

State / National

Researcher calls facts decisive

Turin shroud said to be Christ's

United Press International
DALLAS — A member of the scientific panel organized to determine if the legendary Shroud of Turin could have been a 2,000-year-old burial cloth says he believes it is the burial garment of Jesus Christ.

Kenneth E. Stevenson, a Dallas computer company engineer, said Wednesday the three-year investigation, during which he touched, photographed and studied the shroud, satisfied his initial skepticism.

"The blood stains are blood,

they flow like blood," he said. "Since there is clear evidence a human body was wrapped in the cloth, it is reasonable to assume it is human blood."

Although chemical tests indicated the shroud's image to be genuine, not all members of the team were convinced the 14-by-4 foot linen once covered Christ Jesus. For centuries skeptics have argued the cloth was a fraud.

The official statement of the Shroud of Turin Research Project declared the faint image on the cloth to be that of a human.

"It is not the product of an artist," the statement said. "The blood stains are composed of hemoglobin."

Stevenson met with reporters one day before the release of a book he co-authored on the shroud, "Verdict on the Shroud."

A former professor at the U.S. Air Force Academy, he admits writing the book from the perspective of a Christian. But Stevenson said he was a late-comer to the faith, and was skeptical when he first heard about the shroud in 1967.

He also said science would never prove that the cloth once covered Jesus Christ.

A guarded vault in Turin, Italy holds the shroud. The Roman Catholic Church only allows the cloth to be displayed two or three times a century.

Among the panel's findings, which Stevenson said indicate the shroud once covered Christ are a lack of evidence of bodily decomposition, no indication blood stains were smeared (expected if a human removed the shroud) and a

three-dimensional photographic negative of the image showing a man.

"If a non-believer reaches the end of science and is left with supernatural as the only explanation, he will do whatever he can bring a naturalistic explanation, he said.

"The man in the shroud wears a crown of thorns, his side is pierced and he was scourged mercifully, which is not the standard procedure for a crucifixion," he said. "His legs are not broken, which is against the common practice of crucifixion."

"The Bible says when he came to Christ, he was already dead and they did not break his legs. But they put a spear in his side just to make sure. The evidence is overwhelming."

Senator calls for end to Libyan oil imports

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Sen. Gary Hart, D-Colo., charged Thursday that U.S. purchases of Libyan oil are helping keep Col. Moammar

Khadafy in power, and he asked Congress to put a stop to them by the end of 1982.

Hart introduced a bill calling for an immediate \$10-a-barrel import fee on Libyan oil and for cutting off all Libyan imports by Dec. 31, 1982.

The continued import of Libyan oil, Hart said, would amount to "tacit U.S. support for a terrorist government."

"We must demonstrate clearly to Khadafy that the United States will not passively sit by and permit him to sow violence with impunity," Hart said.

"No longer should we speak against him with strident voices while buying oil and replenishing his treasury with a whisper." Passage of his bill, Hart said, would "end the embarrassing spectacle of the United States financing Khadafy's adventures and maintaining him in power."

Based on the current level of imports, he said, the proposed \$10-per-barrel fee on Libyan oil would yield more than \$1 billion during the next year.

Hart said the revenues would be used to buy oil for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve under provisions of his bill.

Hart told the Senate that the United States is currently importing about 287,000 barrels of Libyan oil daily, amounting to 8 percent of Libya's exports and only 5 percent of U.S. imports.

Cutting off imports of Libyan oil, Hart said, would be "a small sacrifice to make if it helped force Khadafy to cut back his bankrolling of international terrorism."

GI's death getting new inquiries

United Press International
DALLAS — The U.S. Marine Corps will begin a second, more thorough, investigation into the drowning of a Dallas recruit known to be a strong swimmer, Rep. Jim Mattox, D-Texas, says.

The first military investigation into the death of Pvt. Randall Christian, who died Aug. 27 in a training pool near San Diego, Calif., concluded the death was an accident. Witnesses, however, told Mattox the recruit was "within arm's length" of a water safety instructor when he drowned.

"There are some glaring inconsistencies and deficiencies in the report," Mattox said Wednesday. "I think the inconsistencies were pretty obvious and apparent" to Marine Corps Commandant Gen. Robert H. Barrow.

Mattox asked Rep. Richard White, chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Investigations, to ask Barrow to repeat the inquiry into Christian's death.

"That an outstanding young man drowned virtually within arm's length of an instructor warrants the closest examination of all circumstances," White said in his letter to Barrow.

White asked Barrow for a formal investigation with "on-the-record testimony questioning conflicting statements" and Mattox said Barrow will order the staff at the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego to finish the investigation by Nov. 30.

Christian had been a lifeguard at a Dallas swimming pool and had swum on his high school swim team.

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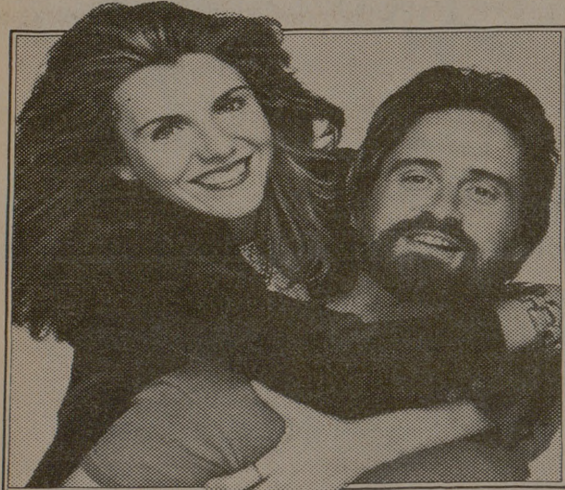


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