NEWS

Roving dentists' legitimacy, work questioned

GALVESTON, Texas (AP) — City officials are raising questions about the legitimacy of an operation in which at least a dozen children living in federal housing had their teeth worked on in a bus outfitted as a dental clinic.

"These were full-fledged rolling offices," Galveston Police Sgt. D.J. Alvarez is quoted as saying in Sunday editions of The Galveston County Daily News.

Alvarez and fellow juvenile division officer Harold Beasley investigated the roving dentists after receiving complaints from officials at the Galveston Housing Authority, which oversees the federal housing.

During one incident, they found about according to copies of vehicle registration pa- County Daily News for the dentists at a Dallas eight children sitting with their mothers on a sidewalk near a Galveston apartment complex. More kids were in the bus getting their teeth worked on. The kids and their parents were told they would get dental work for free if they had Medicaid, he said.

"They had this computer where they could find out if the kids had Medicaid benefits and how much there was left on their cards," Beasley said. "They could charge it up to the maximum in one whack.

The bus was registered to a Miami company and was being used by two Dallas dentists,

pers and dental licenses collected by Beasley. Telephone messages left by The Galveston

> "They could charge [Medicaid] up to the maximum in one whack."

> > —Harold Beasley Galveston police officer

dental center during seven working days between July 5 and July 15 were not answered.

Both dentists are fully licensed to practice dentistry in Texas and have no disciplinary actions on their records, according to the State Board of Dental Examiners.

Galveston police contacted the state Health and Human Services Commission, which oversees Medicaid providers operating in Texas and investigates claims of Medicaid fraud, Beasley said.

He said the commission sent an investigator who told Beasley the bus had been reportinvestigator was unable to catch up within

Dentist Bill Posnick, who taught denti at the University of Texas Health Soil Center in Houston, has been seeing some the children who had work done by the

He has seen only three children treate the mobile dentists in June, but all of them derwent procedures he found baffling.

"Their teeth were covered with somes plastic resin," he said. "Maybe they were ing to seal them, I'm not sure. I have neverse anything quite like it before."

Leaders agree on vote Remaining captives released

Confederate Air Force faces possible name change MIDLAND, Texas (AP) — Not fortress still flying. The organization, quoted as saying in the Fort Worth

everyone thinks the Confederate Air Force needs to change its name, but this weekend the organization's top leadership agreed to let the general membership vote on the idea during its annual meeting in October.

The move comes after some people have suggested the word Confederate is offensive, and some members found it was becoming a public relations problem trying to get booked at air shows.

A number of the group's members oppose changing the name because they see it as bowing down to political correctness

But many of its leaders, scattered nationwide, have expressed concern that the name does not reflect what the organization actually does.

The 8,500 members of the Confederate Air Force maintain about 140 airplanes that flew during World War II, including the B-24 Liberator, the P-38 Lightning and the only B-29 Super-

which flies these planes at air shows across the country, tries to preserve the shrinking number of such warbirds and educate the public about them.

"I'm very pleased by the way we voted."

— V. Neils Agather Confederate Air Force Board

The Midland-based organization, formed in South Texas, got the name in the 1950s when somebody painted it on the tail of a P-51 Mustang fighter. At the time, the handful of original members thought it was funny, so the name stuck

"I'm very pleased by the way we voted," V. Neils Agather, a board member and Dallas businessman is

Star-Telegram following Saturday's vote. "I feel it's the right move."

The group's board of directors approved sending the name-change amendment to the general membership this fall. Forty-one of the 44 advisory members agreed, said Tina Corbett, the organization's spokesperson.

If the amendment is approved by at least 75 percent of the voting members in October, the directors will appoint a committee to recommend four new names. Those names would be voted on by the membership in October 2001.

Some members have suggested calling themselves Ghost Squadron, which appears at the bottom of the group's present insignia. Other suggestions include the Commemorative Air Force or the Freedom Air Force.

Robert Collier, a member who lives in Grand Prairie, said he isn't crazy about changing the name. But the 14-year member of the organization said he understands the reasons behind the move.

Six people were held in botched jewelry store heis

ROLLING HILLS ESTATES, Calif. gunmen robbed Morgan's Jewelers in-(AP) — Gunmen who held six people hostage in a botched jewelry store heist released their three remaining captives unharmed Sunday after releasing three others earlier, authorities said.

The three hostages and the two gunmen exited the shop about 11 a:m., Plett said.

'The situation appears to be over," Los Angeles County Sheriff's Sgt. Norine Plett said.

The nearly 17-hour ordeal began about 5:20 p.m. Saturday when the side the Peninsula Center strip mall.

Law enforcement officials trapped the men inside after a shop employee alerted authorities by activating a silent alarm. The gunmen then held the six people inside as hostages.

Nearly 75 deputies surrounded the store as negotiators communicated via telephone with the gunmen.

Sheriff's officers said they saw two men with briefcases and weapons exiting the store, but the men returned inside when they saw the officers.

Shopper Bob Dunbar said depute initially told people in the mall: duck for cover inside shops and the told them to evacuate.

"They yelled 'Get down! away!' It was scary," Dunbar said.

The first hostage, a woman, was leased sometime after 3 a.m., nearly hours after the ordeal at Morgan'sk elers began. A second hostage, am was released after 6 a.m.

Another woman was release about three hours later, exiting the star with her hands raised over her head

News in Brief

Oil heater catches fire at plant

PASADENA (AP) - No one was injured Sunday in a chemical plant fire that sent thick clouds of black smoke 50 feet into the air.

Around 3 p.m., a material used in a hot oil heater at the Amoco chemical plant caught fire. Inhouse firefighters responded to the blaze and extinguished it about two hours later, said Brian Dinsmoor, the plant manager.

Workers given polygraph exams

WASHINGTON (AP) - All 800

workers at the Energy Depa ment subjected to polygraph ams this year passed the lie de tector exams, the agency director of counterintelligen

"We have nobody who has gotten through the test, which is a pretty ... good record," Edwa J.Curran, a former FBI offici told the Washington Post.







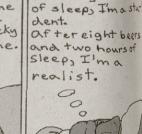












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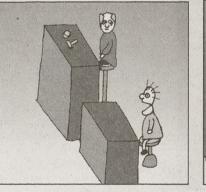
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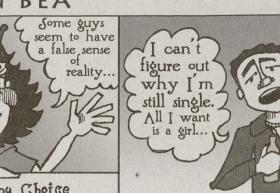
WOODY SUED HIS OWNER FOR

SEXUAL HARRASSMENT.

BY J. GOLDFLUTE QUEEN









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