

CITY & STATE /B3

The shows go on at South by Southwest

SPORTS /C1

Winners crowned in boys' state championships

SPORTS FOCUS /C13

Play the field with picks for NCAA tourney

WEATHER

High: Mid-80s  
Low: Upper 50s  
Sunny and warm.  
Fair tonight.  
Details, Back page

# Austin American-Statesman

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## The King is dead; long live the stamp

By Patricia Leigh Brown  
New York Times News Service

Two candidates were on the minds of the 14 women who gathered around Fran Cohen's dining-room table in Clinton, N.J., last Sunday afternoon to discuss the election.

"This one shows stamps," Elaine Tranter said, looking at a photograph. "That he could say up there all those years. And will be King."

The image in question was a windowed-and-blow-dried version of Elvis Presley, circa 1973.

It is one of two stamp-to-goes — the other showing Elvis in the 1950s as a young musician — that the U.S. Postal Service, in a fit of democratic derring-do and marketing ingenuity, is putting on 5 million ballots that will be distributed to post office mailboxes in April. It will be the first public vote on a stamp design ever held.

Let the Elvis vote begin. From the midnight merriment of talk radio to the pages of *Love's Stamp News*, a philatelic weekly, the two Elvies are dueling across the land.

It is more than a war of images. To some, it is a perfect metaphor for the battle between youth and middle age, between perfection and lack of it.

And to people like Cohen, who has 48 Elvies magnets on her refrigerator and who has spent seven years lobbying for the stamp with her Love's Elvies fan club, the other election — the one with the politicians, not polls and sound bites — pales by comparison.

"Some people belong in the Girl Scouts, some belong to the Boy Scouts," she said. "We belong to Elvies."

"The Great Stamp Debate is being waged on television, in letters to the editor and in dining rooms all around the country."

As in most elections, opinions are being formed behind closed doors. And in the best campaign tradition, fan clubs will soon be busy getting out the vote.

In a period in which "It's Not Perfect" has become a rallying cry among presidential candidates, the Elvies debate seems to have touched a national nerve. The battle of the two Elvies addresses some deeply rooted but perhaps shifting attitudes on what an American hero should be.

"Elvies fans have always been able to accept their hero with flaws," said Charles Wolfe, a professor of cultural history at Middle Tennessee State University in Murfreesboro. "In a sense, the stamps are like the late Orson Welles, with the older being a more

## DRESSED IN BLACK And feeling harassed



Visiting outside the club, San Antonio area, from left, Heather Rickerson says police are using the yogurt murders as an excuse to bring people in and get them for other stuff.

## Inquiries on murders irritate youths

By Jim Phillips  
American-Statesman Staff

A task force investigating the murders of four teen-age girls in a North Austin yogurt shop has concentrated in recent weeks on a local crop of self-proclaimed Satanists and occult devotees.

Although police have denied having evidence linking the crime to satanic or cult rituals, several teenage and young adult members of this loosely knit group say they have been questioned repeatedly about the slayings, about possible suspects and about Satanism.

They say they have been searched, given polygraph tests and had their living quarters searched. "These officers showed up at my apartment at 3 o'clock in the morning and insisted that we not say two more

words go down to the station," said Kelly McCaughey, 18. "They were accusing us friends of all kinds of witchcraft."

The police call them PIRs, meaning People in Black. They began questioning them about a week after the Dec. 6 slayings of Jennifer Hartman, 17, the 15-year-old sister, Sarah, Eliza Thomas, 17, and Amy Ayers, 18, in the 11-Carl's Bakery P.V. yogurt store at 2848 W. Anderson Lane.

"Because it was a bizarre murder, they started looking for the most bizarre people they could find," said Cole Rickerson, 18, who has had several friends questioned by police.

"They questioned me a lot about it," said 21-year-old Stephen Fuller, who says he is a Satanist and goes by the nickname Drake. "They told me I was the one who did it, but they couldn't prove it."

Fuller, who was arrested Dec. 12 and is serving time for violating probation on drug and weapons charges, says he gave investigators samples of hair and toenails.

Shannon Bauman, left, hugs Teresa Jones outside the club Phoenix.

## 21 House hot-check writers identified

By William J. Eaton  
Los Angeles Times Service

WASHINGTON — The identities of 16 congressional Democrats and five former lawmakers found to be among the worst offenders in the House hot-check scandal were disclosed Saturday night in a deliberate news leak that omitted the names of three Republicans also on the list.

Topping the list was former Rep. Tommy Robinson of Arkansas with 398 bad checks. His overdrafts exceeded his next paycheck for 18 of the 39 months reviewed by the House ethics committee, according to The Associated Press, which disclosed the list provided by unidentified congressional sources.

Second was Rep. Bob Mrazek, D-N.Y., who reportedly wrote 271 bad checks, exceeding his next paycheck for 25 of the 39 months.

Two Texans also were on the list. Rep. Ronald Coleman, D-22 Texas, reportedly wrote 473 bad checks with overdrafts exceeding his next paycheck for 23 of the 39 months under investigation. At the bottom of the 21-name list was Rep. Charles Wilson, D-Louisiana, who reportedly wrote 81 bad checks, with a negative balance that exceeded his next paycheck for eight of the 39 months.

Coleman originally acknowledged writing four bad checks totaling \$29, but then released a statement late Friday saying that there might have been other insufficient checks.

Wilson had admitted Thursday to bouncing 75 to 100 checks.

## Mauro also landed an important win on Super Tuesday

By Bruce Hight  
American-Statesman Capitol Staff

Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton wasn't the only winner in Texas' Democratic presidential primary. So was Gary Mauro, the state land commissioner.

Mauro assembled the machine that cranked out Clinton's most important victory on Super Tuesday. He got about 45 percent of the Democratic vote in Texas and finished first in all 24 counties. (Only in Travis County did Clinton get less than half the vote — 48 percent.)

"They were very happy with us this morning in Little Rock," Mauro, a friend of Clinton's for 20 years, said the day after the election.

Clinton probably would take some credit for his win. During a recent campaign rally at Scholz Garten, he joked, "I even know where the restroom is in this place. I've been here so many times."

But it was Mauro's organization and strategy that helped Clinton whip former Massachusetts Sen. Paul

## Willie reaps relief with Farm Aid V

By Pete Sallagyi  
American-Statesman Staff

IRVING — Willie Nelson served up a rich musical stew to a true meeting of Middle America on Saturday at his 12-hour Farm Aid V.

Farm families on a pilgrimage to support the cause cheered and swayed to the music alongside strapping-haired metal heads and college students in flannel shirts and designer shorts. Cars and pickup trucks in the Texas Stadium lot had fans from Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Minnesota, Oklahoma and all points north. Nelson, in a T-shirt and turquoise sunglasses, was in a lively, affable mood, much like the concert itself.

The singer, who struts around frequently to introduce acts and r.e.c. duets, was joined by entertainers Paul Simon, Neil Young, John Mellencamp and 50 others of every musical persuasion to publicize the plight of farm-

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