

Investigation of mass suicide continues

Relatives have requested that the bodies be tested for HIV.

SAN DIEGO (AP) — There's no evidence that more members of the Heaven's Gate cult are planning to kill themselves, although reports are being investigated, authorities said Monday.

Such fears of copycat suicides by far-flung cult cells are real. In 1994, 48 members of the Order of the Solar Temple killed themselves in Switzerland. Later that year, five more members committed suicide in Canada, followed by 11 in the French Alps in 1995 and five in Canada on March 22, 1997.

Nonetheless, sheriff's Lt. Jerry Lipscomb said authorities have found "nothing, absolutely nothing" to suggest that anyone other than the 39 members of the high-tech UFO cult planned to commit suicide.

One member who left the group about a month ago, because he didn't want to kill him-

self, received two farewell videotapes on March 25 from cult members describing their death plans. The next day, he and his employer drove to the hilltop mansion, found the bodies and called police.

As for reports that members may have killed themselves because leader Marshall Applewhite had convinced them he was dying of cancer, medical examiner Brian Blackbourne said Applewhite did not have cancer. In fact, none of the victims had a terminal illness, he said.

The bodies were being tested for HIV, at the request of relatives, he said.

Thirty-nine members of the nomadic group, which made its living lately developing Internet web sites, were found dead March 26 in a rented mansion in exclusive Rancho Santa Fe. They were dressed alike and covered in purple shrouds, their bags neatly packed in anticipation of a trip to outer space.

Authorities say the cult members died in groups, consuming a mixture of phenobarbital and alcohol and then placing plastic bags over their heads.

Blackbourne also said that two Vicodin vials

were found near the bodies of the last two cult members alive inside the mansion — and traces of the painkiller were found in their bodies in addition to the drugs that helped kill the other 37.

Blackbourne said all autopsies were complete and toxicological tests would be finished by Friday.

Lipscomb said Monday that investigators still believe it was a mass suicide, and although they're trying to determine where the cultists got so much phenobarbital, it's unlikely the answer will lead to criminal charges.

"We're not going to charge anyone with anything, and who would we charge?" Lipscomb said.

The cult members believed they would be picked up by a spaceship trailing the Hale-Bopp comet after they shed their earthly "containers." Monday, a forklift operator moved the body bags from a refrigerated trailer to unmarked vans for delivery to mortuaries.

Relatives had been located for all but two of the victims. Officials released their names and other details in hope that relatives could be found.

Fans pay tribute to Selena two years after her death

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — Tenor star Selena lives on in the memories of her fans, who have been making pilgrimages to her grave to mark Monday's second anniversary of the singer's death.

"For me, believe it or not, it's a sense of closure," said Daniel Mares, manager of a car audio store in Galveston. "I never really got to say goodbye to her before."

Mares was once thrilled at watching Selena Quintanilla Perez perform at Houston nightclubs. On Sunday, he traveled to Seaside Memorial Park in Corpus Christi where Selena is buried.

About 5,000 people have done the same in the past five days to pay tribute to Selena, who was gunned down at a Corpus Christi motel on March

31, 1995. Yolanda Saldivar, the former president of Selena's fan club, was convicted of murdering her and is serving a life prison sentence.

As many as 50 people at a time have visited the grave, said Stella Hernandez, a cemetery representative who has seen visitors with license plates from New York, Illinois, Arizona and Mexico.

A 5-foot chain-link fence was erected around the burial site to keep people from disturbing a large arrangement of white roses, purple flowers and palm leaves that adorn

"I never really got to say goodbye to her before."

Daniel Mares
Selena fan

the spot. Fans have decorated the fence with bunches of flowers, stuffed Easter bunnies and written homages to Selena.

In death, Selena has achieved a celebrity status she only could have dreamed of in life: She is the subject of eight books, new musical releases and a full-length movie.

And, since her murder, Selena has been the focus of numerous legal confrontations over rights to her music, name and image and the merchandising of products bearing her name.

"Ballpark, I'd say there have been

20 lawsuits filed, not counting the cease-and-desist letters that our attorneys send out to other parties who give up at that point," said Bert Quintanilla, marketing director of Q Productions, the family business. He also is a cousin of Selena's father.

"It's an ongoing battle. We have law firms in California, San Antonio and Corpus Christi, and we have investigators constantly trying to stop the pirating. Some people even blatantly tried to copyright the name Selena," Bert Quintanilla added.

The latest and biggest lawsuit is a purely local affair, pitting the Quintanilla family and band members against television station KIII in Corpus Christi, owned by McKinnon Broadcasting.

Researchers find high injury levels as result of air bags

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly two-thirds of drivers in crashes of air bag-equipped cars were injured by the deploying bag, according to an analysis by University of Michigan researchers.

Most of the injuries were minor scrapes and bruises, but 3 percent of the drivers — or 18 — suffered broken bones in the forearm or hand, according to the university's Transportation Research Institute, where researchers studied 540 crashes.

The fractures were caused by the deploying air bag, the air bag cover, or the air bag flinging drivers' arms and hands into the instrument panel or windshield, Donald E. Huelke, a lead researcher, said in a telephone interview.

Several of the breaks happened during a left-hand turn when a driver's right hand was over the steering wheel, where the air bag de-

ployed, Huelke said.

Nearly two-thirds of the drivers had injuries to the arms, hands, face or upper body and most injuries were minor scrapes, bruises or cuts, Huelke said.

Air bags have saved more than 1,700 lives, according to government estimates, but have been blamed for the deaths of 38 children and 24 adults.

The researchers found that 38 percent of the drivers suffered forearm and hand injuries while one in three drivers sustained a facial injury, according to papers they published this year.

Huelke and other researchers at the institute in Ann Arbor, Mich., looked at 540 crashes involving the deployment of driver-side air bags in a variety of vehicles through mid-1996. Most of the crashes were in Michigan; about one-fifth were in other

states, mostly the Great Lakes states.

About 2 percent — or 11 drivers — sustained eye injuries from air bag deployment, primarily scuffs on the eyeball or some blood in the eye, Huelke said. "In almost all the cases, the driver recovered from the injury and there were no long-term effects," he said.

However, a report published in March that reviewed five cases of air bag injuries treated at the University of California, Los Angeles, ophthalmology trauma center concluded air bags could be hazardous to the eyes.

"The study highlights that air bags need some changes in design," said Dr. Edward E. Manche, the paper's lead author and director of cornea and refractive surgery at Stanford University Medical Center.

In one case, a woman became legally blind in one eye. In another case, a woman's contact lenses broke and she needed surgery.

ELECTION

Continued from Page 1

Jason Jaynes, the election commissioner and junior computer science major, said the memo was written before he or Baggett knew of the election results.

"This was his interpretation, before he even knew the results of the election," Jaynes said.

Jesse Czelusta, a senior agricultural economics major, was one of the authors of the referendum. He said Baggett's interpretation is different from what the authors intended.

"The only reason to include this (the clause about decreasing the number of candidates proportionally) is to reduce the number of four candidates," Czelusta said. "Otherwise, it's pointless."

Czelusta is planning to file a complaint with the Student Government Judicial Board.

Kimmel said he supported the referendum and

was involved in getting it passed by the students.

Kimmel received 7 percent of the vote, the smallest percentage of the run-off candidates. Bluntzer received 24 percent, Henke received 15 percent and Nichols received 13 percent of the vote.

Kimmel said he is dropping out of the election because he came in last place among the four candidates, and by his interpretation of the referendum, it is unfair for him to run against the other candidates.

"I think it would be hypocritical of me to turn around and take advantage of this misnomer," Kimmel said. "I think it (dropping out of the election) is the best thing for Texas A&M and it is more important than any single yell leadership [position]."

Will Hurd, executive assistant to the student body president and a sophomore computer science and international studies major, said it was Baggett's right to interpret the referendum.

"Whether you like the interpretation or not, it

was up to him," Hurd said. "There are always going to be two sides of a coin. Carl (Baggett) interpreted what he thought was best for the University. He is the representative of the student body and he will act according to its best interests."

Christin Eiserloh, Kimmel's campaign manager and a sophomore business analysis major, said Kimmel's campaign was based on yell leaders being leaders both on and off the football field. His dropping out of the election is consistent with his campaign platform, she said.

"Robert (Kimmel) doesn't feel it's ethical to help get the referendum passed, and then slip through the cracks with this misinterpretation," Eiserloh said.

Baggett said people will have differences of opinion with his decision because this is the first year of yell leader run-off elections.

"Any time a new situation arises, such as a run-off, there are going to be people who disagree," Baggett said.

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ABSOLUTE POWER (R)	12:50 3:50 7:05 10:05
*DEVIL'S OWN (R)	1:30 4:00 7:00 9:30
THE ENGLISH PATIENT (R)	12:45 4:30 8:15
*SELENA (PG)	1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
RETURN OF THE JEDI (PG)	12:45 3:45 6:45 9:45
*LIAR LIAR (PG-13)	1:15 3:30 6:10 8:20 10:30
DONNIE BRASCO (R)	1:40 4:20 7:15 10:00
JUNGLE 2 JUNGLE (PG)	1:40 4:20 6:45 9:20
*CATS DON'T DANCE (G)	1:30 3:50 6:15 8:20 10:25
SLING BLADE (R)	1:10 4:10 7:10 10:10
SIXTH MAN (PG-13)	2:00 4:35 7:35 10:15

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