

## Social scientists say Houston should be considered a maturing metropolitan city

HOUSTON (AP)—A panel of nationally recognized social scientists agreed Wednesday that Houston should not be compared with the nation's declining industrial cities, but must accept that it now is a maturing big city with its own problems.

"What you have to think about is understanding what your own problems are and where you're going to go," Joel Kotkin, an urban issues expert from Pepperdine University in Los Angeles, said.

Kotkin, along with Paul Kantor, a political scientist from Fordham University in New York, and Susan MacManus, a University of South Florida expert on political conflict across generations, are consultants to a research project known as The Houston Metropolitan Study.

The findings of the study, a joint effort of the University of Houston and Rice University, are expected later this year and are to address the question of what it will take to position Houston's metropolitan area for success in the 21st century. The three professors shared their impressions of the study's preliminary research in a panel discussion at the University of Houston.

Kotkin put Houston and Los Angeles in a new breed of American city unlike the "magnificent anachronisms" of New York and Chicago.

Houston, he noted, has the highest growth rate of any big city in the nation but has been ignored by many scholars.

"People really don't appreciate what's goes on here," Kotkin said. "One of the things you find about academia is it tends to be 20 or 30 years behind the times. They see these cities as a distortion, mutation... and not real cities."

"The fact of the matter is... if you go out the next 15 to 20 years, cities are going to look a lot more like Los Angeles, Houston and Phoenix than they are like New York and Chicago."

Kotkin said some success stories of Rust Belt regeneration really amount to publicity hype, and pointed to Cleveland's ballyhooed downtown renaissance as six blocks of development that provide "a nice place for yuppies from the suburbs to come." And while Manhattan may be thriving, he said the class division among the New York City population was a serious problem.

As the new century dawns, Kotkin said a reality is that the federal government no longer will be helping cities as much and that urban constituencies will need to cooperate more with the suburbs as cities become more regional.

"Governmental and political challenges are ahead," Kantor said. "This will require a great deal of cooperation within the people of the region as a whole."

MacManus, who lived in Houston and taught at the University of Houston, said the city's young population will put additional pressure on the education system than before, when growth relied on oil boom migration in the '70s and early '80s.

Kotkin noted that unlike earlier generations, the new great companies that have emerged in recent years are establishing headquarters outside downtowns of cities in favor of campus-like settings in the suburbs, such as Compaq on Houston's northwest side.

"It's difficult for Houston to compete," he said. "The great advantage in Houston is you have an urban sophisticated lifestyle at a fraction of the cost."

## Deputies receive more firepower after death of border agents

BROWNSVILLE (AP)—Cameron County deputies, who have been asking for more firepower since two border agents were killed two weeks ago in a shootout, have gotten their wish.

County commissioners voted 3-0 Tuesday to approve funding for shotguns, rifles, radios and other equipment for sheriff's deputies, and uniforms and bulletproof vests for county constables.

Sixty deputies had signed a petition requesting more powerful guns, saying that the July 7 shootout—in which Border Patrol agents Susan Ro-

driguez and Ricardo Salinas were killed and Cameron County deputy Raul Rodriguez was injured—showed that law officers are vulnerable against heavily armed criminals.

The officers were ambushed by a gunman with an AR-15 semiautomatic rifle. The gunman, Ernest Moore, died later of gunshot wounds.

Commissioners approved recommendations by an advisory board for the \$32,847 Local Law Enforcement Grant and provided extra funding for additional equipment not covered by the grant.

Four county constables received a total of \$17,347 from the grant for uniforms and equipment. The remaining \$15,500 went to the sheriff's department to pay for part of their \$32,185 request of 65 shotguns and 14 mini-14 rifles.

Commissioners unanimously approved another \$21,185 for the sheriff's department to pay for shotguns, rifles and mini-14 rifles.

Sheriff Omar Lucio plans to use some of the mini-14 rifles to arm a special emergency task force similar to a SWAT unit.

## Search warrant affidavit reveals blood on shoes of hate-crime suspect

JASPER (AP)—The man who claimed he watched in horror as two friends beat an African-American man and dragged him to death behind a pickup truck may have played a bigger role in the attack than he let on, authorities say.

Shawn Berry, 23, of Jasper claimed he watched from a distance while companions John King, 23, of Jasper and Lawrence Brewer, 31, of Sulphur Springs, stomped and dragged James Byrd Jr. of Jasper on a remote logging road on June 7.

The 49-year-old apparently was slain only because he was an African American.

But according to a search warrant affidavit unsealed this week, investigators found blood on all three suspects, suggesting that Berry could have joined in the attack.

"Blood was found on the shoes," District Attorney Guy James Gray said Wednesday.

The search warrant, served last week, called for a measuring of all three suspects' feet. The measuring was done last week, Gray said.

"We don't want to be trying a glove on in the courtroom," Gray told The Associated Press, referring to O.J. Simpson's famous struggle to try on a bloody glove at his murder trial.

Jasper County Sheriff Billy Rowles told The Dallas Morning News in Wednesday's editions that other evidence, which he declined to detail, suggests that Berry not only participated but "had an equal role" in the attack on Byrd.

"I can tell you that we've got probably an equal amount of evidence against him as we do the other two guys," Rowles said.

Berry's attorney Lum Hawthorn of Beaumont said that for the most part, his client's story has never changed. In seven separate interviews, Berry gave seven separate statements to police.

In the first, conducted the day after the attack, Berry said that he ran away when King and Brewer began beating Byrd.

But in the other six statements, conducted on July 9 and 10, Hawthorn said Berry maintained that he actually stood close by while he watched the entire attack.

"I would be surprised if he did not have blood on him somewhere," Hawthorn told the AP Wednesday. "He was present in the immediate vicinity. Blood on the ground."

Hawthorn also said pictures of the boots he saw him by police showed different ones from what he was wearing at the time of the attack.

"Those boots are not the boots he was wearing that night," Hawthorn said.

A call to Sheriff Rowles was not immediately returned to the AP today.

All three men are charged with capital murder. At one time, Gray said Berry's testimony needed to obtain conviction.

Death sentences against the other defendants. But Rowles said today that so much evidence has amassed that "we don't need" Gray, the chief prosecutor in the case, said Wednesday he has not determined whether a murder case will be prosecuted against Berry.

Results of forensic tests conducted by the FBI laboratory in Houston will be vital to the decision whether to offer Berry a plea or to prosecute him with King and Brewer, the prosecutor said.

King and Brewer are in prison cellmates who have authorities describe as extensive supremacist tattoos. They denied involvement in Byrd's death. Berry still is detained at the County Jail.

Brewer and King were transferred to the Jay Byrd Diagnostic Unit in Huntsville Friday for parole violations.

The two had not reported to probation officers. King and Berry were codefendants in a County burglary in 1992.

They were released on probation in 1993, but returned to prison as a probation violator in 1994. Berry was released in 1997.

Brewer was sentenced to a 15-year sentence for drug possession in May 1989, then paroled in 1991 but returned on a parole violation in February 1994. He was released last September.

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— Lum Hawthorn  
attorney for Shawn Berry

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