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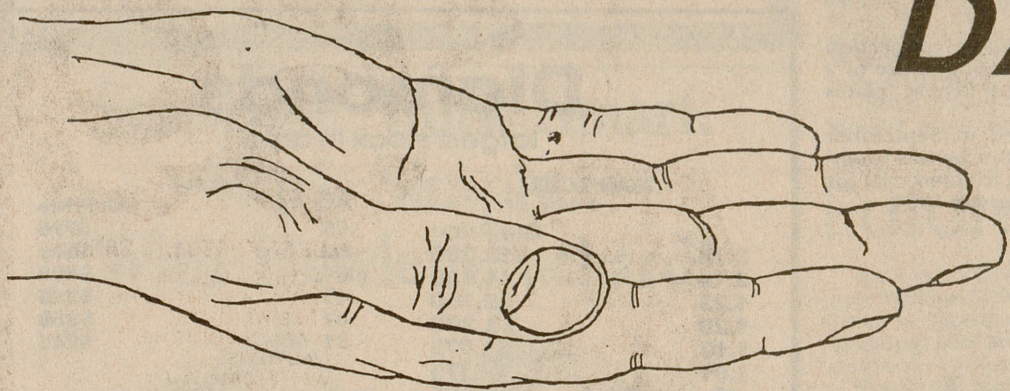
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MSC HOSPITALITY

Dallas district anticipates unitary status

DALLAS (AP)—Dallas school officials want to end 30 years of court battles over desegregation by seeking "unitary" status for the district from a federal judge.

For several weeks, school board members have quietly discussed asking U.S. District Judge Barefoot Sanders to grant the district unitary, or desegregated, status.

Officials say the new status would be one of the final steps in moving control of the system, which has been under court order since 1970, from the federal court back to the school board.

"If the judge declared the system unitary it would be a tremendous morale booster," said Robert Thomas, the district's attorney handling the case. "It says now we're running a proper school system, running a constitutional school system."

The district has been in court on desegregation issues since 1955. The current case, *Tasby vs. Dallas Board of Education*, was filed in 1970 and prompted the court order that requires the district to provide integrated schools as well as special programs to help close the achievement gap between minority and Anglo students.

The proposal for unitary status faces opposition among some minority members of the school board, however.

"The district hasn't lived up to the order of the court yet," board member Kathlyn Gilliam said. "I don't think you can just walk into court and ask for this with no direction from the community."

The school board discussed the issue in closed session last month, but will wait until the appointment of a replacement for superintendent Linus Wright.

Wright is expected to be named undersecretary of the U.S. Department of Education within a month, and board officials expect to name his replacement Nov. 10.

District residents would see no immediate changes in the school system because of the new status and the court case would not be immediately dismissed, Thomas said. Unitary status would not mean the district has finished its work aiding minority students, he said.

"It's conditional," Thomas said. "You're on probation."

What's up

Tuesday

STUDY ABROAD OFFICE: will have an informational meeting about studying in the United Kingdom and Denmark at 4 p.m. in 410 Rudder and present TAMU overseas day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at a table on the first floor of the MSC.

THE BIG EVENT: will meet at 7 p.m. in 146 MSC.

INTRAMURAL SPORTS: Entries close for volleyball, pre-season volleyball, field-goal kicking, swim meet, pickleball, singles and flickerball in 159 Read.

WRITING OUTREACH: Diane Dowdy will discuss "Rele rental Essay" at 6:30 p.m. in 110 Blocker.

STUDENT GOVERNMENT PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE: will meet at 7 p.m. in 704A-B Rudder.

SPANISH CLUB: will meet at 9 p.m. at the Flying Tomato.

BIOMEDICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION: will discuss nuclear medicine at 7 p.m. in 201 Medical Sciences Building.

TAMU HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7 p.m. in 115 Kleberg.

AGGIE DEMOCRATS: will meet at 8:30 p.m. in 404 Rudder.

AGGIE PLAYER'S ASSOCIATION: will meet at 5:30 p.m. in the Rudder Forum.

CATHOLIC STUDENT ASSOCIATION: will discuss the book of Revelations at 9 p.m. at the All Faiths Chapel.

POLITICAL ACTION OPPORTUNITIES: The Texas Grass Roots Coalition will meet at 7 p.m. at 205-1 Sulphur Springs.

MEXICO-USA CONFERENCE: will meet at 7 p.m. in Rudder Tower.

TAMU SAILING CLUB: will meet at 7 p.m. in 607 Rudder.

MSC ALL-NIGHT FAIR: will meet at 7 p.m. in 604 Rudder.

FOOD TECHNOLOGY ASSOCIATION: will present "The Crepe Event" at 7 p.m. in 102 Horticulture Building.

COOKE COUNTY HOMETOWN CLUB: will meet at 7:30 p.m. at Chimney Hill Bowling Center.

DATA PROCESSING MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATION: will meet at 7 p.m. in the Ramada Inn penthouse.

IEEE: will meet at 7 p.m. in 104B Zachry.

MARINE TECHNOLOGY SOCIETY: will compare US and Russian naval ships at 7 p.m. in 510 Rudder.

ENVE: will sell bicycle accessories from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Rudder Fountain.

WILDLIFE BIOLOGY SOCIETY: Dr. Jim Jensen will discuss "Recent Advances in Wildlife Medicine" at 7:30 p.m. in 110 Harrington.

TAMU AQUATIANS: will teach techniques of synchronized swimming at 8 p.m. at Downs Natatorium.

SOCIOLOGY CLUB: Ernie Wentreck will speak at 7 p.m. in 125 Academic.

CAMPUS STUDY CLUB: Maestro Franz Krager will explain Ludwig van Beethoven's Symphony No. 9, the "Choral," at 2 p.m. in 101 College Station Community Center, 101 Jersey St.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three working days before desired publication date.

A&M investigates potential of bone-scanning device

By Anne Neidinger
Reporter

Texas A&M's College of Veterinary Medicine is investigating the potential of a device that measures bone mineral content for the study of bone-related animal diseases.

A dual-photon absorptiometry scanner, donated to A&M by Lunar Radiation Inc. of Madison, Wis., is designed to measure the content of bone minerals in humans, and A&M's experimentation with it is one of the first such studies, said Dr. Dan Hightower, professor and head of the veterinary nuclear medicine program at A&M.

It is especially helpful in the detection of osteoporosis, a condition involving the deterioration of bone, Hightower said.

The \$38,000 computer-driven device currently prints out data applicable to humans, he said, but possibilities exist for animal studies as well.

The scanning device operates with a vertical, arm-like mechanism attached to a 6 feet by 3 feet scanning table. The arm contains a radiation detector located at the top and a radiation source at the bottom, underneath the table, Hightower said. The mechanism scans the area to be studied, similar to the way an X-ray is taken, he said.

The radioactive source gives off two gamma rays, one of which is absorbed more in soft tissue than the other, he said. The difference in ab-

sorption is computed and is proportional to the bone density, he said. The information is stored in a computer and printed out with statistics such as bone density and fracture risks.

However, Hightower said, before the unit can be used clinically or in research, data about what is normal in animals must be collected to make the device applicable.

Veterinary researchers are gathering data on cats, dogs, horses and some poultry, he said, in addition to learning more about the device and its computer software.

"There may be things going on that we don't know about because we haven't had a way to measure them."

— Dr. Dan Hightower, professor and head of veterinary nuclear medicine at A&M

Discovering the best place to take measurements on animals also is an important goal for the scanner's use, he said.

"Then we're in a position to initiate research projects using that device as one of the quantitative ways

of gathering information," Hightower said.

It is thought animal diseases from genetic or nutritional problems, but this unit may help researchers discover the diseases under which bone mineral is affected, he said.

Changes in bone mineral content are detected in veterinary medicine by an X-ray, he said. However, a 30 percent to 40 percent change in the bone mineral content present before an X-ray will be detected, he said.

The dual-photon absorptiometry scanner can detect changes in bone mineral content with only a 5 percent to 5 percent change.

"There may be things going on that we don't know about because we haven't had a way to measure them," he said.

The device also may help predict the stress fractures in horses, Hightower said. Lower bone-density statistics indicate a weaker bone.

Harvey Gollman, a Lunar representative in Dallas, said the company's interest lies in the application of the device to all animals and humans.

If the unit is productive in use and researchers at A&M are successful in its applications, Gollman said, Lunar may consider development of a device designed specifically for animals.

Court permits stay of execution for inmate convicted in '74 killing

HOUSTON (AP)—The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals granted a stay Monday to a death-row convict who was to face lethal injection later this week for the 1974 slayings of a Port Arthur couple.

Walter Bell Jr., a native of Lafayette Parish, La., was 18 when he was arrested for the stabbing death of Ferd Chisum, 50, and the strangulation and rape of Chisum's wife, Irene, 59. Bell has spent more than 13 years on death row and was to have been put to death before dawn Wednesday.

Bell, now 33, had worked for Chisum at an appliance store and had recently been fired when the bodies of the couple were found in

the bathtub of their Port Arthur home in July 1974.

Bell's attorney — Edward Chikofsky of New York, working with the NAACP Legal Defense Fund — said Monday a request to keep Bell alive was awaiting action by the U.S. Supreme Court. He said he did not expect a decision from that court until today.

On Monday, however, the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals granted a reprieve, a court spokesman, Margaret Sims, said. No issues were cited in the decision, she said.

On Friday, the Supreme Court voted 4-4 on a similar motion that challenged Bell's legal representation at trial because his mental com-

petence was not mentioned in the penalty phase. The court upholds a lower-court decision granting the stay.

Defense attorneys contended Bell is mentally retarded.

"The whole idea of the Supreme Court's death penalty jurisdiction is to avoid arbitrary, capricious and freakish imposition of the penalty," Chikofsky said.

"What could be more freakish than executing a man on the basis of a mental retardation?"

Other motions on Bell's behalf were in state and other courts, said Ron Dusek, a spokesman for the Texas attorney general's office.