

The Battalion Classifieds

campus & city

Lufkin editor tells Ag his Pulitzer's story

By PAM RIMOLDI
Battalion Reporter

Joe Murray proved that one person's concern can make a difference in something that may seem unchangeable.

Murray told the story of how he won the 1977 Pulitzer Prize for Meritorious Public Service to a journalism class Wednesday.

The story is about a young man named Lynn E. McClure who entered the Marine Corps only to be killed during training. Murray, editor and publisher of the Lufkin News, learned about the tragedy through a great uncle of McClure's who was hoping the Lufkin News might be able to do something to discover why McClure died.

Murray said he thought "what difference can one person make" until McClure's uncle told Murray "they beat the boy's brains out — literally."

Murray said "as many times as I've given this speech, it still makes a chill go down my spine to recall those words."

McClure, who was comparatively small at 145 lbs., was beaten to death during a training exercise with pugil sticks, Murray said. The trainer kept yelling "kill, kill, kill" and McClure's shouts for help were ignored, he said.

McClure went into a combat zone three months later at the age of 19.

Murray said he found McClure had emotional and physical disabilities, and should have been admitted to the Marine Corps but that apparently the Marine Corps was accepting anyone within its quotas.

McClure entered the Marine Corps because he wanted to do something to himself, Murray said. McClure had never been able to hold on to a job.

The stories about McClure were printed in the Lufkin News in a presidential inquiry and congressional recommendations form Marine training.

The training in the Marine Corps was based on motivation in a man that wasn't living up to the Marine Corps standards was pushed to the brink and made to work hard, Murray said.

Now, the Marine Corps uses motivation training, Murray said. The Marine Corps does not take in men like McClure more, Murray ended his story with a few words of optimism: if anyone was ever better than anything was wrong and ought to be changed, he may be the one to change it.

Museum to sell seed to support local bird

By FLOYD WILTZ
Battalion Reporter

The hawk and the duck as well as the finch and the titmouse probably won't go hungry this winter when they visit Brazos County. That's the hope at the Brazos Valley Museum which is sponsoring a Birdseed Savings Day Nov. 3 to provide help birds eat through the winter on low-cost seed.

"Only during the winter is the food supply critical," museum employee Heidi Wittenborn explained. "We're just trying to help them over the rough months."

Wittenborn said more than 100 species of birds are found in Brazos County during the winter, including woodpeckers, hawks, rons, ducks, titmice, chickadees, sparrows and finches.

There will be seven varieties of seed for sale. The most popular type, Wittenborn said, is sunflower seed, but there is also sunflower heart without the shell, Niger seed imported from India and Ethiopia, crackcorn, peanuts and two mixes. The wild birdseed mix consists of

sunflower seed, wheat, white millet, crackcorn, milo and red millet. The special mix is made of sunflower seed and white millet.

The first birdseed saving held in Brazos County was in December, 1976 and it has been held each fall and spring since.

The price of the seed sold at the event is lower than what is bought for in local stores. The price of a 50-pound bag of sunflower seed during the sale is \$13.59 compared to local store prices ranging from \$15 to \$28, Wittenborn said.

Last spring more than 200 people bought three tons of birdseed during Birdseed Savings Day.

"We hope to sell just as much time," Wittenborn said.

The money raised from birdseed sale will go into museum's programs, which are supported through private donations.

The Brazos Valley Museum is located in the Brazos Center, Briarcrest Dr., in Bryan. Plans for seed will be taken until 20 at 779-2195.

Court rejects appeal in 'passing grade' suit

United Press International

AUSTIN — The Texas Supreme Court Wednesday rejected the appeal of a former student at Texas Southern University law school who charged his civil rights were violated because he was not given a passing grade and allowed to graduate.

Turner Whorton of Houston sued the TSU Board of Regents, the then dean of the TSU law school and his former instructor.

The instructor, at the start of the final exam for a 1976 labor course, reportedly offered to let students whatever grade they needed to graduate.

Whorton, who only needed one more hour to graduate, was late to the test and missed the announcement.

"It was appellant's own negligence which caused him to miss the announcement concerning the requested exam grade," the Houston Court of Civil Appeals ruled.



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The Houston Chronicle

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