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## Gypsy family feud, false accusations irritate state police

The Associated Press

HOUSTON — Texas police departments are being sucked into a bitter, longstanding feud between the state's two most powerful Gypsy families.

That's right, a Gypsy standoff in the Lone Star State. Police in Houston, Dallas, Irving, Beaumont and San Jacinto County say Gypsies have told stories of robberies, assaults and revenge attacks by a rival group.

Most, if not all, of the stories are concocted, the officers say, to get police to arrest and intimidate the other family.

On one side is the powerful Evans family of Houston, headed by Walter Evans, a Gypsy who says he was born in a tent about 47 years ago. His sons say it was probably closer to 55 years ago.

On the other side is the Bucky Mitchell family, most of whom live in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Mitchell is a patient at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and is Evans' brother-in-law and cousin.

The Mitchells and Evanses were close for years, the children becoming best friends, and the adults frequently business partners. But in the summer of 1991, one of Mitchell's sons, Joey Mitchell, 26, violated Gypsy law by becoming involved with a not-yet divorced Gypsy woman.

That sparked a chain of events that angered Texas law enforcement officers and tore the families apart.

The members are descendants of nomadic tribes that left northern India more than a thousand years ago to become the first dark-skinned peoples in Europe. They made their living as itinerant musicians, fortunetellers and entertainers.

Gypsies usually rely on their internal social structure to resolve disputes. That's what first happened between the Mitchells and Evanses.

At a Dallas meeting of the Romani Kris, or Gypsy court, on Sept. 16-17, 1991, leaders from Texas and neighboring states tried to determine a fair penance. About 1,000 Gypsies were in attendance.

Acting as prosecutor, Walter Evans demanded that Joey Mitchell pay the offended family a "globa," or fine, of \$2,500. A vote was taken and the sentence imposed.

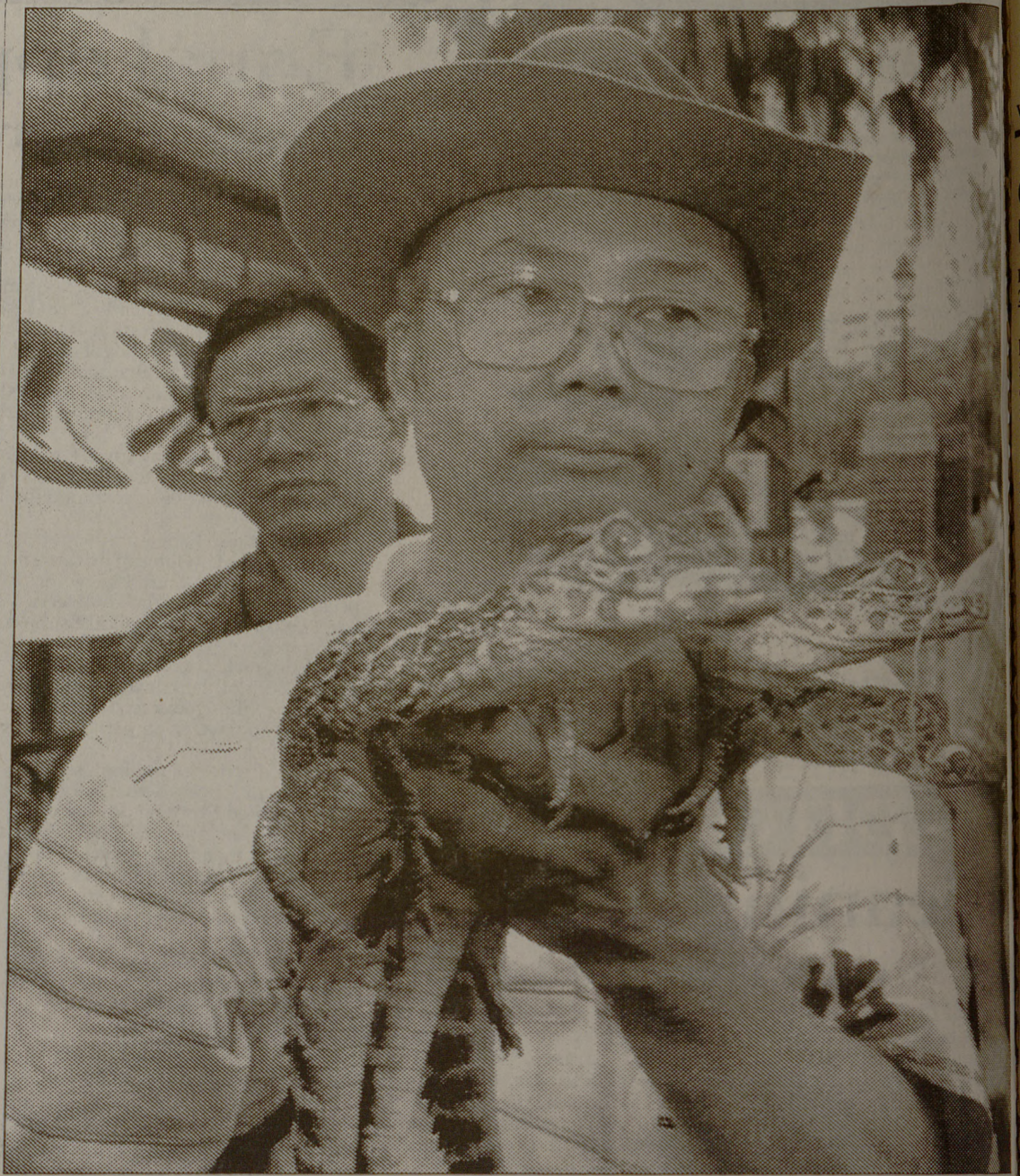
But the Evanses contend that Joey Mitchell ignored the globa so he was "blackballed," the most severe punishment Gypsies can impose on each other.

Blackballed Gypsies cannot eat, drink or socialize with other Gypsies and cannot attend Gypsy weddings or funerals. As a result of the blackball, Walter Evans and his sons — Jerry, Freddie and Tony — say they have been the victims of robberies, threats and physical attacks by the vengeful Mitchells.

The family is afraid to go out at night, they say. "We're kind of being careful of what we're doing and where we're going," Freddie Evans said. "They are trying to harm my family."

Joey Mitchell contends he paid the globa.

## That's a croc!



Huang Kuo-nan, who rears wild animals for sale, holds three baby crocodiles outside Taiwan's Parliament in protest to President Clinton's decision to bar wildlife imports from Taiwan. Kuo-nan sells some of his animals to factories to manufacture various products.

## MSC Film Society of Texas A&M

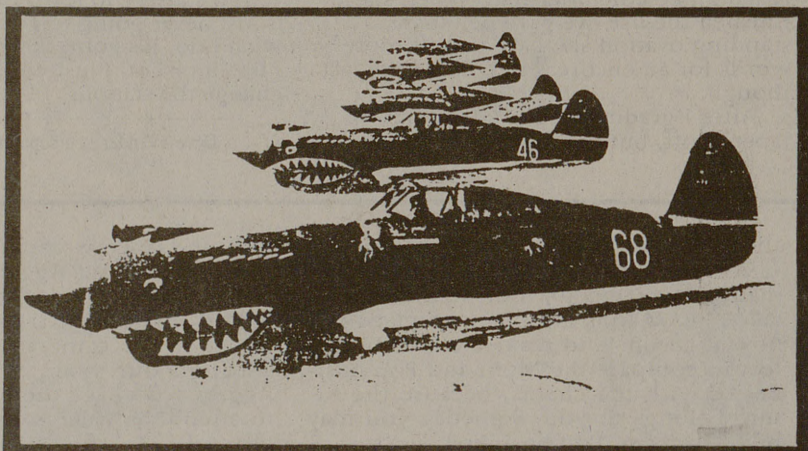
# Fei Hu

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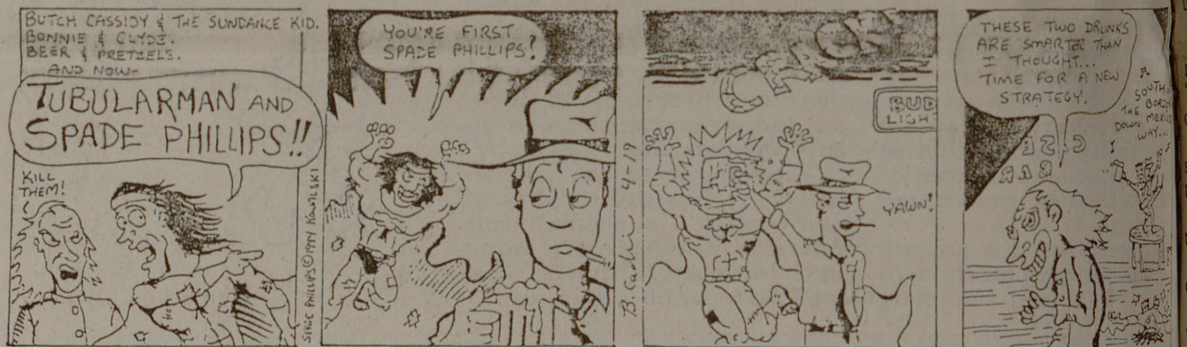
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Flying Tiger Pilots



Tuesday April 19, 1994 7:30pm  
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Admission \$1.00

A SPECIAL Book signing of "A Flying Tiger's Diary" is scheduled for Today from 2PM to 4PM in the MSC Bookstore with GENERAL BOND AND DR. TERRY ANDERSON of the TAMU History Dept.

### Tubularman



By Boomer Cardinale

### Bartholomew



by Kalvin

### Eisenhower



By Alex

### Gun Ban

Continued from Page 1

laws, Pratt said, adding, "Once again, we are reminded that America does not need more gun laws."

In other action Monday, the court:

• Said it will consider reinstating a ban on federal employees accepting pay for any outside speeches and articles. Lower courts said the ban violated executive branch employees' free-speech rights.

• Left intact a ruling that said a Michigan teacher had legitimate educational reasons for refusing to let a girl show classmates a videotape of her singing a religious song.

• Agreed to decide in a California case whether statements made by defendants during failed plea negotiations with federal prosecu-

tors may be used as trial evidence against them.

The gun-control case asks whether Congress wrote the 1990 law correctly to comply with the Constitution's Commerce Clause, which allows Congress to regulate interstate commerce.

The law carries a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$5,000 fine for anyone caught with a gun near a school.

Lopez, then a senior at Edison High School, was arrested after school authorities received an anonymous tip.

He admitted carrying a .38-caliber handgun and five bullets, and was sentenced to six months in prison.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that in most cases the law was invalid under the Commerce Clause. Other federal gun control laws describe a link

between the banned activity and interstate commerce, but the Gun-Free School Zones Act does not, the appeals court said.

Because Lopez's indictment also did not describe such a connection, his conviction must be thrown out, the appeals court ruled.

The 5th Circuit court suggested that Congress could enact a new law that might pass constitutional muster if it specified a link between guns at school and commerce.

The Senate passed such a measure last November as part of a massive crime package being debated in Congress.

In its high court appeal, the Clinton administration noted that the law has been upheld by another federal appeals court, the San Francisco-based 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.