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Judge rules to reinstate Dallas officer

DALLAS (AP) — A judge's ruling requiring the city to reinstate a policeman fired in 1984 for fatally shooting a fleeing, unarmed suspect will hinder efforts to remove officers who use unnecessary force, the police chief said.

"I wouldn't have fired him if we didn't think it needed to happen," Dallas Police Chief Billy Prince said Wednesday. He has criticized city officials for reinstating officers he has fired.

Visiting Judge Snowdon Leftwich told lawyers for the city last week that officer Jack Ross, 44, must be reinstated with back pay.

Leftwich ruled Ross did not violate the police department's policy on deadly force. The judge withheld an official ruling pending an agreement about the amount of back pay due Ross, said Ross' attorney, Bob Gorsky.

"The judge told us he had reviewed the evidence and that he had ruled that there was no justification for Sgt. Ross' (dismissal)," Gorsky said, adding he did not know whether Ross would return to the force.

Prince said the Ross decision was another reversal of his efforts to purge the department of officers who use unnecessary force.

Police said Ross shot Juan Reyes, 20, in the back of the head Aug. 18, 1984, after spotting Reyes and two others beating Billy Jack Murphy.

The assailants fled as Ross arrived. Reyes jumped over a chain-link fence, despite Ross' commands to stop. Ross fired his gun, killing Reyes instantly.

The shooting was the 18th by Dallas police that year.

Official says differences cause friction

MEXICO CITY (AP) — As strongly as they are bonded as neighbors sharing a border nearly 2,000 miles long, Mexico and the United States are separated by a chasm of differences in culture, history, wealth and power.

"At no other border does so much power face so little power," Lorenzo Meyer, academic dean at the Colegio de Mexico, a graduate school and research institution, said in an interview.

The differences often result in serious misunderstandings and friction between the two countries.

Mexicans, however, are rooted in Indian cultures, Roman Catholicism and 300 years of Spanish domination. Their history is in stark contrast to Americans' Protestant roots and their emphasis on the individual.

While calling history and culture the chief sources of friction between Mexico and the United States, the author and intellectual Octavio Paz says that "no less a determinant has been and is the immense economic, technical, political and military inequality."

"This inequality has been the origin of many abuses and injustices, mistakes and resentments," Paz wrote.

Settlement from manufacturers could provide \$5 million for DISD

DALLAS (AP) — A multimillion-dollar settlement from two manufacturers of building materials containing asbestos could provide as much as \$5 million for the Dallas Independent School District, according to a district lawyer.

School board members voted to accept the offer from U.S. Gypsum and W.R. Grace, which supplied asbestos-laden insulating and acoustical material to the district and 82 other Texas school systems.

Medical officials have linked asbestos to cancer. The districts are seeking to recover the cost of removing it.

DISD lawyer Ben Niedecken said Wednesday that other school boards are expected to vote on the offer this month.

The offer's total amount was kept secret by order of a federal district court in Beaumont, where the lawsuit was filed.

Niedecken said school districts were dividing the settlement according to the districts' costs of moving the asbestos products.

DISD officials have spent \$9 million on contracts to remove asbestos and \$2 million in related costs, John Russell, the district's director of facility care.

The lawsuit by the 83 school districts is among the first in the nation in which damages are being paid, said Kelly McClure, an attorney working with DISD on the case.

What's up

Monday

AGGNOG PERSONAL COMPUTER CLUB: will hold a public domain software copy party at 5:30 p.m. in Sterling C. Evans Library Learning Resources Department. For more information, contact Eric at 845-4049.

COTTON BOWL MIDNIGHT YELL PRACTICE: will be held at midnight Jan. 1 in the park across the street from The Union Station on Houston Street in downtown Dallas.

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

Expedition team studies arctic circle for buried meteors

By Jeff Pollard
Staff Writer

For most people, coming back from a trip with bloody ears, dehydration, a twisted knee and frostbite would be enough to discourage anyone from taking another trip any time soon. For Austin Mardon, a doctoral candidate in education, the experience was enough to make him want to do it again as soon as possible.

"It's just a job like any other job," Mardon said, "but I think I underestimated what I was going into."

The expedition team Mardon joined, which was searching for meteorites buried in the ice, constantly had to endure minus-30-degree weather while riding across uncertain ground.

"We often had to jump our skidoos (snowmobile) over crevices that would just suddenly appear in front of us," Mardon said. "One time the ice collapsed out from under me, leaving a 1,000-foot crevice below. I had to pull myself to my ride and get away quickly."

Mardon, who is a native Canadian, already is planning to be part of a joint Texan-Canadian expedition to Ellesmere Island in the Arctic Circle.

He said the group will conduct an original scouting for meteorites in the northern part of the island. Though it won't be as cold as his previous expedition, there will be some changes that will make it interesting, he said.

"I've seen to it that some changes were made in the equipment used on the trip so that some of the problems that happened before don't happen again," Mardon said. "We also will be traveling by foot this time, which makes up for most of the differences."

The eight-person team also will have to deal with polar bears wandering through the area, he said, so the supplies will include weapons — both problems the earlier group didn't have to deal with.

To pay for the trip, the group is testing new equipment such as parkas, stoves and rations in exchange for funds, Mardon said. The rest of the funds will be gathered from private sources, he said.

"We've applied for funds from the Explorers Club and other groups," Mardon explained. "This will be one of the few American re-

search expeditions that won't be the government a dime."

As a part of his next expedition Mardon is conducting two among Texas students. The first is a science competition that will see one junior high, one high school and one junior college experiment to

"One time the ice collapsed out from under me, leaving a 1,000-foot crevice below. I had to pull myself to my ride and get away quickly."

— Austin Mardon
expedition team member

carried on the trip. For the second contest, one flag will be selected from each grade level (1-12) and they will be carried by the team and then returned to the schools.

Mardon carried flags made on his last adventure, along with a Texas flag and a Texas A&M flag.

The Texas flag was presented by Gov. Bill Clements last week in a ceremony in Austin. The flag will be returned to A&M to be played permanently.

"Although meeting with Clements was exciting," Mardon said, "the students' flags meant more to me because they were people that I had with on a one-to-one basis."

Using the information gathered on his first trip, Mardon put together a slide presentation explaining what the expedition members did and the conditions they had to endure. He then took his presentation to local schools. Mardon has other slide presentations scheduled for explanation of the team's efforts to the physics honor society in spring.

"We had to function in conditions comparable to those in parts of the Soviet Union," Mardon said. "I think that we (Americans) are prepared to handle that kind of situation. Although we would be able to function somewhat, there are a lot of problems (equipment breakage, supply drops, etc.) that still need to be corrected."

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