

STATE AND LOCAL

Humidity brings out pests

Fleas infesting B-Cs

By AMY NETTERVILLE Reporter

Homes, apartment complexes, hotels and department stores in Bryan-College Station all have something in common this summer.

Fleas. Since late April, the Bryan-College Station area has had an abnormally large outbreak of fleas, and it seems to be affecting more than just the usual pet owners.

Jerry Clark, an entomologist at Herwald Pest Control, said the abundance of moisture and humidity this spring has made conditions ideal for a large population of fleas to breed.

"This problem started around the end of April and the last six weeks we've gotten around 20 to 30 calls a day," he said. "It's affecting everyone and it's been a big problem compared to the past two summers."

"We have even had calls from various hotels and department stores. Hotels are prone to have them be-

cause travelers carry their pets with them into their rooms."

Clark said the problem has been compounded in apartment complexes because students are leaving for the summer and taking their pets with them.

"People in apartments may not have had that much of a problem — as long as their animals were there, there was something for the fleas to jump back on," he said. "But when they take the animal away and walk in a few weeks later, they'll (apartment residents) be covered with fleas."

Dr. Neil Van Stavern, veterinarian at Van Stavern Animal Hospital, said that at least 75 percent to 80 percent of the animals he has seen since the end of April have had flea-induced problems.

"I feel one reason our area has such a flea problem is that the insecticides used for years around here are not doing the job anymore," he said. "Whether or not the fleas become resistant to the insecticides,

I'm not sure, but they don't work like they used to."

Van Stavern said there are three steps to take in trying to eliminate fleas from pets, as well as the household:

• Wash animals thoroughly with flea shampoo or soap to kill all adult fleas and eggs on the animal.

• On the same day, exterminate the house, making sure it is totally purged of adult fleas. Nothing will kill the flea eggs, so before exterminating, be sure to vacuum all carpets and rugs or have them steam cleaned.

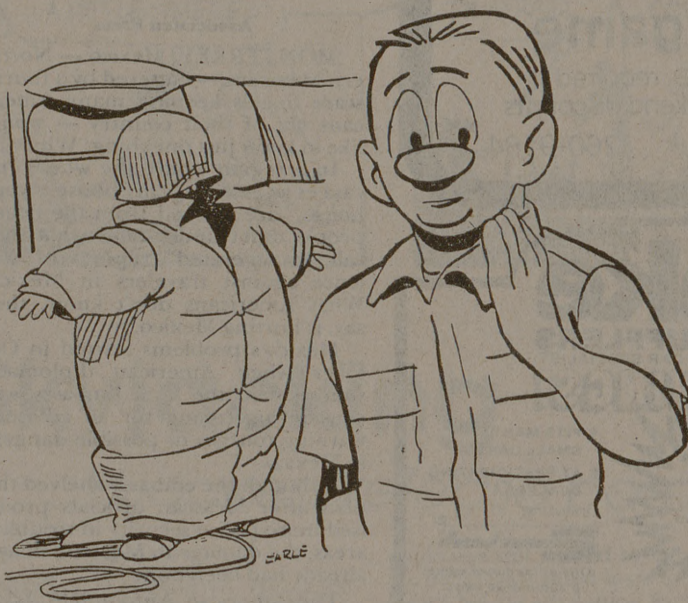
• At the same time, every area of the yard — especially those the animals like to frequent — should be sprayed.

Each of these steps should be repeated every 10 to 14 days.

"A person shouldn't get discouraged," Clark said. "The problem can be controlled, but it's something that's going to have to be done several times."

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Have you seen my electric fan?"

Fort Worth man nominee for U.S. attorney

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Marvin Collins, a Fort Worth prosecutor who says he plans to concentrate on the "burgeoning" drug problem, was nominated by Sen. Phil Gramm on Tuesday to be U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Texas.

Collins, 42, replaces James Rolfe, who is not seeking reappointment to the four-year job. He has been an assistant Tarrant County district attorney in charge of the office's civil division and county legal adviser since 1983.

Rolfe created a stir last month — after he said he would not seek reappointment — when he wrote a letter to a federal judge in Washington seeking leniency for his friend, Dallas stockbroker Billy Bob Harris, who had pleaded guilty to charges connected with an insider trading scheme.

At a news conference in Gramm's office, Collins declined to talk specifically about the Rolfe letter, which was disavowed by Justice Department officials.

"The ethical standards in our office will be high," is all Collins would say about the matter, but when asked if he would ever send a letter to a judge on a case, Collins said, "Probably not on behalf of a defendant."

Gramm said Collins would take office on Monday as an interim appointee approved by the federal judges in the district, which covers 100 Northwest Texas counties and includes Dallas, Fort Worth, Lubbock, Amarillo, Abilene, San Angelo and Wichita Falls.

Gramm's nomination of Collins now goes to the White House and then through Senate confirmation proceedings.

Collins said one of his first priorities in the office will be to increase cooperation between state and federal law enforcement agencies, especially in the area of drug trafficking in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

He does not want the office to let up on prosecution of "white collar" crimes, like that involving Harris, who pleaded guilty along with former Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Thayer.

Dying state agency sued for 'quitting on the job'

Associated Press

AUSTIN — A state agency is being sued in the Texas Supreme Court for ceasing to perform a job that vanishes on August 31.

The Texas Hospital Association is charging the Texas Health Facilities Commission with imposing an unofficial summer-long moratorium on hospital construction and major pur-

chases.

Legislators last month decided to do away with the commission on Aug. 31, the end of the current fiscal year. Until then, however, state law still requires hospitals and nursing homes to obtain a certificate of need from the agency to build, expand or purchase expensive new equipment.

But as the commission begins

winding down, it has been dismissing all applications for the certificates, the suit alleges.

John Neel, the commission attorney, said about 300 applications were pending when the Legislature decided to dispose of the commission.

"Even if we had a full complement of staff, which we don't because

we've already started losing people, not all those applications could have been processed . . . as of Aug. 31," Neel said.

O. Ray Hurst, president of the hospital group, said some facilities can't wait until the commission dies to get on with their expansion plans.

A 90-day delay is costing some body, somewhere a bunch of

money," he said. "The consumer is going to pay for it."

One of the pending applications described in the lawsuit is that of a Mission hospital that wants to construct a new building.

Another application is for a San Antonio hospital that wants to perform open-heart surgery.

A&M scientists go to study sea turtles

By TERI BALOG Reporter

A group of Texas A&M scientists left for Australia's coast Tuesday to study the effects of hormone levels on sea turtles.

Led by Dr. David Owens, who has researched that coast since 1978, the A&M scientists will study the role of hormones in controlling migration, courtship, mating and other sea turtle behavior at the Heron Island National Marine Park in Queensland.

Diana Comuzie, an A&M graduate student joining the research team in August, said Heron Island is an area where the entire migratory

process of the sea turtle is apparent.

"Australia is the only place where both ends are known," she said. "We know where they come from, where they feed along the way and where they nest."

Comuzie explained that since the environment is constant, a behavioral change in the turtles can be directly attributed to hormone changes. Blood samples must then be taken to measure the turtles' hormone levels.

Once a turtle is spotted, researchers jump into the water near the turtle, pull up on its shell and press down on its feet to prevent the reptile from diving.

"A blood sample is taken and sonic devices used to track the turtle are applied," Comuzie said.

From September through December, blood samples will be drawn from the turtles during certain periods such as mating and nesting, she said.

The reptiles migrate every two to three years. For the migration, turtles store large supplies of fat before they swim to the beaches, then mate offshore and nest, she said.

"The turtles swim to the same beaches every migration, then possibly by a chemical imprintation, they can return to specific areas by smell," Comuzie said.

"This is where a constant environment is beneficial," she said. "Changes in their patterns may be related to hormone levels."

The females have up to 400 eggs in one nest, or clutch. Within 60 days of laying the first clutch, the female buries a second clutch. Turtles can lay six clutches.

Although research has shown a correlation between hormone levels, day lengths and migration in other animals, Comuzie said she thinks this research will help in specifically understanding the migration of the sea turtle.

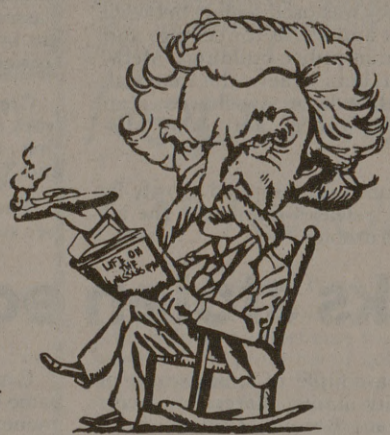
Correction

Two people were incorrectly identified in pictures in Tuesday's Battalion.

A picture of David Eller, chairman of the Texas A&M board of regents, mistakenly was placed with a story about a new system to increase building safety during fires. Eller was identified as Dr. Larry Grosse, an A&M building construction professor.

A picture of Grosse was placed with an article about Eller's recent appointment to the board of trustees of the Baylor College of Medicine, and Grosse was incorrectly identified as Eller.

"I'll applaud anyone who can make a living toe-dancing or pounding elephant teeth."



Mr. Twain admired few things more than a well-turned note or dance. His special brand of wit and satire highlights the 1985-86 season of the Opera & Performing Arts Society of Texas A&M.

Hal Holbrook's famous one-man presentation "Mark Twain Tonight" is just one of eight magical performances the Opera & Performing Arts Society (MSC OPAS) will bring to Bryan-College Station for the 1985-86 season. Several may be available only to season ticket holders.

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The St. Louis Symphony Orchestra September 12, 1985 "Leonard Slatkin and his Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra must be considered major forces on the American musical scene."—Karen Monson, CHICAGO MAGAZINE.

The Chamber Music Society of Lincoln Center October 8, 1985 "The musical success story of the generation!"—Harold Schonberg, THE NEW YORK TIMES.

Hubbard Street Dance Company November 14, 1985 "...the cat's pajamas, the bee's knees, the fastest gun in the West, the sexiest gal in town...groovy, dreamy, peachy, perfect..."—Richard Christiansen, CHICAGO TRIBUNE.

Hal Holbrook as Mark Twain Tonight! January 29, 1986 Mr. Holbrook has breathed life into Mr. Twain in this one-man show for almost 30 years. His skill at becoming the beloved story-teller of America's youth is uncanny. He is Twain. Through him relive the wonder of one of America's great writers and humanists.

The Vienna Choir Boys February 11, 1986 "Above and beyond the musical virtues of this group...they put on a heckuva good show."—John Schuster-Craig, LOUISVILLE TIMES.

Young Uck Kim, Violinist February 21, 1986 "...Kim's real glory is the sound he produces: an individual voice, plangent and expressive."—LOS ANGELES TIMES.

Katia and Marielle Labèque, Piano Duet March 27, 1986 "Far and away the most exciting two-piano team before the listening public today."—LOS ANGELES TIMES.

The Houston Ballet performing "Peer Gynt" April 9, 1986 "...fine dancers, spirited, unashamedly popular, and very good at providing the sort of ballet a big public wants to see."—John Percival, THE LONDON TIMES.

MSC OPAS 1985-86 TICKET ORDER

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Table with columns for 1985-86 Season Ticket Prices, Zone 2 (Orchestra or Balcony), Zone 3 (Balcony), Category, Zone, Price, No. Seats, and \$.

List my (our) name in the following manner: NAME \_\_\_\_\_ HANDLING 2.00 GRAND TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ APT. # \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] Charge to my Interbank MasterCard [ ] Charge to my VISA

CITY/STATE/ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE # \_\_\_\_\_ [ ] I choose to retain same seats as last year. (Benefactors, Guarantors and Contributors Only)

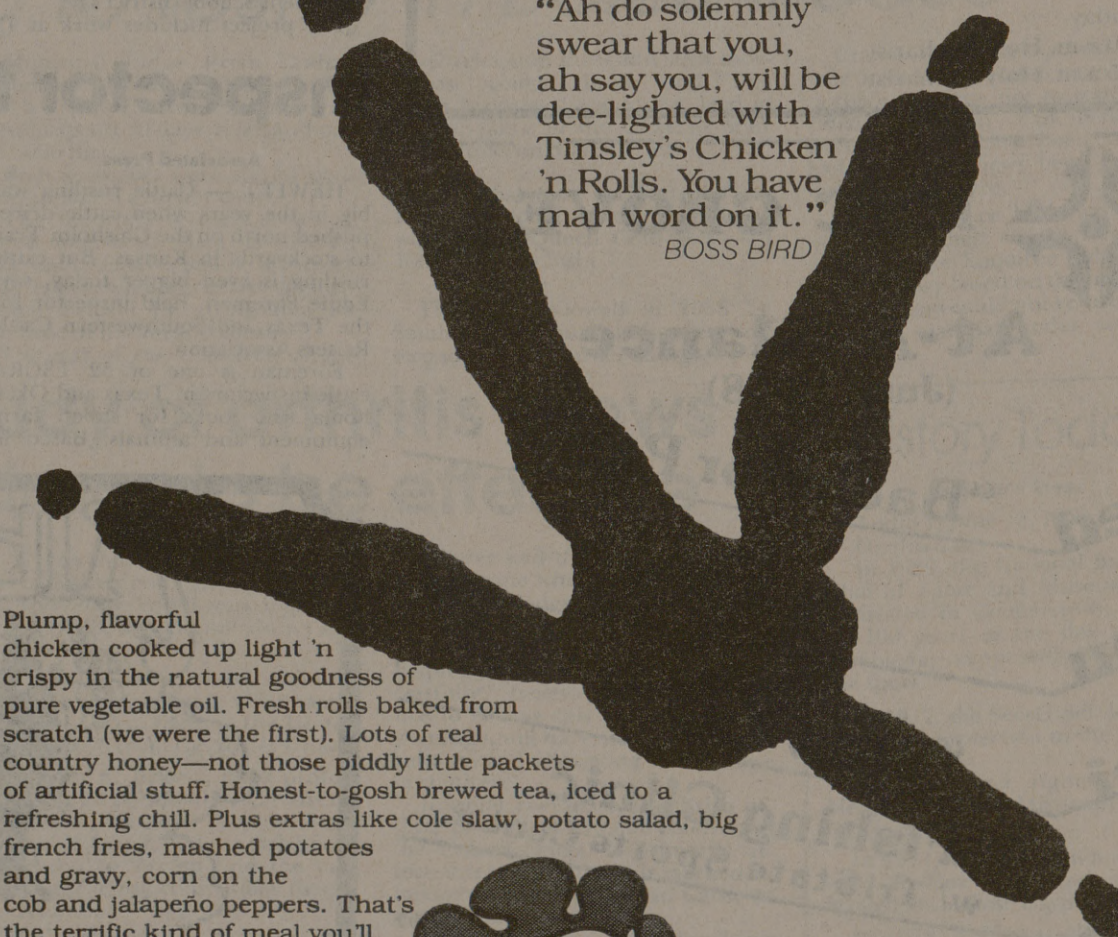
[ ] I wish to be assigned best available seats. [ ] Orchestra [ ] Balcony [ ] No Preference

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Card Holder's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Programs and performance dates subject to change without notice. We regret there will be no refunds or exchanges.

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