

## Reporter declared innocent

**United Press International**  
**BROWNSVILLE** — A Brownsville Herald reporter has been cleared of a public intoxication charge filed against him by police officers who claimed he interfered with their arrest of a woman.

The jury of four women and two men returned the innocent verdict Wednesday in Judge Menton Murray's Cameron County Court-at-Law in the case of reporter Juan Montoya.

Wednesday's verdict overturned a previous guilty verdict returned in a justice of the peace court. Montoya had pleaded innocent and appealed the conviction to Murray's court.

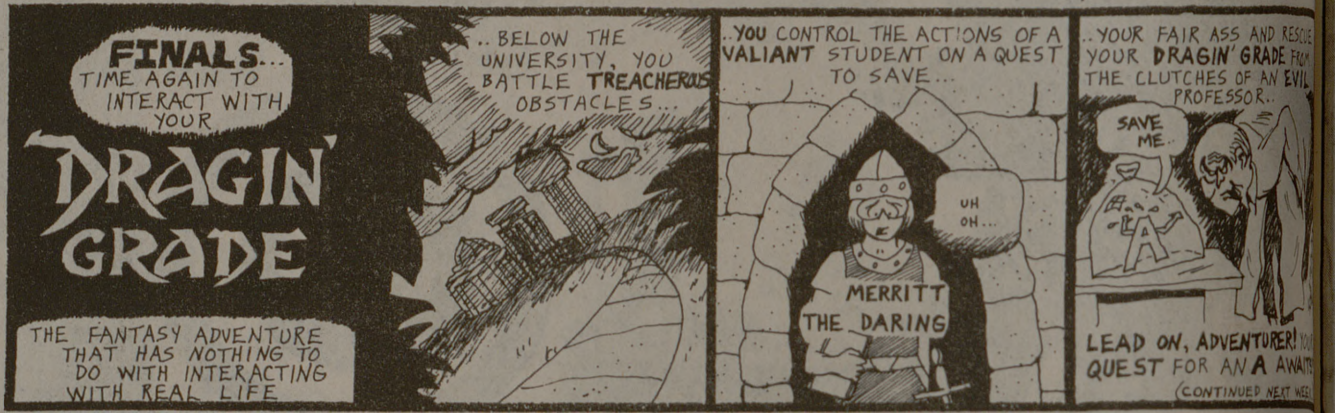
He was arrested outside the Texas Cafe by state and local police officers last Feb. 6. Prosecutors already had dropped a disorderly conduct charge police had filed against Montoya, alleging he interfered with the arrest of Anita Ayala, 54, for public intoxication.

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## Warped



## Sick panda eats breakfast

# Ling-Ling undergoes test

**United Press International**  
**WASHINGTON** — Ling-Ling the panda, suffering a kidney problem that could kill her, ate a good bamboo-and-apples breakfast Thursday as doctors moved sophisticated life-saving equipment from a children's hospital to the National Zoo.

"She's looking pretty good. . . At any rate, she finished a meal, which is better than she's been doing," zoo spokeswoman Leslie Hornig said. "But I don't want to give you the impression she's out of the woods."

The 14-year-old, 227-pound panda — a gift from China following President Nixon's 1972 visit — had suffered a loss of appetite when doctors suddenly discovered she had a potentially fatal kidney disorder and severe anemia.

The doctors moved kidney dialysis equipment to the zoo in the event results of a daylong examination Thursday indicate the life-saving procedure — which involves filtering the blood through a machine — is needed, Hornig said.

"I want to emphasize that no decision has been made to do dialysis," she said. "They are going to do the diagnostic tests to decide."

Doctors, who said the problem could be related to Ling-Ling's delivery last summer of a tiny male cub that died, planned to put Ling-Ling under anesthesia for the examination. They arranged to take new blood samples and use ultrasound equipment, which uses sound waves to let doctors view inside the panda's body.

Veterinarians consulted at the nearby National Institutes of Health and Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore.

The panda, whose illness was discovered Tuesday, already received a blood transfusion from the nation's only giant panda — her mate, Hsing — and also is taking antibiotics.

The zoo switchboard has flooded with telephone calls from panda lovers nationwide suggesting home remedies. Ling-Ling, zoo spokeswoman Morgan said.

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# Chemicals not a barrier to making of HUMMER

**United Press International**  
**MISHAWAKA, Ind.** — Trace levels of chromium in groundwater adjacent to an AM General Corp. plant will not delay production of the Army's new all-terrain vehicle, the HUMMER, the company said Thursday.

The Detroit-based company said the amounts of the chemical, found in four of 19 test wells drilled on plant property, exceed federal drinking water standards, but are far from dangerous.

Further tests are being conducted to make certain that the chemical, which seeped out of a long-unused waste-water treatment residue basin in the plant, has not infiltrated residential

wells near the plant. The company pledged to provide water for area residents "in the unlikely event that trace amounts of chromium attributable to the basin are found at concentrations that exceed the federal drinking water standard."

The company said the leakage, discovered in an environmental impact review during conversion of the plant for production of the HUMMER, will not affect the startup of production of the High Mobility Multi-Purpose Wheeled Vehicle.

"It's totally unrelated to HUMMER production startup," AM General Executive Vice President Eugene Zembrzusi said.

The 1 1/4-ton HUMMER military's replacement for familiar but outmoded test vehicles are to be built April, with full production begin soon thereafter, creating 800 jobs in the South Bay Mishawaka area.

The testing of nearby wells is being conducted by American Motors Corp., which recently sold AM General to LTV Corp. of Dallas, and Rockwell International Corp.

A Rockwell subsidiary, well Spring and Axle Co., the plant in 1956 to produce automotive bumpers and the procedure of placing siduses from wastewater treatment in the basin.

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