

THE BATTALION DEBRIEFING

Page
Tuesday • April 8, 1997

► State

Volunteers search for missing girl

FRIENDSWOOD, Texas (AP) — About 150 volunteers were combing rural areas of Harris and Galveston counties today for a 12-year-old girl who disappeared five days ago.

"We're just finding leads, running them out and exhausting them," said Michael E. Barker, one of the search leaders.

Laura Kate Smither was last seen by family members last Thursday when she left her home for a quarter-mile jog. An aerial search was expanded over the weekend to include a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter with heat-sensing capability. More than 300 volunteers searched remote areas both north and south of Friendswood on Sunday.

Today's hunt was farther west, Barker said this morning.

Barker urged residents within 10 miles of Friendswood to check any unattended outbuildings. Since searches did not know whether foul play was involved in the girl's disappearance, Barker urged precautions.

"Take someone with you; don't just send the kids out to look," he said.

A \$50,000 reward has been offered for information about the girl's whereabouts. Barker said the money came from donations.

► Nation

Spine-injuries don't end orgasm ability

NEW BRUNSWICK, N.J. (AP) — Two researchers believe they have isolated a chemical that produces orgasms in women even if they have suffered spinal cord injuries.

The finding could lead one day to a pill that would give the same sensation as an orgasm and also might have use in treating pain, said Barry R. Komisaruk, a professor at Rutgers University.

His partner in the research was Rutgers professor Beverly Whipple, who in 1982 wrote the book "The G-Spot and Other Recent Discoveries About Human Sexualities."

Through experiments with lab rats, the researchers determined that the brain can receive signals of sexual response through a pathway other than the spinal cord.

Komisaruk found an alternate pathway through the vagus nerve, which goes directly from the cervix, through the abdomen and chest cavity, into the neck and to the brain stem.

The professors then studied 16 women paralyzed by spinal cord injuries, and found that three of them were able to have orgasms through sexual stimulation.

"Contrary to what people may think, we discovered that women in the study who were paralyzed and

had no feeling below the breast area were, in fact, capable of having orgasms," Komisaruk said.

Those experiments helped lead to the isolation of the vasoactive intestinal peptide, which he believes is the neurotransmitter, or nervous system chemical messenger, in the body that causes the orgasm sensation in the brain.

That same chemical may also have strong pain-suppressing qualities rivaling morphine that one day may make it a natural source of pain relief, Komisaruk said.

O'Brien conquers doubts of talent

NEW YORK (AP) — Questions about whether Conan O'Brien would last as a light-night TV host have been answered with a five-year contract extension announced Monday by NBC.

"Early on, they were timing my contract with an egg timer," said O'Brien, who was an unknown comedy writer chosen to replace former *Late Night* host David Letterman in 1993 after better-known stars demurred.

The former *Saturday Night Live* writer started *Late Night With Conan O'Brien* with a 13-week commitment. But the show and the one it follows, Jay Leno's *Tonight Show*, have been on a ratings roll, giving NBC the top-rated lineup for their time period.

Terms of the contract weren't disclosed. O'Brien said he considered it a validation of his work.

► People in the News

Taylor calls it quits with hubby No. 7

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Elizabeth Taylor is free to marry again. She's officially divorced from Larry Fortensky, husband No. 7.

"It's done," the actress' attorney, Arlene Colman-Schwimmer, said Monday.

The lawyer described the settlement as amicable and refused to reveal financial details. She said reports that Fortensky was getting \$1.5 million were false. "That's too high," she said.

The Oscar-winning star of *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* and *Butterfield 8* met Fortensky in 1988 when both were at the Betty Ford Clinic. They married Oct. 6, 1991, during a ceremony at Michael Jackson's Neverland Ranch.

Miss Taylor filed for divorce in February 1996, citing irreconcilable differences.

The 65-year-old actress is planning a trip overseas in May, two months after brain surgery to remove a benign tumor.



Taylor

Martin off air, star to focus on films

NEW YORK (AP) — After a troubled year for star Martin Lawrence, the television show *Martin* is calling it quits.

Lawrence said Monday he wanted to concentrate on movies. His situation comedy will end with a one-hour special on Fox on Thursday, May 1.

"After five years with the series, I feel it's time to move on," said Lawrence, who starred in the movies *You So Crazy* and *Bad Boys*.

Lawrence has been in the news for more than his acting recently. He was arrested in March after allegedly punching a man in a Los Angeles restaurant and was arrested last summer after a loaded gun was found in his suitcase.

In December, former co-star Tisha Campbell sued Lawrence, claiming he sexually harassed and sexually battered her, and left the show for a time.

Oasis singer weds in civil ceremony

LONDON (AP) — Paparazzi were not a problem when Oasis singer Liam Gallagher and actress Patsy Kensit got married Monday in a secret civil ceremony with just the registrar watching.

The wedding — his first and her

third — came two months after the couple canceled planned nuptials because the media was "obnoxious and intrusive."

Jackson 3-D movie leaves Disneyland

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Captain Jack's last journey, Disney's three-dimensional musical space adventure, starring Michael Jackson, was shown for the last time Sunday night.

It will be replaced by *Honey I Shrunk the Audience*, another 3-D movie debuting next spring.

Jackson played the title character and companions Fuzzball, the Greek and Hooter in bringing song and dance to a gloomy planet led by Anjelica Huston.

The 17-minute film had been playing at the Tomorrowland Theater since 1986. Dozens of the park's season-pass holders streamed through the attraction to pay their final respects.



Jackson

► This day in history

Today is Tuesday, April 8, the 98th day of 1997. There are 267 days left in the year.

On this date:
In 1513, explorer Juan Ponce de Leon claimed Florida for Spain.

In 1935, the Works Progress Administration was approved by Congress.

In 1946, the League of Nations assembled in Geneva for the last time.

In 1952, President Truman seized the steel industry to avert a nationwide strike.

In 1970, the Senate rejected President Nixon's nomination of G. Harold Carswell to the Supreme Court.

In 1973, artist Pablo Picasso died at his home near Mougins, France, at age 91.

In 1974, Hank Aaron of the Atlanta Braves hit his 715th career home run in a game against the Los Angeles Dodgers, breaking Babe Ruth's record.

In 1975, Frank Robinson, major-league baseball's first black manager, got off to a winning start as his team, the Cleveland Indians, defeated the New York Yankees, 5-3.

In 1990, Ryan White, the teen-age AIDS patient whose battle for acceptance gained national attention, died in Indianapolis at age 18.

In 1994, Kurt Cobain, singer-musician for the grunge band Nirvana, was found dead in Seattle of an apparently self-inflicted gunshot wound; he was 27.

► Today's birthdays

Former first lady Betty Ford is 79. Lyricist Fred Ebb is 64. Investigative reporter Seymour Hersh is 60. Basketball Hall-of-Famer John Havlicek is 57. Singer Peggy Lennon (The Lennon Sisters) is 56. Actor John Schneider is 43. All-Star catcher Gary Carter is 43. Rock musician Izzy Stradlin is 35. Singer Julian Lennon is 34. Rapper Biz Markie is 33. Actress Patricia Arquette is 29.

► Weather

Today	Tonight	Tomorrow	Highs & Lows
			Today's Expected High 70°F
Mostly cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers. Southeast winds at 10 to 15 mph.	Cloudy with a 50 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 5 to 10 mph.	Cloudy with a 60 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Tonight's Expected High 60°F
			Tomorrow's Expected High 69°F
			Tomorrow Night's Expected Low 58°F

Information courtesy of TAN

Student Counseling HelpLine

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Volunteers Needed

to begin service in the Summer '97 or Fall '97 Semester.

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SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Quitting Smoking Now Greatly Reduces Serious Risks to Your Health.

Lone Star Overnight

PART-TIME COURIER

Lone Star Overnight is a premium quality, overnight air express shipping company serving the 25 largest metropolitan areas in Texas. LSO needs highly motivated, courteous, dependable, prompt and professional women and men with great communications skills who desire a long term career opportunity. This part-time courier position offers approximately 15-20 hours per week with a flexible schedule. You must be available to begin work on April 28th. LSO offers starting pay of \$8.20 per hour, medical coverage, paid vacation, profit sharing, and 401k retirement benefits to full-time employees. A LSO courier's primary duty is courteous, efficient and professional pick-up and delivery of high priority packages driving a company owned vehicle while adhering to strict safety procedures.

Essential job requirements include the ability to operate a standard delivery van, to life and maneuver 75 pounds without assistance and maneuver 150 pounds with appropriate equipment. You must be able to communicate well in English, both verbal and written. In order to meet vehicle insurance requirements, you must be at least 25 years old and a clear motor vehicle report for the last three years is highly preferred. LSO is committed to a drug-free workplace and requires a pre-employment drug screen. A background check and physical examination may be required.

If you have the energy and desire to contribute your talents to this fast growing and successful company, please come to the Pavilion, Rm 219 or the Career Center located on campus April 8-10 to fill out an application. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE. EOE.

THE BATTALION

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