

Waldo by Kevin Thomas



Warped by Scott McCullar



Environmental group guards rare cave creatures' welfare

AUSTIN (AP) — Members of the environmental group Earth First! pledged Thursday to continue guarding three caves until federal officials declare five kinds of creatures found inside them to be endangered species.

"We are determined to remain in the caves until we can get some legal protection for those cave invertebrates," Barbara Dugleby, Earth First! coordinator, said.

The caves — named Tooth, Amber and Kretschmarr and located in northwestern Travis County — and are home to a unique group of cave-adapted species, Dugleby said. Five of the species, including beetles and spiders, have been proposed as "endangered" by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

The environmental activists began occupying the caves early Monday, charging that nearby development

was threatening them and the creatures inside.

Dr. Fred Purcell, owner of the property, has denied that the caves are being threatened. Purcell said he is working with city officials and researchers to keep the caves intact.

University of Texas entomologist James Reddell, author of about 100 articles on cave environments, said this week Purcell had been "totally cooperative" with researchers who have explored and studied the caves.

An Earth First! spokesman, Christi Stevens, said the organization wasn't allowed to take part in a meeting with Fish and Wildlife officials Thursday. Dugleby said she thought the session was only foot-dragging, anyway.

"The Reagan administration is putting business and politics ahead of protection once again," she said, saying authorities are discussing

such things as the size of buffer zones and types of threats presented.

"That's irrelevant," Dugleby said. "Questions about what is threatening the caves have been answered. Years ago, scientists wrote letters explaining that."

"What we're requesting is that they list the species now — the information is there, the scientific documentation is there — and quibble later over how much buffer is needed."

Earlier this week, entomologist Reddell criticized Earth First!, saying the activists could be harming the caves by their presence. Dugleby said the Earth First! members weren't living in the caves around the clock and were being careful.

"We're there, next to the caves, observing the activities going on around them," she said.

Rescuers help plane's pilot in last attempt

DALLAS (AP) — The last survivor of Delta Flight 1141 reached by rescuers was the pilot, who passengers say coaxed them out of the burning wreckage while pinned on his back beneath debris.

Capt. Larry Lon Davis, 48, was listed in fair condition at Parkland Hospital on Thursday, the day after the plane crashed on takeoff from Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport.

The jet lost power suddenly and bounced three times before skidding to a stop at the end of the runway and catching fire. At least 95 people survived the crash; 13 died, including two flight attendants.

Many of the survivors escaped near the cockpit, which broke off from the fuselage and rolled slightly.

David Carmichael, a 35-year-old restaurateur from Monticello, Ark., said he could hear Davis telling passengers to remain calm as they scrambled to get out of the plane near him.

"The pilot's seat back was broken so that he was lying flat on his back with all this debris on top," Carmichael said.

Mailing respondents have money returned

BEAUMONT (AP) — A property company accused of attracting 5,000 people to a Liberty County resort through fraudulent mailings will repay \$50 to each person who responded to the promotional letters, a federal attorney said.

"These people are still operating but they have stopped the fraudulent mailings," U.S. Attorney Bob Wortham said of Lebanon Properties, which does business as Cypress Lakes, Cypress Lakes Estates and Cypress Lakes Sports Club.

"We are making them pay back everybody who went out there from Jan. 1, 1986, to June 30, 1986, and did not buy property," he said. "Those people should be getting \$50 checks in the mail."

Wortham said the mailings promised that the people would get such gifts as a car, fur coats or \$1,000 in cash after visiting the company's property at Cypress Lakes near Cleveland from January to June 1986.

U.S. District Judge Howell Cobb on May 5 issued final judgments and cease and desist orders against Lebanon Properties and Femrite and Associates Inc., a Dallas-based mailing company, in connection with the advertisements. His rulings came af-

ter federal prosecutors reached a compromise in the case with the companies.

"This stuff is a true nuisance to the community," Wortham said. "People take the whole day off from work, their wives take time off from work and they travel all the way up there to get something of value and all they (got) was junk."

Wortham said Lebanon Properties must pay \$500,000 to the U.S. Postal Service for its investigative costs, and pay restitution totaling \$200,000 to \$250,000 in payments of \$50 each to the estimated 4,000 to 5,000 people involved.

Femrite must pay \$75,000 to the postal service and \$75,000 in restitution to people who toured the property, he said.

The companies misrepresented the value and quality of those prizes and failed to tell people that they would have to pay additional charges such as shipping and handling to collect their prizes, Wortham said.

He said a Norwegian blue fox coat was synthetic, a color television had a special outlet that required an adapter that prize winners had to buy at additional cost and the size of a satellite dish had not been disclosed.

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