### Fireflies 'light' the way to new heart treatment

United Press International ITHACA, N.Y. (UPI) — ireflies — those winged, nocural creatures which glow ith aluminescent light — have mused people for ages. They so have successfully repelled ds and other predators for ars with their revolting taste. Now, researchers at Cornell versity say the chemical remsible for the insect's awful te may someday be used as a ug to treat certain heart con-

"This is an example of how lly unapplied initial disveries in science can lead to reseen benefits," biologist mas Eisner said.

Prior to Cornell's revelation, ural "cardiotonic" agents neficial substances for the eart muscle — were believed exist only in certain plants d in toads used in ancient inese medicine

Fireflies are the only invertetes known to have such a

United Press International WASHINGTON — The Sup-

nto the peculiar case of a con-

Hawkins was convicted and nced to death for killing

honda Keyes, 12, in February 76 during a kidnapping and

empted rape.

He insisted he was insane and bject to "uncontrollable sex

In his appeal to the Supreme Court — hand-printed in black

pen on notebook paper — Haw-ins challenged whether police and obtained his confession volun-

He made no challenge of his

k of professional legal counsel

but that issue was raised in a

nd-of-the-court papers filed by American Civil Liberties

"He is a psychotic man whose ness totally prevents him from

sting and from accepting help

any authority," one psychiatrist oted by the ACLU said. "His

jection of attorneys is a direct ression of his paranoia. The ACLU argued Hawkins is

to a hearing and psychiatanalysis to determine whether

was mentally competent to ve his right to an attorney.

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Eisner, who worked on the project with chemistry professor Jerrold Meinwald, said fireflies are so distasteful to birds, jumping spiders, mice and other predators, that those animals regurgitated the firefly immediately if they swallowed it accidentally.

The firefly's defense mechanism is so effective, the scientists said, that when they mixed just a trace of the chemical into mealworm larvae — considered a gourmet treat for birds — it still was rejected.

But Eisner and Meinwald discovered that the unpalatable fireflies are pursued actively by females of another firefly species that lack the badtasting

"These 'have-not' females lure the males who have the defensive chemical by imitating the flashings of the 'have Eisner "Attracted to the signals, the

High court rejects case

condemned Texas man

The criminal appeals court ini-

tially had reversed Hawkins' con-

on the ACLU's questions about

urgings of both the state and Haw-

ding the conviction and kins had urged the court to act on sion upholding Hawkins' this entence of confessed killer his own appeal, not the ACLU's.

Court Tuesday refused to viction and ordered a retrial based

his mental competence to repre-his own trial attorney, had used he was innocent by reason his mental competence to repre-sent himself. However, the court later reconsidered, and at the

the justices left intact a ruling kins, set aside its decision. Haw-

males fly to the 'femmes fatales,' and promptly are eaten by

It's what happens next that could be the key to future medical research, the scientists

Once ingested, the defensive chemical is retained and the cannibalistic females become as unappetizing as the lightning bugs, which naturally produce the chemicals known as "bufa-

Those bufadienolides are presently being studied by researchers and pharmaceutical companies for their medicinal

Eisner said the chemical extract might be used as alternatives to chemicals or drugs already in use, many of which produce undesirable side

He also said it had a potential use in agriculture as a pesticide.

The legal rights group also argued the trial court should have

explicitly warned Hawkins of the

problem of trying to represent himself at the same time he was basing his defense on insanity.

The state argued that the Texas

Court of Criminal Appeals decision upholding Hawkins' convic-

Racial balance in question

# High court hears busing case

United Press International WASHINGTON — The Sup-reme Court agreed Tuesday to decide an important school desegregation question focusing on Cali-

fornia's Proposition 1, which limits the use of busing and pupil reassignment to achieve racial ba-The justices said they will hear an appeal filed on behalf of minor-ity students in Los Angeles by the

American Civil Liberties Union, challenging a state appeals court ruling that declared the ballot measure constitutional. At the same time, the court

agreed to take up a similar case concerning the constitutionality of a Washington State ballot initiative that bans busing for school desegregation.

The Los Angeles controversy dates back to 1970, when a Califor-nia Superior Court ordered the Board of Education to develop a plan for desegregating its schools. The California Supreme Court upheld the decision.

Limited desegregation did not

begin until September 1978. By the fall of 1979, the Los Angeles school board decided it wanted to court upheld the constitutionality nia's minorities. Proposition 1 is but the latest in a series of efforts

Appealing to the Supreme discontinue the plan, "due in large part to unprecedented losses of white students," and proposed an desegregation

Proposition 1 declares no state court may impose a plan for pupil reassignment "except to remedy a specific violation...that would also constitute a violation of the equal protection clause of the 14th

The original 1970 ruling against the school board was not expressly based on 14th Amendment violations, so passage of the proposition threw the desegregation case into legal limbo.

In July 1980, a state court judge ruled school officials had specific ally violated the 14th Amendment. But a California appeals court modified that ruling by allowing the board to exclude "naturally desegregated schools"

from mandatory reassignments. In December 1980, the appeals

Appealing to the Supreme Court, the ACLU said: "Preceded by blatant, overt legislation openly discriminatory against Califor-

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by the majority of the state to discriminate against racial minor-

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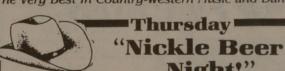
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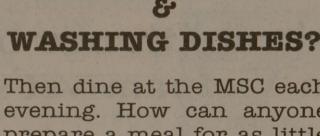
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