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PRESENT

CITIZENSHIP FOR ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS REDTAPE OR REFORM?

FEATURING
DR. JORGE BUSTAMANTE
MR. RONALD PARRA
MR. RODINO JUAREZ

WEDNESDAY APRIL 22
7:30 P.M.
ROOM 201 MSC

ATTENTION

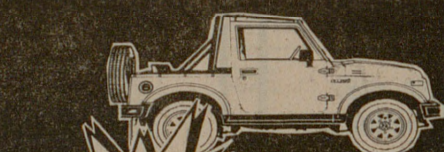
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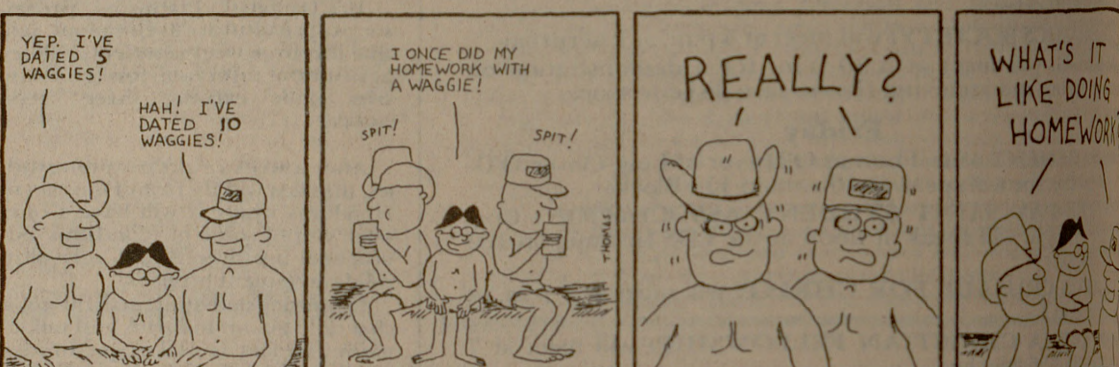
Warped

by Scott McCulloch



Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Texas seeks disposal location for low-level radioactive waste

By Sondra McCarty
Reporter

The Texas Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Authority must decide where to build a nuclear waste facility before 1993 to avoid a \$12 million fine per year.

John Simek, chairman of the TLLRWDA, says a low-level nuclear waste facility is a repository for low-level waste and must maintain containment for at least 500 years.

The TLLRWDA goal is to locate, construct, operate and manage a low-level waste disposal site.

Nuclear wastes from Texas research universities, hospitals, military bases and nuclear power plants are now being shipped out of state.

Steve Murdock, an A&M professor and head of the rural sociology department, says that after Jan. 1, 1993, other states will no longer accept wastes from facilities outside their state.

The state is looking into building the waste disposal site in Hudspeth County, a low-populated area in West Texas.

Simek says there are strict site criteria for the facility such as clay soil, low rainfall, low population and little standing ground water.

A Texas Agricultural Experiment Station study says nearly three-fourths of West Texans surveyed do not want such a facility in their neighborhood.

Murdock recently interviewed 180 residents, 80 community leaders and 100 citizens of the 2,600 residents in Hudspeth County. He found 72 percent are opposed to the waste facility in their region.

People are concerned with the potential for contamination of the water supply, their image, and danger to subsequent generations, he says. The results were the same for persons from different age, sex, race and income groups, Murdock says.

"The broader issue is how does our society deal with the undesirable by-products of its use of technology," Murdock says. "Very few people would argue that we should not use X-rays or radiation therapy for cancer treatment, but those types of technology have by-products that are undesirable."

Low-level waste is materials like the gown worn during an X-ray, he says.

Tom Blackburn, director of special programs for the TLLRWDA, says the hardest thing to overcome is

the social stigma of a nuclear waste facility.

"It really isn't as dangerous as people think," he says. "It's the social and psychological and the are the hardest things to overcome."

El Paso County officials have obtained a temporary court injunction against the TLLRWDA to postpone its decision on locating a site near a facility.

Blackburn says the TLLRWDA members are pleased with what they have done in selecting a site in accordance with what the legislature decreed.

"The injunction is just to slow down," he says.

Murdock says, "As a society we have a trade-off between the needs of the people in a local area and the societal need to dispose of low-level nuclear waste."

Blackburn says there will not be a major economic impact on the state, but Hudspeth County may be benefited by the disposal site.

"There won't be a big state-wide; about 20 jobs from the local area will be involved," he says. About 35 percent to 75 percent of Hudspeth's annual budget will come from the waste facility, he says.

State may appeal judicial ruling that will allow home education

FORT WORTH (AP) — State attorneys said Wednesday they haven't decided whether they will appeal a judge's ruling allowing parents to teach their children at home provided they follow an organized curriculum.

State District Judge Charles Murray ruled Tuesday that Texas' compulsory school attendance law requires only that children attend a school with such a curriculum.

State law allows for private schools, and home classes are equivalent to private schooling, he said in his ruling on a class action lawsuit filed in 1985.

"What's still up in the air," said Ron Dusek, a spokesman for Attorney General Jim Mattox, "is whether the state can establish and mandate some type of curriculum and some type of quality in that curriculum."

Dusek said Wednesday that state attorneys had not had a chance to re-

view Murray's ruling, so they did not know whether it will have far-reaching effects.

Home schooling advocates called the ruling a major victory.

Cheryl Leeper, who teaches her children, ages 10 and 12, at home, said, "We're thrilled, absolutely thrilled. The judge said what we've believed all along — that home education is a viable alternative."

Mrs. Leeper and her husband, Gary, filed the initial lawsuit, against the Arlington school district, that evolved into a class action lawsuit. Other parents and four home school curriculum companies joined the suit.

Most home schools use lesson plans from companies throughout the country that offer religious-oriented material. Those home schools are accredited through the companies, and therefore comply with state law, the ruling said.

School districts throughout Texas had filed criminal lawsuits against more than 80 couples who taught their children at home, saying parents were guilty of truancy.

In his ruling, Murray ruled only against home school parents and did not apply the same standards to private schools that operate outside the home. This, he said, amounts to harassment.

Murray said also that since the State Board of Education and the Texas Education Agency have jurisdiction only in public schools, they lack the authority to define "school."

Murray's ruling prohibits school districts from pursuing charges against parents who teach at home. But his ruling does not give school district truant officers authority to check occasionally to ensure that school-age children are in school — whether public or private.

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