

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Baseball team to... Alumni game... Texas A&M Baseball... host its fifth alumni game...

WIN

Continued from Page 9... do what's best for... his family... Dallas...

UNION

Continued from Page 9... will come to the... on, but this will take...

Continued from Page 9... like any injury... "You have to give...

Continued from Page 9... Young has no... of receiving medical...

NATION

Judge reprimands attorneys

Defense lawyers discuss using 'gay panic' argument in Shepard case

LARAMIE, Wyo. (AP) — A judge yesterday chastised defense attorneys for discussing a "gay panic" strategy to defend a man accused of leading the fatal beating of a gay college student and said he may prohibit them from using it.

Voigt sent the jury out of the courtroom on a break while he addressed the issue and ordered Custis to provide a legal basis for his arguments. He then allowed testimony to proceed.

The "gay panic" strategy says a person with latent homosexual tendencies will have an uncontrollable, violent reaction when propositioned by a homosexual.

One of the lead investigators in the case, police commander Dave O'Malley, was on the stand as the prosecution outlined events that led to the arrest of McKinney and Russell Henderson.

Tuesday experts warned that employing the "gay panic" defense is perilous because it can amount to blaming the victim for provoking his own assault.

Brian Levin, director of the California-based Center on Hate and Extremism, also said the strategy has not worked recently because Americans have become more tolerant of homosexuals.

"I feel we've turned a very big corner in that nearly everyone agrees that violence against them is completely wrong," he said. "I don't think you had the same type of atmosphere 20 or 30 years ago."

That tolerance was amplified in part by the brutality of Shepard's death. Last October, the college freshman was lashed to a wood fence in a remote area, robbed and pistol-whipped into a coma. He died

Littleton offended by 'Hell House'

DENVER (AP) — A Halloween display at a Texas church featuring a re-enactment of the April massacre at Columbine High School has offended and shocked some of those connected to the attack.

The "Hell House" at Trinity Church in Cedar Hill, Texas, features a skit in which young actors dressed in trench coats re-enact the shooting, in which 15 were killed and more than 26 were wounded. The skit ends with the gunmen being sent to Hell.

The parent of two Columbine students, Nancy Shakowski, said the Assembly of God church made a poor choice by choosing Columbine as a theme.

"I'm repulsed by it," she told the Denver Rocky Mountain News.

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Specter suggests Reno may be scrutinized for review of Starr

(AP) — Congress may delve into the details of the difficult relationship between Independent Counsel Ken Starr and the Justice Department, Sen. Al Specter said yesterday.



RENO

Specter's statement followed an Associated Press report that Attorney General Janet Reno had informed Starr just four days before his impeachment testimony in the department would review allegations against his office's conduct of the Monica Lewinsky investigation.

decision to review the conduct of Starr's office, so close to the independent counsel's testimony before the House impeachment committee.

The senator, a member of the Senate Judiciary Committee, said the panel might want to examine the situation of "the investigator being investigated."

Specter also said the committee might want to evaluate new Justice Department regulations that are replacing the Independent Counsel law that expired June 30.

Though Starr stepped down this month after five stormy years of investigating President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, the rest of the Justice Department's internal review remain secret.

Any findings still could affect how the public ultimately views Starr's work, which will be summarized in a final report to be written by his successor, Robert Jay

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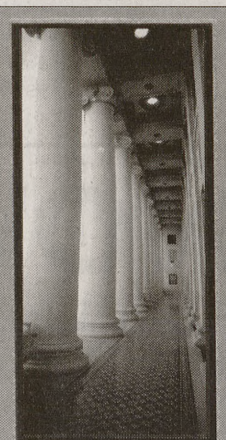
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