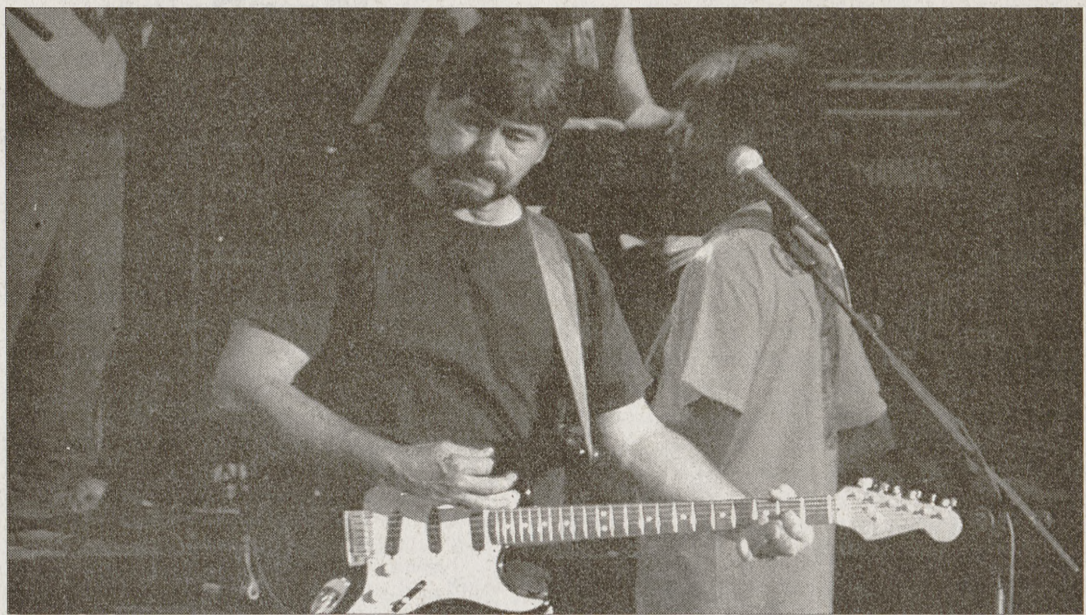


THE BATTALION

If you're gonna play in Texas



ANDY HANCOCK/THE BATTALION

Alabama frontman, Randy Owen, lays out a riff at a concert in Dallas on Saturday. The band is touring in support of their soon to be released album.

Hundreds march in protest Hanging ruled suicide raises questions of lynching

KOKOMO, Miss. (AP) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson led about 1,000 demonstrators Saturday in a march to the tree where a black teen-ager died last month in a hanging that medical examiners ruled a suicide.

The protesters, many carrying signs questioning whether 17-year-old Raynard Johnson was lynched, gathered outside his home in Kokomo where he was found hanging from a pecan tree June 16.

Two autopsies determined that the teen hung himself with a belt, but Johnson's family and Jackson believe he may have been killed for associating with white women in the community.

"We will not rest until those who committed this murder are brought to justice," Jackson said Saturday. "We reject the suicide theory."

Dozens of law enforcement officers lined the streets of the four-mile march route from the high school Johnson had attended to his home, but other than heat-related illnesses there were no problems.

Some residents of the community of 1,000 about 90 miles south of Jackson, Miss., have questioned whether the case is being overblown. A new report released Friday by the state

"We will not rest until those who committed this murder are brought to justice."

— Rev. Jesse Jackson

pathologist reinforced earlier determinations that the death was suicide.

"They're trying to stir up trouble," said Terry Powell of nearby Morgantown.

But many of the protesters question whether Mississippi authorities have done a thorough job. Jackson has set up a \$10,000 reward and hot line to en-

courage people to come forward with information, and he has asked Ronnie Musgrove and the U.S. Department to launch an investigation.

"I can't imagine what it would be like to be a black person living in constant fear of being lynched," Dan Lutz, 22, a Tulane University student who drove to the rally from Orleans with about 200 people. "We're going to rally here for years against the systematic violence against black people."

Some neighbors have said Johnson was a happy teen who would not have committed suicide.

"There's a lot of prejudice and hatred in Kokomo," said resident Dace Brister, whose son Courtney attended the same school as Johnson. "It's time something is done about it." Mamie Mobley, whose 14-year-old son Emmett Till was killed in Mississippi in 1955, supposedly whistling at a white woman's hands with Johnson's mother, Mobley during the demonstration and other support.

Experts fear potential rise in AIDS

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) — Roughly 5 million Americans have sex and drug habits that put them at a high risk of catching AIDS, according to new U.S. figures, and experts fear an upsurge of the disease after a decade of stability.

While AIDS infections in the United States have fallen dramatically since their peak in the 1980s, public health officials worry that complacency about the disease has caused backsliding — especially among young gay men — that could bring AIDS roaring back.

"I'm scared by the trends we are starting to see," said Dr. Helene Gayle, AIDS chief at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Gayle presented the latest data Saturday at a briefing hosted by the American Medical Association on the eve of the 13th International Conference on AIDS.

Currently, about 40,000 Americans contract HIV each year, down from the 100,000 new infections annually during the mid-'80s. The improvement is attributed largely to safer sex habits and avoiding dirty needles.

In an attempt to see how many Americans still act recklessly, the CDC analyzed findings from several large-scale surveys. Their conclusion: Between 2 percent and 4 percent of the adult population — 4 million to 5 million people — still put themselves at high risk. This includes having six or more sexual partners annually, having sex with someone known to be infected with HIV, engaging in prostitution for drugs or money, having male homosexual contact, using crack cocaine or injecting drugs.

Gayle said the study did not attempt to learn whether this level of risky behavior is increasing or decreasing, although there seems to be evidence on both sides. For instance, condom use has increased substantially since the 1980s, although only about 40 percent of unmarried people and 23 percent of drug users report using them.

Over the last decade, infection rates among gay men have remained stable at between 1 percent and 4 percent. However, said Gayle, "We have seen troubling signs over the past year that we fear could signal a resurgence of the epidemic among gay men."

New domain names considered

NEW YORK (AP) — Dot-movie. Dot-protest. Even dot-sex?

The organization that coordinates the Internet's address books meets this week in Yokohama, Japan, to consider adding domain names such as these to the familiar .com, .net and .org.

If the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers (ICANN) succeeds, the Net will stay easy to navigate. Otherwise, like a telephone system ringing only "some phones, some sites may be out of reach. Or as simple addresses run out, users may flounder online.

So just as the growing phone system constantly needs more area codes, the Internet needs more domain names. Adding them is as effortless as changing a few lines of programming code, but agreeing to do so is tough.

"There really are people

with different interests," said Esther Dyson, ICANN's chairwoman. "We need to reconcile this in a way so that even if you

"Every time you work on something revolutionary, it's not easy to do."

— Richard Forman
Chief executive,
Register.com

assume government functions, without any power to enforce policies.

"There's very little in the way of a road map," says Don Simon, general counsel for Common Cause in Washington.

Disputes are inevitable, acknowledges Richard Forman, chief executive of Register.com, a New York company that registers Internet addresses.

"There was a lot of acrimony among the states negotiating and signing the Declaration of Independence," he says. "Every time you work on something revolutionary, it's not easy to do."

Last month, several countries complained of taxation without representation when ICANN tried to collect nearly \$1.5 million for domain suffixes specific to countries, such as ".uk" for United Kingdom. The money makes up almost one-third of ICANN's budget.

Then American which brokers existing main names in the United States, sued ICANN for permission to register ones. In a settlement announced Friday, ICANN agreed to the request on conditions.

Larger issues are as contentious as well. ICANN proposed a court to appoint its board, and groups complained the process was undemocratic. ICANN caved in, and Internet users directly elected five of 19 board members.

Other critics, citing the ICANN favors business over individuals. Large corporations with valuable trademarks have registered new names because of their headquarters — individuals who grab domain names for up to \$35 apiece in sale at thousands, even millions of dollars.

News in Brief

Mob burns 8 men to death

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — A crowd of 200 villagers burned to death eight men they accused of running guns and drugs in western Guatemala's mostly-Indian highlands, police reported Sunday.

In what authorities described as a carefully planned attack late Saturday, roads were blocked to trap the men, and the crowd pulled them from their trucks, doused them with gasoline and set them on fire.

"This was a well-planned attack by a few people that grew into a huge crime," said De Mesa Sanchez, a spokesperson for Guatemala's national police force. "The excitement attracted so many people to join."

Five of the victims were members of a family that operated trucks that carried people and supplies through the region, Sanchez said.

The victims were all men, including a 60-year-old and his four sons ages 26, 23, 18 and 17.

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