### State and Local

Research on textbooks aiding A&M study

## Prof working to end ethnic stereotypes

By MOLLY PEPPER Reporter

e classroom may be the starting to change stereotypes and dices of ethnic groups, says Je-Garcia, associate professor of culum and instruction at Texas

r 15 years, Garcia has been rehing the effect textbooks have

University.

groups about each other, the s also need to be allowed to in- pictures of different minorities.

do is reduce stereotypes by looking to see if the books are multi-ethnic and if that kind of book can reduce some of the stereotypes and prejudices that students have," Garcia

Garcia rates a textbook as multithnic group's perceptions of ethnic if it portrays minorities as equals in society.

A social studies textbook from 30 he research indicates that it's not igh to merely educate different of blacks, he says, while today social studies textbooks contain all kinds of

, Garcia says.

Although progress is being made toward making books more multi-

conscious steps to reduce prejudice and stereotypes, he says. Teachers are putting more stress on teaching facts and skills than on changing attitudes, he says.

One solution is integrated classrooms where interaction between different ethnic groups is structured, Garcia says.

For example, in a science laboratory, the teacher could structure the experiment so a minority student and another student work to-gether doing equal tasks. Through his research, Garcia says

been how textbooks portray different societal roles, Garcia says.

"Essentially what we're trying to ethnic and objective, there's still progress to be made, Garcia says.

"Essentially what we're trying to Few classroom teachers are taking about other groups."

variety of ethnic groups, have an impact on reducing students' illusions about other groups. about other groups.

One illusion is that blacks are good at athletics and not academics, Garcia says. This illusion is reinforced by watching a basketball or football game, he says.

But showing a picture in a text-book of a black child working a math problem, shows children that blacks are good at academics too, he says

And in the classroom black children should work with other children on the same level, he adds.

Garcia says he began wondering why ethnic minorities didn't do as well in school as other children. He he's hoping to find out if student in- also noticed minorities were not getteraction and textbooks that show a ting as many awards as the other the world," he says.

children and he wanted to find out why, he says.

Although Garcia's research hasn't been on a particular grade level, he says he will be experimenting with multi-ethnic textbooks and student interaction on several grade levels.

Schools are the starting place for providing better communications between ethnic groups, Garcia says. In the long run, prejudice could cause a divided society with little communication between groups, he

"As our society becomes more multi-ethnic, I think we're going to address this question of getting along with each other not only within our country but throughout

#### Fontenot trial still drawing a lot of people

LIVINGSTON - Since the murder trial of former junior high school principal Hurley Fontenot began two weeks ago, spectators have jammed the courthouse of this tiny East Texas town and say the case rivals any

daytime soap opera.

The wooden benches in the 60-year-old Polk County Courthouse have been packed to capacity

According to testimony, anonymous letters complaining of Fleming's relationship with Nugent were mailed to school officials. Spectators also have heard about a stash of cocaine discovered in the coach's apartment and allegations that Fontenot spied on the coach and secretary at a hotel.

The spectators begin clustering outside the courthouse as early as 7 a.m., although court rarely is called to order before 9 a.m.

The stampede for seats, however, is worst after lunch when the courtroom is emptied and locked for 90 minutes.

Mona Fajkus, 50, of Hardin, says "I bring my lunch and sit in the car in order to be back here as quick as I can."

Because Fajkus knew Fleming, she says she helps save seats for the coach's parents and sister. She's seen people offer their sympathy to the Flemings — but not

The retired mayor of Daisetta and his wife, Harold and Mary McCann, have parked their recreational vehicle in town to attend

### uestions remaining about Dallas plane crash

RAPEVINE — The wreckage of Delta 191 is stored in a warehouse at nearby n, the water tank the plane struck at Dalort Worth International Airport has repaired, and life goes on for the 27

t many questions about the tragedy re-

ne L-1011 jet crashed at 6:05 p.m. on , 2 while trying to land during a rapidly eloping severe thunderstorm, killing 137 ple, including the driver of a car struck he plummeting aircraft.

it six months later, Delta 191 is still ely unfinished business.

ne passenger, Kathy Ford of Fort Worth, Il hospitalized in a coma from head inju-Another passenger, Debbie Katz, is beng to overcome paralysis, but her hus-I says she still fears that she may yet die Board's report on the accident will not be

completed until at least April, officials say. Investigators have determined there was wind shear - a violent change in wind direction — within the storm, and the investigation has focused on why the pilot flew into it and whether, using proper maneuvers, the crew should have been able to fly out of it.

The plane, enroute from Fort Lauderdale, Fla., was making its final approach when it plummeted 1½ miles short of the runway, bounced twice and struck the water tank.

federal judge ordered the wreckage stored in the warehouse with the door welded shut pending the end of litigation surrounding the crash. A Delta spokesman says lawsuits have been filed against the airline by 86 passengers or their heirs.

Delta announced last Friday it would not contest liability in an attempt to speed the movement of the suits through the courts. Airline officials say there have been some suits settled out of court, but they decline to say how many.

Katz, paralyzed from the neck down for a time after the crash, doesn't remember anything about the crash. Her last pre-crash memory was having her nails done the day

She doesn't want to know what happened that day, but she would like to know why it

happened.
"This would be my question if the pilot lived," she said. "What made him go through it (the thunderstorm)?'

Katz, who suffered a fractured neck, broken ribs and a punctured lung, lay near death in the wreckage for more than an hour before rescue workers could get her to Parkland Hospital in Dallas.

She was hospitalized for four weeks in Dallas and for three months in Florida. For the last two months she has been treated as an outpatient at a rehabilitation hospital near her home in a Fort Lauderdale suburb.

Recently Katz has been able to walk, and ust last week she was able to "run" after a fashion for the first time.

"Her big ambition is to comb her daugh-'s hair," said Robert Katz, her husband, ter's hair," who escaped injury in the crash. "She may look good physically, but she's very badly

"She still thinks she may die from this crash," he said.

Katz said the ordeal has angered her. "Not a minute goes by that I don't think about the crash and what it's done to me," she said. "I'm mad that this happened to

Kathy Ford's visible injuries healed weeks ago. But she remains in a coma at Parkland. 'The doctors are not very optimistic," said Carol Christy, 35, one of Ford's three sisters. "They really don't say anything to us. They're just negative."

#### Man recalls 1910 sighting of Halley's comet, hoping for 2nd glimpse

**Associated Press** 

MELIA — George Smith got up the chickens to watch Halley's et when it zoomed across the sky in 1910, scaring the daylights of many people.

e comet came so close that the

"I remember it very well," Smith six feet. "Early in the morning I looked passed through its tail and in the southwest. (The comet) was Smith says.

many people thought the world was just as bright and beautiful as anything I ever saw. "The main base of it was larger

Smith, then a 10-year-old East than a dinner plate and from each Texas farm boy living in Troup, was side of it there was an orange light. thrilled but not worried. "It had a tail that ran out five or

The comet was visible for 14 days,

watch it without telescopes or binoc-

Although the comet didn't worry Smith and his family, a meteor that struck a few miles away frightened some residents, he said.

He says his family was able to farmer living in the Amelia area, says he hopes to see the comet again.

"You have to get away from the haze and the city lights," Smith says.

me residents, he said.

"We're going out in the country and find a place where we can see it down toward the horizon," he says.

This time Smith says he will use binoculars.

The comet's brightness depends on how close it comes to the sun and

In 1910, it came within 14 million miles of the Earth. In April it will come within 39 million miles.

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