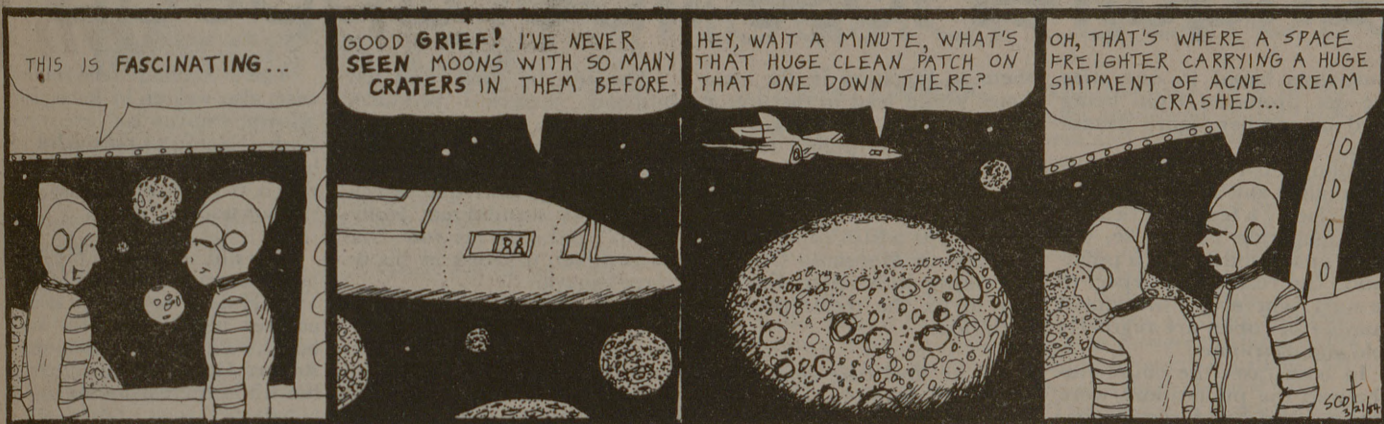


Warped

by Scott McCullar



## Panhandle sites looked at for nuclear waste disposals

**United Press International**  
**AMARILLO** — Two Panhandle sites under consideration for nuclear waste disposal were narrowed from hundreds of square miles to 9 square miles each, Department of Energy officials announced Tuesday.  
 A proposed location in Deaf Smith County near Hereford was reduced from 300 square miles while a Swisher County location near Tulia was reduced from 200 square miles.  
 The Panhandle locations are two of nine sites being studied as possible locations for a national repository to store waste from commercial nuclear power plants. It is slated for operation in 1998.  
 Gov. Mark White issued a news release blaming the DOE for "lack of sensitivity to state concerns over technical, environmental and socioeconomic issues."  
 "We intend to fully evaluate these latest site recommendations. The issuance of these re-

ports at this time, without benefit of final guidelines, is simply a convenience for DOE and ... does not respond to the spirit of the nuclear waste policy act," White said.  
 DOE spokesman Theodore Taylor says locations in other states already had been narrowed down as much as possible. The other sites are in Washington, Nevada, Utah, Louisiana and Mississippi.  
 Taylor said the Texas proposal had an equal chance with the other proposed sites of being selected. He said the size of the areas was reduced so the DOE could prepare a mandatory environmental assessment statement.  
 "The precise area that would have to be protected has not been determined," Taylor said, adding that that would not be known until Congress had approved standards on the storage of high-level radioactive waste.  
 He said officials believe less than 6,000 acres would be

needed for the disposal including space for equipment above the ground and for a safety buffer zone.  
 If the Panhandle is selected as the location, the waste would be stored in salt beds some 2,500 feet underground. Taylor estimated some 70 to 80 property owners were involved in the 18 square miles under consideration.  
 White said the state nuclear waste programs office would hold public hearings in the Panhandle and conduct its own review of the latest DOE report during the next 45 days. Comments from the state review will be sent to the DOE.  
 "We will be scrutinizing what criteria the DOE used to recommend that these smaller tracts in the Texas Panhandle undergo further testing," White said.  
 He said several considerations were involved when DOE officials selected the 9 square miles for each Texas site.  
 They included long-term

safety and performance factors after the disposal was filled as well as protection from leaks while the disposal was being filled.  
 Panhandle residents and Agriculture Secretary Jim High-tower had expressed concerns about the danger of contamination to the Ogallala Aquifer, saying water already is scarce in West Texas.  
 Geology experts with Battelle Institute of Columbus, Ohio, were hired to help the DOE prepare its reports. They say the waste would be located 2,000 feet below the aquifer and probably would not travel upward if there were a leak.  
 "This is something that does need quite a bit of further study," Taylor said.  
 DOE officials will answer questions from the public at the Hereford Community Center and at the Swisher Memorial Building in Tulia starting at 4 p.m. Wednesday.

## Mother, 36, gets jail, fine in baby's mauling death

**United Press International**  
**DALLAS** — A hairdresser, 36, was convicted Tuesday of misdemeanor criminal negligence for leaving her 4-week-old daughter unattended with her 84-pound guard dog, which killed and partly ate the infant. The jury then assessed the maximum sentence of one year in jail and a \$2,000 fine for Britt Rognaldson.

Rognaldson had remained calm through the trial but Tuesday was crying as she spoke to reporters after receiving the sentence.  
 "I'm very surprised I was not found not guilty," she said, "because I am not guilty."  
 The infant, Cara, was dragged from her crib and partially eaten by the dog on Sept. 3, 1983, as Rognaldson slept in another room of her Dallas apartment.  
 Prosecutors had asked the jury, which began deliberations in the 2-week-old trial on Monday, to convict Rognaldson of felony injury to a child and to sentence her to life in prison.  
 To convict on the first-degree felony charge, the state needed to prove Rognaldson knew the dog was dangerous and intentionally left the child unprotected.

Rognaldson's attorney said whether to appeal the verdict within a couple of weeks.  
 "The death of Cara Rognaldson was a random tragedy and not the result of crime," said Rognaldson's attorney.  
 Testimony indicated the dog had bitten people on two occasions and had lunged at a third person on Rognaldson's command.  
 Other evidence indicated the woman kept the dog for protection, and that on one occasion the dog had gnawed at the infant's wooden crib.  
 "The defendant did absolutely nothing" to protect the child from the dog, said prosecutor Dick Miller.

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### Retail exec to speak tomorrow

By **BETTY SCHULTZ**  
Staff Writer  
 Stanley Marcus, chairman emeritus of Neiman-Marcus department stores, will give an informal presentation on the retailing business Thursday at 11 a.m. in Rudder Forum. Marcus will relate his experience with the retail industry of Neiman-Marcus and talk about the key elements that make retail businesses a success.

Following Marcus' presentation the audience may participate in a question and answer period. This is to attract and interest students in a retailing career.  
 Marcus, who used to be active in the business operations of Neiman-Marcus, now acts primarily as a consultant for the firm which is one of the most exclusive department stores of Texas.  
 The presentation is open to the public free of charge. This presentation is part of an on-campus lecture series by nationally prominent leaders in retailing. It is sponsored by the Texas A&M Center for Retailing Studies, a privately funded organizational unit of the department of marketing. The center will publish the lectures for national distribution.

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