

"It's a quagmire," Childress County District Attorney David McCoy said Tuesday. "There's enough evidence that you can't ignore the case, but there's not enough to bite your teeth into."

McCoy said three witnesses called to testify before the grand jury on Monday did not show up.

One of the individuals who failed to testify is an 18-year-old man who claims to have witnessed Rowland hang himself.

## Plants unable to find buyers for product

## Recycling programs face troubles

AUSTIN (AP) — A glut in the recycled paper industry may force Austin and other Texas cities to scale back or scrap their newspaper recycling programs, city and industry officials say.

Matt Myers, recycling coordinator for ACCO Waste Paper of Austin, said Monday his company has asked to renegotiate its contract with the city because it cannot find buyers for the increasing amounts of paper it has been receiving.

"It could be possible in the near future that there won't be any newspaper pickup on a curb-side basis," Myers said.

"We are in a renegotiating process with the city," he said. "Something has to change. The stacks of papers just keep piling up. I mean, what good does it do to collect newspapers if we have nowhere to go with them?"

Alan Watts, recycling manager

for Austin, said, "The thought of not being able to recycle newspapers is certainly not a pleasant one, but I don't want to say anything that will panic everybody."

"We are worried that the markets are tight. But there is still a lot of potential for market development in recycled newspapers. If we need to explore other markets to meet our supply, then we'll do that."

ACCO had been shipping 1,500 tons of old newspapers each month to a paper mill outside Monterey, Mexico.

Officials at the mill, which processes the paper into newsprint for Mexican newspaper, told the Austin company it will cut incoming shipments by about half, to 800 tons per month for the next two years.

ACCO district manager David Anderson also said that prices for newsprint have plunged about 30

percent in recent months and the mill has increased its quality standards.

Myers said, "What we receive from Austin almost puts us to that limit each month. And what we receive from our other customers puts us way over the limit."

Austin officials collect about 700 tons of old newsprint and paper a month from residents who participate in the curb-side recycling program.

ACCO also has notified the cities of Burnet, Granite Shoals, LaGrange, Lakeway, San Marcos and Wimberley that it will pull its newspaper dropoff sites in those areas, Myers said.

Recycled paper contractors in Waco, San Antonio and the Rio Grande Valley that send paper to the PIPSA paper mill in San Luis Potosi, Mexico, also have been asked to scale back shipments and face similar problems, he said.

## Officials capture inmate, continue search for another

FORT WORTH (AP) — One of two inmates who freed themselves from handcuffs and commandeered a van transporting them to another jail remained at large and possibly armed Tuesday, officials said.


The inmates escaped from the jail van at about 9 p.m. Monday night while in route from the main jail in downtown Fort Worth to the Tarrant County Green Bay Facility.

Their escape prompted a manhunt that involved more than 100 law enforcement officers, helicopters and dogs.

Almost four hours after the search began, authorities had captured Sergio Martinez, 25, Grand Prairie, by following a bloody trail. Martinez, a former security guard, was being held in connection with the death of Penny Heath. She was stabbed to death last Dec. 29 during a department store robbery.

However, Chris Nova, 19, Fort Worth, charged with aggravated robbery with a deadly weapon, still was not in custody Tuesday afternoon. Authorities believe he may have a gunshot wound.

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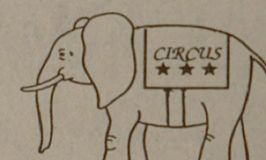
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