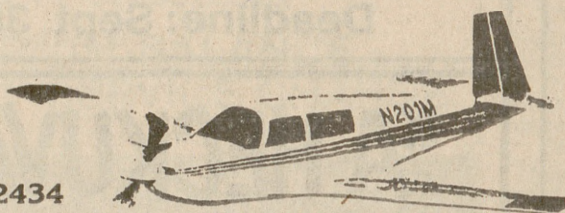


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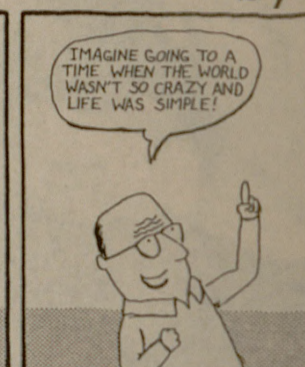
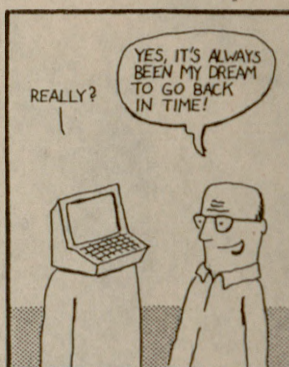
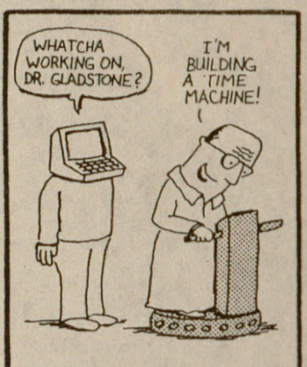


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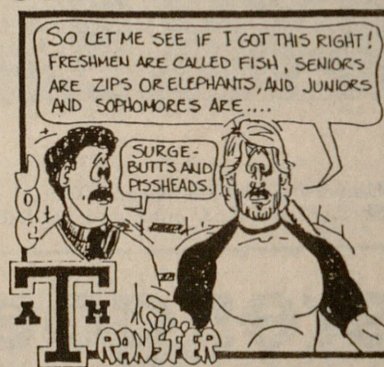
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by Dan Bor



Records show Dallas police filing complaints against fellow officers

DALLAS (AP) — Dallas police are filing more complaints against fellow officers, abandoning the never-official "code of silence" to account for more than half of all

Already this year, 11 police officers have been fired, three have been demoted and 33 have been suspended.

Last year, 14 officers were fired, six were demoted and 31 were suspended.

Among the most recent disciplinary actions was a three-day suspension last week of a five-year veteran who, other officers reported, grabbed the neck of a handcuffed suspect and slammed his head into the headrest of a police car while trying to learn the location of the man's missing 2-year-old child.

Two officers were fired and a third was reprimanded last September after another officer implicated them in the filing of false reports in a case where a man was falsely accused of possessing drugs. As a result, charges against several people arrested in the drug incident were dropped.

Internal Affairs Division Lt. Doug Kowalski said, "It strictly involved abusing the rights of a citizen, but the citizen wasn't the one to contact us."

In 1978, officers filed only 36.6 percent of the 240 complaints lodged. By 1980, complaints from inside and outside the department were almost even, records show. In each year since 1981, complaints filed by members of the department have steadily increased as a percentage of all complaints.

Prince said he doesn't believe that citizen complaints are dropping because of any pressure from internal-affairs detectives, although he and Kowalski concede that complaints brought by other

"We have a lot of officers who are willing to stand up and report what they think is not right. They see themselves as professionals with an integrity to uphold."

— Billy Prince, Dallas police

officers have a better chance of resulting in a proved charge. "Your internal complaints are usually more sustainable," Stovall, who has worked in the business in Lubbock since 1973, said. "But what you're looking for is that signature."

Kowalski said, "External complaints are usually from arrested persons who are honest with us surrounding the circumstances of their arrest, which is a strike against the believing the rest of their staff."

Investigators need either physical evidence, such as in the case of physical abuse, or testimony from a third party to resolve complaints that involve only one officer and one complainant, he said. "Complaints can be ruled unfounded (with no basis) if not sustained, sustained or if an officer can be exonerated or cleared of the charge."

See related story, Page 5

complaints lodged for abuse of citizens' rights, records show. Citizen complaints against police dropped to the lowest number in modern times last year, when only 27 of the 126 charges filed with the Internal Affairs Divisions were instigated by residents, the Dallas Times Herald reported Sunday.

Through August of this year, 72 complaints had been filed by officers and 35 by citizens.

And because internal-affairs investigators consider police officers more credible witnesses, the overall percentage of accusations upheld has increased to almost 80 percent, up from less than 50 percent a decade ago.

Police officials say the unusual numbers reflect a trend where more officers are speaking up when they see wrongdoing other than minor violations of procedural rules.

Nevertheless, those officials admit they are somewhat surprised by the number of officers who report seeing another officer mistreat citizens.

"I remember a time when it was almost unheard of," Chief Billy Prince said. "We have a lot of officers who are willing to stand up and report what they think is not right. They see themselves as professionals with an integrity to uphold."

Lead candidate for FBI director ready for challenge, spouse says

WACO (AP) — A federal judge nominated by President Reagan for FBI director has climbed Mount Everest twice, canoed through the Boquillas Canyon on the Rio Grande and volunteered to be a space shuttle passenger.

But before deciding to allow himself to be nominated for the top FBI post, Sessions, 57, consulted with his wife who told him, "Listen buddy, you only go around once in life."

On Wednesday the Senate Judiciary Committee, which must approve Sessions' nomination, begins confirmation hearings.

Alice Sessions said it wasn't until she saw her husband, U.S. District Judge William S. Sessions, on Reagan's right-hand side on national television that the announcement of his nomination hit home.

"Here are these newscasters you watch all the time, and they're talking about the 'Sessions announcement,'" she said at the family's San Antonio home. "And then you think, 'By golly, it's really happening.'"

Taking over as FBI director would mean Sessions would have to give up a judgeship that carries security.

He faces the uncertainty of a new president in 1989 and he must leave San Antonio, where two of his sons live.

But Sessions is willing to take the risk and make the

changes, "because it's important," Mrs. Sessions told Waco Tribune-Herald. "It's a challenge, and it and it needs to be done."

Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, and Sen. Lloyd D. Bentsen, D-Texas, have thrown their full support behind Larry Neal, Gramm's press secretary, said. "The indications we have had, from the time of confirmation about his nomination to today, is that he would be a very strong candidate. We feel that the confirmation process will move rapidly in his case."

The 6-foot-1 silver-haired judge, who started his career nearly 20 years ago in Waco, has a reputation for abiding by strict ethical codes.

In his courtroom, he prohibits gum chewing, whispering among spectators. He fines lawyers for talking to the press and asks them to refrain from calling each other by their first names in court.

Despite the flurry of media that has surrounded his family since the announcement, Sessions refused to grant press interviews until after the confirmation hearings.

In a press conference following the announcement of his nomination, Sessions said he had grave doubts about leaving the bench, but was strongly motivated to be associated with the people of the White House. "It's a high calling," he said.

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