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Defense focuses on McVeigh's rage

DENVER (AP) — Timothy McVeigh's lawyers sought to make jurors understand his rage at the government Tuesday, with a Soldier of Fortune writer testifying McVeigh embraced the militia belief that federal agents were to blame for the deaths of women and children at Waco.

Prosecutors contended McVeigh was driven to bomb the Oklahoma City federal building by anger over the deadly fire at the Branch Davidian compound. McVeigh's attorneys have ended up supporting that scenario in their attempt to spare him the death penalty.

Journalist James Pate analyzed McVeigh's writings and found them full of the usual militia buzzwords, patriotic passages and references to the government sieges at Waco and Ruby Ridge, Idaho.

"It contains a very broad range that touches on every aspect of the movement," said Pate, who has written extensively about militia culture.

Pate said McVeigh's reference to "power hungry storm troopers" was a phrase in the militia

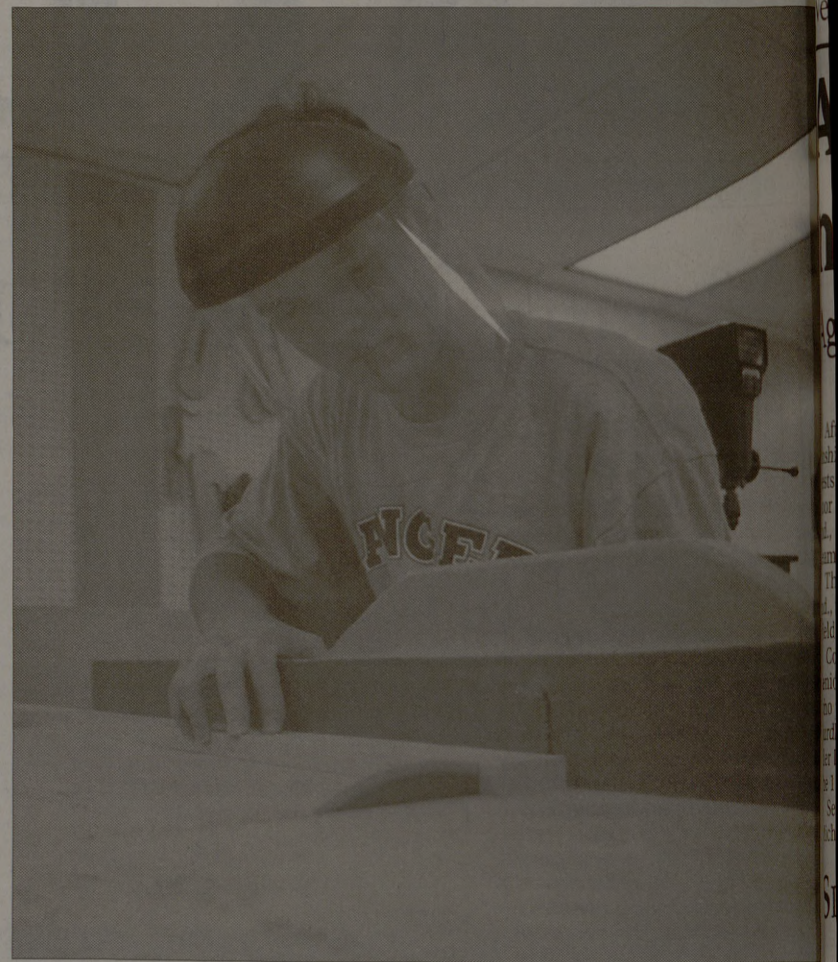
movement referring to "conduct in specific incidents where at least the perception is ... there has been excessive force, abusive force."

About 80 people died in the fire that destroyed the Branch Davidian compound near Waco on April 19, 1993, exactly two years before the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building blast killed 168 people.

Pate acknowledged under cross-examination that not even Soldier of Fortune advocated violence to answer concerns about government abuses. He also noted some in the militia movement have overstated government wrongdoing at Waco — with a few criticisms turning out to be untrue.

As Pate faced the barrage of questions from prosecutor Patrick Ryan, McVeigh leaned back in his chair and watched with a slight half-grin.

Jurors, who must decide whether to sentence McVeigh to death by injection or life behind bars, appeared bored and distracted with much of Pate's testimony, often squirming in chairs and looking at the courtroom clock.



PHOTOGRAPH: Robert McKay

Cutting Edge John Egelston, a junior aerospace engineering major, saws wood for a wardrobe.

Companies to limit sale of private information

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eight large database companies have agreed to limit information on private individuals they make available to clients.

The agreement, announced today at a Federal Trade Commission hearing, addresses concern by privacy advocates that companies offering computerized information are compromising the privacy rights of individuals.

The eight companies agreed to release private information only to what they call qualified subscribers who promise to use it appropriately. The agreement leaves it up to the services to explain which uses are appropriate and which subscribers can get the information.

The information is typically from private marketing databases and often includes buying preferences, household income and other data that critics say allows creation of a dossier on ordinary private citizens.

The companies will continue to provide through computer connections such information as telephone numbers of people, their current and previous addresses and ages. Some companies also provide Social Security numbers and information from public documents such as vehicle registration and property deeds.

The companies that signed the agreement are Lexis-Nexis, Experian, Choice-Point, Database Technologies Inc., Metromail Corp., Information America, First Data InfoSource/Donnelley Marketing and IRSC Inc.

Davidian case judge gets OK

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — The Branch Davidian lawsuit that blames the government for the fiery end of the 1993 Texas standoff still has the same judge, despite the militant sect's complaint that the jurist is biased.

The Davidians' lawyers on Tuesday issued a statement Tuesday saying they will seek a rehearing by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals or appeal its decision to the Supreme Court.

Judge Walter Smith in 1994 sentenced eight Branch Davidians to prison for various charges, including weapons violations and voluntary manslaughter.

"A fair trial means an impartial judge, but Judge Smith is already convinced that the Branch Davidians ambushed the (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms) agents and started the fire," Mike Caddell, the Branch Davidians' lead counsel, said Tuesday. "What makes this particularly unfair is that under federal law, Judge Smith is the sole juror and trier of fact for the Davidians' claims against the United States."

In April, the 5th Circuit court was asked to force Smith to step down on grounds he was biased because he ruled against Davidians in previous trials.

A spokeswoman for Smith in Waco on Tuesday

declined to respond to the appellate ruling. The one-sentence order had been issued without comment Monday.

The Davidians' multimillion-dollar lawsuit has been on hold since early May when the appeals court took the question of the judge's qualifications under consideration.

The plaintiffs — about 200 surviving Davidians and the relatives of the dead — are challenging the government's conclusion that the Davidians started the fire and that they also shot first during the federal raid on their compound.

They contend that when federal agents punched through the walls and fired tear gas into the cult compound April 19, 1993, the canisters ignited, burning the building and the people inside.

Surviving Davidians and relatives filed nine lawsuits that were consolidated into one case in 1995. Last year, against the plaintiffs' wishes, the case was moved from Houston to U.S. District Court in Waco.

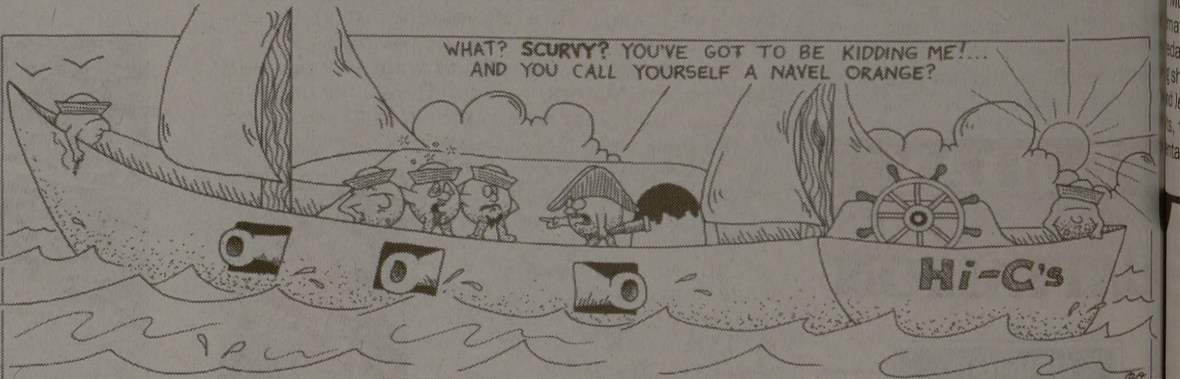
Defendants include Attorney General Janet Reno and top officials of the ATF and the FBI, including then-Director William Sessions.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
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Sketch

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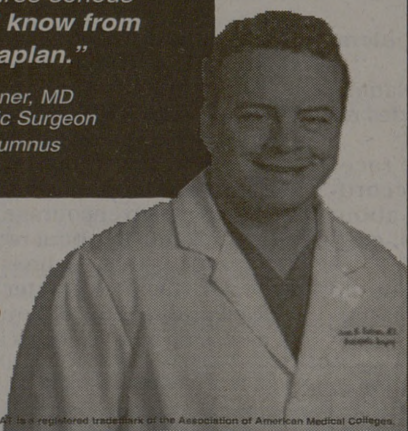
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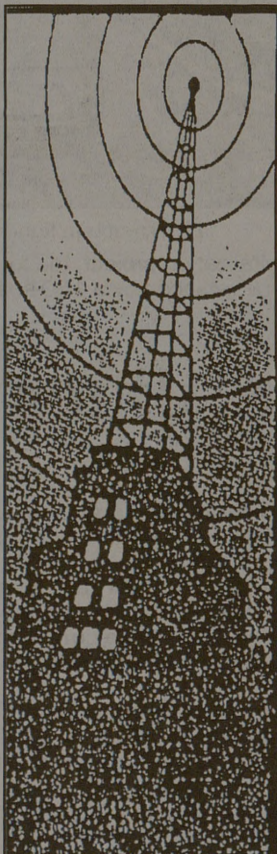
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