

THINKING QUICKLY, HIS FELLOW DORM RESIDENTS WENT TO WORK. THEY METICULOUSLY REMOVED THE ENTIRE CONTENTS OF

Weekend rap-up

Pope makes first visit to Lithuania

VILNIUS, Lithuania — Pope John Paul II launched the first papal visit to the former Soviet Union on Saturday with an appeal for reconciliation in a country he described as "martyred" by 50 years of Soviet occupation.

"With great emotion I have just kissed the soil of Lithuania, grateful to God for the gift of being able to come among you," John Paul said after arriving from Rome.

His visit to Lithuania held special meaning for the Polish-born pontiff, whose drive for human rights in his homeland contributed to the fall of Communism across Europe.

In 1984 and 1987, the pope sought to visit Lithuania, the Roman Catholic stronghold in the Soviet Union. But the Moscow leadership blocked the trips.

Jury subpoenas Sen. Hutchison

AUSTIN — U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison on Friday was subpoenaed by a Travis County grand jury to testify in an investigation of her tenure as state treasurer.

"This is political and the people of Texas realize it and the Democrats have to stop the character assassination. This is dangerous," Hutchison said Friday evening after arriving at Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport on a flight from Houston.

Hutchison's attorney John Dowd called the subpoena a "publicity stunt" and said that Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle "is intent on pursuing a political agenda."

The grand jury subpoenaed Hutchison to appear at 9 a.m. Sept. 9 in Austin. She faces fines up to \$500 if she resists the subpoena.

Teen settles with psychiatric clinic

SAN ANTONIO — A Judson High School student, whose admittance to a psychiatric hospital sparked investigations and an eventual overhaul of laws governing such facilities, has won a \$300,000 settlement.

The money was paid to Jeremy Harrell, who claims that at age 14, he was carried off against his will — and over the protests of his grandparents — for treatment at Colonial Hills Hospital.

Harrell's grandparents and legal guardians, Sid and Marianne Harrell, also received a settlement from National Medical Enterprises Inc., which owned Colonial Hills, The San Antonio Express-News reported Friday.

The owners of the hospital, acknowledged no wrongdoing.

Robot used to end five-hour standoff

WASHINGTON — A woman was slain and her shotgun-wielding boyfriend refused to surrender, so police sent in a 3-foot, 480-pound robot to disarm the suspect with a blast from a high-pressure water jet.

RMI-9 got his man.

The successful end to the five-hour standoff was the first time the robot owned by Maryland's Prince George's County fire department had helped nab a suspect.

Ordinarily, technicians direct its mechanical claws by remote control to dismantle suspected explosives, fire department spokesman Capt. Victor Stagnaro said Friday night. Built on wheels, low like a bowling ball, RMI-9 is so powerful that it has helped move vehicles out of the road.

—The Associated Press

Arafat becomes salesman for peace plan

The Associated Press

DAMASCUS, Syria — Palestine Liberation Organization chief Yasser Arafat visited Egypt and Syria on Sunday trying to sell a peace agreement with Israel.

Radical groups throughout the Middle East, meanwhile, threatened to step up their campaign against the plan, which would establish Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho. Iran



Arafat

PLO leader tries to win Egypt, Syria's support

And in Israel, obstacles to the accord emerged as Jerusalem signaled it won't recognize the PLO until the organization pledges to delete references to Israel's destruction from its charter. But officials said they thought the differences could be resolved and the accord signed in Washington by Sept. 13.

Syria has not officially commented on the Gaza-Jericho plan. But its state-run media have criticized Arafat for not coordinating beforehand with the other Arab parties to the Mideast peace process, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.

Syria's support is crucial to Arafat because Syria has influence over Damascus-based radical Palestinian factions that have put up some of the most vehement opposition to the Gaza-Jericho deal.

Egypt, which signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, supports the Gaza-Jericho accord and has reportedly been trying to mediate between Arafat and Syrian leader Hafez Assad, long-time adversaries.

Israel's Cabinet approved the autonomy plan last week.

Arafat won support for the proposal on Saturday from his Fatah faction, the

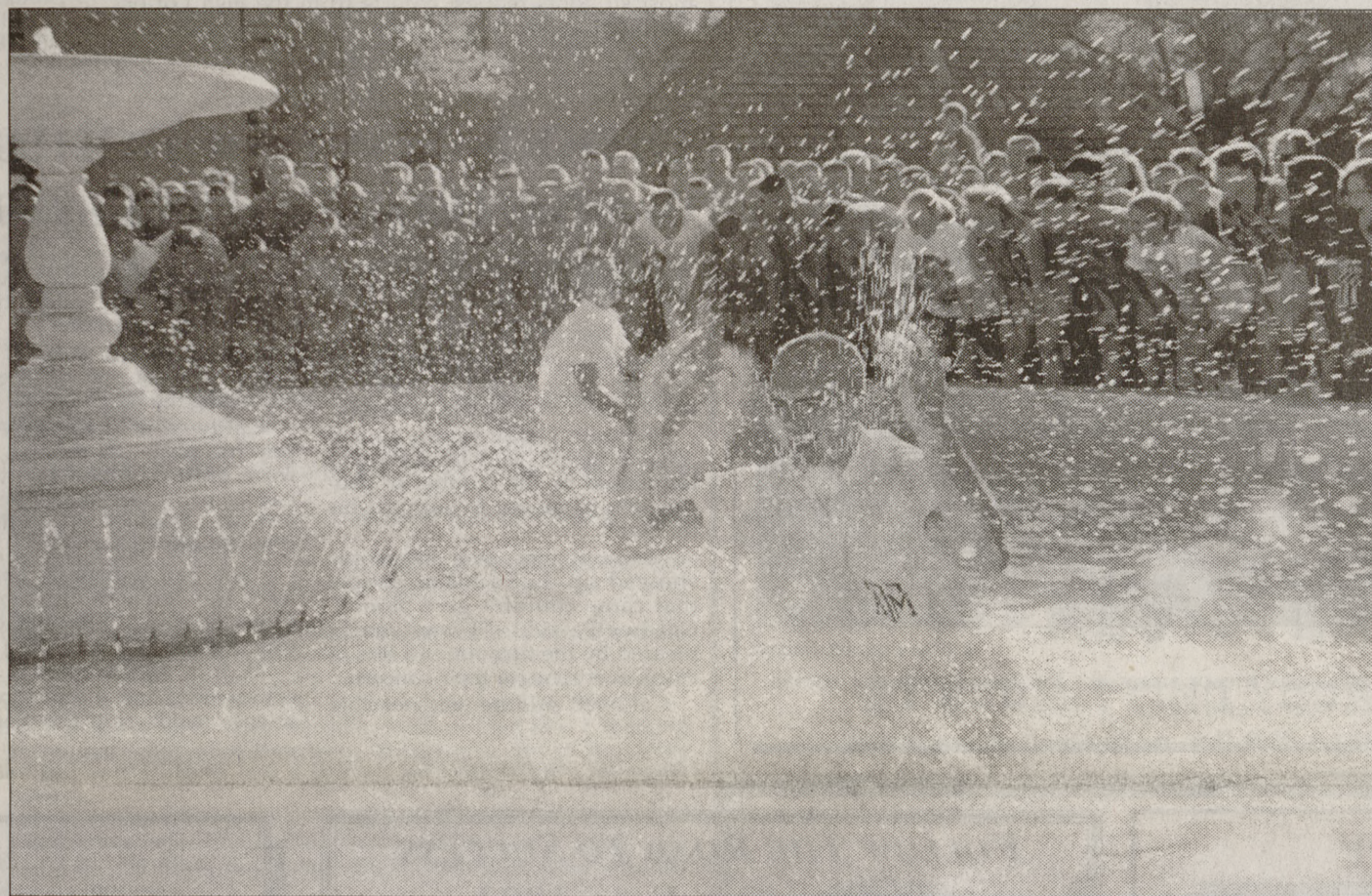
PLO's most important group.

But Palestinian officials have reported that influential members of Fatah and senior PLO officers are digging in to fight the plan. Opponents have branded the accord a sellout that contains no guarantees for an independent Palestinian state.

Arafat is expected to meet with the PLO's ruling Executive Committee this week, where many members reportedly oppose the plan.

He contends, however, that he does not need the approval of the Palestine National Council, the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, to sign the plan. His refusal to convene a PNC meeting has come under fire, putting further pressure on the PLO chief from within his ranks.

Aggies shutout LSU



Kyle Burnett/THE BATTALION

A&M yell leaders conduct yell practice from the Fish Pond Saturday afternoon following the Aggie victory over LSU Saturday afternoon. Tradition holds that the yell leaders are thrown in the Fish Pond following each victory at Kyle Field.

NRA aims to change public image

Organization seeks law-and-order identity

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Under attack from the White House and riddled by a series of legislative defeats, the National Rifle Association is aiming to remake its image from pro-gun to law-and-order advocate.

"We want to turn NRA into the No. 1 crimefighting organization in the United States," says Wayne LaPierre, the NRA's executive vice president, outlining a strategy he hopes will deflect new gun-control efforts and lift his group's sagging political clout.

The changes already show.

The fight over the so-called Brady bill and its five-day waiting period for handgun purchases — which preoccupied the NRA for much of the last six years — seems to be taking a back seat.

Congress, which passed the Brady measure last year only to let it die when the crime bill it was attached to stalled, takes it up again later this month. LaPierre acknowledged it's likely to become law.

President Clinton supports the measure as part of his broad anti-crime initiative.

Now the gun-rights lobby is looking inward, seeking to rebuild its strength

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Area groups gang up on local gang problem

Leaders look to end hostile conflict

By Mary Kujawa

THE BATTALION

The Brazos Valley Citizen's Crime Commission and the You & I Can Organization are two community groups that are working to eliminate gang problems in Bryan and College Station by calling attention to the issue and working to bring about solutions.

Ronnie Jackson, chairman of the school committee of the crime commission and specialist at Bryan's Special Opportunity School, said, "The problem is rampant all over the country. It's become a fairly tractable outlet for kids to be involved in."

"We're not living in isolation," he said. Sgt. Mark Ricketson of the Bryan Police Department said the department has identified 30 gangs with 400 members in Bryan. Most of the gangs are turf-based groups that claim territory and protect it, often leading to drive-by shootings, he said.

Ricketson, leader of the Street Crime Apprehension Team (SCAT), the main division for gang intelligence in the Bryan Police Department, said "It is everyone's problem and everyone is working on it."

"If we had one gang, it would be serious," he said.

Rev. Floyd Polk, president of the You & I Can Organization and pastor of Lee Chapel and First United Methodist

Church, said, "Kids identify their turf and will fight other kids who cross over into their territory."

Polk said young people join gangs when they feel they don't belong.

"Gangs accept people as they are," he said. "They are protected by the gang."

Schools in the community have taken steps to address the problem on campuses, said Dr. Claude Cunningham, director

of secondary programs for the College Station Independent School District.

"The school district has been very forthright in dealing with gangs from a policy standpoint," said Cunningham. "We have zero tolerance for the things gangs become involved with, such as weapons, drugs and gang insignia."

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School system fights to keep kids out of turf wars

By Michelle Tremblay

THE BATTALION

Bryan Independent School District is taking security precautions to combat the gang activity that has erupted in its schools.

The Bryan Police Department estimates that 30 different gangs, such as the Tip Toe Posse and the Squab Mob, exist in Bryan with a total of 400 members.

The gangs occupied the attention of the county last spring after a fatal stabbing at BISD's Lamar ninth-grade campus. The stabbing was later discovered

to be gang-related.

On March 26, Sherron Dante Greenwood, 16, murdered Billy C. Williams, 16, in Lamar's cafeteria. Greenwood was involved with the Tip Toe Posse, which often was involved in fights with the Squab Mob.

"It (the Greenwood case) was a tragedy," Ronnie Jackson, specialist at BISD's Special Opportunities School, said. "We are not tolerating any type of aggressive behavior. I'm a firm believer that any kind of fight, any confrontation, runs the risk of injuring youngsters and ending a life."

The risk of gang involvement begins

at an early age because children want to be part of a group, Jackson said.

"Kids begin to start entertaining the idea of being in gangs in their pre/early-adolescent years. Last year, they were not in the high schools as much; the majority are in middle school and early high school," he said.

Because of the number of gangs and the severity of the violence they cause, BISD has hired a police officer so the district can keep better track of gang operations and develop ways to deal with the gang situation from within the schools.

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No more report cards for kids? Proposal includes increase in parental role

The Associated Press

AUSTIN — Educators at two elementary schools have asked the Texas Education Agency to let them do away with report cards.

In their place, Travis Heights and Galindo schools want to install a new system that relies on written evaluations, upgraded checklists, parent conferences, student self-evaluations and collections of the student's work.

Administrators call the method "alternative assessment" or "authentic assessment." It's a movement gaining support in Texas and nationwide, educators said.

"There are schools everywhere beginning to explore alternative ways to assess their students," Claudia Serrano, project manager of a

group doing research on the subject at Harvard University, told the Austin American-Statesman.

Two years ago, in an attempt to encourage schools to be creative, the Texas Legislature gave the TEA authority to grant exceptions to state regulations.

The number of districts statewide that received permission to get rid of traditional report cards increased from 19 in the 1991-92 school year to 31 in 1992-93, said agency spokesman Joey Lozano.

Advocates say it gives a more accurate picture of what a student knows, and it also forces parents to become more involved.

Opponents said it's merely a feel-good gimmick that removes incentives for hard work and

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WEATHER

- Monday: widely scattered afternoon showers
- Forecast for Tuesday: partly cloudy, some rain

TEXAS LOTTO

- Saturday's winning Texas Lotto numbers: 2, 9, 22, 29, 33, 40
- Jackpot: \$26 million