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Bush, Jr. thinks about filling father's sheet

MARLIN (AP) — George W. Bush gazes out his airplane window at a patchwork of farms spread out like a Texas-size quilt. He shakes his head and grins his father's crooked grin at a questioner. "It's impossible not to think about 2000," Bush says. "It's all I ever hear."

"Do I want to be president? Am I going to run?" the Texas governor says, repeating questions posed to him throughout this daylong campaign swing. "But I'm not going to fall into that trap."

Yet for all his coy denials, this is a velvet trap. Bush's blue eyes sparkle as he says, "I could win, you know."

Bush has not decided whether to seek the presidency, but many Republicans consider him the early favorite. He is flattered by the attention. And this son of a president is intrigued by the notion of expanding his family's legacy.

"I think I've assumed the mantle," said Bush, discussing his rapid rise from a father's campaign lieutenant to a national political figure in his own right.

For now, Bush, 51, is focused on winning a second term. Though the state has a long histo-

ry of deposing incumbent state executives, Bush will easily win Tuesday's GOP primary and leads his Democratic opponent by as much as 50 percentage points in the polls. He's raised \$13 million.

He won't take re-election for granted, not after watching his father's popularity plunge from Gulf War highs in 1991 to an Election Day loss in 1992

"Anybody named George Bush knows there's no sure thing in politics," said state Sen. David Sibley of Waco, Texas, a longtime friend.

The loss left the younger Bush embittered, especially at the media's treatment of his father and brothers. Yet he says the prospect of intense scrutiny won't be what keeps him out of a presidential race.

He has dealt with his demons.

He drank his last drop of alcohol during his 40th birthday binge. "I was drinking too much alcohol and it was consuming my time and energy," he said. About this time, Billy Graham "rekindled religion" in his life.

"I think all of us have a little sin in our system," Bush said. He talked about the advantages he had in life — a solid family, a good education, a ton of money.

His interviewer wondered if Bush could survive the inevitable search for skeletons. "Yup," Bush says with no hesitation. An awkward

mention of President Clinton's to

"Have I been faithful to my wife How about dope, another Clin-Raising his eyebrows, Bush says governor?"

Bush figures he can be playfulbed never run from his wilder days. The sponsible things when I was younged sponsible," he likes to say.

His face is younger, less angular looks a lot like his old man. He is to jokes, swapping stories and talking few minutes later, he approaches Fric mentary school student and blunt sta works, dude!"

He presents a striking contrast re at version of himself, a man remembin-b Washington as a hard-nosed 1992 Grow with a short fuse.

Bush has mellowed in office, and his friends and adversaries alike. him

"There's a big difference between After of tenant and being a general," Bushawie H a different role. Mine is now to lead; offer

His leadership produced a \$1\textsup 'It was cut, tough-love juvenile justice than high-profile campaign to whittle to going cy rates. Bush is seeking re-electiont. I was tightly focused agenda: education Prendal stewardship.

Ft. Worth organ bank may not have followed procedures in screening potentially donor for worth (AP) — Some serves a 12-county area in and by the Internal Revenue Service. lations, eye bank office.

FORT WORTH (AP) — Some corneas supplied to people in need of a transplant may have come from high-risk donors, according to federal regulators who are investigating the Lions' Organ and Eye Bank.

The Food and Drug Administration told the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* in Monday's editions that safeguards preventing contaminated tissue from reaching transplant patients were not followed.

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Inspectors at the eye bank near downtown this year found "significant deviations" from what the government says must be done, said Elaine Crosby, chief compliance officer for the FDA's regional head-quarters in Dallas.

She said there was no evidence an infectious disease had been transmitted by tissue provided by the eye bank.

An official at the bank, which

serves a 12-county area in and around Fort Worth, blamed what the FDA found on "documentation or rore"

The FDA's written report found, "Tissue from several donors with questionable medical and social histories were deemed suitable and distributed for transplantation."

One patient, according to the FDA's inspection report, received a cornea from a Fort Worth donor who was in a "high-risk category for HIV" at the time of her death.

However, eye bank officials disagreed with that finding, contending that the FDA based its decision only on the fact that the donor had been "sexually active."

The agency conducted inspections from Jan. 7 through Feb. 13. Two months earlier, eye bank Executive Director Jodie Bomar was fired after a separate investigation conducted

Bomar told the newspaper in an interview she was falsely accused of

interview she was falsely accused of misusing more than \$136,000 of the organization's money she had placed in a bank near her Johnson County home.

The money was used for eye

bank business and to reimburse her and her family for money they invested in the eye bank to keep it afloat, Bomar said. "As far as the FDA goes, they're not

"As far as the FDA goes, they re not going to find anything because we did everything by the book," she said.

The Fort Worth investigation was part of a nationwide move by federal officials to ensure that harvested corneas are properly monitored for infectious diseases, including AIDS and hepatitis, said Crosby.

"This is clearly an area where the agency has a concern," she said.
If the FDA confirms serious vio-

lations, eye bank office son very penalties ranging from the U' to an order that they Coac reserve of eye tissue stafs of Gilbreath, an FDA come to recer in Dallas.

Mike McKown, preyers yeye bank's board of "We I "there may or may not ssed nation" for the FDA's d. "The

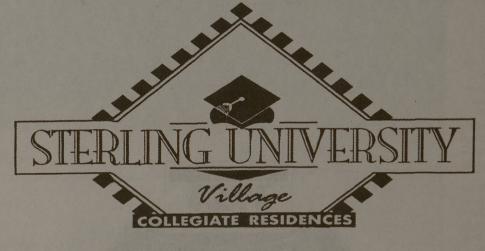
"We're taking this 1 wal McKown said. But 1 maps able to respond in aps well many of these things "May Inspectors have inted

Inspectors have nted records and logbooks n th 1995, said officials with 1, an with the eye bank. n't he

The FDA report sing n donor's cornea was French transplant even though hospital record "contain notation from the attention of hepatitis (acute

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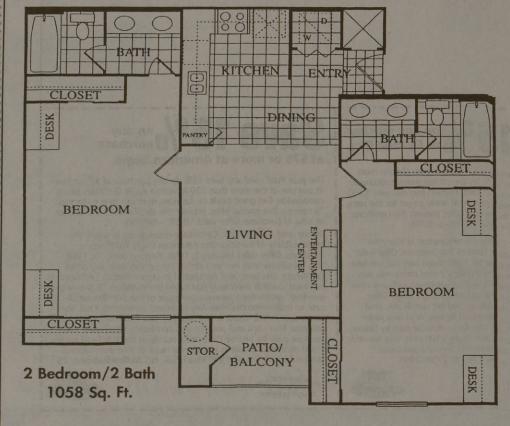
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