uesday as the new Miss 23-year-old Justine k of Panama said she was till stunned by news that the pagant winner had been dethroned. till, she was happy to take over. I'm sure this next nine nonths will be the most imporant of my life," she said, careully balancing a diamond and earl tiara on her head during a ceremony at the Trump er. "I could not be more xcited and ready to start.'

vas crowned a day after

NEWS IN BRIEF

unconstitutional IONTPELIER, Vt. (AP) - A

eral judge declared the

ederal death penalty law

unconstitutional Tuesday in

argument for challenging

capital cases across the

William Sessions said

recent cases, including a

U.S. Supreme Court ruling

that found juries and not

judges must hand out

death sentences, have ren-

Since the high court's rul-

ing in June, a federal judge

in New York has ruled capital punishment is in itself

unconstitutional. Other federal judges, in Virginia and Pennsylvania, have upheld the Federal Death Penalty

penalty law unusable.

existing death-

country.

ruling defense lawyers

d could provide a new

District Judge

Judge declares

death penalty

Russian law student Oxana nents after being crowned Fedorova, who won the May pageant in Puerto Rico, was dethroned because pageant officials said she was not fulfilling her duties. It was first time a titleholder had been fired in the contest's 52-year history.

Donald Trump, co-owner of the organization, said Paula Shugart, the organization's president, had asked Fedorova to resign. "When Oxana didn't resign, Paula had no choice but to terminate her," Trump said.

Shugart said Fedorova did-The former first runner-up n't show up for some photo shoots and charity events.

'She needed to spend a lot of time in Russia," Shugart said on NBC's "Today" show. "I believe her mother was ill at one point."

Fedorova, a police lieutenant pursuing a graduate law degree at St. Petersburg's Police Academy, denied she was fired and said she gave up the title voluntarily.

'The duties of a world beauty are wonderful. However, my prime goal is my studies and career in Russia," Fedorova told RTR state television Monday. "I know I will remain Miss Universe for Russian citizens and for myself.

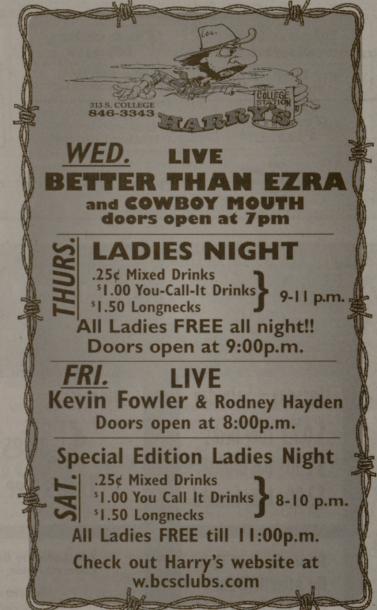
Pasek, who works in televi-

sion production and hopes to complete a degree in environmental engineering, will spend the coming months as a goodwill ambassador in the fight against HIV/AIDS.

She said she Fedorova "the best and I'm very happy to be taking over this job now.'

officials Pageant Fedorova had returned the \$20,000 diamond and pearl tiara she won. A more expensive tiara - with 800 diamonds instead of 15 — which winners wear only when they are crowned, is kept by the Miss Universe Organization.

Perform the highest service - teach! Come teach at The Brazos School. Volunteers wanted to teach at-risk kids in grades 3-12. You can be a cyber-tutor or teach in person. Call 268-8882 or e-mail ros505@aol.com Please see our website at bsic.org



Prosecutors investigating Xerox accounting practices

STAMFORD, Conn. (AP) - Federal prosecutors are investigating accounting practices at Xerox Corp. that were previously reviewed by securities regulators in a probe that led to a record \$10 million civil penalty against the copy machine maker.

The Stamford-based company issued a statement Monday night announcing the new investigation and saying it would cooperate with prosecutors.

Xerox settled allegations by the Securities and Exchange Commission in April. The SEC alleged that the company used a variety of what it called "accounting tricks" and "accounting opportunities" to boost earnings by about \$1.5

billion, misleading investors about its results.

Xerox spokeswoman Christa Carone declined to comment Monday on the new investigation. A spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office also declined to comment.

The SEC said Xerox senior management "orchestrated" a four-year scheme to disguise its operating results, using improper accounting techniques to accelerate the recognition of equipment revenue.

Under the settlement, the world's largest copier company agreed to pay the fine. restate its financial statements for 1997 through 2000. The company did not admit wrongdoing in the set-

Xerox jam

Shares of Xerox Corp. tumbled Tuesday following news that the U.S. attorney's office is investigating the company's accounting practices

Stock performance

Britain says Iraqi weapons are a serious threat

LONDON (AP) - Iraq has a growing arsenal of chemical and biological weapons, and plans to use them, Prime Minister Tony Blair said Tuesday, unveiling an intelligence dossier to a session Parliament.

Blair, who also said Iraq is trying to develop nuclear apons, told lawmakers nis priority is to get inspectors back into Iraq. But he epeatedly expressed nthusiasm for the U.S. oal of "regime change" in aghdad.

"Iraq, the region and the hole world would be beter off" without Saddam Hussein, Blair said in releasng the dossier, which serts the Iraqi leader has veapons of mass destrucion ready to be used with-1 45 minutes of an order to

Gunmen storm Hindu temple in western India

GANDHINAGAR, (AP) — Attackers sprayed gunfire through a temple crowded with Hindu worhippers Tuesday, killing at east 30 people and fueling ears of new rioting in western India, where vicious religious clashes between Auslims and Hindus killed 1,000 people earlier this

Hours after the attack, the gunmen remained in ontrol of part of the waminarayan temple complex — and some worshippers were still inside, officials said. Bloody bodes were carried away on stretchers and many wounded limped out, their lothes stained with blood. About 45 people were vounded.

Hundreds of commandos warmed into the sprawling imple complex after the attackers stormed in, setting positions around the nain temple.

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