

State

Turtle case dismissed

United Press International
BROWNSVILLE, Texas — A federal judge Wednesday dismissed the government's case against two men charged with distributing 8 tons of meat from the endangered Pacific Ridley turtle and blistered prosecutors for their inept handling of the case.

U.S. District Judge Filemon Vela brought the day-and-a-half old trial to an abrupt halt by granting defense motions for a directed verdict of acquittal on grounds the government failed to prove guilt.

(The defendants) may have violated consumer law when they sold turtle meat as fish filets to get past inspectors," Vela said. "But

where the government failed was that it did not show the meat was from the Pacific Ridley, an animal protected by the endangered species act."

Vela also was critical of Justice Department prosecutor Jose Toro, saying the case was "very, very weak." He added that what evidence there was had not been presented "in such a way that's understandable."

On trial were Pat Leroy Pace, owner of Pace Fish Co. Inc. of Brownsville, and seafood distributor Ben Soloff of Philadelphia, Pa., owner of Ben Soloff Inc.

In the first case brought to trial from a special Justice Department

task force investigation, government agents claimed Pace and Soloff imported and sold 17,377 pounds of meat from the Ridley sea turtles.

Pace, whose family sat through the trial, said he was pleased with the judge's ruling.

"I'm very happy," he said. "I'm glad justice is done."

The judge's action means Pace and Soloff are cleared of all charges in the case. Prosecutors have the right to appeal but there was no indication if there would be one.

"I'm disappointed," Toro said. "These cases are hard to try. But the task forces are going to continue. We'll just have to tighten our belts and do it better next time."

Fired prof gets job back

United Press International
AUSTIN — The 3rd Court of Civil Appeals Wednesday upheld a lower court decision ordering that Dr. Floyd Martine's position as a tenured faculty member at Southwest

Texas State University be reinstated. Martine had been dismissed Sept. 12, 1975, after a state auditor's report criticized his handling of a student insurance program.

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Study cites male-female gap

Businesswomen earn less

United Press International
DALLAS — Businesswomen are being paid significantly less than their male counterparts at both the middle and upper management levels, a study conducted in the nation's seventh largest city shows.

The study, directed by Dr. Martin C. Sobol of Southern Methodist University's Cox School of Business, indicates the advancement picture is improving for Dallas women but their paychecks remain a lot smaller than their male co-workers.

The study, conducted from March to May 1 of this year, found large gaps between how much female and male managers are paid for their

ences in career development, the survey said.

The study was released by the Gihon Foundation, a Dallas based non-profit group that fosters full participation of women in business and founded by the late Bette C. Graham — the inventor of Liquid Paper correction fluid. It was based on a survey of 74 top-level managers and 422 middle managers (277 men and 222 women).

Although 59 percent of the managers surveyed said they believed men had been promoted quicker over women during the last decade, 56 percent said "equally qualified" men and women had advanced at nearly the same pace during the last two or three years.

"However, approximately one-fourth of all managers disagree and think that women have not risen as rapidly as men within the last two to three years," the survey said.

"Women of all ages tended to commit to their careers later than the men and often began as secretaries," according to the report. "Few women had any line or general management experience."

Among the other findings were top management women are more willing to transfer for job advancement than men, middle management women try to combine careers with families but top management

women don't and 69 percent of the top managers believe development programs specifically for women managers could be beneficial.

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