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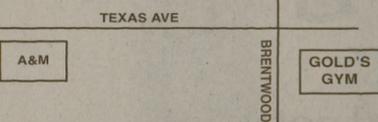
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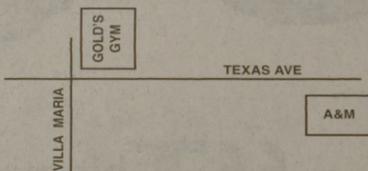
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Tuesday, 9/21 - Wednesday, 9/22

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Houston, Texas

American teen convicted by Israeli court of killing

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Samuel Sheinbein was silent on the subject for two years. Yesterday, he spoke only a single word.

"Yes," the stone-faced Maryland teen-ager said when an Israeli judge asked him whether he strangled an acquaintance with a rope in a middle-class suburb of Washington, D.C., then cut up the body with an electric saw and burned the parts.

Under a plea bargain that infuriated U.S. prosecutors, Sheinbein, 19, is to be sentenced to 24 years in an Israeli prison for the 1997 killing. He will probably be paroled after 14 years, counting the two years he has already spent in Israeli custody. He could have

received a much tougher sentence if he were convicted as an adult in the United States.

Sheinbein fled to Israel shortly after the killing of Alfredo Tello Jr. in September 1997 and successfully fought extradition.

The case sharply strained relations between Israel and the United States.

Yesterday, standing handcuffed between two policemen, Sheinbein stared straight ahead as the verdict was read out, ignoring the camera crews that packed the Tel Aviv District Court just as he had ignored questions shouted at him as he came in.

Although he has picked up some basic Hebrew, Sheinbein listened to

an interpreter translate the findings into English. When Judge Uri Goren if he had Tello and cut up and body, Sheinbein answered the Hebrew word for yes.

The sentence will not be read down until Oct. 11, after worker has submitted a Sheinbein. The report is because Sheinbein was 17

nor — at the time of the judge still has discretion and could longer or shorter sentence proposed in the plea. However, a life term is No one who committed a minor has ever been life in Israel.

Albright takes over Mideast negotiations

ALEXANDRIA, Egypt (AP) — A negotiating deadlock yesterday forced Secretary of State Madeleine Albright to mediate details of a teetering West Bank agreement between Israel and the Palestinians rather than risk a major diplomatic setback.

The sticking point was a dispute over how many Palestinian prisoners Israel would release as a goodwill gesture to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Some are in jail for terrorist acts.

After conferring in Alexandria with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, no stranger himself to the mediator's role, Albright telephoned Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and met with Arafat.

"We hope very much they

will come to a conclusion as soon as possible," she said.

Until now, Albright had held back, operating on the assumption the most successful agreements are the product of direct negotiations between the parties.

But as prospects waned for a signing ceremony yesterday, Albright stepped in.

"It is natural that while I am here I try to be of assistance," she said.

Egyptian officials welcomed the intervention.

"We believe the continuance of the United States in the peace process is very important," Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said. "We welcome the U.S. role, and we don't think the U.S. is on the sidelines."

China marks 50 years of communist

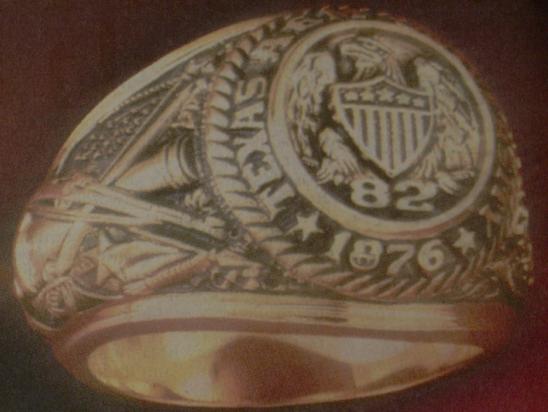
BEIJING (AP) — The anniversary of Mao Tse-tung's rise to power is being celebrated there. So is the Great Deng Xiaoping.

The "Great Men of the waxworks exhibit marking anniversary of communist China glorifies the leader Mao and his revolutionary as do most of the Communist ty's birthday presents to

Beijing is preparing to modern China's Oct. 1 founding with a makeover capital, commemorative and even an official anniversary Website.

The city has spent \$137 million on 67 major 50th anniversary projects, the state-run Xinhua Agency said.

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