

City liable for accident that involved fireworks

United Press International
AUSTIN — The city of Mission can be held liable for a 1973 fireworks accident that caused the death of one family member and injured several others, the Texas Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

The exact amount of the city's liability could not be determined because Jennifer Genzer,

one of several family members involved in the accident, was awaiting a new trial. However, the court said the city's overall liability was limited to a maximum of \$300,000.

John Genzer Jr, his father, mother, wife and two children all were seated in the bed of a pickup truck when an errant fireworks display exploded be-

hind them, causing the death of one child, Melissa, and serious injuries to everyone else in the truck.

The family had been directed to their parking spot by Mission police officers and were viewing a fireworks display being conducted by Mission volunteer firemen.

A jury in the case also found that the city was negligent in not ensuring that the crowd was a safe distance from where the fireworks were ignited.

Prior to the trial against the city Alamo Fireworks Inc, the distributor of the display, settled with the Genzer family for \$450,000 in an out-of-court agreement.

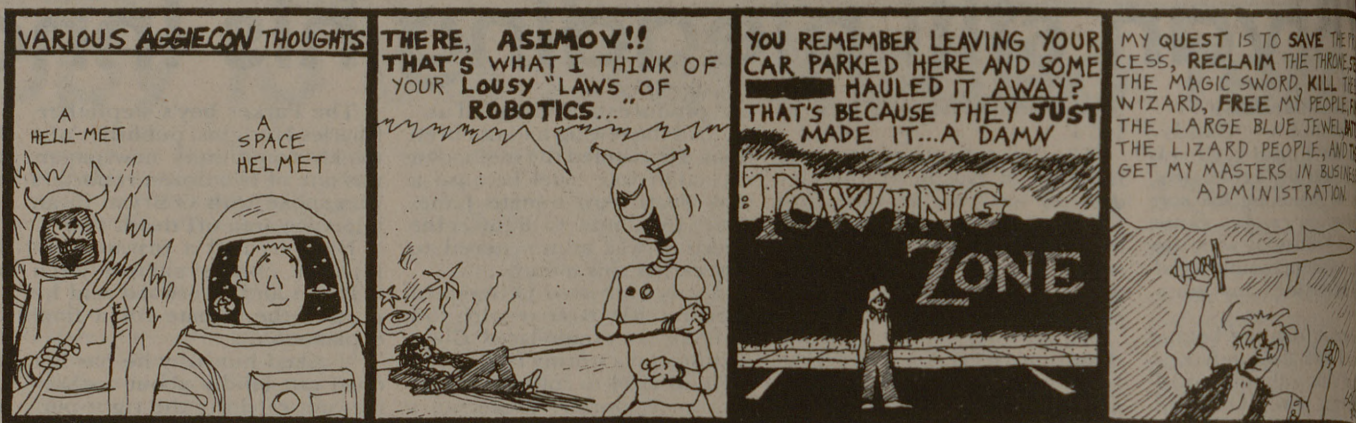
During the trial, the damages suffered by the Genzer family and a friend who also was in the truck were found to total \$528,912. The city was found liable for that amount, minus the \$450,000 paid by Alamo.

The city also should be held liable for whatever damages, if any, Jennifer Genzer eventually is awarded, the appeals court said.

The city of Mission had argued against the award, saying it was immune from prosecution because the city employees were not acting within the scope of their official duties when the accident occurred.

Warped

by Scott McC



AggieCon XV starts today

By TAMMY KIRK

Battalion Reporter
AggieCon XV is one of the 10 largest science-fiction/fantasy conventions in the world, says David Reed, AggieCon public relations chairman.

The guests for this year's con, which begins today, are L. Sprague, author of "The Unbeheaded King," his wife Catherine Crook de Camp, James P. Hogan, author of "Code of the Lifemaker," and science-fiction artist Don Maitz. The guests will appear throughout the convention for lectures or as participants on discussion panels.

Several movies are to be shown, such as "The Sword and the Stone," "The Point," "Dra-

gon'slayer," "Time Bandits," and "Tron."

Among the events scheduled are an amateur art show, pro art show, a masquerade, a banquet and a dealer's room where goods such as posters, buttons and books will be sold.

With these special guests, movies and events, and to be recognized in the top 10 of science-fiction/fantasy conventions, dedication and organization are definitely needed, says AggieCon Chairman Mary Brooks.

"AggieCon takes as much time as you want to put into it," says Brooks.

The key to AggieCon's success: the members want to be dedicated and make the time for the convention.

"I know not to take 'AggieCon' home with me (from the Student Programs Office) because I would much rather do that job than my homework," Brooks says.

From the end of spring break until the beginning of the convention most members do not know what the word "sleep" is says David Reed, chairman of public relations for the convention. Making sure guests have hotel rooms, setting up tables for the dealers, making posters, and scheduling workers for convention stations are examples of the fast pace AggieCon keeps.

"Fun? It's a blast!" Brooks says. "Everyone is on such an emotional high about the convention that no one realizes they aren't getting any sleep."

Even though the members work hard and in a hectic atmosphere around convention time, things run smoothly with no problem that can't be handled, Brooks says.

"In fact, things are running so smoothly this year that I keep waiting for something to happen," Brooks says.

The year-round organization

and planning help keep the minute preparations from as hectic as they could be, Brooks says. AggieCon sends exploratory letters to past guests for next year's convention in January of the previous months in advance. Next chairman has already chosen to watch for "tip" convention for next year.

The real work for AggieCon XVI will begin today, the day after AggieCon ends, Brooks says. Negotiating contracts, budgeting, letters and calling, calling are examples of the round responsibilities.

In addition to the major convention in the spring, AggieCon also organizes smaller conventions in the fall. In the fall year there was a convention how to put on a science-fiction convention, called last year, Reed says it was a success.

AggieCon runs through day on the second floor of Memorial Student Center. Ticket prices are \$6.50 for a five day pass and \$4.00 for a one day pass. Tickets can be purchased at the MSC Box Office in order before and during the

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