

## HUTCHISON

Continued from Page 1

Hutchison said the consortium will continue to see a commitment of counter-terrorism training at the federal level.

With an annual budget of \$50 million and over 500 acres of outdoor facilities, TEEX conducts more than 7,000 classes each year and trains more than 133,000 workers.

Dr. Kemble Bennett, director of TEEX and associate vice chancellor of engineering, said TEEX helps to increase response across the nation and around the world.

## DICKEY

Continued from Page 1

Dr. Michael Friedland, dean of the College of Medicine, said the college is proud to have Dickey in its family.

"We are terribly excited for Dr. Dickey," Friedland said. "She is extraordinarily worthy of this recognition, and we are saluting her

achievements. By Dr. Dickey receiving this honor, this reflects on the prestige, stature and status of our faculty and University. We consider her achievement an honor to the University."

State Sen. Steve Ogden said this is a wonderful honor for Dickey.

"I knew her before she was famous, and I think her achievement is fabulous," he said.

Elizabeth, Danielle and Wilson,

Dickey's children, said they are proud of their mother.

"We are more proud than words can express," Danielle said. "She's excelled in everything that she's done, but on top of that, she's a great mom."

All the proceeds from Dickey's dinner will fund scholarships for the Texas A&M University Health Science Center College of Medicine Dean's Excellence Scholarship Fund.

"Many of our courses require intensive hands-on exercises," Bennett said. "Knowledge isn't enough to ensure success. You've got to be able to apply that knowledge. We make sure you can."

Training aids are continually upgraded and new ones are added, Bennett said. A recent addition to the center is an exercise for the the Passenger Train Emergency Response course, which is made up of six passenger cars and locomotives arranged to simulate an Amtrak train derailment.

TEEX, headquartered in College Station, includes full-scale training aids that enable students to gain hands-on training by making first responders more capable of effectively handling emergency situations.

## Dallas suburb's 'Blue House' was home to illegal drug ring, federal authorities say

PLANO, Texas (AP) — Neighbors said the little blue house on the east side of this Dallas suburb was as busy as a drive-through, with scores of clean-cut youths beating a path to its door to buy heroin.

"Fifty to 60 cars a day were making purchases," James Queen, who lives next door, told *The Dallas Morning News*. "And on the weekends it was twice as many — any time of the day or night."

Federal authorities say the house was the epicenter of a drug ring that sold tens of thousands of dollars worth of heroin and cocaine before it was closed last spring.

In response to a string of heroin-related deaths and residents' complaints, Plano police raided the blue house twice last year, although the investigation into the drug ring continued until last week.

On Wednesday, a state and federal task force announced a 36-count indictment against 29 alleged drug pushers.

In the raids of April and May 1997, police arrested the suspected drug peddlers and turned the house over to its rightful owner.

Federal officials and police say 24 of the defendants are directly connected to the 1997 deaths of Milan Malina, 20; George Wesley Scott, 19; Rob Hill, 18; and Erin Baker, 16.

They are among the 17 young people in Plano to die of heroin overdoses since September 1994.

"The people that we charged, we believe the evidence will show, were actively involved in distributing this drug," U.S. Attorney Mike Bradford of the Eastern District of Texas, which includes Plano, said.

"And they have the same responsibility, in our opinion, of anyone else causing the injury, deaths and

the pain that happened in this community. They should be held responsible."

Federal authorities say the black tar heroin that killed the four youths came from the poppy fields of Guerrero, Mexico. The drug ring's alleged leader, Ecliserio Martinez Garcia, 38, also is from Guerrero.

Martinez Garcia and three partners — Aurelio Mendez, 36; Salvador "Chino" Pineda Contreras, 26; and his brother, Jose Antonio Pineda, 22 — based their Collin County operations in McKinney, about 15 miles north of Plano.

They worked out of a house a few blocks from the city's downtown square.

It was a close-knit operation, authorities said — and profitable. According to last week's indictment, officials found \$54,610 beneath the seat of a car carrying Martinez Garcia and Mendez on Aug. 1, 1997.

The indictment alleges the ring targeted Plano as an untapped and lucrative new market.

In the indictment, Pineda Contreras was quoted as saying that he was aware of the Plano overdoses and deaths, but "once the heroin was distributed, it was not his problem."

Before the crackdown, the dealers "never had to worry about their accountability, that their poison might kill somebody," Sgt. A.D. Paul, a Plano narcotics officer, told the newspaper. "But now they have to think about it."

A trial for the 29 people indicted last week is tentatively set for Sept. 21.

Bradford said the defendants face 20 years to life in prison if they're convicted. They won't be eligible for parole and would probably have to serve at least 80 percent of their sentences, he said.

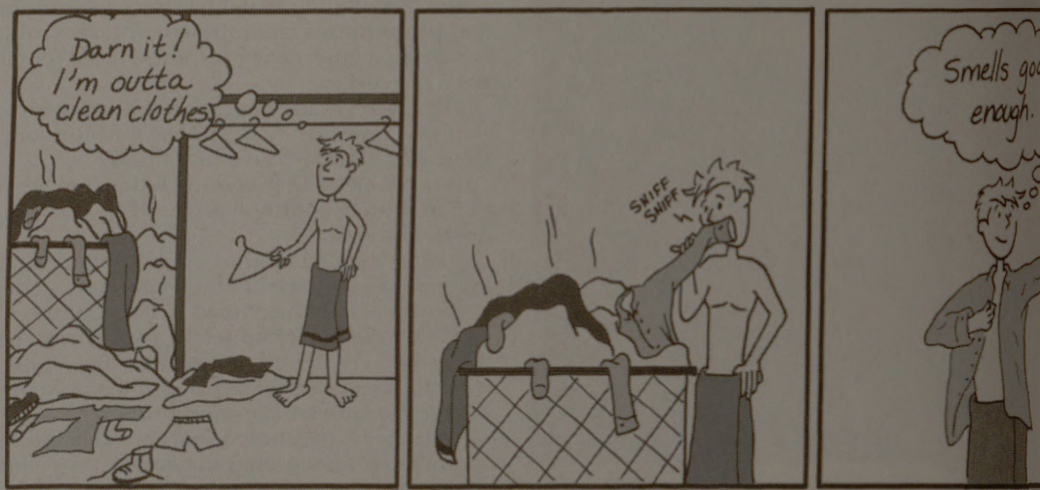
## The Greys

By Gabriel



## Andy in Aggieland

By Stephen



## Mother faces sentence for hiring hitman

HOUSTON (AP) — A 60-year-old Brownsville woman could spend the rest of her life behind bars for hiring a hitman to kill her daughter's ex-boyfriend.

Dora Cisneros was convicted May 12 in federal court of hatching a plot in which telephone calls and travel from Mexico were involved in Joey Fischer's shooting death. Sentencing is set for later today.

Vernon "Beau" Nelson, Fischer's stepfather, said at the time of the conviction that he was pleased with the verdict.

"This woman is a murderer of children," he said. "She needs to

be put away."

Fischer, an 18-year-old Brownsville student, broke off his relationship with Cisneros' youngest daughter, Cristina, in the summer of 1992.

He was shot to death the following March in his driveway as he prepared for school.

Cisneros was convicted of murder in a 1994 trial in state court. But an error in jury instructions won her an acquittal two years later. Authorities then took the case to federal court.

In both trials, prosecutors presented witnesses who testified that Cisneros first asked a folk healer to

cast a fatal spell on Fischer.

The fortuneteller, Mercedes Martinez, said she prompted Cisneros to hire Martinez knew anyone would kill Fischer.

That's when Martinez wheels in motion through Garza, a loveless San Antonio housepainter with Dallas world ties. He had been Martinez' guidance doomed marriage.

Martinez, 77, is serving a year prison term for her part in the shooting.

Cisneros did not testify in her own defense.

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