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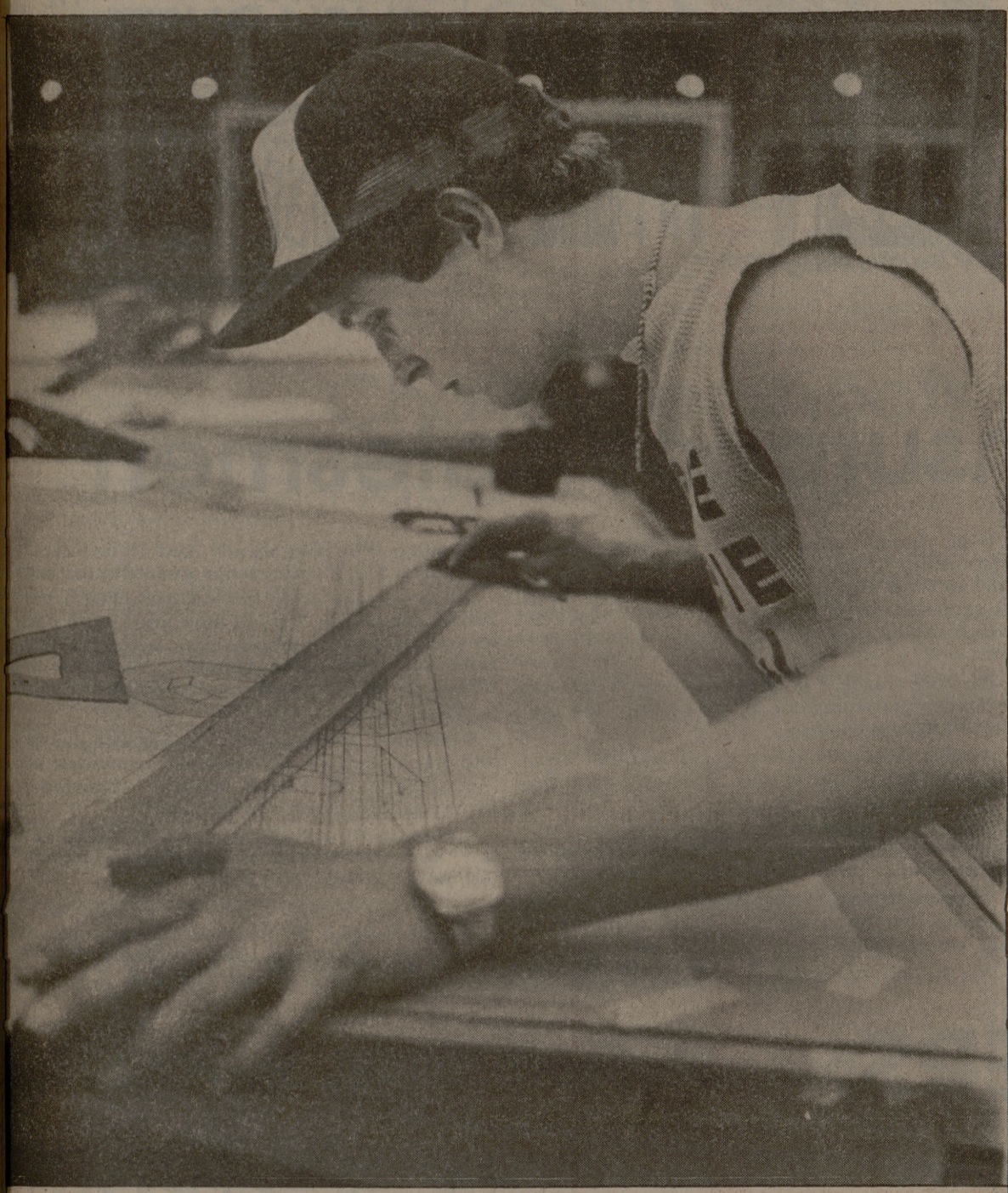
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Point of View

Photo by DEAN SAITO

Cord Ozment, a sophomore landscape architecture major from Hillsboro, works in the Langford Architecture Center on a perspective drawing for one of his classes.

Shuttle photos indicate new solar system exists

United Press International

PASADENA, Calif. — Astronomers have photographed for the first time evidence indicating a previously unknown solar system exists around a star twice as big and 10 times as bright as the sun, scientists announced Monday.

Dr. Bradford Smith, of the University of Arizona, said the photographs reveal a vast swarm of solid particles that form a disk 40 billion miles in diameter around Beta Pictoris, a star about 50 light years from Earth.

Earlier this year, infrared radiation detected the first evidence of the disk and raised the possibility that another solar system may exist. The photographs provide the first visual proof to support the finding.

"The indications are fairly good we are seeing another solar system, although we can't actually prove there are planets around this star," Smith said in a telephone interview from Hawaii.

Smith, who teamed with Richard Terrile of NASA's Jet Propulsion

Laboratory, said the significance of the discovery is partly "philosophical."

"It shows our own solar system is not unique," he said. "There are many who believe that the fact that our sun has planets around is some strange thing that happened. What we now know is that there is another example of it and there are good indications there are many, many more."

"Other solar systems exist and other planets, and, if one wants to extrapolate that, than other life exists."

The particles that compose the disk, ranging from tiny grains to chunks a few miles across, are probably made of ices, silicates and organic carbon compounds — the same materials that compose the planets of our solar system, he said.

Scientists believe the disk is no more than a few hundred million years old, a youngster compared with our own solar system, which is 4.5 billion years old.

"I think this is just the beginning,"

Terrile said. "Technology has reached the point where we can just about see planets in other systems. We haven't quite done that, but we're very close. These images indicate that the planets are probably out there and they're probably within our reach."

Using a specially equipped 100-inch telescope at the Las Campanas Observatory near La Serena, Chile, the astronomers made the photographs, but it was not until they had been processed by computer that the two faint streaks of light extending outward appeared.

To the naked eye, Beta Pictoris appears as a faint star in Pictor, an obscure constellation in the southern skies.

Smith said that although it is twice as large as the sun and at least 10 times as bright, Americans can only see it clearly from the extreme southern parts of the country. It remains permanently below the horizon to most people in the Northern Hemisphere.

UAW leaders celebrate approval of two pacts

United Press International

DEARBORN, Mich. — The newly ratified contract at General Motors — which provided the blueprint for a pact at Ford Motor Co. — will change the negative image of the United Auto Workers and give it a positive role in auto industry affairs, a UAW leader said Monday.

Approval of the GM pact on a 57.4 percent "yes" vote was announced hours after agreement was reached late Sunday on the proposed three-year Ford contract. The GM contract affects 350,000 workers and is scheduled to be signed Friday. The GM contract appeared early

on to be in trouble due to "no" votes by traditionally dissident plants. A turnaround came when UAW president Owen Bieber warned a nationwide strike would result if the contract was rejected. Union staff members were then dispatched across the country to explain the pact and drum up "yes" votes.

At a news conference, UAW Vice President Donald Ephlin praised the work of his staff and said the contract may prove to be a turnaround for the union itself.

The union has called a meeting of its 160-member Ford Council for Wednesday in Detroit. The group,

made up of local presidents and plant representatives at 54 locals, must endorse the new agreement before it is goes to the membership for ratification.

The Ford contract follows closely the pattern established by the UAW at GM — an apparent victory for the UAW since Ford bargainers had said they would not "walk in lockstep" with the GM pact.

Ford will set aside about \$300 million and GM up to \$1 billion to pay wages of workers displaced by new technology, the consolidation of plants or the company's shipment of work to non-UAW sources.

Inmates hold guard hostage at Eastham Unit

United Press International

LOVELADY — Dangerous inmates at the Eastham Unit caused a short circuit in the electric locks on their solitary confinement cells and held a guard hostage for 50 minutes before 40 guards stormed the cell block Monday.

Two inmates were hospitalized, eight others were treated for eye and lung irritation from tear gas, and two prison guards suffered wrist injuries, said Phil Guthrie, spokesman for the Texas Department of Corrections.

The wing held 21 inmates Guthrie described as "the most dangerous kinds of prisoners in the system." The incident began about 3:05 a.m. when officer Ronald Willmon, 21, was grabbed by inmates who had freed themselves from their cells. The inmates handcuffed Willmon with his own handcuffs, Guthrie said.

"We have electrical locking devices on the cells with a fail-safe device so if the system shorts out like during a fire the doors open," he said. "The inmates had figured out a way to short it out by manipulating the light fixtures and get the doors open."

Jack Knapp, an inmate serving a life prison term from Jasper County, held Willmon hostage and asked for a walkie-talkie. When the unit warden brought the device to him,

about 40 officers stormed doors at opposite ends of the cell block.

"They fired a tear gas round into the unit and rushed in," Guthrie said. "The inmates had barricaded the door with lockers, furniture and other items. It took them 10 to 15 seconds to get through it."

Willmon, who was not injured, escaped during the confusion.

"The incident was very well handled," Guthrie said. "They didn't waste a lot of time going in to get the officer out."

TDC spokesman Charles Brown said officials were examining the locking system Monday afternoon to prevent the prisoners from manipulating it again.

The incident followed a weekend of violence at two other prisons. An inmate at the Darrington Unit in Rosharon was found dead in a shower Sunday after being stabbed 24 times. Five others were wounded in a fight at the unit.

Another inmate was stabbed to death and seven injured Saturday at the Coffield Unit in Tennessee Colony.

Guthrie said the TDC, which has seen 309 stabbings including 19 fatal attacks this year, "is going through a very difficult transition."

"While this period of violence is alarming and frustrating ... we are confident we will get on top of this problem in the months ahead."

Society: Pets give emotional reform

By KARLA K. MARTIN Staff Writer

It's a twentieth century reform, but it's not one of labor conditions or even alcohol abuse, it's a reform of emotions.

Since the late 70s, the Delta Society, a non-profit international resource center, has worked to make people understand the emotional needs between humans and animals. During the first day of the society's three-day conference at the Aggeland Hotel, lectures, conferences and workshops were presented to express these needs.

Linda Hines, the Delta Society executive director, said the Society's main goal is to provide information about pet programs both in the United States and overseas.

"We start with community programs," Hines said. "Most of our volunteers are small community groups or individuals interested in beginning a program using pets that will help the people in nursing homes, mental institutions as well as residential homes."

Hines listed many of these pet placement programs, where specially trained dogs, cats, rabbits and guinea pigs are brought into nursing homes, hospital cancer wards, clinics for abused children and in handicapped homes to provide "unconditional love."

Dr. Doris Drow, a supporter of the Pet-a-Pet program, said the results of animals on the mentally

and physically ill are remarkable.

"You would not believe how these animals have helped these people," Drow said. "People who are so withdrawn from society respond to the pets."

Another recent topic researched by the Delta Society is the effect of pets within prisons.

Kathy Quinn, a Society member who has worked with juvenile delinquents, said that pets are perfect for rehabilitation.

"If you want to rehabilitate people, you have to give them hope," Quinn said. "Pets give them an incentive, a goal. If you don't give these inmates some kind of hope, they will come out even more angry than they were when they went in."

Dr. Leo K. Bustad, Delta Society president, said these animals provide inmates with a strong desire for good behavior.

"Say a person is in jail for life," Bustad said. "If he is given an animal, he soon becomes attached to it. The threat of having that close companion taken away makes him want to do everything he can to keep it."

In some prisons, animal trainers bring puppies for inmates to train as aids for the physically handicapped.

"They never harm the animals," Bustad said. "Once a bird suffocated when an inmate put it in a box to keep it safe, but he didn't mean to kill it."

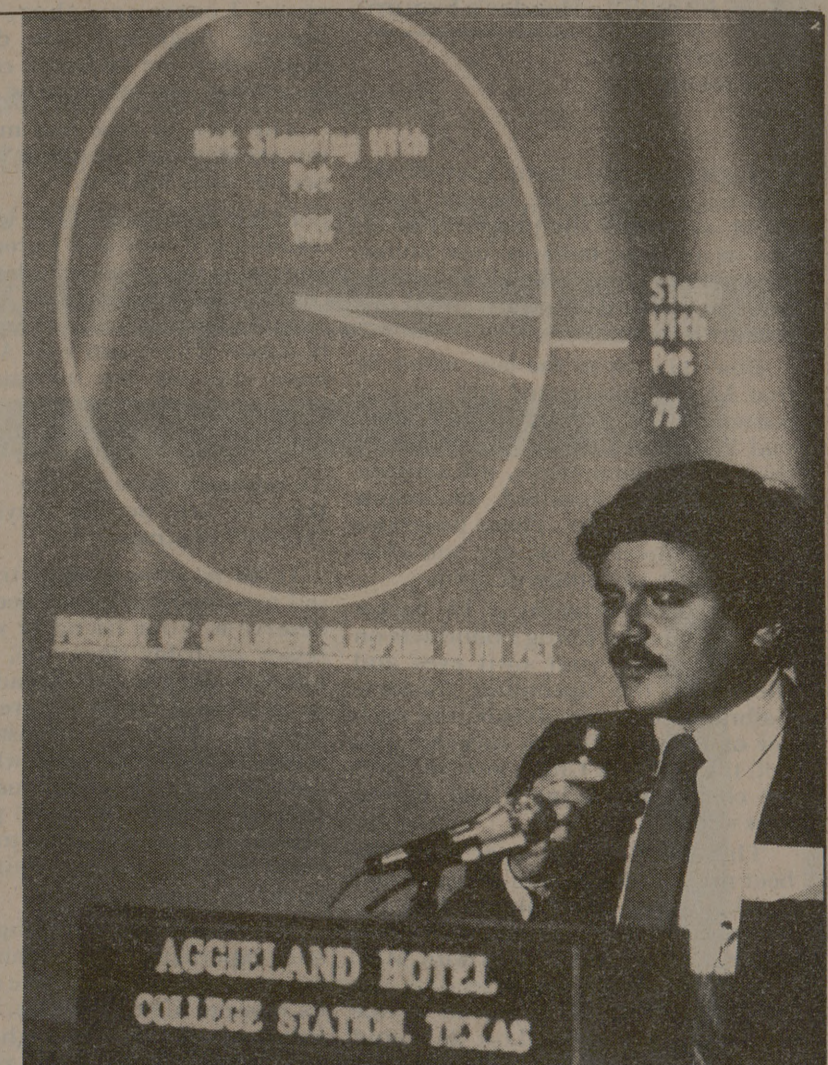


Photo by DEAN SAITO

Stephen H. Sheldon speaks Monday afternoon at the Delta Society conference.