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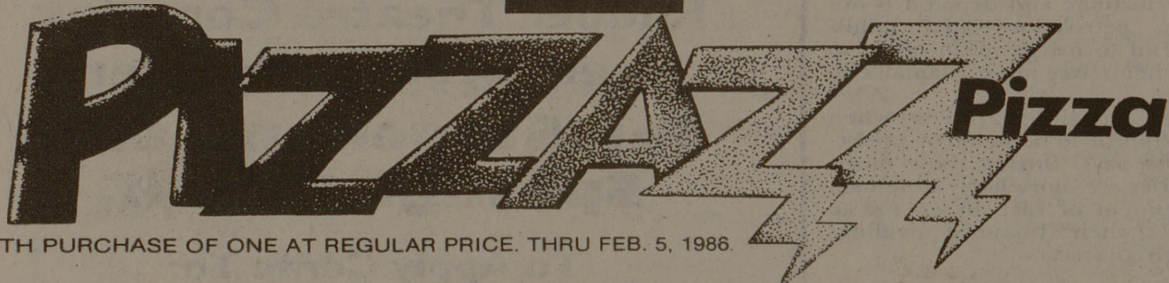
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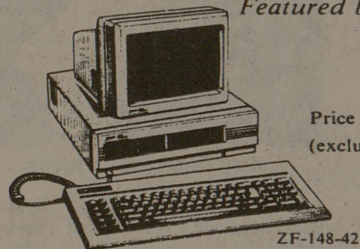
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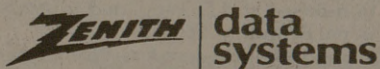


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Widow wins \$3 million in damages

AUSTIN — Missouri Pacific Railroad must pay \$5.4 million in damages in a fatal traffic wreck caused by a driver who stopped to look for a lost baseball cap, the Texas Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

Clay Dove died in the Dec. 9, 1982, collision near Placedo in Victoria County. Dove, a Missouri Pacific worker, was a passenger in a van driven by a transport service hired by the railroad.

The driver crossed Farm Road 616 and stopped on the shoulder on the other side of the road, facing traffic. An oil truck came around a bend and slammed into the van, killing Dove and another passenger, George Smithwick.

The lawsuit filed by Roselyn Dove, Clay's widow, and his two children, blamed the driver.

"While hunting for a \$4.50 ball cap belonging to an employee of the railroad, (the driver) drove the vehicle carrying Dove and the rest of his crew across the center stripe," the suit said.

Jurors awarded \$3 million to the widow and \$1.5 million to each of the Dove children. They said the van driver was 90 percent responsible for the collision, ordering the railroad to pay \$5.4 million because of its employee's action.

Around town

BAYLOR LAW SCHOOL OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS TO TEXAS A&M STUDENTS:

Baylor University's School of Law is offering three tuition free scholarships for the summer and fall 1986 quarters to outstanding Texas A&M students entering Baylor's Law School. The Joseph Milton Nance Scholarships may be renewed for up to two years after the first year if the recipient is doing good work. If students are interested in applying, they should see Dr. J. M. Nance in 560 Harrington Building. It is essential that a copy of your LSAT scores accompany your application. Applications are due by February 7, 1986.

VITOPIL RETIRING:

Peggy Vitopil is retiring from the Texas A&M Personnel Department at the end of the month. Vitopil has worked in the Personnel Department's employee benefits office for the past 20 years. A reception in her honor will be held January 31 from 2 p.m.-4 p.m. in 145 MSC. The staff invites Vitopil's friends to join in honoring her.

THE BIG EVENT:

All individual students and student organizations are encouraged to volunteer their services to THE BIG EVENT on March 8th. Applications are available on the second floor of the MSC in the Student Programs Office and on the second floor of the Pavilion in the Student Government office. Applications are due February 21. For more information call 845-3051.

To submit an item for this column, come by The Battalion office in 216 Reed McDonald.

Humor an elemental part of chemistry prof's lectures

By DEBBIE VOSS
Reporter

Some teachers may feel keeping students interested is a difficult task, but Dr. Larry Peck of the Texas A&M Chemistry Department has a few ideas for his colleagues.

Peck said his techniques include breaking up the lecture with a demonstration.

"I try to break the monotony of the presentation," he said. "Short presentations are more effective." But he said there usually is not enough time in the semester for short lectures.

"I'm trying to change the pace in class," he said. "I'll work problems, then after a while I'll do a demonstration of some sort."

Another of his techniques is to use a fictitious role call, Peck said. He said he uses compounds and elements in a humorous way.

"I'll use a little comical relief — trivia or nonsense," Peck said.

In one such demonstration he paints the nonsense word "Chaem" with potassium nitrate onto a paper towel and lights it. He said after he asks the class if they know what this word means, he tells them it is an "A" in Chem.

Peck said he bases his ideas on the techniques of a few nationally

known chemistry professors including Hubert N. Alyea, a retired chemistry professor from Purdue University and Gilbert Haight from the University of Illinois.

"Teachers I admire very much share these techniques, and I try to incorporate their ideas into my class presentations," Peck said.

He said he hasn't personally done any research on how effective his ideas are, but, he said, the laughs,

"I think the students have a little better impression, and a little more fun with chemistry."

— Dr. Larry Peck, chemistry professor.

groans and boos from the students show they are responding.

"I'm sure the experiments have been done," Peck said. "We are not talking about anything new here. But it pays to be eccentric. I can't always break it up, and I'd like to do more, but we are often rushed for time."

Peck said he finds that students remember his techniques at the end of the semester and teacher evaluations often reflect this.

"I am not sure this has anything to

do with learning more," Peck said. "If you can make it more enjoyable, you are ahead of the game. I think the students have a little better impression, and a little more fun with chemistry."

Peck gave a presentation titled "A Look at Ways to Keep the Student's Interest" at an August 1985 seminar of the Association of Chemistry Teachers of Texas in San Antonio. The three-day seminar was for high school and college chemistry teachers.

Dr. Russell Larson, a chemistry professor at A&M, attended the seminar and said he thought Peck has unique ideas that motivate and stimulate the student.

"I believe what Dr. Peck is doing is effective," he said. "We can use his ideas coupled with our own personalities and the differences in the dynamics of the classes. A lot of us have parallel techniques."

Dr. Yi-Noo Tang, professor of chemistry at A&M, said he heard Peck's talk at San Antonio and said he thought it held a lot of merit.

"I think his talk was extremely interesting," Tang said. "He showed exciting demonstrations — magic show type of things. There is no doubt all the methods he talked of will increase the students' interest."

"Everybody has a different style. In the future I may try his method, but not at the present time."

Deputy says trial evidence was mislaid

Associated Press

LIVINGSTON — Clothing from the body of a football coach apparently was misplaced while the sheriff's office was being remodeled, a deputy testified in the trial of a former principal accused of the slaying.

Deputy Linda Pruitt testified Tuesday the shirt, underwear and blue jeans found on the body of Billy Mac Fleming were placed in the Liberty County sheriff's radio room, instead of the locked property locker, because of a foul odor.

Hurley Fontenot, 48, former

principal of Hull-Daisetta Woodson Junior High School, is on trial for the April 12 shooting death of Fleming, 38, who coached and taught math and science at the school.

Prosecutors allege the two men were rivals for the affections of Laura Nugent, 36, the school secretary.

Fleming's decomposed body was found 10 days after his slaying off a logging road in Polk County. He had been shot twice in the back of the head.

Pruitt said she tried to store Flem-

ing's clothing with the rest of the evidence. However, she said, the odor was so bad that she moved them to the radio room. The clothing apparently disappeared last year while the office was remodeled, she said.

Defense attorney Dick DeGuerin contends sheriff's investigators ignored evidence that could clear his client.

"I'm suggesting that once they found out that Fontenot's truck tires did not match the tracks found at the scene, they lost interest in them," he said.

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