

State and Local

Mauro pursues ban on Gulf garbage; U.S. seeks special designation for Gulf

By Daniel A. La Bry
Reporter

In a continuing effort to clean up Texas beaches, Texas Land Commissioner Garry Mauro recently announced that the issue of banning garbage dumping in the Gulf of Mexico has been presented to the International Maritime Organization.

The IMO, which is comprised of about 30 countries, is a division of the United Nations.

Ingrid Kavanagh, coordinator of the coastal division of the Texas General Land Office, says the United States will ask for an amendment to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships treaty (MARPOL) to include the Gulf of Mexico as a "special area."

The proposed ban on garbage dumping in the Gulf of Mexico would amend provisions of MAR-

POL to include the gulf as a "special area" where dumping of all garbage except food waste is prohibited.

Kavanagh says the marine-borne garbage — especially plastic — is having a negative impact on environmental life.

Large numbers of fish, turtles,

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— Texas Land Commissioner Garry Mauro

porpoises, birds and other wildlife are dying because of the garbage, Kavanagh says. The ingestion of plastic products by fish and other marine animals causes them to die of starvation.

In a release issued by the Gen-

eral Land Office, Mauro says, "As good as the MARPOL treaty is, it can be made better for the sake of Texas beaches. More garbage accumulates on Texas beaches than in some Texas cities, and this amendment would go a long way toward solving that problem."

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only affects the quality of life in Texas, it also adversely affects Texas tourism and our Texas environment. The shameful condition of our Texas beaches is not just a question of garbage but one of protecting Texas wildlife and

Texas tourism from being drowned in a tide of offshore garbage."

U.S. Coast Guard Rear Adm. J.W. Kime, the U.S. representative to the IMO, gave official notice to the organization during a February meeting in London that the United States plans to bring the issue up during the next meeting in December.

If passed, this amendment would put the Gulf of Mexico in the same special category as the Mediterranean Sea, Baltic Sea, Black Sea, Red Sea and Persian/Oman Gulf where dumping is prohibited by MARPOL.

The treaty has not yet gained the support for ratification, Kavanagh says, but enough countries are expected to follow suit after the United States approves the treaty. She expects the treaty to be ratified by the U.S. Senate before IMO's December meeting.

Confessed murderer of A&M grad student receives life sentence

By Curtis L. Culberson
Staff Writer

The confessed murderer of a Texas A&M graduate student was sentenced to life imprisonment March 13 after the district attorney agreed to reduce a capital murder charge — ruling out the possibility of death by lethal injection.

Malcolm Trent Primrose, 23, of College Station pleaded guilty to the Nov. 25 murder of Linden Kauffman-Linam. One of Kauffman-Linam's classmates found her strangled in her University Acres apartment.

Kauffman-Linam was a 34-year-old graduate student in oceanography. It was her first semester at A&M and she had lived here only three months.

In one of three confessions to law enforcement officials, Primrose said he was attempting to burglarize

Kauffman-Linam's apartment when she awoke and started screaming. Primrose said he then took a rope out of his pocket and strangled her.

District Judge John Delaney ruled that the rope used in the murder was a deadly weapon, which means Primrose must serve at least 20 years before becoming eligible for parole.

The life-imprisonment sentence was the result of a plea-bargaining agreement between District Attorney Bill Turner and Primrose's court-appointed attorney Jim W. James. Turner said the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals probably would have overturned a death sentence.

James agreed, saying that in Texas, proving a crime was committed is not enough to warrant the death penalty.

"You have to prove that the defendant will be a future danger to society," James said. "He (Primrose) has never been charged with any offense."

James added that he thought the agreement and Primrose's sentence was just.

Primrose, in a written statement, said after he strangled Kauffman-Linam he bound her hands and feet and began collecting things in a knapsack. He said he intended to move the body, but while he was still in the apartment, a friend of Kauffman-Linam's came in through the back door and saw her body lying on the floor.

Police say Primrose fled Kauffman-Linam's apartment and ran into some woods near Easterwood Airport where he spent the night. Primrose was arrested in Benton, Ark., where local police say he drove from College Station in a stolen pickup truck.

An unemployed oilfield worker, originally from Pearland, Primrose quit college to come to Bryan-College Station to work in a local oilfield.

Ex-president of SMU was 'near breaking point'

DALLAS (AP) — An illness and the football scandal at Southern Methodist University forced school president Dr. L. Donald Shields to step down and left him near the breaking point physically and mentally, friends and associates say.

The Dallas Morning News reported Monday that friends and associates say in his final days at the university, the once-strapping Shields was gaunt and unsteady, and was sometimes confused.

Shields, 50, resigned Nov. 20, issuing a statement saying it was for "health reasons." The resignation came a week after news reports revealed continued wrongdoing in the SMU athletic department.

Many assumed the football scandal was the real reason. But, in fact, associates say Shields' physical and emotional health were near the breaking point.

Although only his closest colleagues were aware, the newspaper reported, Shields had

been battling complications of diabetes for months.

"The doctor told him it was a matter of his life, and he just couldn't continue in his present position," said Edwin L. Cox, an SMU board member who worked closely with Shields.

Knowledgeable sources have since said that Shields knew that athletes were receiving improper payments, but university officials say he was not pressured to resign.

William Hutchison, a member of the board of governors when Shields resigned and former chairman of the board, said, "As far as I know, he left 100 percent on health reasons." On Friday, the SMU board of trustees voted to abolish the board of governors.

Shields has remained in virtual seclusion since his resignation, his privacy loyally guarded by friends and family.

He had scheduled final appearances before the university's board of governors and the Faculty Senate, but canceled both. His fare-

well was limited to an emotionally wrenching meeting with university vice presidents and deans.

Colleagues agree that Shields' contribution to the university during his abbreviated tenure is clouded by the football scandal.

"It's a shame," said Roddy Wolper, former SMU director of public information. "There were some real accomplishments during his administration, but they're all obscured now. I'm sure it really was not the way he intended to finish at SMU."

The football scandal continued to unfold following his resignation and the National Collegiate Athletic Association suspended football at SMU for the 1987 season and placed sanctions on the school's football program that will keep it down for years to come.

The punishment was handed down after it was revealed that athletes continued to receive illegal cash payments even after the NCAA placed the school on three years' probation for similar violations in 1985.

The newspaper said Shields and his family refused to be interviewed.

He has steadfastly refused comment on the athletics scandal, but says he will answer questions from a specially formed committee investigating the matter.

While recuperating, he and his wife, Patricia, have spent time at his parents' home in Canton in East Texas and at a vacation home in Southern California.

Two weeks ago, when questions of his involvement were raised anew, Shields told Board Chairman Hutchison that he was retreating to an undisclosed location out of state to protect his privacy.

In Canton, his parents changed their telephone number after receiving calls from reporters.

In a newspaper interview when he was nominated for the presidency in October 1980, Shields said, "I moved into the fast lane a long time ago, and I plan to stay in the fast lane."

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