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■ Injured singer returns in triumph ■ Oliver

Stone faces snarls over Texas shoot ■ 'Cheers'

actor will raise money for the homeless.

Last March the career of GLORIA ESTEFAN, the Cuban-born pop singer, seemed in grave danger after she suffered a broken back when her bus was rear-ended on a snowy Pennsylvania highway. But Friday, Ms. Estefan made a triumphant concert return before a soldout, hometown audience in Miami. The concert began a 41-city, 53-day world tour that wraps up in New York City in September.

The 33-year-old singer, who twisted, leapt, and danced her way through a range of her top hits for two hours on Friday, said her recovery was spurred by the overwhelming response of her fans and the haunting memory of her father withering away in a wheelchair.

"I'm at a loss for words right now," she told the emotionally charged audience. "I thought I'd have a million things to say when I got up here, but it's so hard."

A day after the accident, doctors inserted two permanent steel rods to repair Ms. Estefan's fractured vertebrae. A month later, she could not lift her toes and was hunched over. But in six months, she was doing low-impact aerobics and light weight-lifting.

To keep from feeling the steel rods, Ms. Estefan will have to exercise and lift weights for at least three hours, five times a week, all her life.

What kept Ms. Estefan going through the ordeal was remembering what she endured as a little girl.

"My father was in a wheelchair for many years, and the most difficult thing of this injury was that I couldn't kid myself," she said before the concert. "I knew all the realities of what was going to happen, what it would be like for my family, because it was very difficult."

Dallas County officials are deciding whether to allow OLIVER STONE, the director, to film portions of the drama "JFK" inside the former Texas School Book Depository. Shooting on the film, which will explore the 1963 assassination of President John F. Kennedy, is scheduled to start next month.

County commissioners have said they are not opposed to the film pro-

ducers' plans to make temporary changes to the outside of the county administration building, the former school book depository. But they have expressed concern about other proposals from Mr. Stone that would mean moving all or parts of a museum exhibit on the building's sixth floor, where the authorities say Lee Harvey Oswald perched when he shot Kennedy.

"I don't want the exhibit closed for any period of time for them or anyone else," Commissioner CHRISTOPHER SEMOS told The Dallas Times Herald. "The exhibit is open every day except Christmas, and that's the way it should be."

Mr. Semos said the five county commissioners were expected to consider the matter tomorrow.

ALEX HO, the film's producer, said none of the proposed changes would harm the building or the museum exhibit and said he was willing to change his plans to accommodate the commissioners.

The film will star KEVIN COSTNER as the former New Orleans prosecutor JAMES GARRISON, whose investigation maintained that Kennedy was the victim of a Central Intelligence Agency and Federal Bureau of Investigation conspiracy and that Oswald was set up as their fall guy.

The "Cheers" actor WOODY HARRELSON, who lost his place as a Mardi Gras grand marshal after being spotted supporting an anti-war rally, received a new invitation to New Orleans this weekend.

Mr. Harrelson, who plays the dim-witted bartender, Woody Boyd, in the television series, will take part in Backstage '91 on March 17, in which local people are given the chance to mingle with celebrities to raise money for the homeless, said Sister JANE REMSON, director of New Orleans Artists Against Hunger and Homelessness.

"It's a cause to which he is very much committed," she said. "He said that since he won't be shooting then, he can make it, and he's very glad to be coming."

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