

DIRTY APES



BY R. DELUNA

Group of teens beat homeless man to death

PATERSON, N.J. (AP) — A homeless man was beaten and kicked to death by a rampaging group of teen-agers in an attack that has heightened concern over tensions between blacks and Hispanics in this gritty industrial city.

Hector Robles, 42, was attacked shortly after police broke up a fight last week between blacks and Hispanics at a nearby high school. Witnesses told police he was swarmed by black teen-agers who took his beer bottle and smashed him in the head with it before beating him to death.

Eleven teen-agers have been arrested and all have been charged with murder and robbery. "They kicked him like a dog," said the man's sister, Miriam Robles. "It looks to me like it was a racial thing. It was only blacks and he was Hispanic, and because he was Hispanic, they took his bottle of beer and cracked his head open with it and left him for dead."

Prosecutor Bob Corrado said prosecutors do not believe racial bias was a motive. "From what we've gotten, it hasn't even been mentioned," he said.

Still, the slaying and the arrests of the boys, ages 15 to 17,

have provoked shock and rage in New Jersey's largest city. Nearly 100 people visited the beating site Sunday for a candlelight ceremony. City leaders and residents have decried violence in the once-thriving manufacturing community 15 miles west of New York. Hispanics account for about half of the 149,000 residents, while blacks make about a third.

"We have 72 different identifiable ethnic groups in this city," said city spokesman Bob Corrado. "For the most part, people along pretty well."

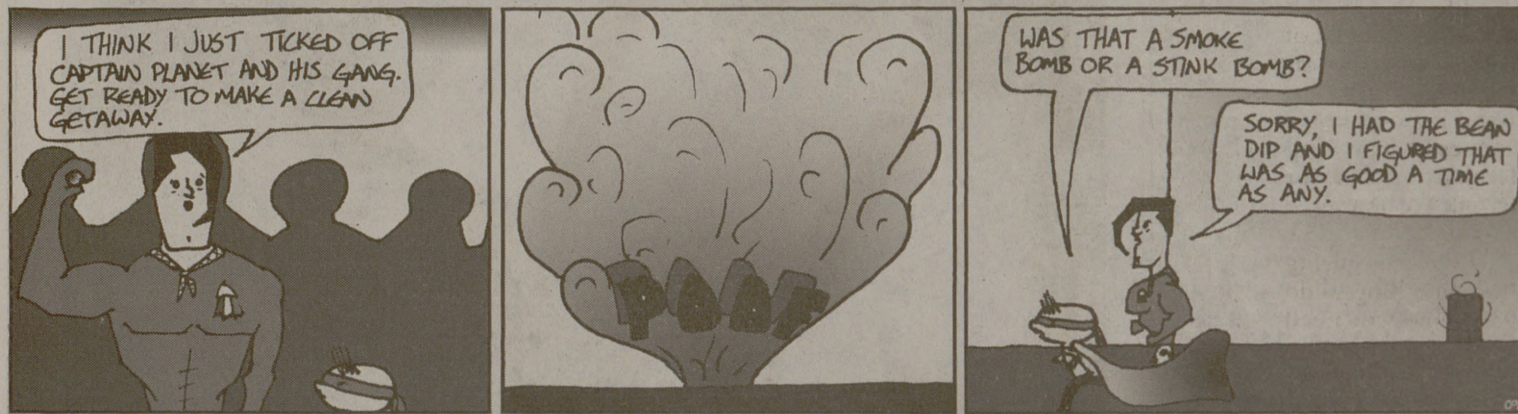
Melding so many different heritages can cause some tensions, he said. There are "Serbians and Serbs in this city don't get along here much better than they get along in their homeland," he said.

Just before the attack Wednesday, police broke a fight between black and Hispanic youths near John F. Kennedy High School. A group of youths later swarmed a man and came at Robles, who had spent most of the last 15 years hanging out at the Electronic Transformer chatting and joking with others who considered him a "nerd."

"He was screaming, 'Oh!' and moaning," Nathaniel Washington, a piping clerk. "We all heard him run out to his aid."

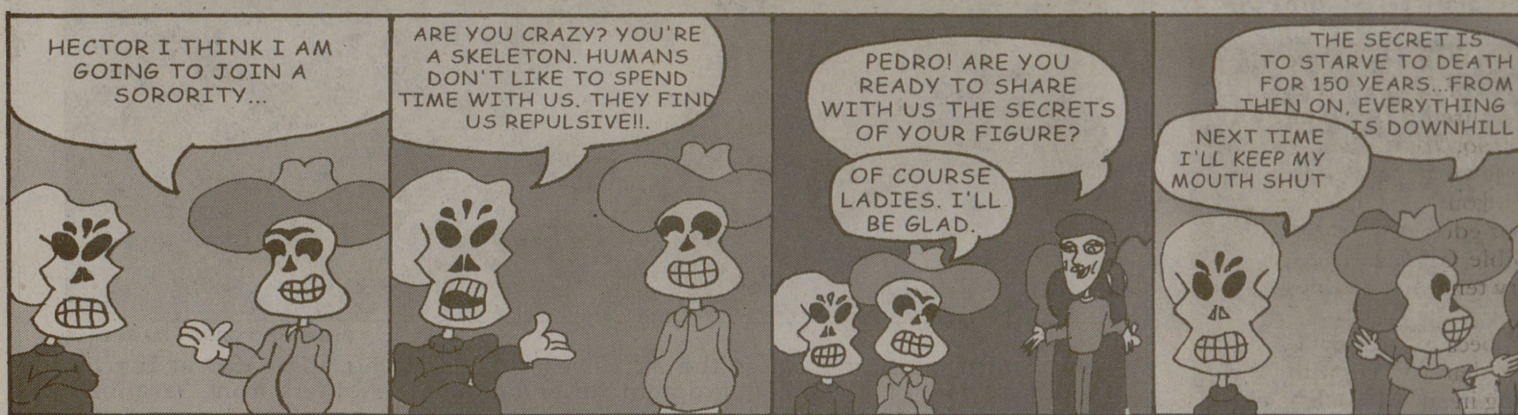
Robles was dazed and lying on the ground. He was declared dead shortly afterward.

The Fantastico Chronicles



BY J. GOLDFLUTE

HECTOR Y PEDRO



by Adrian

TESTING

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She said 20 to 30 percent of people who have HIV/AIDS do not know that they have it.

"You can't tell by looking at someone if they are HIV positive," McClure said. "That is why you have to take your health into your own hands and be proactive about the choices that you make for yourself."

Kristi Hanle, senior case manager for AIDS Services said it shocks some people to know that there are people in the B-CS area with HIV/AIDS. She said many people have the misconception that since the Bryan-College Station community is small, residents are immune to the threat of HIV/AIDS.

"In the past two years, we have had more new HIV positives than in the entire history

of this program," Hanle said. "We currently have 107 active clients, but that changes often."

She said the AIDS Services have a few Texas A&M student clients, but most students who find out they have HIV return to their hometowns for treatment.

If students, faculty or staff are not able to be tested Wednesday, the AIDS Services works with the Texas A&M A. P. Beutel Health Center to provide free weekly testing at the center.

"We do free HIV testing on Thursday afternoons from 2 to 4 p.m.," said Rhonda Rahn, health center educator. "It is completely anonymous. We set up the appointment, mark whether the person is male or female and then they just come in and get tested."

McClure said that the AIDS Services test from 200 to 400 people each month.

HOPWOOD

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Texas law professor Douglas Laycock said Monday's ruling should have little impact beyond the Texas border.

"Today's order resolves nothing," Laycock said, noting that in May, the Supreme Court upheld a decision allowing the use of race as a factor in admission to the University of Washington law school.

A similar case from Michigan could reach the Supreme Court within a year. Monday's decision did not rule on the merits of the state's claims, he said.

"Sooner or later, the court will decide this issue," Laycock said.

One of the plaintiffs in the original lawsuit, however, said UT should give up the fight.

David Rogers, 37, recently graduated from Texas Tech University law school and is studying for the bar exam. Rogers said he wants to be a civil rights attorney.

"They've been wasting everybody's time and money for nine years and they haven't won anything yet," he said. "The U.S. Supreme Court has said, 'Go away kid, you bother me.'"

MOSQUITOES

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bites, Olson said that people should use insect repellents, cover as much skin as possible and try to avoid the peak mosquito time of dusk to 11 p.m.

"The great contributors to the prevention of widespread outbreak from mosquito bites are air conditioning and prime-time television," he said. "Try to keep your outside activities limited to bright times of the day and stay in during those prime-time hours when nocturnal mosquitoes come out in hordes."

Olson also said houses may be made less attractive to mosquitoes by turning off lights because mosquitoes are attracted to ultraviolet radiation. If bug-zapping devices are used, put them away from the area they are meant to protect.

"Bug zappers always attract far more bugs than they kill," he said.

"As we tell people, if you don't like your neighbor, buy him a bug zapper."

BUSH

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Detroit Mayor Dennis Archer said that in private meetings, Watts agreed to change a proposal allowing religious groups to sue for damages they are denied government grants. Archer also won assurances from Watts and Bush that only groups with a proven record in services would be eligible for taxpayer funds.

"I've been assured the legislation will be tweaked, so the issues and concerns we've pressed will be addressed — removed or softened from the legislation," Archer said.

New Orleans Mayor Marc Morial, also a Democrat, said of Bush: "He sounded a very resolute chord."

But the president, who has made this issue a must-do priority alongside education legislation and tax cuts, did not back away from his assertion that church-based groups receiving government funds should be able to refuse employment people outside their religion.

"The president remains firm, so far as I know, in the ability of faith-based organizations to operate on the basis of religion," said former Indianapolis Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, an adviser to Bush on this issue.

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