

Caperton receives Humanitarian award

by Christine Mallon
Battalion Staff

State Sen. Kent Caperton was presented with the Texas Humanitarian of the Year Award Thursday for his part in helping to pass a state bill that outlaws dogfighting in Texas.

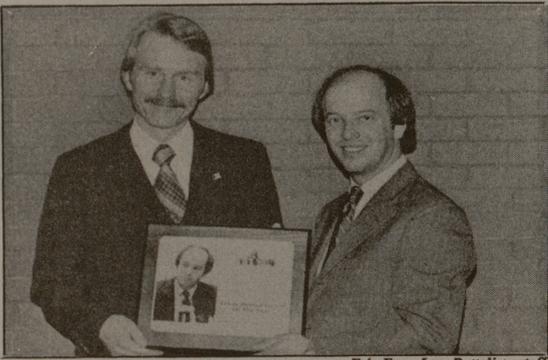
The award was presented by Dr. Craig Carter, executive director of the Brazos County Humane Society, at a luncheon in Caperton's honor.

During the last legislative session, Caperton served on the Senate Jurisprudence Committee which passed the bill.

Since dogfighting has been outlawed in most states, Texas was becoming a frontrunner for the inhumane contests, Carter said.

Carter, who also is a veterinary clinical associate at Texas A&M, praised Caperton for helping to convince other legislators in Texas to legalize dog fights.

Under the new law, which now is in effect, the first offense for holding or helping to organize a dog fight is a third degree felony and any spectators will be charged with a second degree misdemeanor.



Eric Evan Lee, Battalion staff

Kent Caperton receives a plaque from Craig Carter, left, naming him as humanitarian of the year for his support of animal protection bills.

"This (dogfighting) is a cruel, inhumane and senseless form of entertainment," Caperton said after accepting his plaque.

Most of the guests at the luncheon were members of the Brazos County Humane Society.

"The four main goals of the Humane Society are to make sure all animals are provided with adequate food and water,

shelter from the heat or cold, shelter from unnecessary pain and necessary medical care," Carter said.

Carter said a bill was passed last year which put stricter regulations on Texas animal shelters, but that the law only affected cities with populations over 100,000.

Caperton said one of his next goals is to help pass a bill that will place the same regulations on cities of all sizes.

Alamo looks criticized, renovations suggested

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — The Alamo, Texas' most revered shrine and a major tourist attraction, disappoints many visitors who see it for the first time, prompting a Chicago consultant to suggest some renovations.

But the Daughters of the Texas Republic, appointed by the state as the Alamo's caretaker, said the facelifting plans are "too far out in left field."

Lynn Bobbitt, president of the San Antonio Conservation Society, said Thursday the Alamo is not being used to its full potential as a historical shrine.

"I agree (with Foreman) that we're not interpreting the site to its fullest potential," Bobbitt said. "He suggested marking buildings and identifying the old compound's walls. It just doesn't look like a planned area."

She said the cleanliness issue should also be addressed, referring to wastes left by carriage horses that line up at Alamo Plaza waiting for riders.

Although Bobbitt said closing Alamo Street was not feasible, other suggestions in Foreman's presentation, called "Remembering the Alamo," were "good points for someone from out of town. That's a point of view we take for granted."

Chicago consultant Gary L. Foreman met this week to discuss possible renovations with members of Centro 21, the city's downtown task force. Despite opposition from the DTR, several officials agreed that some changes should be made.

"How many times have we all taken visitors to show them the Alamo, and they ask 'This is it?'" said Centro Chairman Steve Lee.

However, Foreman was referred to the DTR, which has not warmed to the idea of making changes.

Jean Macevick, chairwoman of the DTR's Alamo committee, said she told Foreman in a meeting last month "you're out of your mind."

She said the consultant's suggestions for improving the Alamo's appearance were "too far out in left field" to be considered.

Artists suing LA cafe

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — Three artists who installed the sculpture "Cadillac Ranch" on the ranch of Stanley Marsh 3 near Amarillo, have filed a \$1.5 million lawsuit against the owner of the Hard Rock Cafe, whose roof is adorned with a half-buried 1959 Cadillac.

Chip Lord, Hudson Marquez and Doug Michels, known in artistic circles as "Ant Farm," said in the Superior Court suit that the Hard Rock Cafe violated its copyright by producing a replica of their artistic landmark.

"This act of stealth and passing-off was done for the purpose of avoiding the expense of creating a unique and novel design, receiving immediate notoriety and the national publicity the sculpture creates, not to mention the ambience," the suit said.

The Ant Farm also sells T-shirts, photographs and replicas of "The Cadillac Ranch," a row of 10 half-buried 1959 Cadillacs whose tail fins jut into the air in a field outside Amarillo just off Route 66.

The Hard Rock Cafe, a trendy restaurant adjacent to the Beverly Center on La Cienega Boulevard, exhibits a chartreuse 1959 Cadillac on its roof.

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Actor aids paralyzed

United Press International
HOUSTON — Actor Clint Eastwood said Thursday he wants to help paralyzed people such as former college football player Kent Waldrep and is using his influence and celebrity status to raise money for research.

In fact, Eastwood dedicated all money raised Thursday at the world premiere of his latest movie, "Sudden Impact" to the American Paralysis Association. Waldrep, the president of the Dallas-based organization, estimated about \$150,000 was raised at a benefit.

Although the role Eastwood plays in many movies is that of a man who harms and injures other people, he said "that is make believe. This is real."

"The victims (of paralysis) are tough people and anything we can do to help them is good," Eastwood said.

He said he began interested in paralysis research when a friend's daughter became wheelchair-bound after a car accident. Waldrep also is confined to a wheelchair, although

he is optimistic it will not be for long.

"We're in this business to get out of business. It's not fun, folks. You've got to help get us out of here (wheelchairs)," Waldrep said.

Research, such as the tests being done in four different laboratories, offer hope for the more than 500,000 victims

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nationwide who suffer bruised or severed spinal cords. The average age of the paralyzed victims is 19 years old; most cases are the result of a car accident. "Progress made in the past several years has lead scientists to view the spinal cord and brain differently than when I went to medical school," said Dr. Harry Demopoulos, explaining in the

past the rule had been that the injuries could not corrected.

"That notion is archaic and no longer acceptable," Demopoulos said. "It is not only possible, but probable" that the central nervous system can regenerate itself.

Waldrep, who was an all around athlete in high school and an all-star tailback for Texas Christian University, landed on his head during a football game against the University of Alabama in 1974 and received a spinal cord injury high in his neck. He was immediately paralyzed from that point down. He has since regained the use of his hands and restored sensation to his lower body.

The year-old American Paralysis Association officials want to donate \$1 million to paralysis research this year, including a surgical technique that restores blood supply to the injured brain and spinal cord; utilizing low-intensity laser beams for stimulation or physical therapy and a functional electrical stimulation which places electrodes on paralyzed muscles and then uses a computer to send signals to the paralyzed muscles.

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