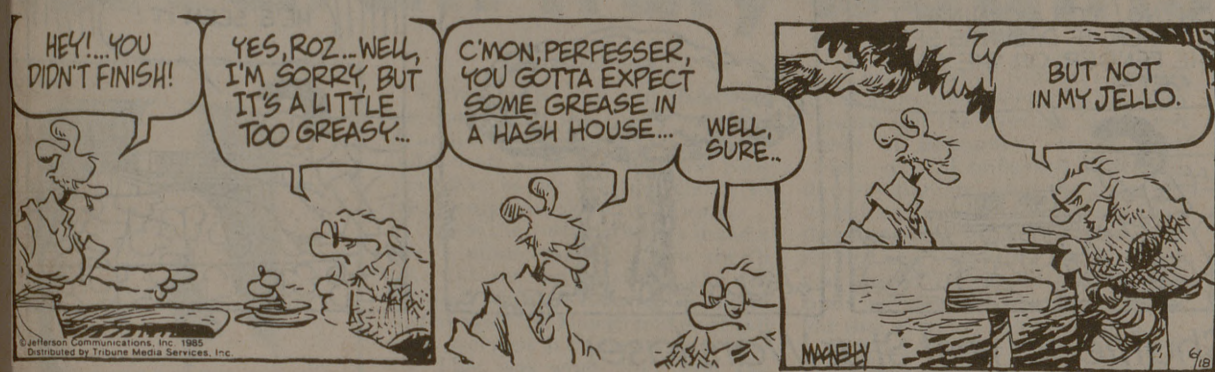


STATE AND LOCAL

SHOE

by Jeff MacNelly



Prairie View A&M
Former president of university prevails in lawsuit against City of Prairie View

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court rejected Monday the appeals of Prairie View and its mayor, who were sued for arresting the president of Prairie View A&M University.

The court let stand a ruling that the city and mayor are not immune from being sued for allegedly violating the university president's rights.

The case stemmed from a dispute over city sewer lines running across the campus of Prairie View.

In 1978, Dr. Alvin I. Thomas, the university president, ordered an aide to prevent the city from running sewage through the city's recently completed sewer lines on the campus.

After sections of the city pipes were cut and capped, Mayor Eristus Sams swore out a complaint, charging Thomas with destroying city property. And since Sams was also a city magistrate, he was able to issue a warrant for Thomas' arrest.

A federal judge ruled that the city had trespassed on the university property and that the university was justified in cutting the sewer lines.

The judge awarded Thomas \$25,000 in damages and lawyers' fees against Sams but said the city was not liable.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last May that neither Sams nor the city was immune from the suit.

The appeals court said Sams had complete immunity in his actions as a magistrate but not as mayor. The fact that Sams' duties were linked does not protect him against the lawsuit, the appeals court said.

A&M profs collect shells to study past marine life

By SALLY TAYLOR
Reporter

Two Texas A&M scientists, Dr. Robert J. Stanton and Dr. Eric Powell, collect sea shells but not just for a hobby.

The two have combined their efforts to determine how living marine animals go on to create fossil records and how these records can be used to reconstruct a marine community.

Stanton, of the geography department, and Powell, of the oceanography department, have collected groups of shells from Texas bays and attempted to find in them clues about what the environment was like when the organism lived in them.

"This is interesting in a theoretical sort of way because you can say something about the history of the earth, life and time," Stanton said.

Sea shell formation begins with the death of animals in the community, Powell said. Then these remains are incorporated into marine sediments — some of them are preserved and some of them aren't, he said.

"We know that when something is preserved, it is preserved because it has been buried deep in the sediment," Powell said.

When Stanton and Powell unearthed a group of shells, they had to determine how closely the group reflected the community of organisms living in that environment.

To get an idea of what was going on in recent marine communities, Stanton said he and Powell visited a bay every six weeks to see what organisms were living there, growing and dying, and whether the dead shells were being preserved.

The two agreed it was difficult to reconstruct the history of basic communities because so few organisms were preserved.

"I think we were impressed by the fact that most things that are living and dying really disappear quite readily," Stanton said.

Powell said the two have learned that "almost nothing" is preserved.

Stanton said he, a paleontologist, and Powell, an ecologist, work effectively as a pair for the study of shells that are preserved.

"Ecologists see a one-time view of things, but they don't have that long term perspective that paleontologists do," Stanton explained. "Most paleontologists go out and collect fossils, and kind of treat them as postage stamps, never knowing enough about what these fossils were really doing when they were alive."

Stanton and Powell's next big project will be to go offshore into a deeper marine environment next spring — the continental shelf in the Gulf of Mexico.

"The logic of doing the work in the bays was to look at the shell formation process simply," Stanton said.

"Now we have an idea of the processes and we want to go out into an area that is more difficult to sample. But we want to see if the same processes are taking place, or if they are different out in the open marine as compared to the bay."

"One of the things we would like to do is to be able to take samples before and after a hurricane. But I don't know if one will be polite enough to go through our study site or not."

Radiation may be linked to deaths of military workers

Associated Press
SAN ANTONIO — At least five former workers at a closed-down military operation that handled radioactive uranium have died of cancer, a San Antonio newspaper has reported.

The San Antonio Light reported it confirmed the five cases after former worker Felix Garcia said he began searching for his former co-workers at the Air Force Directorate of Special Weapons.

Garcia said he found that 12 of his 25 former co-workers who cleaned uranium dust out of dummy nuclear warheads have since died.

The 25 workers were employees of a special weapons maintenance program at Kelly Air Force Base.

Phebe Brown, spokeswoman at Kelly Air Force Base, said employees of the special weapons section were not exposed "to anything more than low-level radioactive depleted uranium," calling the radiation level harmless.

Officials say uranium-covered rags used in the cleaning process and the uranium dust were placed in metal cans and trucked to Medina Base, where they were buried.

The base, closed in the early 1960s, was located on what is now the Lackland Training Annex at the Lackland Air Force Base.

Brown said Air Force officials are not sure where the canisters were buried since the cannisters were buried from 1950 to 1965.

"In that time frame, there are no disposal records," she said. "We didn't start keeping those until 1965 because there was no requirement to do so. There's no way of knowing where those containers went. There are no records anyplace."

The Environmental Protection Agency has asked the Air Force for more information on what was buried.

Garcia said he began looking for his former co-workers after reading news reports of toxic waste tainting groundwater around Kelly AFB.

Health officials say anyone handling the material should wear protective devices over the nose and mouth. But Garcia said employees wore only gloves and aprons.

What's up

Tuesday
CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: is meeting at 6:30 p.m. in 502 Rudder.

Wednesday
MSC AMATEUR RADIO COMMITTEE: is meeting at 7:30 p.m. in 504 Rudder to discuss field day.
CO-OP ASSOCIATION: is going to see "Stripes" as a group. Meet at Albritton Bell Tower at 8:30 p.m.
MSC GROVE 85: presents "Stripes" at 8:45 p.m. Tickets are \$1 with a student ID and \$1.50 for non-students.
Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.

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The MSC Amateur Radio Committee

W5AC

(The University Ham Radio Station)

Will be meeting at 7:30, Wed. June 19 in 504 Rudder everyone, licensed/unlicensed interested/uninterested is invited to attend.

topics to be discussed include:
FIELD DAY! Use of the New Gear!

For more information:
leave a note in the Student Programs Office or call Radio Room @ 845-7245
Bob Pledsted @ 260-3985
Robert Eden @ 846-5913



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MONDAY EVENING SPECIAL
Salisbury Steak with Mushroom Gravy Whipped Potatoes Your Choice of One Vegetable Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Coffee or Tea

TUESDAY EVENING SPECIAL
Mexican Fiesta Dinner Two Cheese and Onion Enchiladas w/Chili Mexican Rice Patio Style Pinto Beans Tostadas Coffee or Tea One Corn Bread and Butter

WEDNESDAY EVENING SPECIAL
Chicken Fried Steak w/ Cream Gravy Whipped Potatoes and Choice of one other Vegetable Roll or Corn Bread and Butter Coffee or Tea

THURSDAY EVENING SPECIAL

Italian Candle Light Spaghetti Dinner SERVED WITH SPICED MEAT BALLS AND SAUCE Parmesan Cheese-Tossed Green Salad Choice of Salad Dressing-Hot Garlic Bread Tea or Coffee YOU GET MORE FOR YOUR MONEY WHEN YOU DINE ON CAMPUS



FRIDAY EVENING SPECIAL
Fried Catfish Filet w/ Tarta Sauce Cole Slaw Hush Puppies Choice of One Vegetable Tea or Coffee

SATURDAY NOON and EVENING SPECIAL
Yankee Pot Roast Texas Style (Tossed Salad) Mashed Potatoes w/ Gravy Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Tea or Coffee

SUNDAY SPECIAL NOON and EVENING
Roast Turkey Dinner Served with Cranberry Sauce Cornbread Dressing Roll or Corn Bread & Butter Coffee or Tea Giblet Gravy And Your Choice of any One Vegetable

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