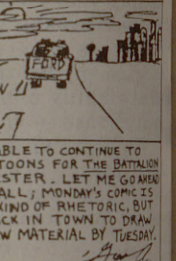


OH, IT WAS OLD? THANK GOD! FOR A MOMENT THERE I THOUGHT IT WAS NEW!

I THINK WE BETTER GET THE GUY! OUTTA HERE BEFORE HE STARTS EYEING US.



YOU READ THIS CARTOON... BE HOME IN DALLAS... A FEW MORE THOUS YRLL THIS YEAR. SO THANK ALL MY LADIES IN AGGIELAND AND HOPEFULLY.



NUN? HUH? OH TO ME!... EDDIE! MY MORE OF A HIM! WEI! LAND! WORK WITH ME, BABY!

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Frontiers

HEALTH TIPS: World AIDS Day is the only international day devoted to coordinating the worldwide efforts to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS.

Opinion

STERLING HAYMAN: After all, anything done in the name of God and religion has to be good right? Well, not really.

Sports

Lady Aggie basketball team victorious over Arizona State, 82-69



MONDAY

November 28, 1994 Vol. 101, No. 64 (8 pages) "Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

NEWS BRIEFS

Pope bestows rings to 30 new cardinals

VATICAN CITY (AP) — Pope John Paul II placed rings on the fingers of new cardinals Sunday and pointed out their task of leading the church into the next century and selecting the next pope. References to the year 2000, when the church plans a worldwide Roman Catholic jubilee, are particularly important to the pontiff, who has tried to dispel suggestions he is seriously ill and has openly expressed his desire to lead the church into the new millennium. The pope on Saturday elevated 30 clergymen to the rank of cardinal, including the archbishop of Sarajevo and several other clerics who were judged by authoritarian regimes in the former Soviet bloc, Cuba and Vietnam. Two Americans were among the group. John Paul has named 100 of the 120 cardinals who are under 80 years old and eligible to vote for pope.

GATT opponents target trade organization

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the trench warfare over a new trade agreement, no battle has been more intense than the one waged over the international body being created to police the new rules of global commerce. To opponents, the World Trade Organization symbolizes everything that is wrong with the pact — big, global government that will trample American laws protecting the environment, health and safety standards. President Clinton and other supporters argue that fears about the WTO are grossly exaggerated. They insist that creation of a new referee for trade disputes is in America's best interests and will mean more victories in the fight to open overseas markets for U.S. businesses and farmers. Like the North American Free Trade Agreement last year, WTO's opponents represent odd bedfellows, ranging from Ralph Nader and Jesse Jackson on the left to Ross Perot and Patrick Buchanan on the right.

Three inmates escape from Texas prison

ROSHARON (AP) — Three inmates escaped Saturday night from the Darrington Unit after throwing the prison into darkness and fleeing through a hole they cut in a fence, officials said. Prison spokesman David Nunnelee said Dennis Wayne Hope, 26; Harry Wayne Decker, 41; and Jason Earl Montgomery, 31, used wirecutters to cut through an inner fence, then climbed over an outer fence about 9:40 p.m. Saturday as guards fired gunshots at them. "They apparently were in the unit's boiler room, and they managed to shut off power to the unit," Nunnelee said. They escaped on foot after getting over the prison's outer fence, Nunnelee said. Rosharon is 25 miles south of Houston.

Officials slow in dealing with Russian oil spill

MOSCOW (AP) — Northern Russia could be in for a greater ecological disaster if cleanup of a huge oil spill isn't completed before spring thaws can push more oil into rivers and streams, a government commission said Sunday. The slow pace of building a new pipeline through the region and cleaning up the spill make it doubtful that cleanup will be completed by April 1 as planned, the commission said in a report carried by the ITAR-Tass news agency. That raises the possibility that spring floods could transport more oil into the salmon-rich Pechora River, which flows into the Barents Sea, the commission said. It called such a scenario an "ecological catastrophe." The spill near Usinsk in the Komi region, 1,000 miles northeast of Moscow, was caused by a series of leaks in an aging 31-mile pipeline.

Today's BATT

Table with 2 columns: Section Name and Page Number. Includes Classified (6), Frontiers (2), Opinion (7), Sports (5), Toons (4), What's Up (3).

Court denies Barone, three players motion to move trial

By Lisa Messer THE BATTALION

Texas A&M head men's basketball coach Tony Barone and three basketball players will face assault charges in Lubbock, after being denied a motion that would have moved the trial to the Brazos Valley. Barone and the players face civil assault charges stemming from an altercation that occurred between the Aggies and several fans from Texas Tech University after an A&M-Tech basketball game last year. Two Tech fans, Christopher Ewing and Charles Ewing, charged Barone with assault and negligence. They also charged A&M players Tony Barone, Jr., Joe Wilbert and John Jungers with assault. Bill Helwig, assistant general counsel at A&M and coordinator of the defense efforts, said the court in Lubbock saw the site of the fight as the most important issue in the case. "Under certain circumstances, a de-

"The court in Lubbock found the most significant fact of the evidence to be that the incident occurred in Lubbock. That was the principal basis for leaving it in Lubbock."

- Bill Helwig, A&M assistant general counsel and coordinator of defense efforts

fendant has the right to be sued in the county of his residence," Helwig said. "However, the court in Lubbock found the most significant fact of the evidence to be that the incident occurred in Lubbock. That was the principal basis for leaving it in Lubbock." Helwig said Barone and the players have all filed denials in the case. "We are comfortable with that position and believe this is a situation that the players had to react in fear of their own well-being and the well-being of their

teammates," Helwig said. "What occurred lies in the context of self-defense and trying to extract themselves from a tensely charged environment and a highly charged fan group." Wally Groff, A&M athletic department director, said he sees no fault on the part of Barone or the players. "It's really not much of a lawsuit," Groff said. "They were trying to defend themselves in the situation and get off the court." Groff said he believes the management

of Texas Tech will be brought into the case if it goes to court and they will have difficulty blaming the Aggies. "Being on the management side at A&M, I see the closeness of the fans to the teams running off the court," Groff said. "There are strong feelings, but lining the court with police is totally unrealistic. "Ninety-nine teams out of 100 would have done what we did. Their fans were totally out of order. There is no excuse for what they did." Helwig said Barone and the players understand that this altercation was not a typical occurrence. "The actions of the plaintiffs in no way represent the good fans and outstanding student body of Texas Tech," he said. "This is an isolated incident. The two schools' fan groups are good fans, and their players are sportsmanlike." Helwig said no trial date has been determined yet, but it will probably be sometime next year.



Blake Griggs/The BATTALION

Home sweet home

Yolanda McCoy, a junior civil engineering major, carries her backpack and laundry bag back to her dorm after returning from spending the Thanksgiving holiday in San Antonio.

Islamic militants kill settler rabbi in drive-by shooting

BEIT HAGAI, West Bank (AP) — A rabbi was shot to death and an Israeli policeman wounded in a hail of bullets fired at their car Sunday as they drove toward a Jewish settlement. Islamic militants claimed responsibility. The shooting, on the eve of the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, occurred 3 miles from Hebron, where tensions have been high since the massacre of 29 Muslim worshippers by a Jewish settler at a mosque Feb. 25. It came a day before Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres was to meet with PLO leader Yasser Arafat in Brussels, Belgium, and as the cycle of violence in the West Bank and Gaza Strip is pushing negotiators to speed up the peace process. Jewish settlers blamed government peace policies for encouraging Islamic militants, but members of Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's Cabinet pledged to continue talks with the PLO. "We must continue the peace process and do our best so that such sad events will not occur in the future," said Immigration Minister Yair Tsaban. An anonymous caller claiming to be from the radical Muslim group Hamas called Israel radio and claimed responsibility for Sunday's shooting. Hamas carried out a suicide bombing that killed 23 people in Tel Aviv last month. "We will continue the attacks," he said. The man said the shooting marked the anniversary of the killing of a Hamas activist by Israeli forces last year. Israeli sources said the gunfire came from a passing car carrying at least two men. The rabbi's car drove off the road and flipped over. Blood stained the muddy ground and seeped from cracks in the front windshield. Six bullet holes pierced windows, and 30 shell casings from an automatic rifle littered the ground. The victim was Rabbi Ami Olami, 35, the spiritual leader of Otniel, a nearby settlement with about 50 families. He was heading back to Otniel from another Jewish settlement. A policeman riding with him was shot in the back of the head, but managed to get out of the car and fire at the attackers, settlers said. He was hospitalized in fair condition. Seminary students at the scene were led away sobbing. One recited prayers as the rabbi's body lay under a gray



AP

blanket nearby. "May God avenge his blood," Moshe Rabinovich of the Beit Hagai settlement said as he stood next to an ambulance. Noam Arnon, a spokesman for the Jewish settlement in the nearby city of Hebron, blamed Rabin's peace accord for the attack. "They are responsible and will be responsible for every dead victim and all that is going on here," Arnon said. "They will not get away with it. The people will find justice." The West Bank Settler's Council, which speaks for many of the 120,000 settlers, said the attack was encouraged by government promises to expand autonomy in the West Bank and withdraw troops. Palestinians now control the Gaza Strip and Jericho in the West Bank. At their meeting Monday, Peres and Arafat are expected to discuss problems facing the expansion of autonomy.

Houston horse racing track struggles six months after opening due to slow business

HOUSTON (AP) — The giant green tote board flashing numbers to a smattering of race fans on an overcast November afternoon sums up the short history of Sam Houston Race Park. Track conditions are fast. Business is slow. Nobody promised that Texas' first foray into big-time horse racing would be easy. But managers of the shiny, new \$84 million track never fathomed it could be this difficult, and investors never dreamed it would be this costly. When Gov. Ann Richards helped inaugurate the track on a sun-soaked afternoon last April, some 16,500 race fans bet \$1.3 million on a 10-race card. It was a glorious opening for Texas' first thoroughbred track in 57 years, and Sam Houston seemed poised for success. Said one track official: "The Big Mo (momentum) is on now, so you just need to get out of the way and let it happen." Seven months later, any momentum from opening day seems long-faded.

Attendance, which averaged a disappointing 7,500 for the initial 45-day thoroughbred meet, has sagged to less than 4,000 per day for the current meet. Average betting fell far below estimates from the start and is down by a third since then. Top track management was swept aside in October. Investors have provided an additional \$6.5 million just to make ends meet. Purses, racing days and expectations have all been slashed. New track president and general manager Jim Noteware recently said the track has lost about \$15 million since opening, but dismissed persistent rumors that bankruptcy is imminent as a \$4.4 million January debt payment looms. Byron Wade, a member of the Sam Houston board of directors and an attorney for major stockholder Maxxam Corp., said the board is committed to avoiding bankruptcy, but will file Chapter 11 proceedings "if we were

forced by some third party." Wade said the track is negotiating with creditors regarding the January debt payment. If bankruptcy were sought, it would be to avoid shutting down the track, he said. "We're planning to try to avoid it. That's our objective," Wade said. "But if we were to seek it sometime next year, if it comes about at some point, it's not to close down. It's to stay open." Maxxam president and board chairman Charles Hurwitz, strolling through the track pavilion among less than 3,000 spectators Nov. 20, declined comment on the track's performance or whether his company planned to seek complete control through bankruptcy. Hurwitz, who commands about 45 percent of Sam Houston stock, would say only that he was optimistic for the track's survival. "I'm optimistic. Always optimistic,"

Some say new Texas law will boost cattle rustling

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Texas has come a long way from the days when cattle rustlers were summarily hanged. Too far, some say. In the past, theft of livestock valued at \$1,500 or more was a third-degree felony packing sentences of up to 10 years in prison. But a change in the Texas penal code that took effect Sept. 1 made cattle-theft losses of \$1,500 to \$20,000 fourth-degree felonies. Such crimes are punishable by a year in jail or, if no violence or weapon is used during the crime, mandatory probation. "The new law is not even a slap on the wrist for rustlers," said Steve Munday, a spokesman for the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association. "It is a green light for the decriminalization of that offense." In 1993, the most recent statistics available, 145 theft cases were solved by special