

R.I.

by Paul Dirmeyer



Officer cited for bravery

By Ed Alanis
Reporter

University Police Officer Gene Wilganowski has received the Texas Department of Public Safety's highest award for bravery — an outstanding achievement since he is not a DPS trooper.

The Department of Public Safety Director's Award is normally given to DPS troopers for outstanding acts of bravery, but two years ago it was opened to people outside the DPS. Wilganowski is the first police officer outside the DPS to receive the award.

On Dec. 18 Wilganowski was riding with a friend who is a DPS trooper. They became involved in a high speed chase which led them to the Golden Girl Mini Movie House south of College Station on Highway 6. A fire broke out, trapping seven people in the building. Five were able to escape on their own. While the DPS trooper called for

assistance, Wilganowski rushed into the flames to save the other two. He managed to pull one victim to safety, but the other could not be saved.

DPS Director Col. James B. Adams presented the award Tuesday night in Hearne, Wilganowski's hometown. The award recognizes "significant service to the mission of law enforcement," and fellow officers readily agree that Wilganowski has uncommon dedication to his job.

Wilganowski was nominated for the award by the DPS trooper at the scene of the fire. The nomination was then presented to a reviewing board before final approval. It was only the third award to be given in a period of more than two years. The award is given only when it is merited, rather than on a periodic basis.

Wilganowski says he was very surprised by the award, and is glad he was able to save a life.



Gene Wilganowski

Photo by Bill Hughes

Doctors hopeful for bubble boy

United Press International

HOUSTON — Doctors for David "the bubble boy" said Thursday it will take a few more months to determine the success of a bone marrow operation designed to provide the immunodeficient boy with disease-fighting cells.

"We have not yet have conclusive evidence that the transplant was successful, however, we haven't had any indications it will not be successful," said Dr. William T. Shearer, an immunologist at Baylor College of Medicine.

"We remain optimistic. Tests are being conducted on a daily basis, but it could be a few more months before we will be able to make a conclusive report," Shearer said.

David, 12, has lived his entire life in a series of sterile, plastic bubbles because he has no immune system to protect him against illness. He received an experimental bone marrow infusion from his sister Oct. 21 that doctors hoped would provide him with disease-fighting cells.

Shearer initially predicted doctors would determine the procedure's success within three to six months of the operation, but he said Thursday it would take longer than expected.

"We have had preliminary indications that the concentration of certain immunoglobulins, which are potential anti-bodies, and that the number of white blood cells called lymphocytes in David's blood have increased.

While these findings are not conclusive evidence the treatment was successful, they are encouraging signs," Shearer said.

Shearer previously said about two of about 12 children who have undergone the bone marrow transfusion treatment still survive, but he said those who died were near death when the treatment occurred.

"We can only speculate that it has taken longer because first, David is much older and much larger than the other children with severe combined immune deficiency who previously received bone marrow transplants of treated monoclonal antibodies," Shearer said.

"Second, David was not ill at the time the bone marrow was transplanted and the other children were. Third, David's immune system, what little there was, was not suppressed by drugs or radiation as was done in the other patients," he said.

David, whose full name has been withheld, has never been seriously ill because of his sterile environment. He is shuttled between his "bubbles" at his home and the hospital by a portable space-type suit with breathing apparatus.

He recently suffered a fever and diarrhea, but Shearer said David has fully recovered and is in "excellent" condition.

Teachers angered by coach's salary

United Press International

ROUND ROCK — Teachers angered by the \$44,000 salary given the new high school football coach geared Thursday to demand a 10 percent pay raise from the Round Rock school board.

Officials of the Round Rock Federation of Teachers said the educators planned to demand the pay raise during Thursday night's school board meeting — the first by the panel since new coach Doug Etheridge was hired earlier this month.

Etheridge, who left Port Neches-Groves High School to assume the coaching slot vacated by Terry Cron, was given a salary of \$44,000. The Round Rock Federation of Teachers claims the average teacher's salary in the community 15 miles north of Austin is \$18,300.

Officials for the teachers' federation said the group also could demand additional pay increases this summer.

Etheridge's hiring sparked renewed debate about educational priorities being studied across the state by Gov. Mark White's Select Committee on Public Education.

Dallas computer magnate H. Ross Perot, who heads the education committee, has advocated a lessening of extracurricular activities, including sports, with more emphasis on academics.

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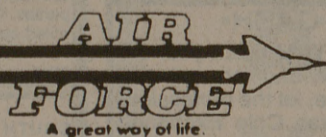
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NASA jobs won't change with new space station

United Press International

SPACE CENTER, HOUSTON — Johnson Space Center Director Jerry Griffin said Thursday JSC will be heavily involved in the space station program proposed by President Reagan, but employment will not increase dramatically.

"We will obviously be one of the major players," Griffin said. "I think in the near term it'll be a very modest impact in terms of people because we're going to kind of ramp this thing up in a way that makes sense."

JSC and Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., NASA's manned space program leaders, have been engaged in a friendly rivalry to be lead center in space station development. JSC directed the shuttle program.

NASA Administrator James Beggs said in Washington a lead center will be selected late this year or early next year and NASA personnel will be realigned to strengthen the directing center.

Griffin said it will not make a significant difference which center leads because all centers are going to be involved. "This is one program where we're going to insure we use all the talent in NASA that we can muster, and I think we will see a great deal of all installations in NASA involved," Griffin said.

JSC now employs about 3,500 government workers and another 6,500 contract employees are involved either at the center or in off campus. At the peak of the Apollo moon

program, government and contract workers totaled about 15,000.

With the shuttle program graduating from development to operations, JSC needed a new development program to keep some of its people occupied.

JSC has proposed a modular manned system. Marshall's plans have been oriented toward unmanned platforms, JSC spokesman Steve Nesbitt said.

Griffin said the biggest benefit of President Reagan's commitment is that, if Congress goes along, it will give NASA and JSC a new, long-term program to make use of existing engineering talent.

"I think we're talking about a development period of eight to nine years and then an operational period that might span another 20 or 30," Griffin said. "It depends, again, on how well we're able to design life into this thing."

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