

# Biosphere 2 crew completes goal

## Team emerges healthy after two years of self-containment

The Associated Press

ORACLE, Ariz. — Gaunt but triumphant, four men and four women emerged Sunday from the glass dome of Biosphere 2 where they'd been sealed for two years in a controversial project in self-sufficiency.

The crew, wearing dark blue astronaut-style jumpsuits, stepped through the airlock from their 3.15-acre mini-world to fill their lungs with fresh air and waved to a crowd of at least 2,500 reporters and well-wishers.

"What an extraordinary moment," said crew member Mark Nelson, 46. "What an extraordinary world. They said it couldn't be done. But here we are — healthy, happy."

The event, dubbed "re-entry" by Biosphere operators, blended NASA-style techno-speak with the trappings of a Hollywood media event.

Festivities began with an early-morning concert featuring an orchestra and black tie and was to include video highlights of the crew's "mission," book-signings, ecology talks and solar cooking demonstrations.

The crew included a physician, Dr. Roy Walford, and ranged in age from 29 to 69 at opening. All are single and agreed to just one restriction on their social life — no pregnancies. They have refused to discuss possible romances or arguments that might have taken place since they were sealed in the structure 35 miles north of Tucson

on Sept. 26, 1991.

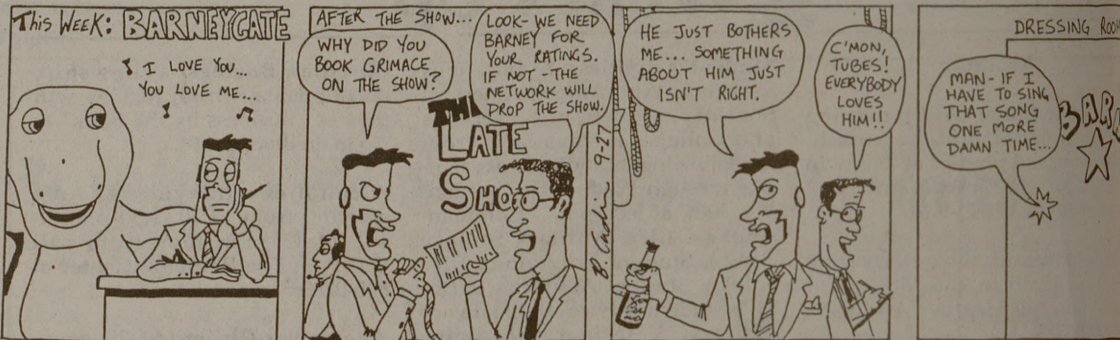
Crew members lost an average of 13.75 percent of their body weight on a diet heavy on such items as sweet potatoes, rice, peanuts, bananas and wheat. They occasionally had an egg, chicken or goat meat and coffee.

Operators of the \$150 million private, for-profit project say it achieved its main goal: keeping eight people alive in a self-contained environment for two years. But there have been a number of setbacks.

Fresh air was pumped once to counteract leaks. Pure oxygen was pumped in twice in an attempt to balance the atmosphere that was supposed to be maintained by the natural interaction of plants and animals.

# Tubularman

By Boomer Cardinale



# Fritch



By Critch

# Former Selma City Hall serves burgers, not traffic citations

The Associated Press

SELMA — You still have to pay your ticket at the old Selma City Hall.

But these days, it most likely will be a bill for a cheeseburger or a chicken-fried steak — not a traffic fine from the town with the speed-trap reputation on Interstate 35.

The old municipal building and police station now are the City Hall Grill, a cafe that teasingly plays up the community's widely known law enforcement image.

"It was a funny thing," said co-owner Ken Lawrence. "We're trying to incorporate all that speed trap stuff. ... We're trying to do it slowly. We don't want to offend anybody too badly."

When the city of Selma moved into new digs, Lawrence and his sister Pat Brown seized the opportunity. Lawrence gave up his job as a Luby's Cafeteria manager in Houston, and they bought the old city building in 1992 and turned it into a restaurant.

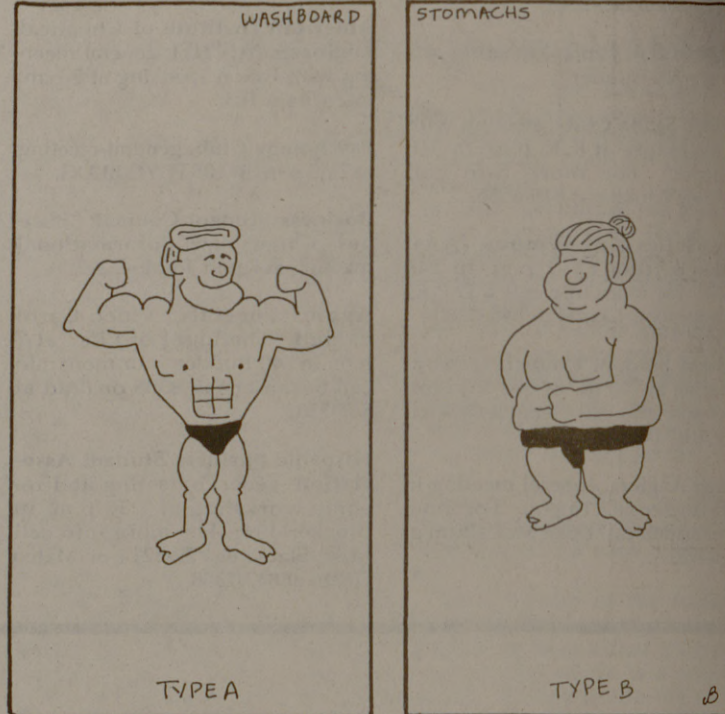
A quick glance at the City Hall Grill menu might give any motorist, or law officer, a chuckle.

Appetizers are listed as "Opening Statements," light meals are "Minor Offenses," children's plates are in the "School Zone" and main entrees are considered "Body of Evidence."

It's all topped off with "Behind Bars" alcoholic beverages and the "Closing Arguments" desserts.

The two-story, 1920s building, which originally was the home of WOAI radio, is decorated with a mix of southwestern tones and law enforcement memorabilia.

# JUST THE BEGINNING



By Jason Brown

# San Antonians form group to reduce frivolous lawsuits

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A man sues organizers of a safety seminar because they didn't warn him that tilting his chair backward could lead to a fall.

An injured mountain climber files a lawsuit against the manufacturer of his equipment, even though he admits ignoring the company's rope-tying instructions.

Sound ridiculous? San Antonians Against Lawsuit Abuse thinks so.

The group, which formed last January, wants to cut down on the growing number of personal injury lawsuits.

Members include small business owners, physicians, attorneys and private citizens who maintain that frivolous litigation clogs the court system, leads to higher insurance premiums and can even trigger bankruptcy.

Executive Director Winter D. Prospicio said her group kicked off Lawsuit Abuse Awareness week Saturday at a comedy club because some litigation is outrageously amusing.

Prospicio's favorite example is a lawsuit filed by a new father against an obstetrician who delivered a healthy child in a problem-free procedure. The father was upset because the doctor touched the new mother in intimate areas during the delivery.

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