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NATION

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The Battalion

Monday, September 14

Women work harder, report says

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Women, not men, are the family breadwinners in most of the world, where sex discrimination against them is a major cause of poverty, according to a Worldwatch report released this weekend.

But women worldwide still earn less, the report says, echoing the conclusions of an International Labor Organization report last week.

Women in African countries spend more hours cultivating, harvesting, transporting, storing and processing food than men, says the new report by Worldwatch researcher Jodi L. Jacobson.

Worldwatch survey concludes females earn less but bring home more money

"A condition that afflicts every social institution from individual families to international development organizations, gender bias is an enormous stumbling block on the road to a sustainable economy," the report says, citing statistics, studies and Jacobson's own research in India.

In countries with 3 billion of the world's estimated 5.5 billion people, women are the primary earners for their families, putting them in a key economic role, the report says.

But, because they are discrimi-

nated against in wages, land ownership and lending, they are inhibited from contributing to their nations' economies, it concludes.

At a news briefing, she said that even though overpopulation is a major problem for Third World countries, governments need to focus more on increasing the productivity of women rather than simply reducing fertility.

"National statistics often overlook women's work," Jacobson said.

"Governments need to recognize women's work as a valuable

economic asset and invest women accordingly."

In too many countries, women both earn the family income and care for the children while men tend to use their earnings for alcohol, cigarettes, consumer products, usually themselves or other women.

The report says gender bias exists in every country and is compounded by discrimination based on class, caste or race.

But it is most pervasive in poorest areas of Africa, Asia, Latin America and ranges from exclusion of women from development programs to "systemic violence against females."

Arlington contractor, city officials battle over location of topless club

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

ARLINGTON — A contractor preparing to open a topless club here has become the center of a debate over tightening the city's adult entertainment code.

Bob Meister has taken no risks with Club Legends, which is scheduled to open in two weeks.

He applied for and received a certificate of occupancy in April. With the city's assurance that the building was properly located, Meister bought the property and began remodeling.

After he had begun his work, however, the city withdrew its approval, citing an error by the city staff. Officials said the staff failed to check the distance between Meister's building and another nearby sexually oriented business.

Arlington's ordinance regarding adult entertainment requires that the front doors of each such business be at least 1,000 feet from each other and the same distance from churches, schools, parks or homes.

Meister's planned front door was 838 feet from Fantasy Tan, which city officials now say staffers failed to recognize as a sexually oriented business.

Fantasy Tan is a combination topless club and tanning salon.

To rectify the mistake, Meister moved the club's door to the back of the building and built a 200-foot wall so that the new entrance will meet the 1,000-foot requirement.

Mayor Richard Greene and several council members blasted Meister and his plan as a "devious" and "underhanded" attempt to circumvent the ordinance.

State and local officials have now gone to work trying to block Club Legends' liquor license.

"Bob Meister is being persecuted," said his attorney, Kelly Jones. "He's caught in, at best, a political war and, at worst, competitors using the council for their benefit."

Greene acknowledges that the dispute began with an error by the city.

"The original person failed to recognize ... it (Fantasy Tan) as an adult business," Greene said. "... If city staff makes an error, it can be corrected and the city is not liable for that mistake."

Meister maintains he's been a victim throughout the ordeal. Moving the club's entrance was partly conceived by city staffers, he said.

Jones said the city should stick to its original decision, despite complaints from competitors and other nearby businesses.

Clinton under fire for military record

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Dan Quayle fought his Vietnam war in 1988. Now it's Bill Clinton's turn.

The war divided the country a generation ago and it still comes back to haunt the baby boomer politicians who came of age in the 1960s.

Quayle, who struggled to explain in the last campaign how and why he entered the Indiana National Guard in 1969, has joined the chorus of Republican critics taunting Clinton about his maneuverings around the military that same year.

Quayle challenged Clinton this week "to come clean with the American people. I answered the questions. He's going to answer the questions — sooner or later."

The vice president no longer recites his name, rank and serial number in public to demonstrate his pride in the Indiana National Guard. But he insists it set him apart from Clinton, a resolute opponent of the Vietnam war.

"I wore the uniform for six years and chose to serve my country. Bill Clinton chose not

to," Quayle said last month in Houston.

Clinton obtained a deferment to complete his final year as a Rhodes scholar at Oxford University by promising to enroll in ROTC at the University of Arkansas law school.

He later dropped those plans and took his chances on the new draft lottery in December 1969. He got a high number, 311, and was never called. He wrote the head of ROTC at the University of Arkansas thanking him "for saving me from the draft," and said the only reason he had not resisted the draft was "to maintain my political viability within the system."

Clinton faced a barrage of questions and attacks over his lack of military record last spring. But he weathered that storm and figured the issue was behind him. Then the Los Angeles Times reported last week that Clinton's late uncle worked to find him a spot in Arkansas's Naval Reserve.

Clinton at first said he knew nothing about it — and never joined the Naval Reserve — but later acknowledged he was told last March of his uncle's effort.

Vietnamese refugee credits Bush first lady with reuniting family

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CONROE — A Vietnamese refugee, reunited with one of her daughters after 17 years, credits first lady Barbara Bush and the president, along with warming relations between her country and the United States.

Sally Gaudreau, a refugee of the Vietnam War who was separated from her children in 1975, said she was able to bring yet another of her children to a new home here late last month.

As two of Gaudreau's children prepared to return in 1990, they met their last surviving sister, Tuam Chau, in Saigon.

Tuam had been released from a communist prison just two days before her brother and sister were set to leave for America, Gaudreau told the Conroe Courier.

After Tuam's brother and sister helped her get into a camp for children with parents in America, they left for their new home.

But Gaudreau later received correspondence from Vietnam that it would likely be five years before Tuam was cleared to go to the United States. So she wrote Mrs. Bush, enclosing a Dec. 9, 1990 clipping

about her family.

Gaudreau said the first lady answered her letter, telling the worried mother to be patient.

Tuam came to Texas within 16 months — in less than five years. When she arrived Aug. 27 at Houston Intercontinental Airport, she handed her mother an envelope with her immigration papers — and a clipping — enclosed.

Gaudreau said the Bush administration has given her a second chance to be with her family.

"It's like the sky opened wide for me and I see blue sky again," she said Friday. "I never see it before him (Bush). He is a nice man and I owe a lot to him."

"Every time I hear he is behind in the polls, my heart squeeze a little bit," she said.

The South Vietnamese Army wife had found herself on the roof of an Air America building at Saigon in 1975.

She was forced to jump aboard an American helicopter hours before the U.S. embassy fell to North Vietnamese.

She said she landed on a U.S. aircraft carrier bound for the United States and could never return to her homeland.

Hurricane relief will arrive soon, Quayle says

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HOMESTEAD, Fla. — President Dan Quayle, with weary victims of Hurricane Andrew at a tent city Sunday and reassured them relief will make it through.

"There's a lot of people who need help and aren't getting it," said Phillip High of the Florida City, who was through swarms of bodyguards and reporters to see Quayle.

Quayle put his arm on a 19-year-old's shoulder and said the relief system jammed and it will take time to help all those in need. But vice president promised "We'll stay until the job is done."

Heading into Carmen Myers' tent, Quayle embraced the woman and her daughter and assured them the federal government was doing all it could to get them into a home.

"He sympathized. He's very nice," Myers said. "What is he?"

Defending the relief effort Quayle said: "The military has done an outstanding job. It took six months to build up operation like Desert Storm and we were here in a matter of days, as a matter of fact, matter of hours after the president gave the word."

Quayle, accompanied by wife Marilyn, toured the Harris Field tent city, home to about 1,200 people, before heading to a Federal Emergency Management Agency service center in a restaurant and a church.

The Bush administration standing by its promise to build Homestead Air Force Base, which represents one-third of the local economy even though the U.S. suspended reconstruction money from its relief bill, he said.

The base "is meant to be built," Quayle said. "It's strategically located, and not only it's good for the state but we don't invest in national defense just for jobs and economic development."

Earlier, Quayle wished seven astronauts on Endeavour "good luck and godspeed" minutes before the launch of the 50th shuttle mission.

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