again July 12 at a Dallas-

area travel agency after he

scheduled a trip to Mexi-

co with another woman,

In Warren, Sera was charged with kidnap-

ping, drugging and rap-

ing a 26-year-old woman

last November. Sera also

has been charged with

the attempted rape of

another Warren woman.

charged with a sexual as-

sault count and three

counts of deviant sexual

assault against a 20-year-

old Springfield, Mo.,

woman last September.

could face up to life in

prison in Arkansas, up to

20 years in Texas and up

to seven years in Mis-

souri. He could be sen-

tenced to an additional

20 years under federal

legislation applying to

use of an illegal drug as a tool of rape or other vio-

lent crime President

Clinton signed into law

eight years, Mrs. Sera had

been pregnant with their

second child when he was

Married to Sera for

If convicted, Sera

In Missouri, he is

police said.

g three women, them and videoppear in court

motions. omeys for Steven ny Sera, 39, are exeded to fight Arkansas motions, har is those to reveal his thinal record and to ne. the jury with evien he tried to leave the my. He will be apmung before Circuit ink Sam Pope.

m, who sits in a m, Ark., jail in lieu lion bond, faces ape charges in as

tigators say Sera, ur-month period, Missouri and

le. He is accused the so-called pe drug that left

sets apart this estigators sav, is ra videotaped his

s was a heinous covers three tinvolves a fairly e man," said hort, a prosecutor Sera, 39, is accused of drugging 3 women with Rohypnol

of the rapes was reported. bond, he was arrested "And it has to do with sex

No one had filed a complaint against Sera before his estranged wife, Nancy Sera, found a videotape of some of the alleged incidents at their Irving home. chance discovery, police say, led to Sera's arrest. Indeed, the women

were unaware of the attacks until the videotape was discovered, police said.

Sera's Warren attorney, Clint Huey, could not be reached for comment Sunday by The Associated Press. His Fort Worth attorney, Don Gandy, referred comment to attorney John Hall of Little Rock, Ark., who did not return a telephone call Sunday.

Colleyville police arrested Sera at his Irving home June 26, a few days after Mrs. Sera found the videotape. Almost an hour long, it shows Sera committing sexual acts on unconscious, naked women, prosecutors said.

He is charged with raping a 32-year-old Colleyville woman last December in her home.

Freed on \$150,000 arrested. They married af-

ter a quick engagement, even though she knew little about his past.

"I was not aware of his first marriage or that he had a daughter until his family told me six months after we were married," she told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

In 1990, Sera was arrested on suspicion of felony grand theft in Richmond, Calif., but that was reduced to a misdemeanor charge of odometer rollback, according to court records.

Nancy Sera said after she and Steven married, they moved repeatedly because he couldn't hold a job.

"He's been fired from about every job," Mrs. Sera said. "I don't know why, but he would have lots of excuses.'

Finally, they settled in Irving, where they lived

for four years. Despite his spotty employment record, Steven Sera opened Chandler Lumber in the Dallas suburb of Farmers Branch in March 1995 with financial help from an Arkansas businessman. Sera eventually bought out his partner.

Sera's Arkansas partner later took control of the Warren yard, which continues operating.

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during NPR Morning Edition

ouston mayoral race nears end arddidates push to finish last-second campaigns, recruit voters

JSTON (AP) — As the Housyoral campaign winds to a andidates are still trying to oular tvoters. Mostly, however, they hen to make sure the converted

payutto vote.

nee you're down to the final or three or four days, it boils oaquestion of just turning ur base," said Chris Turner, ign manager for candidate Saenz. "The persuasion of the campaign is pretty

ose sentiments were echoed Payne, press secretary for spent Sunday morning at ferent church services.

ost of the main work has been p to this point," Payne said. paign workers for the leadcking on doors, passing out ign literature and making calls to get their supporters

ting booths. a full-scale effort to try eeze as many more votes can," Howard Opinsky, nan for Rob Mosbacher, Candidates attended ralurch services and candirums, among other public

'I'm out with the people making sure that my message gets out there," Brown said before a Sunday candidate forum in the Houston suburb of Clear Lake.

Several candidates who turned out for the Clear Lake forum dis-Houston Chronicle/KHOU-TV poll pub-

"You want to persuade them they've made a terrible mistake and change their minds."

LEE BROWN HOUSTON MAYORAL CANDIDATE

percent of 831 voters polled still un-

decided about the mayor's race. Brown said he was not surprised by the poll, which showed that he and Mosbacher were the clear leaders among voters — Brown with 30 percent and Mosbacher with 26.9 percent. George Greanias, who was third in the poll with 14.6 percent, said since it was conducted in late September and early October, it

didn't take into account increased television ad campaigns and two mayoral debates. He said his campaign would

be trying to persuade both undecided Houstonians and "soft" supporters of other candidates. You want to persuade them

they've made a terrible mistake and change their minds," he said. The poll, based on voting and population patterns, assumed voter turnout would be 64 percent

white, 25 percent black and 8 percent Hispanic. Turner said that underestimates the Hispanic vote, which makes up a good portion of those who back Saenz. Only 4.8 percent of those polled said they would

Turner said there will be a largandidates spent the week- lished Sunday that showed about 18 er turnout since Hispanics are being targeted in the campaign against a proposition to abolish the city's affirmative action program. Some local races also fea-

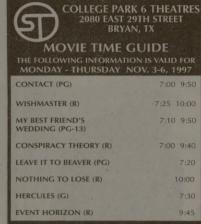
ture Hispanic candidates. There are a number of things working out there which I think are going to create a higher turnout within the Hispanic community than historically has been the case," he said.

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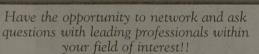
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