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STEREO SURROUND SOUND IN ALL AUDITORIUMS

SCREAM 3 (R) 12:40 3:45 7:00 9:55 12:40 1:30 4:35 7:40 10:30 1:15	EYE OF THE BEHOLDER (R) 12:20 2:40 5:10 7:35 10:25 1:00
BEING JOHN MALKOVICH (R) 1:30 4:30 7:25 10:10 12:55	DOWN TO YOU (PG-13) 12:10 2:30 4:55 7:40 10:15 12:40
ANGELA'S ASHES (R) 11:45 3:10 6:30 9:35 12:30	NEXT FRIDAY (R) 11:50 2:20 4:45 7:05 10:00 12:20
ANY GIVEN SUNDAY (R) 9:40	GALAXY QUEST (PG) 11:55 2:15 4:40 7:50 10:20 12:35
GIRL INTERRUPTED (R) 1:10 4:10 7:00 9:50 12:50	MAGNOLIA (R) 11:45 3:35 7:55 11:40
PLAY IT TO THE BONE (R) 1:15 4:05 7:20 10:05 12:55	STUART LITTLE (PG) 12:30 2:45 5:00 7:30 9:40
THE GREEN MILE (R) 12:05 4:00 8:00 11:50	THE HURRICANE (R) 12:15 3:30 6:40 9:50 12:50
THE TALENTED MR. RIPLEY (R) 12:50 3:50 6:50 9:45 12:45	TOY STORY 2 (R) 12:00 2:25 4:50 7:20

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## Hitting a high note



SUSAN REDDING/THE BATTALION  
Cynthia Dorn Navarrete, member of New Arts Six, portrays early twentieth century opera singer Sissertta Jones in the 2-act biographical opera-drama. News Arts Six was presented by Aggie Encores in Rudder Theatre.

## Alaska Air cockpit recorder reviewed

PORT HUENEME, Calif. (AP) — The cockpit voice recorder recovered from the Pacific details the Alaska Airlines crew desperately trying to regain control as the jetliner carrying 88 people flew upside down before crashing, federal investigators said Thursday.

The recorder captured slightly more than 30 minutes of conversation, National Transportation Safety Board Chairman James Hall told reporters in Washington.

"The crew made references to being inverted that are consistent with the witness statements to that effect," Hall said.

The tape starts with the crew discussing a problem with a part of the tail control, called the hor-

izontal stabilizer, which keeps the plane level.

"The crew had difficulty controlling the airplane's tendency to pitch nose down. The airplane descended, but the crew was able to arrest the descent. The crew continued troubleshooting and preparing the airplane for landing. Then control was suddenly lost."

Hall's account came from an initial review of the cockpit voice recorder, which was recovered Wednesday from the debris of the MD-83.

Searchers Thursday continued searching the ocean floor for the flight data recorder, the companion "black box" that could provide details on the plane's mechanical operation.

"The aircraft was twisting, flying erratically, nose rocking," he said.

The NTSB has begun analyzing a recording of a radio call from Flight 261's pilots at Seattle maintenance center about the stabilizer problem minutes before the crash.

Investigators said witnesses saw no signs of fire or smoke when the plane hit the water in one piece Monday, killing everyone on board.

As the plane passed over Anacapa Island, off the coast, a witness heard several pop sounds and watched the jet turn and hit the water.

NTSB member Hammerschmidt said Wednesday.

"The aircraft was twisting, flying erratically, nose rocking," he said.

## Poor students perform better in small schools

AUSTIN — Texas' smaller schools reduce the harmful effects of poverty on student achievement and help narrow the achievement gap between poor students and those from wealthier communities, officials from a national group studying rural schools said Thursday.

The Rural School and Community Trust examined every public school in Texas, Ohio, Montana and Georgia to determine what effects poverty has on student achievement and how those effects changed depending on the schools' size. Only schools that did not have appropriate data were excluded.

Poverty generally has a negative effect on student achievement, and the data in the study suggests that the bigger the school, the worse students do.

"When you look at all the four states, our conclusions are that as schools become larger the negative effect of poverty on student achievement increases," said Marty Strange, policy director for the organization.

"The less affluent the community served, the smaller a school ought to be to get the best performance out of its student body," Strange said.

The Texas study examined 6,288

schools in 960 suburban, urban and rural districts. Researchers from Ohio and Marshall universities used Texas Assessment of Academic Success scores in third, fifth, eighth and 10th grades to reach their conclusions.

Overall, smaller schools produced higher achievement in poorer communities than larger schools, they said.

Depending on the grade level, between 26 percent and 57 percent of Texas schools likely would produce lower average student scores if the schools were larger, or higher scores if the schools were smaller, the study said.

**"As schools become larger the negative effect of poverty on student achievement increases."**

— Marty Strange  
policy director for the Rural School and Community Trust

to achieve top student performance," report said.

"All of these results argue strongly for smaller schools in both urban and rural communities," Strange said.

"If improving student scores standardized tests is a policy goal, Texas policy-makers should support smaller schools, especially in less affluent communities," he said.

# Business Career Fair 2000

## Linking The Present to Your Future

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Wednesday, February 9

Thursday, February 10

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USAA  
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VHA Inc.  
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Dell Computer Corporation  
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Dynegy  
EDS  
Engage Energy US, L.P.  
Exxon Mobil Corporation  
Foley's  
Lowe's Home Centers, Inc.  
Maxim Group  
Onsite Companies  
Payless Shoesource  
SBC Communications Inc./Southwestern Bell  
Sewell Automotive Co.  
State Farm Insurance  
Target  
TXU  
Universal Computer Systems, Inc. (UCS)  
UUNET  
VHA Inc.  
Zale Corporation

## Microsoft gives tax filing assistance to Texas towns

COMFORT (AP) — Software giant Microsoft Corp. is setting out to show the tranquil town of Comfort the ease of preparing and filing income tax returns by computer.

With a high school band playing and former Gov. Ann Richards lending her support, Microsoft "adopted" the town of approximately 1,900 tax filers Thursday.

The company was publicizing its Microsoft TaxSaver tax preparation software, new to the marketplace this tax season. It's also playing off the name of the Hill Country town, suggesting that the new software will provide comfort for taxpayers.

Microsoft hopes to get all tax filers in Comfort to use its software and at least 25 percent to file electronically. Last year, only about 15 percent of Comfort residents filed taxes electronically, and even fewer were believed to have used personal software.

The company is opening two free tax preparation and filing centers — one at the community center on the town's main street and one at the high school — and is offering use of and assistance with TaxSaver, said company spokeswoman Gayle Cruise.

Free help will be provided throughout the spring by members of the Texas chapter of the National Association of Tax Practitioners.



"We found that the town folks were so enthusiastic and so welcoming of this program that this was the perfect place," Cruise said. "What we want to do is to showcase the benefits of electronic filing and the benefits of software."

Microsoft wouldn't release its name of TaxSaver sales this season, said it hopes to tap into the growing preparation software market, which includes offerings such as Intuit Inc.'s Intuit tax and Macintax, and Block Financial Corp.'s Kiplinger Tax Cut.

The population of Comfort, located about 45 miles northwest of San Antonio, isn't exactly known because it's an unincorporated community. As many as 8,000 are estimated to live in the town's vicinity.