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6 Sections

11F

25 Cents

Ex-officers awarded \$2 million in suit City to appeal demotion case verdict

By Bill Lodge

An eight-member jury awarded two former police detectives more than \$2 million Wednesday from the city of Dallas and two top supervisors who were accused of using demotions to silence critics.

This means a message that there is something really wrong in the upper echelons of the Police Department, and some real strong corrections need to be made," the pair's attorney, Douglas Larcin, said after the verdict.

Assistant City Attorney Fritz J. Aldridge II vowed to challenge the verdict on behalf of the city and both police supervisors, Executive Assistant Chief William Patton and Deputy Chief Richard Haler.

Chronology of case. **18A**

"There are numerous grounds for appeal," he said.

Chief Haler declined to comment after the jury announced its decision in the trial, which began Jan. 9 before U.S. District Judge Robert Maloney. Chief Patton later issued a statement saying he was "sorry the jury didn't understand the evidence."

"I believe every supervisor in this case tried to protect the officers and citizens and the city," he said.

The award to the two former detectives includes \$875,000 in exemplary damages for the city's retaliation against the two undercover agents and abuse of their civil. Please see **FORMER** on Page 16A.



O.J. Simpson, flanked by attorneys Johnnie Cochran (left) and Robert Shapiro, listens as they confer Wednesday during a hearing over whether Nicole Brown Simpson's relatives will be allowed to attend his trial.

It to allow abuse evidence Exclusion would have left gap in case against Simpson

By Paul Pringle

Special Contributor to The Dallas Morning News

LOS ANGELES — The judge in the O.J. Simpson double-murder trial ruled Wednesday that prosecutors can tell jurors of an incident in which Mr. Simpson allegedly beat and mugged his ex-wife.

The incident includes a New Year's Eve assault and a chilling '93 call from Nicole Brown Simpson to Los

Los Angeles Police Department.

What the judge allowed, denied. **16A**

Angeleno police.

Superior Court Judge Lance Ito's decision excluded 13 other allegations that Mr. Simpson allegedly made Simpson throughout their 17-year relationship that were hearsay statements that Mr. Simpson purportedly made to others.

In addition, the judge disallowed evidence as Please see **ITO** on Page 16A.

Stars to get ultimatum from city Council insists team sign long-term lease

By Sylvia Martinez

The Dallas City Council directed City Attorney Sam Lindsay on Wednesday to tell the Dallas Stars to sign a long-term lease for use of Reunion Arena or face the city court.

The Stars, a professional hockey

Support for bond program. **27A**

Spending up track talks. **27A**

team that moved to Dallas in 1993, has been using Reunion under a letter of agreement. The team has been excluded from negotiations on a proposed \$142 million downtown arena because of its refusal to sign a long-term lease, as city officials say the team originally promised to do.

"That team's just about out of here," council member Don Hicks said after a closed-door discussion of lease negotiations. "They need to sign a lease before we can negotiate with them. Then they're going to have to live up to their obligations."

Contacted at home late Wednesday, Stars president Jim Lora had little to say about the council's Please see **CITY** on Page 16A.

Japan begins full-scale quake relief efforts



A rescue worker carries a woman from a building in Kobe, Japan, Wednesday. Tuesday's earthquake damaged her home.

Food, medicine are scant; more than 3,000 dead

By Nicholas D. Kristof

Los Angeles Times Staff Writer

TOKYO — Authorities began full-fledged relief efforts in western Japan on Wednesday, but they acknowledged that they were overwhelmed by the challenge of caring for 200,000 people left homeless by the earthquake.

By Thursday morning, the death

JAPANESE QUAKE

Economic impact. **8A**

Local fears for relatives. **8A**

How to help. **8A**

Editorial. **22A**

The Internet connection. **21A**

roll had risen to 1,109, and 845 people were missing. More than 15,000 people were injured, police said. Food, water and medicine were in desperately short supply, and some of the refugees — proprietors of businesses opened on Monday — were reduced to scraping water from public fountains.

Firefighters extinguished the flames that had burned huge neighborhoods in Kobe and other cities Please see **JAPANESE** on Page 9A.

INSIDE

Stars trade Thord

The Dallas Stars trade captain Mats Thord to the Washington Capitals for defenseman Kevin Hatcher, dramatically improving their power play and offensive production. **Page 16B.**

Airline suit allowed

People can sue airlines that retroactively rescind that rescind the benefits, the Supreme Court says, after allowing a suit to go forward against American Airlines. **Page 16B.**

Also leaders

Allyson ... **27A, 28A**
Bishop ... **28A**
Chaffetz ... **8A**
Casper ... **16C**
Cotton ... **16A**
Cromm ... **28A**
D'Amico ... **28A**
Fleming ... **28A**
Graham ... **28A**
Hatch ... **28A**
Latham ... **28A**
Lujan ... **28A**
Murray ... **28A**
Norton ... **28A**
Rosen ... **28A**
Santorum ... **28A**
Specter ... **28A**
Tanner ... **28A**
Trent ... **28A**
Wicker ... **28A**
Woolsey ... **28A**

Mostly sunny

Dallas-Fort Worth area — Mostly sunny, crisp and cool. High 54, low 23.

Wednesday's high — 54.

More weather on Page 9A.

Council sets new vote on gay measure

Lack of advance notice may have broken law

By Anne Belli Geisman

Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

After a long closed-door briefing from City Attorney Sam Lindsay, Dallas City Council members informally agreed Wednesday to reconsider their vote hearing discrimination against gays and lesbians in city employment.

Council members, responding to Mr. Lindsay's assertions that the vote last week was improper, said they would take up the matter next Wednesday during their weekly meeting.

Mr. Lindsay contended that he told the council that the vote may have violated the Texas open meetings law because the public was not given adequate notice that it would be taken.

While public notice was given, the council would consider clarifying the city's permitted policy, the public was not informed that potential changes to the anti-discrimination provision would be Please see **COUNCIL** on Page 16A.



President Clinton confers Wednesday with Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin on the U.S. plan to help Mexico.

Clinton tries to calm fears, push Mexico aid package

By David LaGesse

Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

WASHINGTON — President Clinton on Wednesday sought to counter growing congressional criticism of his Mexico rescue plan by saying it would help Americans and cost taxpayers nothing.

"This is not simply a financial problem for Mexico, this is an American challenge," Mr. Clinton said. "The livelihoods of thousands and thousands of our workers depend upon continued strong export growth to Mexico."

The president spoke at a hastily assembled press rally of business representatives at the Treasury building.

Zedillo's bank bill. **10**

Border shops close. **10**

Major strikes. **12D**

where officials have scrambled to assemble \$60 billion in loan guarantees as an effort to stabilize Mexican markets.

The White House is seeking to salvage the aid package, which could be as trouble, particularly in the House. Democratic and Republican leaders said Wednesday.

"It will be a tough fight," said Rep. Charles Stenholm (D-Texas). "There are not enough votes in the House to pass the Please see **CLINTON** on Page 17A.

Delay in reviving dental board leaves public at risk, officials say

By Scott Parks

Staff Writer of The Dallas Morning News

Dr. Donald Haines has performed thousands of dollars' worth of unnecessary root canals on 14 complaining patients, according to allegations in civil lawsuits.

Dr. Haines, a dentist in Park, Texas, has denied the accusations. In addition to the lawsuits against him, Dr. Haines was one of 74 Texas dentists facing disciplinary proceed-

Lawmakers poised to establish reforms, bring back panel

del some officials familiar with state dental board operations say dentists have gone unscrutinized for almost five months and will continue to go unscrutinized until a new board starts functioning and takes up the cases.

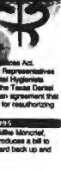
"These delays mean these people who (dentists) are out there still doing those things," said Michael Frisch, former chief investigator for the dental board, in a letter to the state. Please see **LAWMAKERS** on Page 16A.

Lawmakers poised to revive dental board

DENTAL BOARD CHRONOLOGY

Has a brief chronology of the Texas Board of Dental Examiners' recent history.

- 1992
 - 8 November: The House Advisory Committee on Regulatory Creation and Reform passed a bill to re-establish the dental board's regulatory authority over dentists.
- 1993
 - 8 May 21: The Texas Legislature passed a bill to re-establish the dental board's regulatory authority over dentists.
- 1994
 - 8 April 28: The outgoing House board passed an interim plan to create the Dental Information Resource Center as a caretaker of its records until the Legislature reauthorizes it.
 - 8 Sept. 11: According to state SOURCE, Dallas Morning News research.



Continued from Page 1A
 tal board. "That leaves others to be prepared on my people who claim to be sophisticated."
 Thursday, the state House is to take up a Senate-passed bill that would re-establish the State Board of Dental Examiners to license and regulate dentists. If approved, the measure would go to Gov. George W. Bush, who is expected to sign the law.
 "Turning down on the backing of cases will be one of the new board's top priorities," said Jim Proke, who will serve as interim executive director of the dental board.

Root canal is a procedure to save a tooth in which the pulp, or living tissue within a tooth, has become diseased. The dentist drills a hole through the tooth's surface and scrapes out the pulp with tiny barbed files.
 The dentist fills the empty space (chamber) with a medicated chemical mixture and seals it.

Further employees, several dentists and their attorneys.
 Dr. Barry Solomon, a San Antonio dentist, alleged that the board had attempted to "selectively prosecute" him for at least 10 years because he has advanced and patented non-surgical gum disease treatments that are cheaper and less painful than surgery.
 He recalled that periodontists who do gum surgery have a vendetta against him and called upon their friends on the state dental board to initiate an investigation against him.
 "When we started advertising non-surgical periodontics, some guys (periodontists) went crazy because instead of buying a second Mercedes, all their appointments schedule were wiped out," Dr. Solomon said in an interview.
 Dental board members said they investigated Dr. Solomon because he made "false and misleading" advertising claims that his non-surgical treatments rendered gum disease irreversible and that he guaranteed his work 100 percent.

Investigators attempted to connect with names into giving false testimony against some dentists and concealed evidence in other cases.
 Others accused dental board members of stifling investigations of dentists who were their political or personal friends.
 "When I told friends of mine the kinds of things this board was doing, they thought I was crazy," Mr. Martin said. "I don't even believe it at first."
 The Texas Rangers investigated the allegations raised in the hearings and found that "no criminal violations on the part of the Texas State Board of Dental Examiners" had occurred.
 Even before the hearings, the dental board was under fire. In June 1991, Lt. Gov. Bob Bullock called the board "one of the state agencies desperately in need of cleaning up."

The new rules also are aimed at ending overworked investigations by ending board members' appointment by board members appointing other dentists and ensuring equal representation of above dentists.

He received prohibition for all but two months of dental practice, meaning that he was not allowed to practice dentistry for 60 days in 1994. Dr. Healan, a 1969 graduate of Baylor College of Dentistry in Dallas, is still practicing dentistry in Paris.

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Patients' lawsuits

The administrative proceeding pending against Dr. Healan in the state dental board in Austin, is separate from the lawsuits against him but they involve many of the same patients.

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Finding violations

The committee also heard from Wayne Youngblood, a former dental board investigator, who said he could give any dentist office in Texas and find violations of the law.
 He said dental board members of ten directed him to investigate certain dentists regardless of whether anyone had complained about them. "It was just that once you got on their list, for advertising or whatever, you stayed there," he said.

Snag after snag

But the bill to reauthorize the dental board has not yet moved in the 1995 Legislature. One reason was a disagreement between dentists and dental hygienists over the composition of the regulatory body.
 "There's where we stopped communicating," said Dr. Burdwell, the Texas Dental Association's government affairs chairman in 1993. "But we never intended for the board to be frozen like we had a communications problem in our chain of command."
 When the legislative session ended without passing the bill, the dental board had until Sept. 1, 1994, to get its affairs in order and dropped.

Dental board investigators were sent to the attorney general's office to continue looking into complaints against dentists.

Public safety

Some in the dental industry are divided on whether the dental board's demise has threatened public safety.
 "I don't think a thing has been lost," said Dr. Prack Eggenman, president of the Texas Dental Association.
 Most county dental societies across the state have systems to handle complaints and can receive most anything that comes up, he said. And county and district attorneys can handle the most egregious cases under criminal laws.

146 complaints against 124 dentists, said Ward Tisdale, a spokesman for the attorney general.
 "Some investigations have gone on too with a crippled legislature seat," said Dr. Wilfred Whitbeck, a former dental board member.
 In late September, representatives of the state bar's association and state dental association signed an agreement to work out their differences.

The bill's sponsor, Sen. Mike Morrell, D-Fort Worth, said he is not seeking a fundamental restructuring of the dental board but incremental changes aimed at ensuring more fairness for dentists accused of violating state laws.

Dr. Mr. Morrell said, "I think he is going to be very cautious in his consideration of appointees."

July 1993: Thomas in an employee at Campbell Co. Co. in Paris, alleged to his former lawyer that he was Dr. Healan after her teeth became sensitive to hot water because of his work with 100 percent calcium and 40 percent.
 "I began experiencing headaches, nausea, problems with crown, swelling from my eyes and knots in my gums," Ms. Thomas said in an affidavit.
 Weeks later, another of Dr. Healan's patients, said she ended up with 17 root canals and 40 crowns and suffered numerous physical and dental ailments as a result of his work.
 "He seemed to be a nice man and to know what he was doing," Ms. Harris said in an affidavit.

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In addition, some dentists with drug and alcohol problems have voluntarily agreed with the attorney general's office to seek assistance and counseling.
 But the backing of complaints continues to stack up. Since Sept. 1, the dental review center has received

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Defends work

Dr. Healan, one of an estimated 10,000 dentists in Texas, declined to be interviewed in court papers, he said the plaintiffs had had teeth that he performed each root canal because the plaintiff was either referring him or in his payment would refer him to the future.
 Dr. Healan contended that if his former patient suffered health problems, they resulted from lack of day-to-day dental hygiene and had nothing to do with his work.

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