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SO LONG, TRACY
Multi-player, three-team trade lands Tracy McGrady in the Big Apple. **PAGE C1**

McGrady's time had come, gone



RICHARD JUSTICE

IT was Dec. 9, 2004. Tracy McGrady's 18th game with the Rockets. That was the night he did something absolutely amazing, the night we thought would be the beginning of a beautiful marriage.

He played 35 of the greatest seconds any NBA player has ever played. As he departs with his reputation diminished, with his heart and desire in doubt, I keep thinking about that night.

He lifted a team, lit up an arena and energized an organization. If you were at Toyota Center, you probably cheered wildly, and then when it ended — all 35 seconds of it — you sat there trying to get your mind around what you'd witnessed.

"My will just took over and was knocking down

Please see **JUSTICE**, Page A6

City's smog concerns may choke power plant

■ Pollution near Matagorda could drift to Houston

By **MATTHEW TRESAUGUE**
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

A proposed coal-fired power plant in mostly rural Matagorda County, 90 miles from the traffic-choked freeways and smokestacks of Houston, has moved to the center of the debate over the big city's air.

Some federal regulators, Houston lawmakers, and environmentalists say the proposed White Stallion Energy Center would only exacerbate the city's stubborn smog problem as tougher nationwide limits for the widespread pollutant come into play.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, for one, wants Texas regulators to prove that pollution from the coal plant would not make Houston's smog worse before issuing permits. Critics also want the state to require the power company to consider

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WE RECYCLE

ANGRY PILOT'S TARGET: IRS

ATTACK OVER TAXES: Two people killed when plane flown into Austin office

TRAIL OF ASHES: Failed businessman's home set ablaze before he took off



TONY GUTIERREZ : ASSOCIATED PRESS

DESTRUCTION: A firefighter searches the floor above the one struck Thursday by a light plane, pieces of which are visible amid the rubble.

By **TERRI LANGFORD, R.G. RATCLIFFE** and **LINDSAY WISE**
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

AUSTIN — An angry, suicidal software engineer and part-time musician, apparently distraught over a decades-long tax dispute, crashed his plane into IRS offices, killing one other person and seriously injuring two others.

The pilot, Andrew Joseph "Joe" Stack III, 53, also had apparently set his Austin house on fire.

Stack was a failed business owner from California whose IRS woes appeared to have started there back in the 1980s. He had come to Austin about seven years ago for work.

In a rambling note he typed out and posted on his software company's Web site, Stack alluded to his own death.

"If you're reading this, you're no doubt asking yourself, 'Why did this have to happen?'" reads the note posted on Stack's Web site, www.embeddedart.com. "I am finally ready to stop this insanity. Well, Mr. Big Brother IRS man, let's try something different; take my pound of flesh and sleep well."

The IRS declined to comment on Stack's dispute.

"We can't comment on taxpayers due to disclosure laws," said Lea Crusberg, an IRS spokeswoman for the southern Texas region.

Stack took off in his single-engine Piper Cherokee from Georgetown Municipal Airport at 9:40 a.m. Twenty minutes later, his plane crashed into the IRS building in north Austin that houses the criminal investigations unit, sparking a fire and sending two people to the hospital.

Stack, who died in the crash, was identified as the



PAM PARKER: COURTESY PHOTO
BASS PLAYER: Joseph Stack performed with a local Austin band until a few years ago.

pilot who steered the plane into the IRS building.

The identity of the other person killed was not available but is believed to be an IRS employee who could not be accounted for earlier in the day.

Austin Fire Department Battalion Chief Palmer Buck

Please see **PLANE**, Page A6

U.N. says Iran has worked on bomb

■ New report on nuclear plans likely to heighten tension with U.S.

By **DAVID E. SANGER** and **WILLIAM J. BROAD**
NEW YORK TIMES

WASHINGTON — The United Nations' nuclear inspectors declared for the first time on Thursday that they had extensive evidence of "past or current undisclosed activities" by Iran's military to develop a nuclear warhead, an unusually strongly worded conclusion that seems certain to accelerate Iran's confrontation with the United States and other Western countries.

The report, the first under the new director of the International Atomic Energy Agency, Yukiya Amano, also concluded that Iran's weapons-related activity apparently continued "beyond 2004," contradicting a U.S. intelligence assessment published a little over two years ago that concluded work on a bomb was suspended at the end of 2003.

The report confirms that Iran has enriched small quantities of uranium to 20 percent, but makes no assessment of how close it might be to producing a nuclear weapon, which Tehran denies it is seeking to do.

At a briefing at the White House

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TAXES UNAFFECTED

The building hit in Thursday's crash does not process tax returns, an IRS spokeswoman said. Federal income taxpayers, whether expecting refunds or still owing taxes, will not be affected. Wage earners are still responsible for filing a return by the April 15 deadline or any other deadline.

—SAN ANTONIO EXPRESS-NEWS

A NOTE, A FIRE, THEN A CRASH

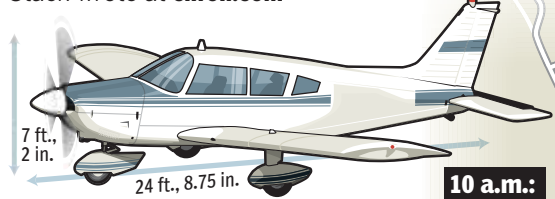
Before allegedly setting his house on fire and crashing his plane into a northwest Austin office building, Andrew Joseph Stack posted a note on his Web site expressing frustration with the U.S. tax system.

Piper Cherokee PA-28-236 Dakota

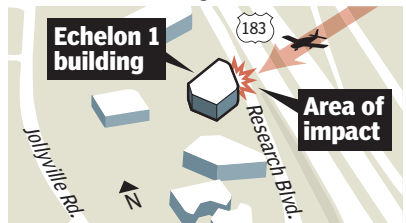
- Engine: Single propeller
- Cruising speed: 170 mph
- Max. range: 650 miles
- Wingspan: 35 feet



MORE ONLINE: See more photos and read the note Stack wrote at chron.com



Crash site
The building houses private and government offices, including an IRS criminal investigation unit.



Sources: FAA; Austin American-Statesman; risingup.com; news reports



JAY CARR, ALBERTO CUADRA : CHRONICLE

SPORTS

VONN HAS ROUGH FALL FROM GOLD

A day after winning the gold, skier Lindsay Vonn crashes in the super combined's slalom as her teammate cruised to silver.

STORY ON PAGE C1

COMING SUNDAY

GET OUT OF JAIL FREE?
Harris County taxpayers are footing the bill for bails gone bad.

Radack on soapbox over new derby park

By **CHRIS MORAN**
HOUSTON CHRONICLE

Even now, when he can stand upon his 46-foot hill instead of imagining it, Commissioner Steve Radack sounds more like an adolescent eager for acceptance than a proud papa when he talks about it.

"I know it sounds crazy, but people will come," Radack said as he strode up the

man-made incline that passes for a mountain on the plains of Hockley, about 30 miles northwest of Houston.

Radack's crew is putting the finishing touches on a \$2.3 million soapbox derby park. The first races are scheduled for next month. The competition will be an early test of how well the hill generates the 30 to 35 mph speeds of the sport.

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MELISSA PHILLIP : CHRONICLE

PET PROJECT: Commissioner Steve Radack says "people will come" when the \$2.3 million soapbox derby park opens on Old Washington Road in Hockley. The first races are set for March.