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LAST CUT this SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6th and SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7th (HOG LOG)

Meet in Zachry parking lot at 8:03 a.m. Wear leather boots, jeans, pot (hard hat), sunglasses, lunch. Cut classes at cut site.

For more info call: Eric 764-2177, Eliot 846-6939, Paul 696-5408

**JEWELRY AUCTION**  
 11:00 AM, SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1993  
 COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS  
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 VIEWING: Saturday 10:00 AM. Come early.

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## Lithographs recovered after 4 years

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Eight lithographs stolen from the late Mexican painter Rufino Tamayo four years ago and then seized in the breakup of an illegal South Texas money laundering operation were returned to the artist's foundation Thursday by federal authorities.

"It is very important for us to get these pieces of art," Oscar Gonzalez, of the Mexican attorney general's office, said after accepting the paintings.

"We are very, very pleased to have these important works of art back."

"We're excited and pleased to return these treasures," U.S. Attorney Gaynelle Griffin Jones said.

Tamayo, who died in 1991 at

the age of 91, is one of the century's most famous Mexican painters whose work has been compared to such modern artists as Braque, Picasso and Miro. His work, over seven decades, features fiery color schemes, abstract figures and political themes.

Tamayo also is known for his social work, building hospitals, orphanages and other facilities for the poor in Mexico. His museum in Mexico City is considered among the most respected in the country.

The eight paintings being returned to Mexico were stolen from the artist's home in Mexico City in 1989.

U.S. Customs agents, working undercover in McAllen, were offered the paintings after about a year of participating in money-

laundering operations along the Texas-Mexico border. Part of the operation included setting up their own "Choza Rica," or "rich shack," authorities said.

"The case actually was not about artwork," John Hensley, Customs assistant commissioner for enforcement, said.

"It was about infiltrating organizations that were moving illicit moneys across the border and avoiding detection by the Customs Service.

"When you're known as a crook in the business, people come out of the woodwork and that's how this artwork got out there. The individuals thought they would be nice easy targets to sell this artwork to with no trace back to them."

Three people were arrested

and a money-exchanging house in McAllen known as Principal Casa de Cambia Inc. was shut. Agents seized some \$3.5 million in cash and property and say the investigation across the country subsequently has grown to seizures topping \$30 million.

One of the defendants in the case has died and two others face sentencing later this month to up to 5 years in prison and \$250,000 in fines.

The lithographs they attempted to fence are artist's proofs, meaning they were part of the original prints made for the artist's benefit.

Vernon Weckbacher, curator of collections for the McAllen International Museum, termed the paintings "quite significant" and estimated their value at \$300,000 to \$1 million.

## Houstonians love, hate their neighborhoods

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Anthony Nixon isn't fazed by the maze of mansions, businesses and apartments he calls home.

"I like it here because it's eclectic. I think anyone who moves into this neighborhood has to know that," Nixon said of the urban Montrose area.

"I think they're kind of bigots to move in here and then complain about things," said Nixon, whose neat two-story home sits down the street from a sometimes raucous Irish pub.

Whiners, he suggested, might consider a move to the more orderly suburbs.

Nixon, like droves of other Houstonians, didn't vote in this week's election. But if he had, he would have cast his ballot against a proposal to bring zoning to the nation's fourth-largest city.

Many of his more civic-minded residents felt the same way, and the proposal failed Tuesday, 52 percent to 48 percent. It was the third time in 45 years voters here have

quashed zoning efforts.

The defeat means Houston — the land of erratic and explosive development — remains the largest city in the nation without a zoning ordinance.

"It's embarrassing to admit that Houston is once again going to stay in the Dark Ages," zoning proponent Bart Truxillo, who lives in the Heights neighborhood, another mixed-up area near downtown.

Zoning proponents said the ordinance was needed to protect residential areas in Houston, where businesses can wander into some neighborhoods with impunity.

Opponents campaigned heavily against the measure, calling it a costly measure that would restrict growth.

Although Truxillo and Nixon are at opposite sides of the issue, both live in neighborhoods that are distinguished for their hodgepodge development.

In Nixon's neighborhood, one can walk to a convenience store, one of the most exclusive restaurants in town or even an adult book-

store.

The trendy Montrose area also is home to restaurants, bars, grocery stores, drug stores, tanning parlors, tattoo parlors, used clothing stores, washerias, gay bars and at least one rather wild leather store.

Runaway youths, some of them working as prostitutes, and other homeless people walk along Westheimer, a major thoroughfare that cuts through the area.

But on the side streets, trees shade many quaint middle-class homes and small apartment complexes.

People from all socioeconomic levels can live in Montrose. On one street, a one-bedroom apartment that rents for \$465 a month stands next to a two-story house that is selling for \$259,000.

And perched on the edge of Montrose is a majestic group of old mansions that are surrounded by a stiff iron fence.

Truxillo, meanwhile, lives in the historic Heights in a whimsical, 100-year-old house that many consider a local landmark.

## Victims of California fires return to ashes

The Associated Press

MALIBU, Calif. — Alice Kavalgjan cried as she trudged through the ashes of her home. "This is it," she said, pointing to the clothes she was wearing. "I don't even have a sweater."

Kavalgjan was among thousands of residents chased from this celebrity enclave by an arson wildfire that roared out of the Santa Monica Mountains on Tuesday and burned 200 houses. One person was killed.

Some returned Thursday to see whether any of their past was still standing. Others waited at roadblocks hastily put up to allow fire or aircraft bombing runs over the remaining hot spots.

By Thursday, firefighters had contained 70 percent of the 18,500-acre wildfire, one of a series of blazes that have destroyed 1,000 homes, blackened 200,000 acres and injured nearly 200 people in Southern California since Oct. 26. Several were blamed on arsonists.

The Malibu fire claimed actor Sean Penn's \$4 million Spanish-style mansion along with Ali McGraw's home, with its panoramic view of the Pacific Ocean.

"I'm grateful to be alive. I'm grateful to my friends who helped save my animals. And I'm grateful to all the firefighters for their extraordinary efforts in saving so many people's lives," the star of the 1970 hit movie "Love Story" said in a statement released through her publicist.

Many celebrity homes, including the 100 mansions in the exclusive Malibu Colony, were spared.

With cool sea breezes mixing with wind gusts in the hills, crews and firefighting aircraft focused Thursday on the hot spots around Fernwood in Topanga Canyon.

Forecasters weren't expecting a return of the hot, dry Santa Ana winds from the deserts northeast of Los Angeles that fanned the worst of the fires.

Mike Pierson, 33, returned to his wood-sided house to find it intact. His relief was subdued.

"My cousin's home is gone. My best friend's home is gone. Every person I grew up with, their home is gone," Pierson said. "I look here and I can't even tell where people live."

Chris Mitchell sat in her fully loaded car in the middle of a highway, unable to get home.

"Last night we rode our bikes up the highway so we know our house is all right," she said. "But we're tired of driving around and living out of our car."

Nelson Carpentier returned to his Las Flores Canyon lot to find his home destroyed and his restored 1970 Mercedes-Benz a burned out shell. Sitting next to the car were the remains of a 20-foot Wellcraft boat.

As family members dug spoons, metal tools, ceramic cups and pots out of the ash, Carpentier expressed anger at the arsonist who authorities said set the fire.

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