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**Texas A&M Hillel Services for
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Sunday, Sept. 19, 1999
Kol Nidre Services at 8:00 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 20, 1999
Yom Kippur Services start at 10:00 a.m.
Yizcor about 5:30 p.m.

Break-the-Fast after sundown at the conclusion of
the Neilah and Havdalah.

All holiday events are free of charge and occur at Hillel,
located across from campus at 800 George Bush, CS

Please contact Hillel for more information at telephone
696-7313 or e-mail us at: <Hillel@startel.net>

Names for Yizcor must be received in the office by Sept. 18, 1999

**Gender Issues Lunches
with the
Faculty and Administration**

Would you like to express your opinions/perceptions
of gender issues on campus? Are you interested in
discussing your ideas and opinions with faculty, staff,
and administrators to help bring about any needed
changes?

Based on your interest, lunches will be scheduled
throughout the semester to discuss these important
issues. From those who respond, individuals will be
randomly chosen to attend the lunches. Our goal is to
create an atmosphere where students, faculty, staff,
and administrators can openly discuss both problems
and triumphs of gender issues on this campus.

If interested, please contact us at
wweek00@provost.tamu.edu

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University of Texas reopens tower

Visitors allowed on landmark's observation deck after 25 years

AUSTIN (AP) — University of Texas President Larry Faulkner surveyed the panoramic view from the observation deck of the UT Tower yesterday, confident the school could leave behind the building's legacy of violence and suicide.

"You don't wipe out the past, but you don't stop with the past," Faulkner said as school officials officially opened the deck to visitors after 25 years.

The school closed the deck on the 27th floor in 1974 after a series of suicides and a 1966 sniper attack that left 16 dead and 31 wounded.

"I believe it is important that we move beyond these painful chapters of the building's history," Faulkner said.

Scanning the red-tile roofs of campus toward downtown Austin, Faulkner could see students milling about on the mall below where troubled ex-Marine Charles Whitman found many of his victims.

"I think it's time for this important symbol to be experienced by people who connect to it so strongly and who haven't had that opportunity," Faulkner said.

The clock tower was forever linked with Whitman on Aug. 1, 1966, when he lugged a ri-

fle and a footlocker full of ammunition to the observation deck and started shooting.

The bloody rampage ended 92 minutes later when he was shot to death by police officers Ramiro Martinez and Houston McCoy.

"I think it's time for this important symbol to be experienced by people who connect to it so strongly."

— Larry Faulkner
University of Texas president

"I feel like Whitman was holding the tower hostage," Martinez, who favors reopening the observation deck, said. "It's time we took the tower back."

Nine other deaths are associated with the tower, including two accidental falls and seven suicides, five from the observation deck.

The university finally agreed last year to open the deck using a plan generated by students. The deck is now covered with a steel lattice to thwart jumpers. Visitors also go through a metal detector and security guard will be posted at the check-in point and the observation deck, Faulkner said.

Visitors will be limited to groups of no more than 24 at once and will be prohibited from carrying packages onto the deck. Visitation will begin today and run daily until the end of October before being scaled back to weekends only.

"I think we're taking substantial precautions and a large part of the security was to keep people from placing themselves in dangerous situations," Faulkner said.

Last month, the university dedicated a memorial garden on the north side of the tower to honor Whitman's victims.

Most reaction to reopening the observation deck has been positive, Faulkner said.

"I'm glad they're doing it," Robert Healy, former Associated Press reporter who was by Whitman while covering the story, said. "It's a magnificent view from up there."

Haze threatens Big Bend

BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK (AP) — For years, Nancy Sykes' outdoorsy husband had been trying to drag her to Big Bend, which he described as "the most beautiful place on Earth."

But once she finally got here, what she saw — or did not see — sent her packing two days early.

Unlike when James Sykes first visited this remote, southwest Texas treasure in 1975, today white haze hangs over the park, obscuring if not completely blocking scenic landscapes in the distance.

"Isn't it awful?" said Mrs. Sykes, 44, who drove about 10 hours with her husband from their hometown of League City, near Houston. "Every time I look at it, it makes me angry."

"It's really disappointing," adds

Sykes, 51, "if you know what the view was before the haze."

The Sykeses are hardly the first to complain about the smog, which began creeping into the 800,000-acre park more than 20 years ago. Big Bend, one of the most popular Texas destinations for outdoor enthusiasts with its rugged mountains and raft trips along the Rio Grande, is now considered one of the most polluted national parks in the West.

The once-pristine site — 300 miles from El Paso, the nearest major city and so remote that not a single FM radio station comes in clearly — today is as smoggy as some urban areas.

The concerns of park visitors and area residents prompted a 1996 preliminary study, which found that power plants in both

Texas and Mexico were contributing to the milky haze. Before the study was commissioned, U.S. officials long held that twin coal-burning power plants 125 miles southeast in Mexico were the principal cause of the pollution.

Now, the Environmental Protection Agency and the National Park Service have undertaken a more extensive, \$6.3 million study to determine exactly what is in the air and how it got there. Officials hope to use the information eventually to limit the pollution drifting into the park.

"If we know for sure Texas is a major contributor, we could go to those sources and implement technology to reduce the amount of pollutants," Vidal Davila Jr., the park's acting superintendent, said.

**Documents
confiscated
from school**

Rangers seize records
financial investigation

WACO (AP) — The Texas Rangers have seized several boxes of financial documents from Emma L. Harrison Charter School as part of a financial management investigation.

The seizure warrant includes documents stored in the Emma L. Harrison Charter School Heart of Texas Black Chamber of Commerce, all housed on the same property, Ranger spokesman Nix said.

The State Board of Education last week decided to revoke the community center's contract to operate the school after an audit found severe financial mismanagement and violations of state and federal laws.

The audit also insinuated funds raised by the center through bingo were mingled with other funds.

The five-hour roundup formed on Tuesday afternoon also involved investigators from the McLennan County District Attorney's Office and audit from the State Auditor's Office and the Texas Lottery Commission's charitable bingo division.

"They took 15 boxes, all mean full boxes, of documentation," she said.

Panel: English-only tests unfair

WASHINGTON (AP) — English-only tests that determine whether a student moves ahead or graduates may violate millions of Hispanic children's rights, a presidential panel said yesterday. It urged the Education Department to investigate.

"State education leaders have compromised the future of Hispanic students by making high-stakes decisions based on inaccurate and inadequate information," the report by the President's Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans said.

The Education Department does

investigate such cases, Rodger Murphy, a spokesperson for the civil-rights branch said. About 20 percent of the 5,000 cases filed each year specifically relate to laws that prohibit racial discrimination against students, he said.

A 1974 Supreme Court ruling requires schools to provide help for students with limited English.

However, opponents of bilingual education argue that accommodating children on high-stakes tests will hurt them in the long run.

"You want to make sure kids don't graduate with a degree that

they can't even read," Jorge Amelle, the vice president for education of the Center for Equal Opportunity, a Washington group that opposes bilingual education and affirmative action, said. "The purpose of education in the United States is to prepare students to survive and succeed in this society and that requires mastery in English."

"To say that a student should be able to do math and science and read and write in English is simply a matter of accountability, not a matter of discrimination."

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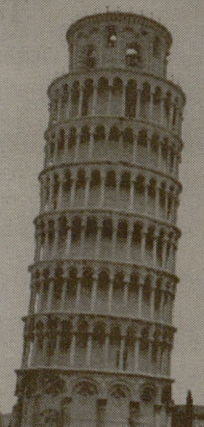
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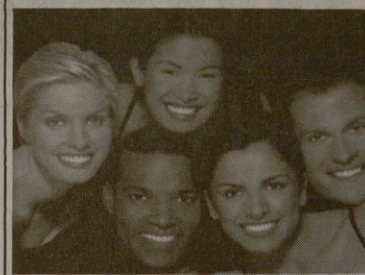
Monday, Sept. 13 5:30- 6:30 pm
Tuesday, Sept. 14 9:00-10:00 am
Wed., Sept. 15 11:00-12:00 noon
Friday, Sept. 17 12:00- 1:00 pm



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