

Prof finds foster parenting for past 12 years rewarding

By RENEE HARRELL
Reporter

Taking care of a child who is separated from his parents, who may be afraid, lonely, confused. Giving love to a troubled child. Knowing all along that it's not permanent. Sharing your life. That's a lot to ask of someone.

For the past 12 years, Dr. Robert Powell, a Texas A&M plant physiology professor, has been a foster parent. During those 12 years, he has kept 12 children ranging in age from 4 months to 16 years. For about four months, Powell has been keeping two brothers, one 4 years old, the other 20 months.

"Just every day working with the children is rewarding," Powell says. "Four is the most I've ever kept at one time. A couple have gone on to other kinds of homes. I've had a couple of them adopted. I've had a couple go back to their homes."

A foster home worker from the Texas Department of Human Resources says the goal of foster parenting is to return the child home if possible.

"We've had children stay from overnight to up to months," says foster home worker Gail Bradbury. "They stay in the homes until a per-

manent plan is found. We also have case workers who work with the child's real parents or they go to small group homes. Adoption workers work with the child if he becomes free for adoption."

Bradbury says foster parents are needed in the area.

"We cover a larger area than just Bryan," Bradbury says. "The Brenham area and Milam County are also included. Our greatest need recently has been for preschool children and teenagers."

A 15-person task force has been formed to help recruit foster families in the Bryan area.

"Some are from the media services, some we have worked with before, some are elected officials and some are foster parents," Bradbury says. "They were asked for ideas in terms of recruitment. Some will help distribute flyers, some will do a newsletter, some will speak to groups about our programs. We have three main functions — foster parenting, adoption and volunteer services."

Bradbury says the DHR offers classes for anyone interested in foster parenting. No one is obligated to become a foster parent just by attending the classes.

"The classes just tell them what they need to do," Bradbury says. "The classes meet once a week for three weeks. The parents learn the roles and responsibilities of a foster parent."

Powell says he thinks people should become foster parents if they are right for the job.

"I'd say become one," Powell says. "I don't think all people would be good foster parents. You have to like children and understand them. They have to remember, it's not permanent. It's a means of helping them."

Powell says it's difficult when the child leaves.

"I've never gone more than about six months without a foster child," he says.

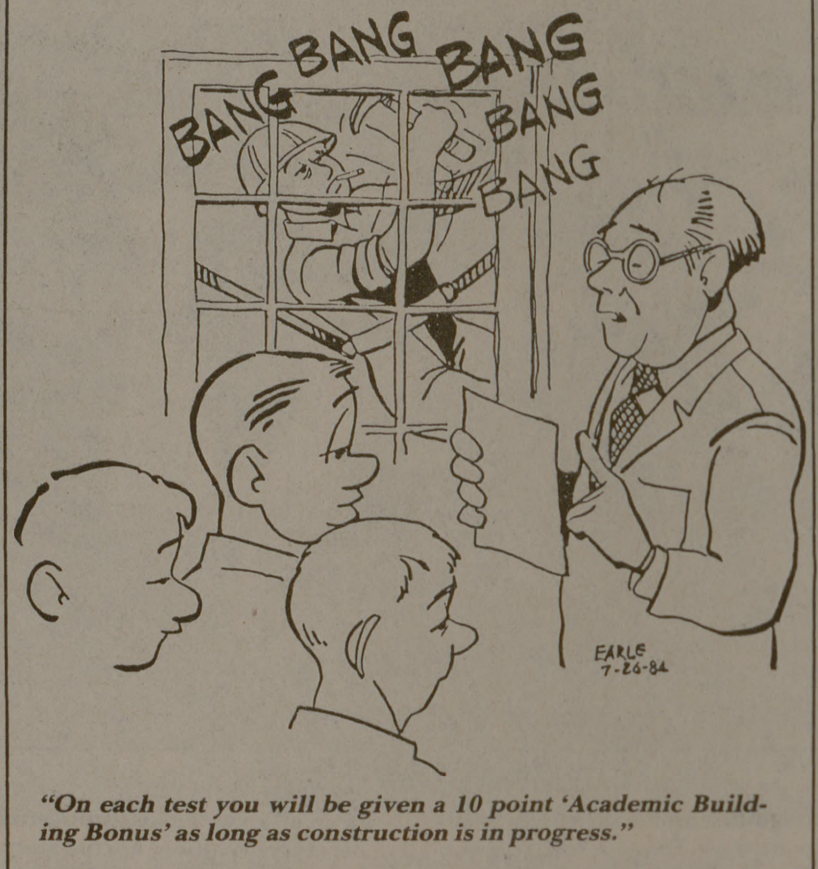
Powell, who is a single foster parent, says he does what everyone else is doing these days when he has to be away from home.

"I take them to a day-care center," Powell says, "just like most all the kids are being raised today."

Persons interested in more information on foster parenting or adoption can call (409) 823-0921.

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"On each test you will be given a 10 point 'Academic Building Bonus' as long as construction is in progress."

Miners' strike is costly

United Press International

LONDON — The National Coal Board Thursday reported an annual loss of \$1.19 billion in the coal industry and blamed the quarter of that amount on a week-old coal miner's strike.

The announcement came with a unanimous vote to continue the strike by leaders of the National Union of Mineworkers, strike since March 12 over board's plans to close 20 unprofitable mines and lay off 20,000 men.

In Derbyshire in central England 45 people were arrested when 20 strikers picketed a coal mine. In Scotland, 52 men were arrested for harassing a miner who refused to work because he said his family was starving.

Police said nearly 5,000 people have been arrested so far in the month dispute.

Coal Board Chairman Ian MacGregor, who announced the \$1.19 billion loss for the financial year ending in March, said the coal industry had been "severely affected by the union's disputes."

He said the strike, which began three weeks before the end of the financial year, coupled with a 19-8 ban on overtime by miners before the strike, had cost \$270 million.

Financial experts estimate the walkout has cost a total of \$1.3 billion while militant Marxist union leader Arthur Scargill paid out at \$4.65 billion.

"If I were Mr. Ian MacGregor, I would be concerned that my leadership had been a disaster," Scargill, who was with mine leaders in Sheffield in northern England for the vote.

"Those kind of results can only be described as an unmitigated disaster."

The grim mood of the strike reflected in a pre-dawn incident outside the house of a 49-year-old miner employed at Bilston, near Edinburg, Scotland's largest pit.

The miner, Philip Inverarity, said he returned to work five days ago because he and his family were starving, was confronted as he left for work by 40 striking miners gathered on the sidewalk.

"I had to call the police for help because I did not know what to do," Inverarity said. He said his 18-year-old daughter was too terrified to go to work.

Police arrested the miners and escorted Inverarity to work. The other miners who protested at a police station were detained.

In Parliament, there were scenes as opposition members tried to shout down Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

"I think some of the scenes of intimidation and violence we have seen and the assembly of picketers outside houses, which is totally and utterly wrong, is recognized as wrong by all right-thinking people," he said. "I give every support to those who want to return to work."

Three-quarters of the country's 175 mines are idle, and all 30,000 of the country's 175,000 miners have been out on strike.

Police

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Wiatt said the Department can't justify sending officers to some of the more advanced classes because they are "too esoteric and expensive and don't apply to this type of law enforcement."

Some officers manage to find the time and money to attend the courses on their own. This means sacrificing time from their jobs and coming up with the \$550 fee. Dalager said that eight of the 28 students attending the basic certification class are paying for it themselves.

But the instruction offered by the division is not geared only to police officers. The Executive/Dignitary Protection and Anti-Terrorist Tactics course has been attended by law enforcement officials, corporate employees and even one bank president.

Dalager explained that the 60-hour course, which runs for four days and costs \$350 to attend, teaches security techniques against terrorist action, as well as protection for high-profile people, such as political officials.

"Suppose," he said, "it's a big corporation with a fleet of aircraft that flies all over the world. It requires protection for its executives against kidnapping here and protection against terrorism there."

"This is our most popular course," Dalager said the Electronic Eavesdropping Countermeasures class, offered only by the division, is the most "exotic" course offered. The \$600, 50-hour course was implemented last year and teaches both basic and advanced countermeasure techniques. Bank officials and Southwestern Bell employees are among those who have attended the class. Dalager said there usually are about 10 to 12 students per class.

Dalager said he teaches about 40 hours of violence reduction classes each month. The rest of the classes are taught by part-time instructors, some of whom are Texas A&M professors.

Dalager has been working for a year to develop a course to teach law enforcement officials and their families to cope with stress, but said the project has so far failed because of a lack of money and the difficulty involved in arranging a time for the course to be taught.

Scientist confirms shark attack

United Press International

SOUTH PADRE ISLAND — An 18-year-old woman severely bitten as she frolicked in the Gulf of Mexico surf was the victim of a "shark accident," a marine biologist said Thursday.

Scientists have not yet seen the wounds suffered by a 13-year-old girl from College Station also bitten by a large fish at South Padre Island on Tuesday, so they have not determined whether she, too, was the victim of a shark.

Dr. Robert Edwards of the Pan American University marine biology laboratory at South Padre Island said examination of Carmen Castro Gaytan's severe foot and leg wounds showed she was bitten by a 3-foot to 5-foot fine tooth or blueback shark.

Edwards, who termed the incident a "shark accident" rather than a shark attack, said he is convinced the shark did not intend to bite the woman, because if it had her injuries would have been much more serious.

The 18-year-old tourist from Mexico City is still in guarded condition at Brownsville's Valley Community Hospital, but a spokeswoman said she spent a restful night.

The 13-year-old girl was also bitten by a large fish Tuesday and required more than 60 stitches to close her leg and foot wounds. Edwards said the girl's father had promised to mail him photographs of the wounds so scientists can determine what bit her.

The shark attack, the first in 23

years off one of Texas' most popular beaches, kept wary swimmers out of the water at midweek. Shark patrols watched the beaches and shallow waters on Wednesday but saw no sharks, said city spokesman Joe Rubio.

The attacks took place Tuesday morning about a mile apart on the South Padre Island beach.

Rubio Thursday dismissed concern that a fishing tournament set to begin Friday might attract more sharks toward the beaches.

Ban lifted on number of stations owned

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Federal regulators, citing a communications boom in America, voted Thursday to end a 31-year-old restriction and let broadcasters own an unlimited number of AM, FM and television stations by 1990.

Since 1953, the Federal Communications Commission has prohibited any one group from owning more than seven stations in each of the three categories or more than five VHF television stations.

The decision, which could revolutionize the industry, sets up a six-year transitional period during which broadcasters will be allowed to own 12 each of AM and FM stations, plus up to 12 television stations — either UHF or VHF.

The nation's broadcasters, who have long said that national ownership limitations were outmoded, hailed the vote as "most timely" and

In voting 4-1 to lift the restrictions, with an option to take "corrective action" between now and 1990, the Federal Communications Commission said it found no evidence that the change would do any economic harm or affect the diversity of programming.

"a positive step." But the action brought a quick bipartisan outcry from Congress.

Members of the House and Senate urged hearings on whether the rule change might encourage monopolies in the TV industry or make it harder for minorities to own stations.

The Telecommunications Research and Action Committee, a consumer group, vowed to appeal the decision, saying, "Prices for broadcast stations will skyrocket, making

entry into the broadcast business more difficult."

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Bruce Fein, general counsel of the FCC, noted that broadcasters will still have to comply with antitrust laws and would be subject to scrutiny from the Federal Trade Commission and the Justice Department. The

Justice Department, however, has told the commission it foresees no antitrust problems.

Fein also said broadcasters wanting to own more than 12 stations before 1990 may seek a waiver from the FCC, but added that the agency was not encouraging them to do so.

The so-called seven-station rule was first proposed in 1948, when the television industry was in its infancy. The rule, aimed at encouraging ownership diversity to foster a variety of viewpoints and prevent economic concentration, was adopted five years later.

But the commission said the marketplace has changed tremendously since that time.

With 10,000 broadcasters, 5,000 cable broadcasters and 12,000 newspapers and magazines, there are about 30,000 "idea sources" nationwide, the commission said.

Mondale and Ferraro to visit Texas next week

United Press International

AUSTIN — A visit to Texas next week by Democratic hopefuls Walter Mondale and Geraldine Ferraro will give the state its first look at the female vice presidential nominee, who Gov. Mark White predicted Thursday would be "a big help to us in Texas."

Mondale and Ferraro are scheduled to visit Austin and Houston on Wednesday before heading to San

Antonio on Thursday. Their visit will follow by one week a campaign trip to Austin by President Reagan and Vice President George Bush, who drew 20,000 supporters to an outdoor rally.

When Ferraro, a congresswoman from Queens, N.Y., first was nominated by Mondale as his running mate, White said her selection might hurt the Democrats' chances of carrying

Texas in the November election. But he said Thursday he had changed his mind.

"I've gotten to know her better," White said at his weekly news conference. "Obviously, I would have hoped they would have found a Texan to fill that post, but... she's a very qualified individual and I think she'll do very well."

White disagreed with Reagan's

contention that the Democratic Party had slighted Texas by passing over Texas contenders for the vice presidential post.

"The Republicans have a vice president from Connecticut," White said, implying Bush had spent little time in his hometown of Houston.

White also discounted Reagan's charge that the Democratic Party had moved so far to the left "that they've left America."

Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Thursday:

- MISDEMEANOR THEFT:
 - A brown J.C. Penney ten-speed bicycle was stolen from Commons bike rack.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:
 - Someone broke a wood pane through door at the west side third deck concession stand at Kyle Field.



The Landing

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by Agatha Christie

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