

A home for the homeless

staff photo by David Fisher

Julie Douthitt, left, and Sherry Brown discuss plans for the Stepping Stone, a proposed foster home/halfway house for Brazos County teenagers. (See "Aggie plans ..." on page 4.)

Antarctic expedition finds ancient bones

LUBBOCK — An Antarctic expedition has discovered the bones and teeth of ancient marsupials that lived 50 million years ago — providing the first evidence that mammals once inhabited the frozen continent. The find, called "one of the most significant scientific discoveries in recent years" by the International Science Foundation, was made March 7 on Seymour Island at the northeast tip of Antarctica, said expedition commander Sankar Chatterjee of Texas Tech University.

Chatterjee said Dr. Michael Woodburne, a marsupial and vertebrate paleontologist at the University of California, instantly recognized the jaw bones and attached teeth belonging to the ancient mammals.

from their place of origin in the Americas. Chatterjee said the find indicates the marsupials got to Australia by crossing Antarctica when it was warm and habitable.

The expedition, which ended March 9, also produced evidence of the first mosasaur, a marine lizard that lived 70 million years ago, the fossil bones of a giant, 6-foot tall penguin, skeletons of large marine reptiles and the first evidence of bony fishes of the late Cretaceous period.

Chatterjee, who said the discoveries should present an accurate picture of animal and plant life on the continent before the onset of glacial conditions, called Seymour Island a fascinating place.

Chatterjee, who also joined an expedition with a team from the University of Maine studying glacial deposits in Antarctica's Dry Valley, said he planned to return the frozen continent this fall.

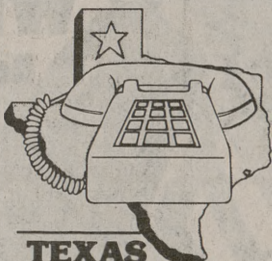
Chatterjee joined William Meister of Ohio State University, Woodbourne and Semary Askin of the Colorado School of Mines in the Seymour Island excavations. The bones, which date back 50 million years, belonged to an extinct, berry-eating marsupial species called Polydolops, he said. The remains were similar to those of marsupials known to have lived in South America at the same time. Chatterjee said the discovery supports the theory of continental drift, which contends that the earth's continents were once connected to each other. According to the theory, the southern continents of Australia, South America and Antarctica were connected about 50 million years ago in the Eocene Epoch. Marsupials, which include koalas, bears, opossums and kangaroos, carry their young in an external pouch until they are weaned. Experts believe the animals migrated to Australia from the east through the East Indies

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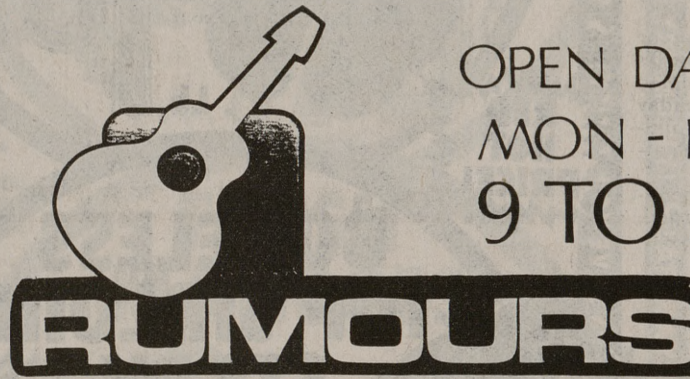
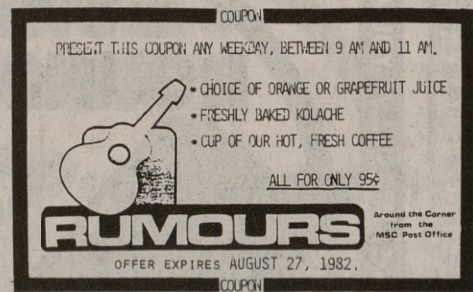
Police harvest marijuana on paper company grounds

United Press International KOUNTZE — Hardin County police officers have harvested two pickup truckloads of marijuana found growing on land owned by a paper company. Sheriff H.R. Holzapfel said

Monday the marijuana was planted on windrows left after timber was cut from the land owned by the St. Regis Paper Co. "The tops were already cut out of the plants. We know that they've already been harvested

once," Holzapfel said. Members of a local hunting club spotted the plants and notified authorities last week. The harvested plants could have yielded about 150 pounds of pot, Holzapfel said.

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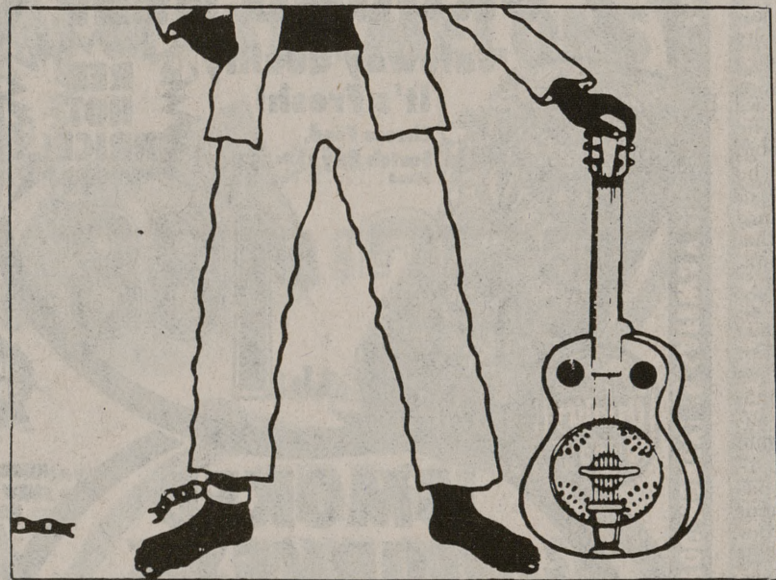
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1982

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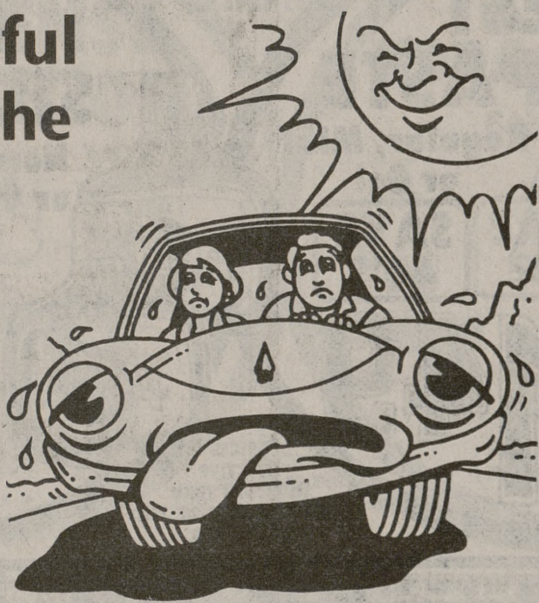
9AM: Annual Parade Hwy 21 at 19th
10:30AM: Picnic & Park Site Dedication
Sadie Thomas Park
1:30PM: Annual Religious Service
Pleasant Grove Baptist Church
4:30PM: Awards Program
Brazos Center

6PM: Annual Fashion Show
Brazos Center
7:30PM: Evening Speaker
Brazos Center
8:00PM: TSU Peoples Workshop
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