

## McVeigh blames FBI for Waco fire

DENVER (AP) — In a letter to an Oklahoma City newspaper made public Tuesday, Timothy McVeigh blames the FBI for the 1993 fire that killed 81 people at the Branch Davidian compound near Waco, Texas.

"The public never saw the Davidians' home video of their cute babies, adorable children, loving mothers or protective fathers," McVeigh wrote in a letter excerpted for today's weekly Oklahoma Gazette.

"Nor did they see pictures of the charred remains of children's bodies. Therefore, they didn't care when these families died a slow, torturous death as they were gassed and burned alive at the hands of the FBI."

Authorities claim McVeigh bombed the federal building in Oklahoma City to retaliate for Waco on the two-year anniversary of the siege.

Cult leader David Koresh and 80 of his followers died by fire or gunshot wounds six hours after the FBI started filling the compound with tear gas during a raid that ended a 51-day standoff. Davidians and their attorneys blame the government for starting the fire. FBI officials said the blaze was started by sect members.

In the letter, McVeigh referred to FBI agents

as "wizards of propaganda" who molded the facts to fit their own purposes.

McVeigh's attorney, Stephen Jones, said the letter was authentic. It was written to Gazette reporter Phil Bacharach in November, several months after he interviewed McVeigh in prison.

**"The public never saw the Davidians' home video of their cute babies, adorable children, loving mothers or protective fathers."**

Timothy McVeigh  
on trial for Oklahoma City bombing

McVeigh, 28, is charged with murder and conspiracy in the April 19, 1995, Oklahoma City bombing that killed 168 people and injured hundreds more. If convicted, he could face the death penalty.

Jury selection in the case continued Tuesday, with a prospective juror dismissed after telling the judge the government spent too much money protecting McVeigh's right to a fair trial.

"She could not serve as a fair and impartial juror in this case," said U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch.

The woman, who immigrated to the United States from Germany 40 years ago, told Matsch she disagreed in particular with his decision to move the trial from Oklahoma to Denver. Matsch gave her a lengthy explanation of why he made that decision, saying he needed to ensure a fair trial.

"But it does cost the government a lot of money," she said.

The woman was only the second prospective juror to be publicly dismissed, following Matsch's dismissal last week of a woman who cried as she explained how stressful she thought the trial would be.

The judge has said he would make all other decisions on dismissals in private. Late into the seventh day of jury selection, 41 prospects had been questioned.

### ► Nation

## Texas ranks third in foreign population

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 2 million people living in Texas last year were born outside the United States, making Texas one of only six states nationally with a foreign-born population of more than a million.

Eleven percent of the 19 million people living in Texas were born in another country, the Census Bureau said in a report issued Tuesday.

Some 24.5 million people in the United States last year were born elsewhere — accounting for 9.3 percent of the population. That figure is up sharply from the 4.8 percent low recorded in 1970 but remains well below the century's high of 14.7 percent in 1910.

California was the premier destination for the foreign-born, accounting for 8 million people. New York was second with 3 million. Three other states joined Texas with foreign-born populations of 1 million or more: Florida, New Jersey and Illinois.

## Parking fines plague chief of ticket writers

NEW YORK (AP) — The leader of New York City's union of parking ticket writers has apparently given his rank-and-file a lot of business.

Robert Cassar's car was towed week after he failed to pay the \$5,000 in parking fines, the New York Post reported Tuesday.

Cassar, president of Local 1122, the Communications Workers of America, said those penalties came from another \$5,000 he has paid parking violations in recent years.

"Nobody likes to have that summons," he said. "But I guess that it shows that my guys do their job."

Cassar said his car was towed after he agreed to pay \$4,916 in fines and penalties on 39 tickets issued between 1993 and 1995.

Cassar was a traffic agent before becoming president of the 1,000-member union four years ago. Claims officials in the city Transportation Department have a vendetta against him.

### ► This day in history

Today is Wednesday, April 9, the 99th day of 1997. There are 266 days left in the year.

On this date:  
In 1682, the French explorer Robert La Salle reached the Mississippi River.

In 1833, the nation's first tax-supported public library was founded in Peterborough, N.H.

In 1865, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered his army to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court House in Virginia.

In 1939, singer Marian Anderson performed at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C., after she was denied the use of Constitution Hall by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

In 1940, Germany invaded Denmark and Norway.

In 1942, during World War II, American and Philippine defenders on Bataan capitulated to Japanese forces; the surrender was followed by the notorious "Bataan Death

March" which claimed nearly 10,000 lives.

In 1947, a series of tornadoes in Texas, Oklahoma and Kansas claimed 169 lives.

In 1959, NASA announced the selection of America's first seven astronauts: Scott Carpenter, Gordon Cooper, John Glenn, Gus Grissom, Wally Schirra, Alan Shepard and Donald Slayton.

In 1963, British statesman Winston Churchill was made an honorary U.S. citizen.

### ► Today's birthdays

Former U.S. Sen. Abraham A. Ribicoff, D-Conn., is 87. Playboy magazine founder Hugh Hefner is 71. Satirist Tom Lehrer is 69. Singer-songwriter Carl Perkins is 65. Actor Jean-Paul Belmondo is 64. Comedian Avery Schreiber is 62. Actress Michael Learned is 58. Country singer Margo Smith is 55.

### ► Weather

**Today**



Mostly cloudy, 30 percent chance of showers, winds east 10-15 mph.

**Tonight**



Cloudy, 20 percent of showers, southeast winds near 15 mph.

**Tomorrow**



Cloudy, 30 percent chance of showers, southeast winds 10-15 mph.

**Highs & Lows**

Today's Expected High: 70°F

Tonight's Expected Low: 60°F

Tomorrow's Expected High: 73°F

Tomorrow Night's Expected Low: 59°F

Information courtesy of TAMU

## Last Call Overseas Loans

Every month the L.T. Jordan Institute interviews applicants for interest free loans for overseas travel. May interviews have been moved to April 17 and 18. These interviews will be the last for the semester. Pick up your applications NOW!

Applications due Wed., April 16 by 5:00 p.m.

Pick up an application in Room 223I in the Student Programs Office of the Memorial Student Center.

## The Impact of Modern Science on Religion

Speakers include: Protestant, Catholic, Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and Atheist representatives

Moderator: Dr. Jon Alston  
Department of Sociology

Wednesday, April 9th  
8:30 P.M.  
Rudder 601

Persons with disabilities please call 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our abilities.

MSC GREAT ISSUES

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Entries accepted  
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2 to 6 pm  
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\$5 per entry

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Prizes awarded:  
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plus 1st, 2nd, 3rd in each category

presented by  
**MSC Visual Arts Committee**

Official Rules: <http://vac.tamu.edu>  
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AGGIE 1996 Another Popular Production

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