

THE WEEKEND '9

Predictable 'Pure Country' still succeeds

SPORTS C1

Atlanta keeps Series alive with 7-2 win in Toronto

LIFESTYLE D1

Glamour and glitz take center stage at fashion show

WEATHER

High Near 80. Lower Lower 60s. Cloudy, 20 percent chance of rain. Details, back page

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50 CENTS \*\*

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Arrests made in yogurt shop case

Victims' families are shaken

By Kimberly Garcia American-Statesman Staff

It took 10 months for the shock to fade, for the parents of the four girls killed in the yogurt shop to be able to face their grief.

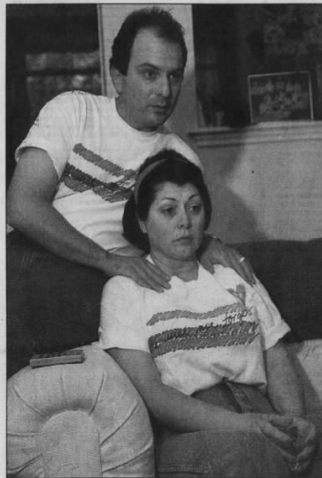
Slowly, they came to grips with the fact that their children will never again fit their lives with talk of country music, clothes and livestock shows.

On Thursday, their lives were rattled again when they received news that a man had confessed to murdering Jennifer Harrison, 17, her sister Sarah 15, Eliza Thomas, 17, and Amy Ayres, 11.

The four were shot in the head Dec. 6, 1991, at 1 Can't Believe It's Yogurt at 2945 W. Anderson Lane. On Thursday, Mexican police said Porfirio Villa Saavedra confessed to the crime. He and Alberto Alvarez Cortes, who police said was an accomplice in the crime, are being held in Mexico.

Barbara Storch, mother of the Harrison, watched on local broadcasts as the two suspects were brought before reporters. "I just got the chills when they said he had been charged with murder," she said. "I've been sick to my stomach all day. You want to feel good about it, but it brings all the reality back."

The not ready for murder yet. I'm still juggling grief." Surrounded at her home by co-workers, family and friends of her daughters, Storch tearfully embraced memories of her daughters when their pictures were shown on television. Her husband, Frank Storch, sat behind her on the arm.



Frank and Barbara Storch watch reports on the slayings of their four daughters in the slayings. The Storchs lost their two daughters in the slayings.

2 suspected in teen murders face charges in Mexico City

By Jim Phillips and James E. Garcia American-Statesman Staff

MEXICO CITY — Two men are in custody here and will face charges that they murdered four teenage girls at a North Austin yogurt shop in December, drawing toward a conviction what law officers have called the most massive, and most emotional, criminal investigation in Central Texas history.

Mexican authorities said one of the men has confessed to the slayings that rocked Austin and brought national publicity and sympathy to the city.

One of the suspects may be a former deliveryman for a company that delivered goods to the yogurt shop, and both men are members of a motorcycle gang that has drug smuggling ties, Mexican police said.

The two suspects will be arraigned in Mexico and are expected to be charged with the four murders. They could face up to 200 years for the murders, and are charged with additional crimes. There is no death penalty in Mexico. A third man is sought for questioning.

The break in the case, the arrest Wednesday of the first suspect, came a week after Austin police officers traveled to the capital city to seek the cooperation of Mexican authorities in the investigation.

In Austin, a city that had been drawn together in an unprecedented show of support for the families and police, and outrage at the mass murder, was able Thursday to breathe its first tentative sighs of relief in the 10½-month-old investigation.



Villa Saavedra Cortes

ALL THE DETAILS

The yogurt shop murders touched Austin at its very core. And as word of the arrests spread, it was if the city took a deep, hopeful breath. "People were happy. People were crying," said Lindsey Carney, a freshman at Lamar High School, where three of the girls attended school. "It was pretty emotional."

A chronology shows how the case unfolded.

Now that Porfirio Villa Saavedra and Alberto Alvarez Cortes are in Mexican custody, they probably face a speedy trial before a Mexican judge without the possibility of release on bank guarantees.

Mexican authorities bring out the accused men and have them face the public through the media. As cameras flashed, the first thing that struck reporters was how young and well-groomed the suspects appeared.

Escorted from a press conference Thursday by Jose Elias Romero Aps, chief assistant to the Mexican attorney general.

Inside

Redford success Robert Redford uses his mainstream success to help into computer arena, ventures the A River Runs Through It.

with the Los Angeles Times, said that people who stay in Washington too long "lose touch with reality and reality looks like the fringe to them."

Most of the country's "offices" come straight from the Republican Party; they are creating ugly," Perot said. "If Bill Clinton and the Democrats are doing it, I haven't seen it."

In the wake of Perot's debate performance and television commercials, the Texas billionaire has argued several points in the polls. The independent candidate remains a distant third behind Bush and Clinton, but said that he plans to continue string television ads for the rest of the year.

Perot, firing back to the arm.

Perot suggests president out of touch with reality

By Jack Nelson Los Angeles Times Service

WASHINGTON — Ross Perot responded to criticism from President Bush on Thursday by suggesting that Bush has lost touch with reality and accusing him of having "no sense of people going around trying to destroy his opponents."

In a television interview Thursday, Bush said Perot had "come in from the fringe" with some "nutty ideas" during Monday's final presidential debate. Bush said that Americans who can believe for Perot would be wasting their vote.

Perot, firing back to the arm.

Year of the Woman is one small step forward

By Catherine S. Menegold New York Times News Service

In this acidic political season in which Anita Hill has become shorthand for outrage and the Year of the Woman is a familiar refrain, it is easy to believe that revolution is at hand.

But come November, when the voting is over, there will be no feminist storming of the gates.

Even a wave of victories by female candidates will not bring women to a position of dominance on Capitol Hill. Should every female candidate win, the final Congress would still be 80 percent male.

More likely, many women will lose.

leaving the United States still will be behind most European countries in terms of female representation. Yet women have made steady gains in politics since the early 1970s, and this year they will make more.

Already, more women (198) have won congressional primaries than ever before. The previous record was 70 in 1990. Among the 108 women running this year, 71 are Democrats and 37 are Republicans.

Seven women (13 Democrats and one Republican), a record by one, are running for the Senate. State legislatures will be changing, too. In California, women will run in 74 of 130 races.

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GRIDIRON GIRL

Panhandle player jumped offside 45 years too early

By George Bressante American-Statesman Staff

Her 6-foot-4-inch, 118-pound frame seems to belie her credo, but Frankie Woods' eyes are steady and her voice is firm when she says "all my life, I've pretty much done what I wanted to do."

That philosophy came into play for Wood on Friday, Nov. 14, 1987. As a 16-year-old junior at Stamford, in the Texas Panhandle, Frankie Groves (now Wood) became the first girl in the United States to play

in a high school football game. Although Groves' participation, for three or four plays at defensive tackle, did affect the lives of several people, it did not blaze a trail for women in athletics. Instead, within hours after the game, the University Interscholastic League banned girls from high school football — a rule set in stone until the mid-1980s, when girls were allowed to participate on middle school teams.

On Tuesday, almost 45 years after her one appearance as a Stamford Rattler uniform, Fran-

kie Groves was a happy witness to legislation in Texas that would allow girls to play on high school teams and to play, if their abilities so dictate.

"It's long overdue. We've been second class long enough," said Wood, who now lives in Southeast Austin. "If girls have the ability to play well, let them play. But if they go out for football, they're going to have to lift weights and dedicate themselves, as boys do."

Wood remembers a Trustee-See First, A18



Frankie Wood, with a photo of her and coach Truman 'Chief' Johnson, 18 bugged that poor man unmercifully, begging him to let me play.