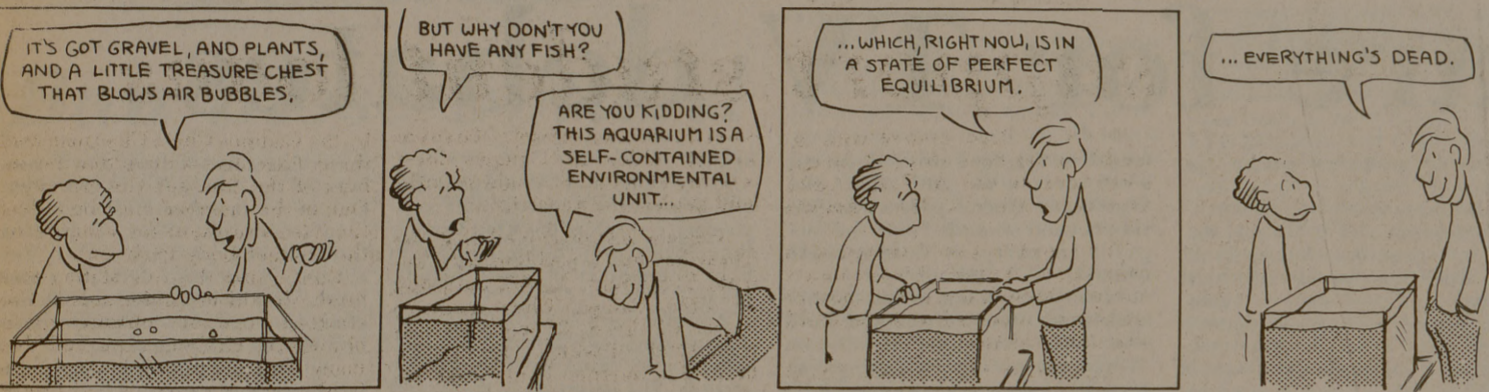


downtown



Man battles chain, tree; dies alone

Associated Press
TAMPA, Fla. — Before he died, Douglas Ray Sumner spent two weeks chained to a tree. He built a lean-to for shelter, dug a hole to collect rain, and ate palmetto leaves and bark chips while he struggled in vain to free himself, police say.

Agents from the Florida Department of Criminal Law Enforcement speculated that Sumner had been left to die sometime in January.

Sumner, 21, had not been seen by his family since he left home to camp two years ago, telling his mother, "I'll be back in three or four days — or maybe never."

When his best friend saw him a year ago and asked what he had

been doing, Sumner replied, according to police: "I'm just trying to get my head screwed on straight. Don't tell anybody you've seen me."

A Baptist pastor who knew him said Sumner had gotten involved in a "way-out religious group" and might have willingly allowed himself to be anchored to a tree by a 15-foot legging chain attached to a 20-inch metal collar around his waist.

Two hunters stalking wild boar found his bones in a dense thicket a mile from the Gulf of Mexico last month. Investigators say Sumner had died from either starvation or exposure.

Police call his death murder, but have not speculated on a possible motive. No arrests have been made.

Pastor Pierre Kennedy said Tuesday that the last time he saw Sumner the youth told him "he was going to go up to the forest and stay for a while."

"I think he might have had somebody chain him to that tree. Maybe someone said to him, 'We'll chain you to this tree and you can get closer to God.'"

"This is the type of thing some of those lunatic religious groups talk about, this ascetic idea that you can get close to God by depriving your body of things, food and drink and pleasure."

Found near Sumner's body were sneakers, shreds of clothes, a leather belt, books including a Bible and an identification card from the University of South Florida where he had worked as a groundskeeper.

Only 10 of the body's 206 bones remained. Officers said the rest must have been carried off by animals. Sumner was identified by a jawbone fragment and the identification card.

At the bottom of the pine tree was a gash where Sumner apparently tried to cut the thick bark, police said. They said scars 10 feet up showed where he tried to work the chains up and over the top of the tree.

Free University starts program for school year

Carefully preserving today's knowledge for tomorrow is the subject of a Texas A&M University centennial academic assembly on campus Friday.

"The Future of Organizing Knowledge" begins at 10:15 a.m. in Rudder Tower under sponsorship of the Texas A&M Libraries.

On the program is a trio of authorities including Lee G. Burchinal of the National Science Foundation, Ralph E. O'Dette of Chemical Abstracts Service and Lenore S. Maruyama of the Library of Congress.

Burchinal's topic is America's third century challenge in the form of a communications revolution. He is science information director of the NSF.

At 1:15 p.m., O'Dette, senior staff advisor to the director of Chemical Abstracts, will take the podium to speak on the aspect of access.

Rounding out the program at 2:45 p.m. is Maruyama of the MARC (Machine Readable Cataloging) development office in the Library of Congress. She will discuss the versatile nature of the MARC system.

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Actor-singer pot conviction upheld by appeals court

Associated Press
SAN ANTONIO—The 5th U.S. Court of Appeals has upheld actor-singer Chad Mitchell's conviction for possession of 400 pounds of marijuana.

The ruling Monday reversed an earlier decision by a three-judge

panel of the appeals court sending the case back to Chief U.S. District Court Judge Adrian A. Spears.

Mitchell said he will carry his appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court after the court voted 10-4 to uphold the charges. In a non-jury trial before Judge Spears in January of 1975, Mitchell was convicted of possession of marijuana with intent to distribute.

He was arrested in October of 1973 as he was getting into a pickup truck suspected of having marijuana in it.

Mitchell had argued that the search of the truck was illegal because the agents did not have a search warrant.

The government replied that searches of automobiles without warrants were allowed.

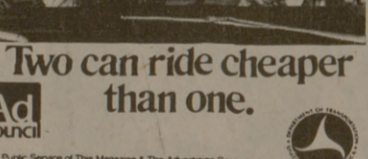
Mitchell has been free on \$25,000 bond during the course of the appeal. He received a maximum five-year prison term for the conviction.

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62 New York building

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Press invaded life, hero says in suit

Associated Press
SAN FRANCISCO — One year after Oliver Sipple reached out in a crowd and knocked away a gun aimed at President Ford, he remains a reluctant participant in a drama that has moved from the front pages into the courtroom.

Sipple, 33, has avoided reporters since two days after the Sept. 22, 1975, assassination attempt. He appeared at a news conference, his eyes red and his voice shaking, to protest that his life was private and had nothing to do with saving the President.

Sipple has been "in and out of hospitals," but he refused to elaborate.

Sipple, a veteran of Marine combat in Vietnam, was on total disability for nervous problems the day he deflected a gun he saw raised at Ford as the President left a San Francisco hotel. The shot went wild.

Sara Jane Moore, 46, pleaded guilty to trying to assassinate the President, and was sentenced in January to life in prison.

Attorney John Wahl appeared with him and said he would sue the newspapers that had reported that the hero was a homosexual.

Wahl said Tuesday that since that

Sipple has accused several newspapers of invading his privacy and asking \$5 million in damages. The lawsuit raises the question of whether a single heroic act gives Oliver Sipple the status of a public figure which courts have traditionally held is subject to media scrutiny.

"It's a well-established rule of law that a person's sex life is his own business unless he chooses to make it public," Wahl said. "In all the interviews he had after the incident, he specifically told the interviewers he didn't want to discuss his sex life."

The story about Sipple's sexual orientation was first reported in the San Francisco Chronicle. The Los Angeles Times also carried a story, which was printed by a number of newspapers subscribing to its news service. All are named in the suit, but the judge is considering a motion to exclude the out-of-state papers from the action.

At his news conference a year ago, Sipple said his mother was upset by what she read in a Detroit newspaper, and Wahl said the newspaper accounts had "destroyed 32 years of family life enjoyed with his mother and father and other personal relationships with friends."

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AGGIELAND REFUND POLICY
"Yearbook fees are refundable in full during the semester in which payment is made. If thereafter no refunds will be made on cancelled orders. Yearbooks must be picked up during the academic year in which they are published."

"Students who will not be on campus when the yearbooks are published, usually by September 1, must pay a mailing and handling fee. Yearbooks will not be held, nor will they be mailed without the necessary fees having been paid."

"Refunds will not be made on books not picked up within one semester of the publication date (December 17, 1976 for the 1976 Aggie Yearbook)."

"This policy takes effect with the delivery of the 1976 edition of the Aggie Yearbook."

TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY OFFICE OF THE DEAN OF ADMISSIONS AND RECORDS

To be eligible to purchase the Texas A&M ring, an undergraduate student must have at least one year in residence, credit for at least ninety-two (92) semester hours and be in good standing with the university. A year in residence may consist of the fall and spring semesters or one of the above and a full summer session (both the first and second terms). The hours passed at the Preliminary Grade Report Period on October 20, 1976 may be used in satisfying this ninety-two hour requirement. Students qualifying under this regulation should leave their names with the ring clerk, Room Seven, Richard Coke Building. This should be done prior to October 20th in order for all records to be checked to determine ring eligibility. This does not apply to students already having ninety-two (92) completed hours on record prior to the fall semester because they may order rings at any time. These orders are mailed during the last week of each month. Graduate students are eligible to order with proof (receipt) that they have filed for graduation.

Orders for mid-semester will be taken by the ring clerk starting October 21st, 1976, and will continue until December 1st, 1976. Students not placing their orders during this mid-semester period may order after final grades are posted and the ninety-two (92) hours are completed.

All rings must be paid for in full when the order is placed. Students will save time if they will bring grade reports along when ready to order. Anyone who has failed to leave their name in advance will be asked to return later to allow time for records to be checked.

All rings ordered at mid-semester regardless of whether on October 21st, 1976 or December 1st, 1976, will be mailed in at the same time and will be due to arrive here at the Registrar's Office on January 31, 1976.

The ring clerk is on duty from 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. of each week, Monday through Friday. However, in order for records to be checked, orders must be placed prior to 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m.

We hope this information will be helpful and extend our congratulations.

Edwin H. Cooper, Dean Admissions and Records
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Orders for Graduation Announcements will be taken beginning September 6 thru October 1 at the Student Finance Center Office, Room 217, Memorial Student Center, Monday thru Friday, from 8:00 to 4:00.

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