

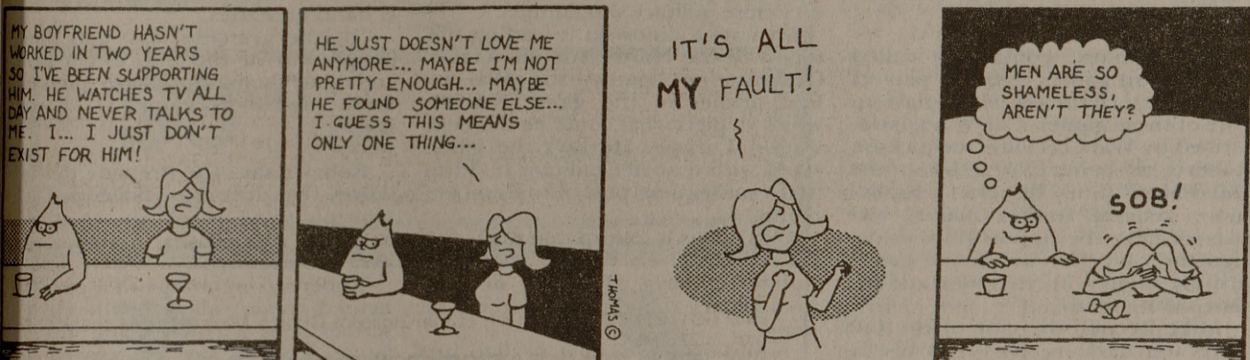
B Street

by Jon Caldara



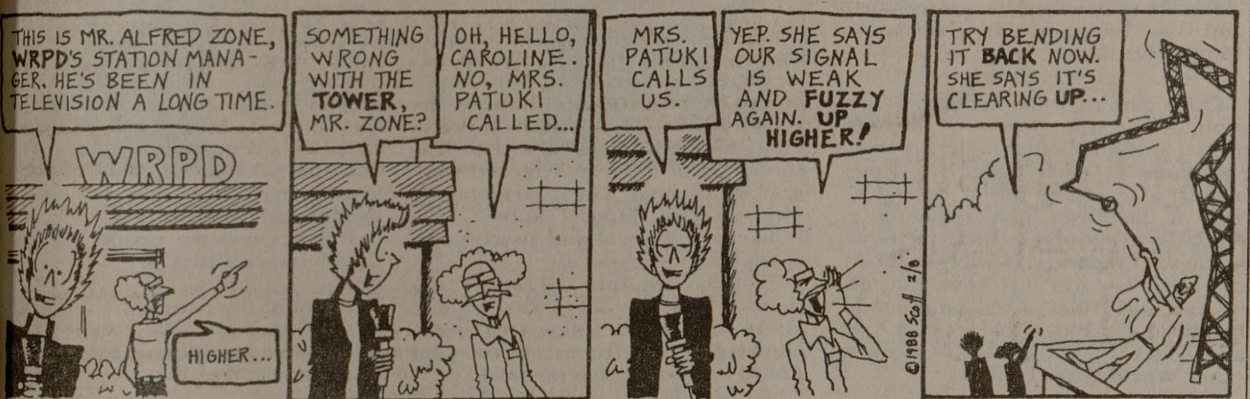
Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Warped

by Scott McCullar



Technical writing class boasts high enrollment

By Stephen Masters
Reporter

Each semester nearly 3,000 Texas A&M students take English 301, Technical Writing, making it the largest program of its kind in the nation.

Although technical writing is required in only a few A&M degree plans, it is suggested for almost everyone, the director of technical writing, Dr. Elizabeth Tebeaux, said.

"We teach students how to write on the job so they are prepared to write in a working situation," she said. "For years teachers have been paid to read what you write. Bosses aren't paid to read it, and they won't unless it's in their best interest to read it."

She said between 30 and 35 different degree plans at A&M require the class, but that this number will increase as degree plans are brought into compliance with the requirements of the core curriculum.

The technical writing course involves 10 to 12 written assignments, including a 15-page formal report and an oral report. All assignments are to be prepared professionally and omitting even one will result in a failing grade.

Even though the program is so large — and growing — some students are turned away each semester from lack of room, Tebeaux said.

"We had 29 sections available last fall and we have 65 this semester," Tebeaux said. "They're all full. We usually end up turning students away each semester so that we can keep the size of the class small. Each class is usually smaller than 25."

Dr. Sam Dragga, director of writing specialization, said the Department of English also offers a writing specialization that is recommended by about 35 departments.

"Some departments suggest writing specialization in a focused area," he said. "It even satisfies the minor

requirement in some departments. It's possible to get a writing specialization in any field, though."

Writing specialization requires English 210, Argument and Composition; English 301, Technical Writing; English 320, Technical Editing, and Speech Communication 404, Technical and Professional Speaking.

The is also student required to take six hours of course work that is usually related to his major, which has a writing component of 25 percent or more. A grade of B or better is required for all courses.

"Employers find the specialization attractive," he said. "They are looking for good communication skills and this piece of paper certifies that the prospective employee is an effective speaker or writer. It sets him apart from other students coming out with the same transcript for technical classes."

Residents fear bankruptcies due to Exxon

HAWKINS (AP) — Moves by Exxon Co. USA to recover money paid to about 900 royalty owners could bankrupt many people in this East Texas town, residents say.

The oil giant is seeking the money to recoup some of the losses it suffered when it lost a \$2.1 billion judgment in federal court over crude oil overcharges between 1975 and 1981.

As a result, Exxon is seeking \$600 million in revenues it claims were overpaid to royalty owners based upon the overcharges.

About \$450 million of the money is sought from corporations, with the other \$150 million being sought from individuals, the Boy Scouts of America, colleges, school districts, charities and a cemetery association.

Many of those caught in the case are residents of this town of about 1,300, located about 20 miles north of Tyler.

Many current residents are descendants of farmers whose estates transferred royalties from one generation to another from proceeds of the 10,000-acre Hawkins Field, where oil began flowing in 1941.

"What you have here is a lot of little people, and it's like a pension to them," George W. Bramblett, Jr., an attorney representing a group of royalty owners and trusts, said. "What's happened is that they've spent the money."

Physician gives typhoid vaccine to AIDS patients

GRAND PRAIRIE (AP) — A physician in this Dallas suburb has been using typhoid fever vaccine to treat AIDS patients.

Dr. Terry Pulse said the typhoid vaccine treatments seem to be working for the five AIDS patients he has treated with the drug.

"I consider it research," Pulse said. "It's still new but I'm willing to trailblaze."

The idea originated 30 years ago as a treatment to halt the growth of some cancer tumors. A patent for the use of this type of treatment is held by Salvatore Catapano, a New York research technologist.

Pulse, a family practitioner who said he treats about 500 patients with AIDS-related illnesses, said he obtained a license for the drug from Catapano, whose patent allows him to receive a royalty every time the drug is used for treatment of AIDS.

"I studied a week with Catapano before I decided to do it," Pulse told the *Austin American-Statesman*. "The patent says it is for the 'remission of AIDS.' But the jury is still out on a cure. Patients also need their doctor's approval before I will give them the typhoid vaccine."

Pulse's use of the vaccine as a treatment for AIDS recently was the subject of an Atlantic Monthly magazine story. It said the 73-year-old researcher is one of several champions of a new and controversial the-

ory that AIDS really is an extreme form of syphilis.

Stephen, the pseudonym of a gay Austin resident who asked to remain anonymous, has had AIDS for 13 months. He began the typhoid vaccine treatments with Pulse in early January.

Stephen, 31, and two Austin friends who also have AIDS fly twice weekly to Dallas for four \$30 vaccinations. They believe the drug is helping to reduce the number and size of their Kaposi's sarcoma lesions.

Kaposi's tumors, rare except in those with damaged immune systems, form on blood capillaries inside and outside the body. They are a principal killer of those with AIDS.

Stephen said, "All three of us have seen a change. I'm not saying we're cured, but it's very encouraging. I have about 300 lesions. Now, some really large ones on my legs are crusting over and shrinking."

Stephen said he also believes the vaccine is stimulating his immune system because he has been having allergic reactions to cedar fever. Cedar pollen normally fills the air in Central Texas in winter months, but without a reasonably healthy immune system, the body doesn't react to it.

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