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## Researcher convicted of animal cruelty

Karen Schrimsher and Robert McGlohon  
Battalion Staff

Leland Langham, a Texas A&M chemistry department research technician, was convicted on a charge of cruelty to animals in the Brazos County Court Tuesday.

Langham was convicted of intentionally and knowingly failing to provide adequate food, care and shelter for his pet dog — specifically that the dog provided by him to his dog was sufficient in quantity and inadequate in nature.

Langham has owned three dogs and their puppies in the last year,

which he kept in a pen at his mobile home at 108 Ridge Loop in the Rolling Ridge mobile home park.

The conviction followed about four hours of testimony in which the State, represented by assistant county attorney Jack Phariss, and the defense, Bryan attorney John M. Barron, presented conflicting evidence concerning the death of the Langham's dog, Pookie, on April 18, 1983.

Several of Langham's neighbors testified that the pen in which Langham housed his dogs was too small for the number of dogs kept there;

that when it rained, up to four inches of water collected in the bottom of the pen, which forced the dogs to climb on top of a doghouse in the pen; that the water and food Langham supplied his dogs was grossly inadequate; that the dogs frequently became tangled in their chains so that they could not reach their water supply; and that Langham whipped his dogs unnecessarily with his belt, a rope and his hand.

Neighbors also alleged that the dog Pookie, as well as Pookie's mother, died of strangulation, and that one of Pookie's litters drowned because of

the inadequate drainage in the pen.

In response, Maria Langham, wife of the defendant, testified that the dogs were given adequate food and water. The dogs were fed twice a day with about one pound of dog food as well as occasional table scraps, Mrs. Langham said. She also said that enough water was supplied for the dogs at all times.

Immediately after their dog's death, Mrs. Langham said, she and her husband took the dog to a veterinarian for an autopsy, which she believes shows that the dog died due to complications from a miscarriage.

Assistant county attorney Phariss said, however, that the autopsy was inconclusive and that it showed only that the fetuses were in an aborted state at the time of the dog's death.

Langham testified that he had contacted the Brazos County Animal Shelter and the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals three times to try to get advice concerning the pen in which he housed his dogs. He said that he was unsuccessful in obtaining help.

The defense also called several colleagues of Langham's to testify as to his character. Among those called was

Dr. John Bockris, a Distinguished Professor of Chemistry at Texas A&M and the director of the project on which Langham is working.

Bockris said he had polled Langham's 18 co-workers and that their view of Langham was "extremely positive," and that his reputation was "excellent."

Animal cruelty is a criminal misdemeanor which carries up to a \$2,000 fine and as much as one year in the county jail. Langham will be sentenced on July 29.

## Nationally A&M ranks fifth for private gifts

by Pamela Barnes  
Battalion Reporter

Once an Aggie, always an Aggie. Using a saying that is repeated generation after generation and through the years, Aggies have continued to support their alma mater.

In fiscal year 1981-82 Texas A&M basis received more than \$40 million in private gifts, ranking fifth among all known public institutions in the amount received through gifts.

Jim Jeeter, associate executive director of the Association of Former Students, attributes the high rate of support to the loyalty of Aggies.

"People who graduate from A&M performed better about their experience with this University than most graduates do with theirs," he said.

Bob Rutledge, executive director of the Texas A&M University Development Foundation, said alumni support the University because of the quality of education they received while here, not just in formal education but also in their personal experience.

"People give to the University because they believe in higher education," he said. "Somebody is interested in what we are doing, that is why they give."

Corporations give to the University because they like the product — the

young men and women graduating from Texas A&M, Rutledge said. The graduates are an asset to their company. They also give to the faculty, he said, because they are impressed with it and the job it performs.

The gifts are given to the University through organizations such as the Association of Former Students, the Aggie Club, the Development Foundation and through personal research funds.

Texas A&M also receives gifts from foundations for specific programs or colleges. Of the gifts processed through the Development office, 80 percent are restricted by the donor for specific scholarships or programs, Rutledge said.

Of the \$40 million received in 1981-82, 17 percent was given by alumni, 22 percent by corporations and companies, 33 percent by foundations. The remaining 28 percent was classified as other.

The Development Foundation seeks the funds under the direction of the University. After receiving and acknowledging the gifts, it then processes them and properly invests them until they are ready to be used, Rutledge said.

The Association of Former Students also receives gifts from corpora-

tions and others that are classified as Friends of Aggies but it corresponds mainly with alumni.

"What sets us apart from other alumni associations," Jeeter said, "is that we own and control our own records and update them ourselves and have annual fund raisings."

The Association does not collect dues for membership. A student's name is automatically submitted into the list of former students upon graduation. To receive the literature and class news, contributions of \$25 are accepted and the subscriber's name is added to the active members list.

The Association makes eight fundraising appeals a year through the mail.

The success of the Association is attributed to accurate records, which are controlled by in-house computers, the undergraduate programs, and Aggie spirit, Jeeter said.

"You can't raise funds from people if you don't know where they are," he said.

The Association's records are 80 percent accurate and constantly are being updated. Four to five thousand addresses are changed a month, said Jeeter.

The Century Club handles the Association's major contributions.



Oh, say can you saw?

photo by Beverly Hamilton

Paul Koch, an electrical engineering major from Brackettville, measures a panel of wood as he prepares to saw off the rough edge. The wood panel will become the

lid to a linen chest once it is sanded and stained. Koch, a married student housing resident, spent Sunday working on this project on the balcony of his apartment.

## Louisiana man sought in grisly slayings of relatives

United Press International  
LAKE ARTHUR, La. — Authorities launched a nationwide manhunt Monday for a young man with a history of mental illness in the grisly Louisiana slayings of his father, mother and three other relatives.

The mutilated bodies of a man, his wife and their 2-year-old grandson were discovered in one house Tuesday. The bodies of two cousins were

found at another residence two doors down.

Officers pumped tear gas shells into a trailer between the homes when they were told an armed man was hiding inside, but the trailer turned out to be empty.

Virtually the entire town of Lake Arthur converged on the houses in shock as word of the violence reached relatives and friends. Officials were

forced to rope off the area to keep spectators out of the way.

Reports of the crime touched off hysteria in the community and police switchboards were clogged with calls from people claiming the suspect was in their attic.

State troopers issued a nationwide alert for Michael Perry, 28, of Lake Arthur, who authorities said had legally changed his name to Kuick Ma-

They said he had been committed several times to state hospitals for psychiatric problems.

The search focused on Texas highways in the hours after the killings because a neighbor quoted Perry as saying he was heading for Tijuana, Mexico.

The victims were identified as Chester Perry, 49; his wife Grace, approximately the same age; their

grandchild Anthony Bonin, 2; and cousins Bryan LeBlanc, 22, and Randy Perry, 19.

The suspect was described in police bulletins as a white male, slender, 5-11, 160 pounds, with short brown hair in a ducktail and a light beard. He was believed to be driving a 1980 Oldsmobile Regency and carrying a .357 magnum stolen from his father's house.

Authorities said all the victims were killed by gunshot wounds. Relatives discovered the cousins' bodies first and called police, who then went over to the Perry's house to ask whether they knew what had happened.

Chester Perry was found crouching behind his television set and the baby had been decapitated by gunfire, they said.



photo by Anne Ellen King

A bit of course work

Although he's wading in a pond at the Bryan Golf Course on Villa Maria Road, Bill Tietje is not looking for an overshot golf ball. He is extracting pond sediment samples as part of a wetlands ecology course he is taking this summer. Tietje is a graduate student in wildlife and fisheries sciences.

## Student-teacher interaction important

by Robert McGlohon  
Battalion Staff

Humanistic teaching — teaching that is as concerned with the personal growth of students as with subject matter taught them — is more of an attitude than a technique, Dr. Kenneth E. Eble said here Tuesday.

Eble, professor of English and University Professor at the University of Utah, was here as a guest expert for "Quality Teaching In A Technical Society," an inquiry conference sponsored by the College of Education, the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Texas Engineering Experiment Station.

College life, Eble said, affords the maximum chance in our society "for human experience to interact with human inexperience." Professors, he said, while not necessarily wiser than their students, are more experienced, and should pass on that experience to their students, whether it is detailed

in the course outline or not.

One important function of a teacher, Eble said, lies outside the realm of instruction in the dry sense of facts, figures and skills. That function, he said, is "to make becoming an adult seem like a worthwhile project."

Eble outlined five themes necessary to humanistic teaching:

First, a professor needs to recognize the essentially personal in teaching, neither to trivialize it nor let it be submerged under mere technical training or objective scholarship.

Second, he must recognize the obligation to develop character in a student, and therefore look to developing his own character.

Another theme is to make more of the joys and pleasures of learning, to fight the dead hand of institutionalization.

The fourth is to help harmonize the conflicting needs of students — satisfying work, fulfilling personal re-

lationships and the painful abstractions and realities of life.

And the fifth is to show students that learning is not necessarily an individual experience but a group experience as well.

Eble presented his views in a 15-minute presentation followed by questions from a panel of experts and from the audience. He evoked periodic laughter from the audience of about 200, and was roundly applauded at the conclusion of the session.

When asked what he would do if hired to improve the humanistic quality of teaching at Texas A&M, Eble replied that he had been asked that question many times before but in a different form: "What would you do if you were asked to be King of the Universe?" He said his first reply would be "Yes, I'll take the job."

On a more serious note, Eble said the best way to improve humanistic

teaching is to encourage interaction between professors of different disciplines within the University, and to encourage discussion and debate about humanistic teaching.

He said teachers sometimes need nudging to realize their humanistic roles.

Interaction among different disciplines is important, he said, because the question of values comes up even in the most technical fields. He used geology as an example.

A geologist daily faces questions about the exploitation of resources, the environment and many others, he said, adding that interest has risen in recent years about values and ethics in technical fields, as shown by increased enrollment in such courses as medical ethics.

Ask a geologist "Why be a geologist?" he said, and the answer won't be "Because rocks are great; they don't give you any trouble."

## U.S. battle group heads south for Central America

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — An eight-ship aircraft carrier battle group steamed toward the Pacific coast of Central America today in a show of force designed to underscore U.S. determination to retain influence in the troubled region.

The battle group, led by the conventionally powered carrier Ranger with its complement of 70 planes, will conduct training and flight operations in areas off the coasts of Nicar-

agua, El Salvador and Honduras as part of major military exercises planned for this summer, the Navy and defense officials said Tuesday.

Despite reports that other major warships such as the carrier Coral Sea would be sent into the Caribbean, there were no indications that another deployment was imminent.

The latest U.S. wrinkle in policy toward the region was announced as the House convened in secret session to hear about covert U.S. aid to Nicar-

agua rebels based in Honduras and 24 hours after President Reagan appointed Henry Kissinger to head a special commission to reach a bipartisan consensus on U.S. Central American policy.

Besides the Ranger, the battle group is composed of the cruiser Horne, the guided missile destroyer Lynde McCormick, the destroyers Fletcher and Fife, the frigate Marvin Shields, the oiler Wichita and the support ship Camden, the Navy said.

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### forecast

Partly cloudy skies today with a 25 percent chance of showers and a high of 92. Southeasterly winds near 10 mph. The low tonight near 73. Partly sunny skies Thursday with a high of 92.