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STATE & LOCAL

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THE BATTALION

Monday, March 7, 1994

Rival KKK leaders in disagreement about image

The Associated Press

WACO — The head of an offshoot group of the Ku Klux Klan railed Saturday against the leaders of a rival white supremacist organization, warning them to "resign or die."

Robert Spence of Boyd, Texas, who identified himself as imperial wizard of the True Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, led a group of 14 in a protest on the McLennan County Courthouse steps against Michael Lowe, grand dragon of the Waco-based Knights of the Ku Klux Klan.

Spence said his amalgam of longtime klansmen, skinheads and neo-Nazis began an attempt to oust two leaders of the True Knights of the Ku Klux Klan — the only national Klan organization left in the United States — about six weeks ago after a year of disagreement.

Spence said Lowe stole from members of the Knights and did not pay taxes on goods sold by the Klan.

The Klansmen were outnumbered about 2-to-1 at the Waco rally by the curious and those who wanted to protest the Klan members.

Four young men gave Nazi-style salutes in support of the speaker's anti-Semitic rhetoric, but were the only ones who outwardly expressed support.

Waco police Sgt. Malissa Sims said about 30 police officers and sheriff's deputies were assigned to provide security. There were no arrests, she said.

Lowe said several days ago, he kicked Spence out of his organization because his rhetoric was too strong. Lowe also denied any wrongdoing as far as the payment of sales taxes is concerned.

See Klan/Page 3

ISA Week wraps up



Nadeem Chawdhan(left), Kashif Qureshi(lying down) and Kimberly Phillips perform at the International Students Association's Talent Show last Friday in Rudder Auditorium.

Transportation commissioner says he left post due to internal problems

The Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The same political drive that made Henry Munoz III the first Hispanic commissioner of the Texas Department of Transportation also led to his downfall and resignation from the agency, observers say.

Some point to the 34-year-old's aggressiveness that often pitted him against the old-fashioned hardliners. Others point to his efforts to put more women and minorities in positions of power in the agency.

Munoz, however, sees himself as a victim of a system in need of change. He blames that resistance to change for part of his decision

to leave the agency Feb. 25. He also cited a desire to devote more time to his wife and business.

"During my 2 1/2 years as commissioner, I did make errors in judgment," Munoz said in an interview with the San Antonio Express-News.

"I was trying to do a big job. They weren't used to an activist being in this job and it made people uncomfortable."

His departure coincided with an investigation into his travel practices, which some say led Gov. Ann Richards to order a senior aide to fire Munoz. Her office has declined comment.

Richards appointed Munoz to the post in 1991 after his fund-

raising helped her get elected.

As a commissioner, Munoz heavily promoted Richards' "New Texas" theme. He paid special attention to South Texas cities, especially along the border, and takes credit for directing \$250 million to the region for improving road infrastructure.

But Munoz was criticized widely for his expensive suits, flashy jewelry and a preference for what some considered lavish treatment.

"Mr. Munoz's attitude was very patrician and high-handed... almost like royalty," a former high-ranking transportation department employee who wished to remain anonymous told the Express-News.

See Munoz/Page 3



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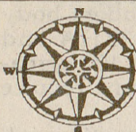
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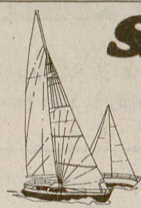
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Wednesday, March 9, 1994
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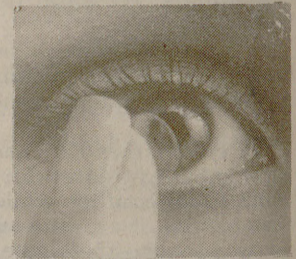
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