

B Street

by Jon Caldara



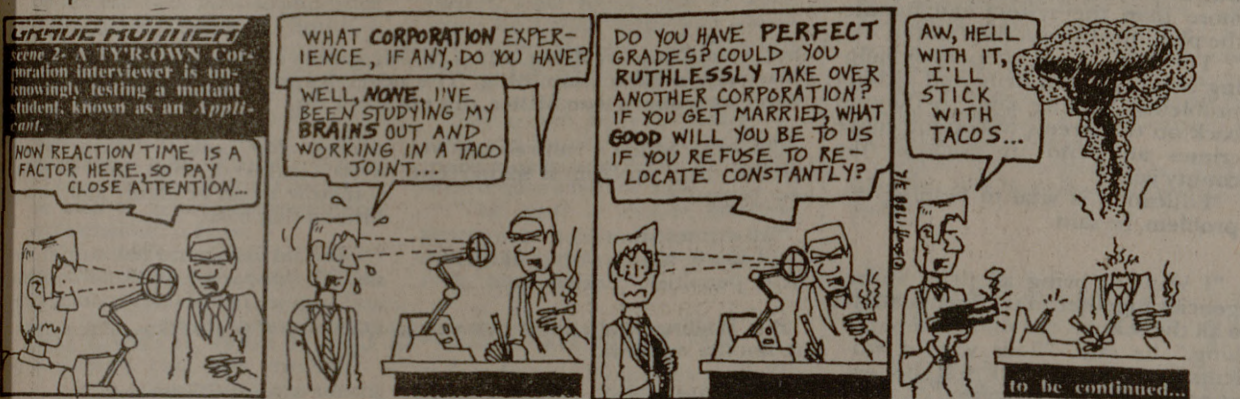
Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Warped

by Scott McCullar



Army report: Pilot's error led to crash

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Insufficient training and pilot error combined to cause the crash of a helicopter at Fort Hood that claimed the lives of 10 men, an Army report has concluded.

The Huey helicopter crashed at Fort Hood on June 22, 1987, and 10 Army Reserve and Texas National Guardsmen were killed. "The crew exceeded their flying abilities and the limitations of the aircraft," the report said. "The crash was a result of an unauthorized maneuver executed at an altitude too low to recover."

The report was prepared by the 5th Army at Fort Sam Houston at the request of Forces Command, which oversees the training of Army Reserve and National Guard units from its headquarters at Fort McPherson, Ga.

The report also stated that the "quantity and content of the training program" was cited in the report as being "not sufficient to prepare the crew" for flights with a full load of passengers.

The helicopter was participating in Starburst '87, the annual summer training for 20,000 men and women of the Guard and its Reserve support units from 18 states. Eight Reservists and two Guardsmen were killed.

The helicopter crashed when a high-speed, steep turn at low altitude resulted in an unplanned, rapid descent, the report said.

The report also said the crew apparently sought to solve the problem with a quick climb but the helicopter's tail-rotors struck several trees.

The aircraft was destroyed by fire, but no mechanical or maintenance problems were found, the report said.

Judge overturns Florida fruit ban, allows shipments

AUSTIN (AP) — A federal judge on Tuesday overturned the Texas ban on Florida citrus fruit, ruling in favor of Florida citrus industry officials who want to sell their produce in the state.

Texas agriculture officials said the ban was needed to protect Texas' \$65 million-a-year citrus industry from canker. The state quarantine began last month, after the U.S. Department of Agriculture lifted a 3½-year-old federal quarantine on Florida citrus that was prompted by the disease.

Texas now will seek an injunction against the new federal rule, which allows shipment of Florida citrus that meets certain standards to other citrus-producing states, Texas Department of Agriculture spokesman Max Woodfin said.

U.S. District Judge James Nowlin said he lifted the state ban, imposed last month after the new federal rule took effect, because the federal regulation takes precedence over the state rule.

The ban was due to end March 12, when Texas officials planned to have gathered information on the federal rule and take some permanent action.

"We feel we need to do whatever we can to protect the Texas citrus industry," Woodfin said.

The injunction request will charge that the federal rule was issued abruptly and did not allow sufficient time to study its possible effects, he said.

Florida Citrus Mutual, a growers association, and Tuxedo Fruit Company, a Florida shipper and grower,

sued Texas last month to stop the emergency state quarantine.

Florida Gov. Bob Martinez and Florida Agriculture Commissioner Doyle Conner joined the court action.

The lawsuit called the ban unconstitutional and invalid. It said the action would mean a loss of millions of dollars to the Florida citrus industry.

Canker, which can seriously damage citrus plants and fruit, was found in Florida in 1984. Florida officials said Florida producers must meet strict standards under the new federal regulation in order to ship fruit to citrus-producing states, including Texas.

Robert Griffith, chief of the bureau of pest eradication for the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Service, said fruit shipped to citrus-producing states undergoes a "top-of-the-line, Cadillac-version of certification."

Griffith said he had never heard of canker being found on mature citrus fruit that was ready to be shipped. He said it would be difficult to transmit canker from fruit to citrus groves.

"The bacteria doesn't fly or hop around like a fungus would," he said. "It would have to be taken right to a grove and come in contact with a citrus tree."

Florida has 2,000 acres of certified fruit "ready to go" to other citrus-producing states, including Texas, Arizona and California, he said.

Texas officials said they do not want to take any chance of importing canker and noted that new outbreaks of the disease recently have been reported in Florida.

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