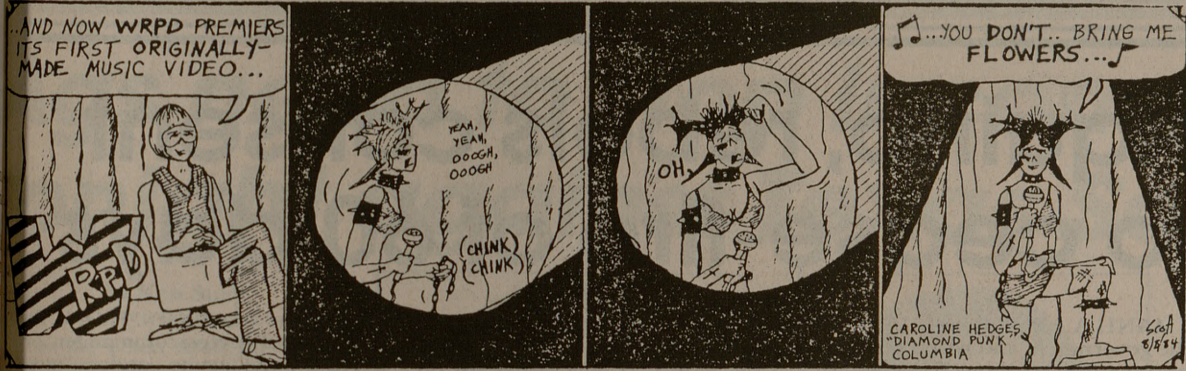


Warped

by Scott McCullar **Three colleges in south lose accreditation**



Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Restoration estimated at \$6 million

Battleship Texas in need of repair

LA PORTE (AP) — An estimated 200,000 visitors to the Battleship Texas each year peer through portholes and squeeze through the narrow hallways once used by sailors in both World Wars.

They pause to touch the guns poised on the ship's deck and gaze at the Houston Ship Channel and the San Jacinto Monument, which looms nearby.

But what most of those visiting the ship might not notice are the tell-tale signs of age and severe neglect.

Dark, rusted rooms remain closed, and some have not been opened for decades. And even some areas open to visitors need sprucing up.

"It's a shame," battleship curator Margarita Marders says, "to see these compartments and think they let me go like this."

When commissioned in 1914, the U.S.S. Texas was praised as the most powerful weapon in the world.

The Texas, active for 32 years, patrolled the Atlantic Ocean and the North Sea during World War I, and the 1,800-man ship was used in

World War II to provide cover fire in several troop landings, including D-Day in Normandy.

Now, the last of the dreadnought vessels sits in mud. Since returning to Texas in 1948, the ship has sprung several leaks and it is not known whether it can float.

Drydocking and restoring the battleship would cost an estimated \$6 million, with \$4 million more needed to finish repairs and build a museum for artifacts from the vessel, said Doug Williams, president of a Houston firm hired to organize fund-raising efforts for restoration.

About \$500,000 had been raised by September, Williams said, but the renovation project got a much-needed shot in the arm earlier this month when Congress passed a \$285 billion continuing military appropriations bill that includes \$5 million for the battleship.

"We've got about 1½ years before (the battleship) is beyond the point of no repair," Williams says. "It's in serious danger."

Money-raising efforts have been hampered by the ailing economy and this year's Texas sesqui-

centennial events, but other projects are planned to raise money, Williams says.

While one look at corrosion-plagued areas of the ship raises questions as to whether it's worth saving, Marders is adamant that the money would be well-spent.

She says the battleship is part of world history because of its role in past wars.

U.S. Rep. Jack Brooks, D-Beaumont, who helped get the \$5 million in the bill, calls the ship a "national treasure that provides inspiration to American servicemen and women, as well as to thousands of young people who visit each year."

Dan Harrison, superintendent of the battleship, says the money "is very good news" for the ailing ship.

A Navy architectural firm is inspecting the ship to see if it is seaworthy enough to make the 40-mile trip to Galveston to be drydocked, Harrison says.

If it cannot make the trip, work will done at its berth in the ship channel, he says.

Police Beat

The following were reported to the University Police Department through Monday:

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:

- A student reported that someone stole \$100 from her wallet, which was left in the DeWare Field House women's dressing room.

ASSAULT:

- A student reported that while checking a disturbance outside his dorm room, he was hit in the mouth by another dorm resident.

TERRORISTIC THREAT:

- A woman reported that someone left a threatening note on her books, which she had left unattended on a table on the second floor of the Sterling C. Evans Library. The report said the investigation is continuing.

BURGLARY OF A HABITATION:

- Police reported that someone climbed into a dorm room through an unlocked window and stole six textbooks from a student's room.
- A student reported his component stereo system, bicycle, television, electric razor, cable converter, two watches, leather flight jacket, three-piece suit and

- three sweaters were stolen from his dorm room. The student said his window had been left slightly open and the screen was popped out. The investigation continues.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION:

- An officer stopped a woman because her car's license plates had expired. The officer reported that the woman smelled of alcohol. After the woman got out of the car, the officer noticed she was unsteady on her feet and slurred her speech. The report said the case was referred to student affairs.

CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:

- All four fields of the Penberthy Complex were severely damaged after a car was driven on them. The report said the vehicle hit one of the bleachers, but that damage was minimal.

HARASSMENT:

- A student reported that she received a phone call from a man identifying himself as a doctor, who began questioning her about the intimacies of her relationship with her husband.
- A student said she has been receiving phone calls between 2 a.m. and 3 a.m. The caller hangs up when the phone is answered.

Trucking leaders plan to fight deregulation

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas trucking industry leaders said Tuesday they expect to have a tough fight against opponents who want the 1987 Legislature to deregulate their business.

"A few of the very largest shippers want to disembowel a transportation system that has served Texas well for 50 years," said Robert Floyd, president of the Texas Motor Transportation Association.

TMTA, which calls itself "the official voice of the Texas truck and bus industry," supports state regulation of that industry as the best way to guarantee continued service to smaller shippers.

But opponents, who have formed a group called TEX-AID, say the current regulatory system is overly protective of existing trucking companies.

Lame duck state Rep. Ed Emmett, R-Kingwood and an unsuccessful Railroad Commission candidate this year, is executive director of TEX-AID, a shippers' group that is pushing a major overhaul of the way the commission regulates trucking.

"The state of Texas is the most

tightly regulated state in the nation when it comes to trucking," Emmett said. "Unfortunately, it has all been on the economics of trucking. None of it has been directed at safety."

TEX-AID wants to do away with the Railroad Commission procedure in which applicants for trucking permits must show that trucking firms already in business on a particular route are doing an inadequate job.

"The Railroad Commission grants monopolies to trucking firms," Emmett said.

But TMTA officials say the Railroad Commission regulation method guarantees dependable service to small- and medium-sized Texas communities.

Rondy Gray of Waco, chairman of Texans for Fair Rates, a group of 2,645 smaller shippers, said, "The consequence of deregulation would be disastrous for the state's economy and stability of service, particularly for the 94 percent of Texas businesses which are small and employ 50 people or less."

Floyd predicted deregulation would mean higher shipping rates and less service.

FALL PECAN AND VEGETABLE SALE

The Texas A&M Horticulture Club will hold a pecan and vegetable sale Thursday, December 11th and 18th. Sale hours will be from 12:00 to 5:30.

We will sell "Desirable", "Stuart" and "Choctaw" pecan varieties. Prices are as follows:

Desirable	\$1.75/lb.*
Choctaw	\$1.75/lb.*
Stuart	\$1.00/lb.

* Supply is limited

We will also be happy to crack your pecans for an additional .30¢/lb.

Broccoli, cauliflower, cabbage, red cabbage, shallots, mustard greens, and various herbs will also be sold as they are harvested.

Sales will be held at the Adriaance (see map below).

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