

State and Local

A&M biochemist tries to establish string instrument plant in Texas

By Lyn Jenkins
Reporter

An A&M biochemist's efforts to establish a Texas violin industry to rival Italy's has been slowed by his inability to obtain the valued wood needed to create the Stradivarius-model instruments.

After returning from Italy empty-handed, Joseph Nagyvary said he would have to look elsewhere to obtain the necessary wood for his violins.

"We are running into formidable

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— Joseph Nagyvary, violin designer

obstacles," Nagyvary said.

Italian law prohibits selling the best quality wood in order to protect the industry, but he said he is not heartbroken.

"It's not a major setback," Nagyvary said. "That's just the right push I needed to go north and find wood in our own country."

He is experimenting with wood from several areas and is confident it will be comparable to Stradivarius' after fermentation and chemical treatment.

Nagyvary said he hopes to open a string instrument plant in or near Texas and have a computer-milling machine that can carve about 20 faultless plates a day.

For 17 years, his hobby has been solving "the greatest historical puzzle" — that of Antonius Stradivarius' violin secrets.

Nagyvary said Stradivarius was not responsible for the two key items — wood and varnish — that set his

violins apart from modern ones.

Stradivarius used wood that floated down the river by his home. Nagyvary discovered that the wood was fermented in water, not dry-seasoned as violin makers have believed for centuries.

An electron microscope revealed that the varnish Stradivarius bought from local chemists contained 70 percent minerals and crystals.

"You don't have to be a brilliant chemist to discover these things," Nagyvary said. This secret process has never been explored because of a concerted effort by big antique dealers and restorers, he said.

Nagyvary designs his violins for young student musicians at \$2,000 each. His \$6,000 master series of violins are perfected with a computerized sound spectrum analyzer.

A recently auctioned 1709 Stradivarius cost a record price of \$889,240.

Nagyvary has eight violins in circulation with his label of "Nagyvaryus."

Nagyvary said he hopes the publicity and his research will be beneficial to A&M.

"Dr. Vandiver was a great supporter," Nagyvary said.

Nagyvary was surprised at the lack of undergraduate students wanting to help with his research. He said he would like to see more interest among students and in turn do them a service by introducing them to a refined art.

Nagyvary faces several problems beyond finding and treating suitable wood. He said he has been discouraged from the beginning by many in his profession. He also faces people who doubt Texas' capability to produce such an industry.

Nagyvary said that his biggest difficulty is persuading the music world that his violins sound as good as the more expensive Stradivarius.

Nagyvary said it is a matter of weeks until he receives a portion of a \$274,000 grant from the Texas Advanced Technology Program to help his efforts.

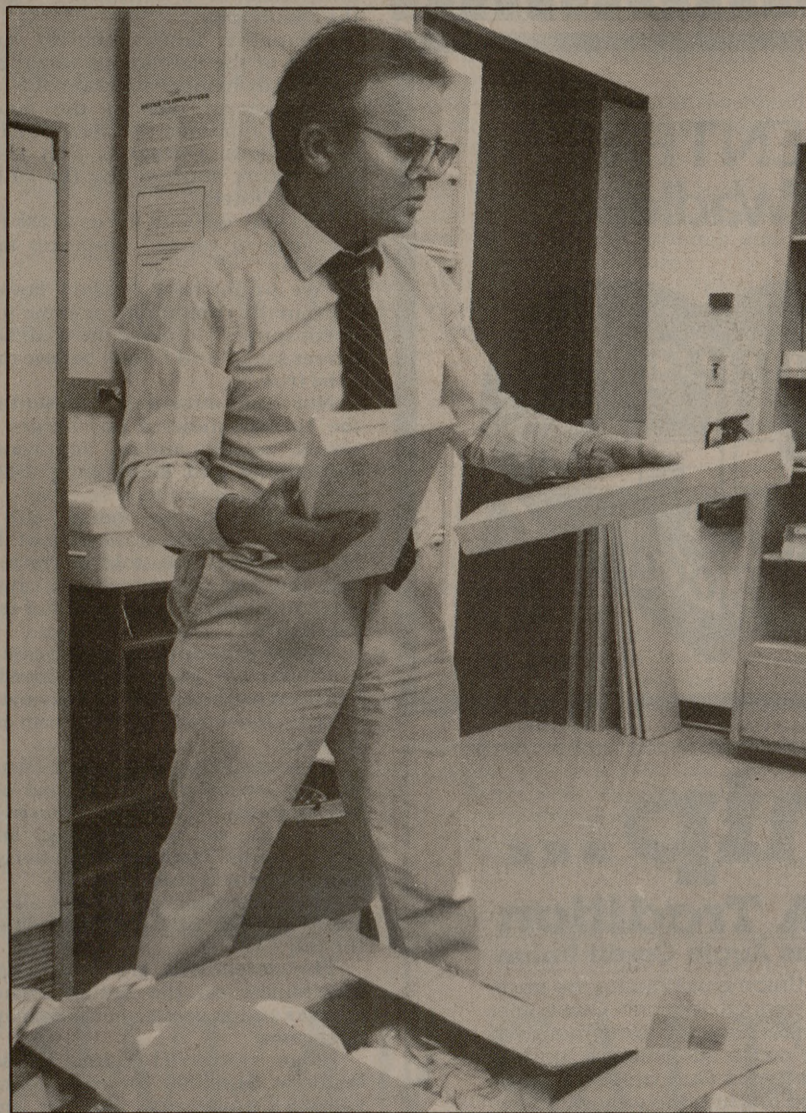


Photo by Sam B. Myers

Dr. Joseph Nagyvary inspects Texas Maple wood that he hopes to be able to use in making his violins. Dr. Nagyvary is an A&M biochemist who hopes to begin a violin industry in Texas similar to Italy's world-renowned industry.

Wadley Blood Drive set for end of month

By Fiona Soltes
Reporter

Wadley Blood Center personnel will visit Texas A&M June 27-30 to collect blood to prepare for the expected increase in accidents that usually accompanies the July 4 weekend.

Blood will be collected at Sbsa Dining Hall and the MSC from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. each day.

Carol Hill, donor recruiter for the bank, is hopeful that the Aggies will donate 300-400 pints of blood during the drive, to be distributed to hospitals in the Dallas area. Blood needed in the Bryan-College Station area is collected by the Red Cross in separate drives.

"There is a real need for blood at this time of the year," Hill said. "In addition to the increased number of accidents, many people are scheduling elective surgery now, since they have more time in the summer."

"But the Aggies, some of our largest contributors, have always helped tremendously. In fact, when we visit campus during fall and spring semesters, the A&M drives average 2600 pints each."

Wadley visits campus in April, June and November each year, and has been receiving donations steadily from the students since 1959. Hill said even the AIDS epidemic hasn't discouraged donors.

"Thanks to a massive educational program started at the very beginning of the scare," she said, "we've helped overcome the public's misconception that you can get AIDS from giving blood. We've let people know that we use fresh needles for every donation. They are used only once, then they are disposed of."

"It has also helped that we have such a solid donor base in the community. We've been around long enough to have established a good reputation."

Proof of the public's trust is shown by the fact that last year, 90,000 pints of blood were collected by the center, as opposed to 77,000 pints of

blood collected the year before, she said.

During the upcoming A&M drive, members of Student Government and Alpha Phi Omega and Omega Phi Alpha, two service organizations, will aid Wadley personnel. APO and OPA provide the legwork of the annual drives, including signing up for tables in the MSC, distributing posters and fliers and helping the nurses during the actual drive by typing, sorting blood bags and talking to donors.

Student Government handles the administrative forms, press releases, and provides an address for correspondence.

"Everyone at A&M is so helpful and aware of our needs," Hill said. "When the scheduling sheets go up for the A&M drives, it's really competitive. We love it. If we make the drive fun, comfortable and happy for all, the students won't be afraid to come back for the next one."

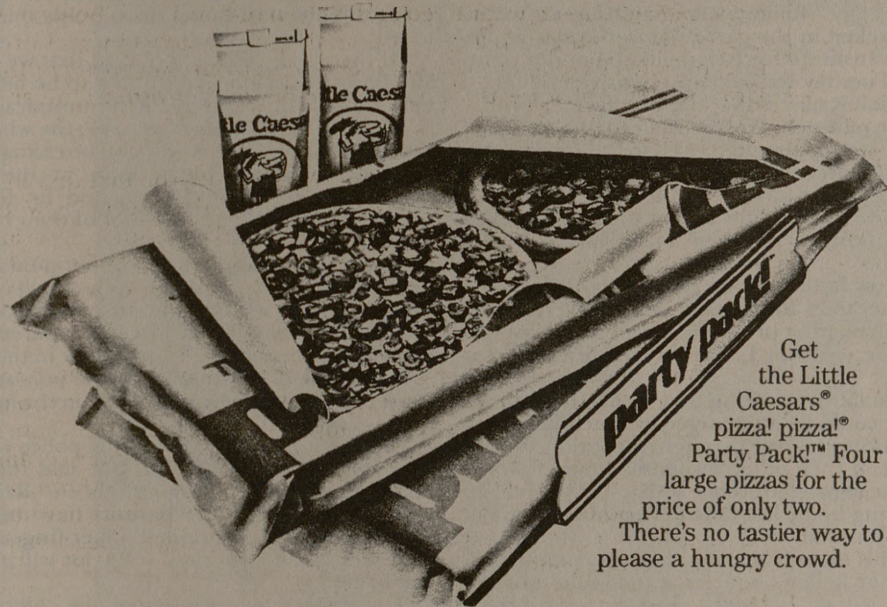
WTSU officials stall release of panel report

CANYON (AP) — West Texas State University officials, even after receiving approval from the state attorney general's office, said Wednesday they will wait before releasing an investigative panel's report on academic freedom.

E.W. Henderson, an Amarillo attorney whose firm represents the university, said he will review the official copy of an informal ruling from the attorney general's office before releasing any or all of the report.

Assistant Attorney General Jon Bible wrote in a letter Tuesday to Henderson that the school must release portions of the report to the public and may release the entire report if it chooses.

CROWD PLEASER



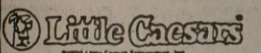
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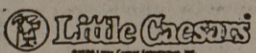
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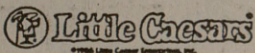
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2 Pizzas with cheese and 1 Item
Small \$5⁵⁵
Medium \$7⁷⁷
Large \$9⁹⁹

ADDITIONAL ITEMS AND EXTRA CHEESE EXTRA

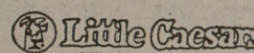
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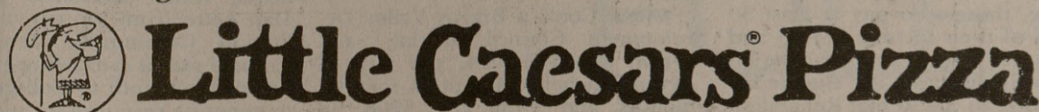
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