

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Photo by Jay Janner

School's out

Matt Byerley, 10, and Mathew Shaw, 7, of Seabrook play football at Kyle Field Monday afternoon. The children had no school because of

President's Day so they were visiting the campus with Mathew's mother, Vickie Shaw.

A&M scientists dissect dolphin found beached on Texas coast

By Mercedes Salinas
Reporter

A 9-foot-4-inch Risso's dolphin weighing 686 pounds was brought to the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory at Texas A&M early Saturday for a necropsy to determine, if possible, why the dolphin died.

A necropsy is the equivalent of an autopsy.

The dolphin was found on San Jose Island, a private ranch north of Corpus Christi. Mark New, a ranch hand on the island, reported the beached dolphin Thursday, said photographer Anthony Amos of the University of Texas Marine Science Institute in Port Aransas. This is the first reported stranding of this species on the Texas coast.

The dolphin was towed four miles by a small UT research vessel to

"Nothing definitive as to why it beached itself has been reached. . . This is unique, being the first (Risso's dolphin) to be found on a Texas beach."

— Dr. Larry Jones, Diagnostic Pathology department head

Mustang Island where Rob Weeks and Greg Schwab, two A&M graduate students working for the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network, loaded the dolphin in to a pickup truck and brought it to the diagnostic laboratory.

Dr. Raymond Tarpley, research associate of the Department of Veterinary Anatomy at A&M and coordinator of the Network said, "It is

basically a species that lives in tropical and temperate waters."

Since the Risso's dolphin has not been a major fishery target, it has not been studied in detail.

The necropsy was performed by Dr. Larry Jones, Tarpley, Schwab and Elsa Haubold, a junior wildlife and fisheries major.

Jones, who is head of the Diagnostic Pathology department, said, "Nothing definitive as to why it

beached itself has been reached. Maybe on the microscopic level we'll see something — so far nothing. This is unique, being the first (Risso's dolphin) to be found on a Texas beach. That makes it interesting and even more fascinating, compared to the Bottlenose dolphin commonly brought to the lab."

The Risso's dolphin had a 5.5 pound brain, which Amos described as "very peculiar" because of its large size. It is not known whether this is significant or not. The histology (microscopic study of tissues) has not been performed but will be done soon. The results could reveal the cause of death or discoveries about the species.

The exterior body of the dolphin had extensive scarring. The researchers believe this was caused by other male dolphins who are aggressive because of competition for female mates and parasitism of other marine life, including sharks, Amos said. A kidney stone and roundworms were found in the dolphin but are not thought to be the cause of its death.

The Network, coordinated at A&M by Tarpley and Schwab, is a volunteer organization dedicated to the understanding and conservation of marine mammals. It keeps records of all reported strandings of marine mammals found on the Texas coast. The data collected by the Network can help fill the absence of basic information about the life and biology of cetaceans and particularly about dolphins. Since its formation in 1980, the Network has responded to 529 strandings of various dolphins, porpoises and whales.

The article also says Arntzen:

- was director of the Department of Energy Research Laboratory at Michigan State University.
- served as a plant physiologist for four years with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- is the author or co-author of over 150 scientific papers and other publications.
- has twice served as a visiting research scientist in France.
- is a member of the board of directors for the International Plant Molecular Biology Society;
- is chairman of the Applied Biology Section of the National Academy of Sciences.

Adkisson is quoted as saying "We are fortunate indeed to be able to attract Dr. Arntzen to Texas since he was obviously well situated and happy at Du Pont."

Arntzen's background makes him "the ideal choice for this crucial position that can have a major impact on agriculture, both in Texas and elsewhere," Adkisson is quoted as saying.

Vandiver is quoted as saying Arntzen "comes to us with a splendid blend of academic, governmental and industrial experience, and that is a combination that will put him and the institution in exceptionally good stead in the community, in Austin and Washington, throughout the academic and scientific worlds and in agricultural circles throughout the country."

"It is very much our good fortune that he accepted our invitation to join Texas A&M."

Primary draws final forecasts from hopefuls

CONCORD, N.H. (AP) — Vice President George Bush forecast a win but Sen. Bob Dole showed confidence Monday as the GOP presidential field sprinted for the finish line in a tight New Hampshire primary race. Democrat Michael Dukakis said his expected win might be smaller than predicted.

Bush campaigned side by side with former Sen. Barry Goldwater, patron saint of conservatives, as he threw all his campaign could muster into a bid to arrest Dole's week-long surge and regain his own political footing.

One candidate after another posted hopeful predictions of a surprise when New Hampshire voters render their verdict in the nation's lead-off primary on Tuesday.

"I don't know where all those political pundits are today but they ran for cover four years ago and they're likely to run for cover tomorrow," said former Delaware Gov. Pete du Pont, back in the pack in the GOP race.

Rep. Jack Kemp, his GOP candidacy on the line, held out the hope of a second-place finish that would confound the pollsters. "I'm going to finish in a good competitive third or higher," he said.

Democratic Sen. Paul Simon, also facing tough times if he falters, said he was sure he'd defeat Rep. Richard Gephardt for second place. Referring to Dukakis' commanding lead in the polls, he said, "I think there is a possibility of a real surprise coming tomorrow."

Fellow Democrat Bruce Babbitt, far off the pace in the polls, said, "I'm anticipating a strong showing and a surprise but I can't put a number on it."

Former television evangelist Pat Robertson bid to deal with a tempest that arose over his claim that the Soviet Union has offensive nuclear missiles in Cuba. The Reagan administration denied the claim, but the GOP hopeful said, "The least we can do is remove those nuclear missiles."

Democrat Dukakis' lead seemed secure, to judge by the polls, but he and his aides worried that they would be held to an impossible standard when the New Hampshire results are analyzed. Thus, he noted that his rivals have been attacking him regularly, adding, "I assume that's going to take its toll."

No two polls were alike. But they all showed a Republican race as close as the Democratic campaign was not.

Dukakis, governor in next-door Massachusetts, held a commanding lead among the Democrats with support of roughly 40 percent of the voters. Gephardt and Simon, who finished a close one-two in Iowa's caucuses last week, are in a duel for second place. Jesse Jackson, Babbitt, Gary Hart and Sen. Albert Gore Jr. are far afield in the polls.

Among the Republicans, the surveys said that Dole has wiped out all of Bush's once-commanding lead in the eight days since the Kansas senator won the Iowa caucuses and the vice president slipped to third place behind Pat Robertson. Robertson, Kemp and former du Pont are in a close fight for third place in the same surveys.

What the polls couldn't say was whether Dole's momentum would

carry him past a struggling Bush to first place.

Bush attacked Dole's call for a spending freeze as a "copout" that avoids making tough decisions, and forecast a victory for himself in the lead-off primary.

"I'm going to win tomorrow. Believe me," he told a cheering crowd at Daniel Webster College in Nashua.

Dole and his senior aides sounded confident. "I think it's that close," said Dole, who said a victory in New Hampshire might carry him all the way to the GOP nomination.

Among the Democrats, Simon urged New Hampshire's voters "to assert their independence" from Dukakis.

Dukakis had a speech prepared taking aim at Gephardt and Simon, but he chose not to deliver it when he faced a high school audience in Claremont.

"This campaign is not about the past, it is about creating a future in which all of you can work," he said.

Robertson: Soviet arms are in Cuba

WASHINGTON (AP) — Pat Robertson said Monday he wouldn't "back off" his assertion that there are Soviet missiles in Cuba, drawing an emphatic denial from the White House and skepticism from a man identified as his source. Campaign rivals blasted the assertion as "outrageous" and "rash."

Robertson told a GOP candidate's forum in Dover, N.H., that "the least we can do in this is get those nuclear weapons out of Cuba," a reiteration of statements he had made Sunday during a debate.

On Monday in California, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said SS-4 and SS-5 missile sites established in Cuba in 1962 "were confirmed as having been destroyed in that year. We also are confident that the missiles were removed from Cuba at that time."

"We have had extensive intelligence collection directed at Cuba since 1962 and have no evidence that SS-4, SS-5 or other strategic missiles have been deployed there," Fitzwater said.

Asked whether he was denying any offensive nuclear weapons are deployed in Cuba, Fitzwater said, "Exactly."

Vice President George Bush said in an interview Monday that "I'm confident this (Robertson assertion) is not true."

"This is a very serious allegation," Bush said in the interview on a Manchester, N.H., radio station. "You keep hearing these outrageous charges from people which are designed to scare the American people."

Another GOP presidential candidate, Rep. Jack Kemp of New York, also criticized Robertson for saying there are Soviet missiles in Cuba. He called it "a rather rash and unsupported charge," and said if Robertson had evidence of such missiles, he should share it with the American people.

Arntzen take over positions as deputy chancellor, dean

By Richard Williams
Senior Staff Writer

Texas A&M officials are expected to announce a new deputy chancellor and agriculture dean today.

Chancellor Perry Adkisson and President Frank Vandiver are going to appoint Dr. Charles J. Arntzen as the deputy chancellor of agriculture and the agriculture dean, according to today's issue of *Fortnightly*, a publication of the A&M Office of Public Information.

Monday night Arntzen's wife, Kathy, confirmed that Arntzen

Vedlitz gets assistant post from Vandiver

Dr. Arnold Vedlitz, associate dean for research in the Texas A&M College of Liberal Arts, was appointed Monday as an assistant to President Frank E. Vandiver.

Vedlitz will be Vandiver's assistant for external affairs and also will continue in his position as dean.

The president's assistant for external affairs coordinates A&M's relations with the Texas Legislature and state officials.

Vedlitz, a professor of political science, has been at A&M for 15 years. He directs the technology and society division of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station, and he was the founding director of A&M's Public Policy Resources Laboratory.

Library may be fixed soon

By Richard Williams
Senior Staff Writer

Texas A&M and Dow Chemical Company are close to reaching a settlement on how the faulty brickwork on the Sterling C. Evans Library will be repaired, the vice chancellor of facilities planning and construction said Friday.

"I would hope we would have it within three weeks," Ed Peel said. "That would be a reasonable expectation."

Peel said he met with Dow officials Feb. 5 to discuss problems with the brickwork on the library.

The brickwork on the overhanging sections of the library was constructed using Sarabond, a Dow product. Sarabond was used to make the mortar on the overhangs stronger.

The Sarabond caused the steel supports in the brickwork to expand. The expanding supports have

caused some of the brickwork to fall from the building. In August a section of brickwork fell from the library, but no one was hurt. Since that time areas under the overhangs have been sectioned off to prevent anyone from walking under them. Peel said those areas will remain sectioned off until the repairs have been made.

The work probably will be completed this summer because there will be fewer people on campus, he said.

The final cost of the project is not known yet because "we haven't made a reasonably good estimate yet," Peel said. However, he said the cost should be between \$750,000 and \$1 million. The negotiations concern how the repair bills will be paid.

Peel said the library is the only building on campus to use Sarabond, and it was only used on the overhanging areas.

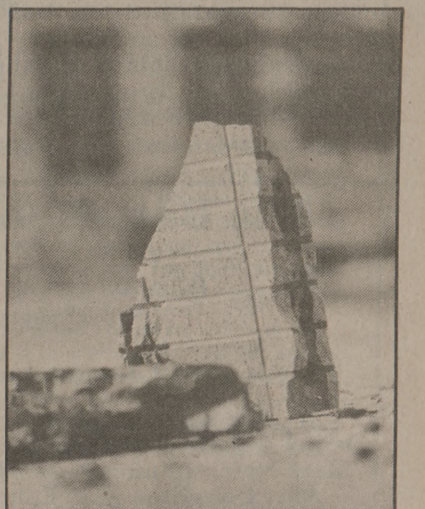


Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

A section of bricks fell from the northwest corner of Sterling C. Evans Library Aug. 10.