

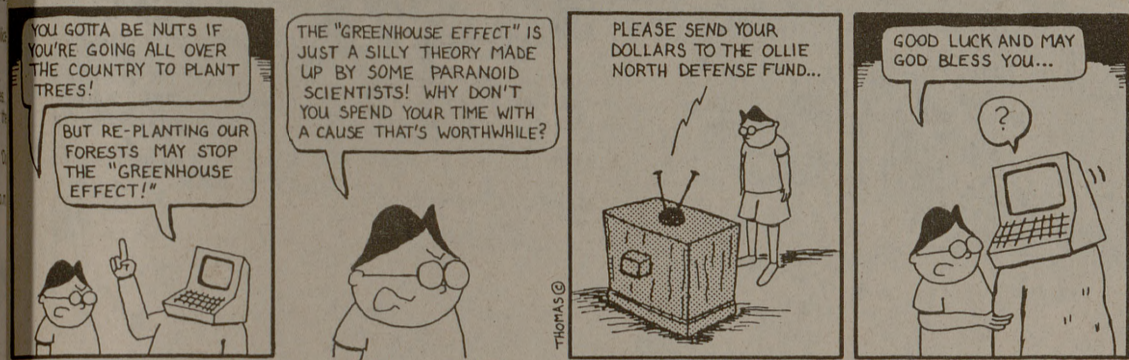
Warped

by Scott McCullar



Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



Court will rule if row inmates can get lawyers

HOUSTON (AP) — Should the U.S. Supreme Court rule that indigent death row inmates are constitutionally entitled to lawyers after their direct appeals are exhausted, it could have a dramatic economic impact on Texas, officials said.

The high court has agreed to hear a Virginia case and could decide that states must provide lawyers to death row prisoners during the second phase of their appeals.

A ruling in favor of convicts could result in large amounts of public money being spent on appeals for those death row indigents who now depend mainly on services volunteered by private lawyers.

Experts say it also could eliminate tedious delays in death penalty appeals — delays that are increasingly coming under fire by judges who are fed up with last-minute legal maneuvers to prolong capital litigation.

James B. Sales of Houston, president of the State Bar of Texas, made the estimation that it costs \$200,000 to fund each indigent death row prisoner's appeal from state district court all the way to the Supreme Court — with roughly half of that money spent on state appeals.

Pet-abuse investigator gives aid to animals in need of friendship

DALLAS (AP) — As soon as Bobby French drives up to the empty house, with its broken windows and scraggly yard, he knows what he'll probably find around back. Sure enough, chained to a tree is a malnourished dog, abandoned by its owners.

And he's one of only a few field investigators anywhere in the state. Even though he wears a uniform and a badge, French is neither a dogcatcher nor a policeman. He does not have the right

"It's just not right," French says. "I don't understand why people do this sort of thing." On a recent afternoon, French is talking to a neighbor who called to report the

on the animal until French can return the next day to take it to the SPCA shelter.

"We'd like to keep her, but we've got our hands full with our dog," the man explains. French says he understands. That's why he's here.

"We'll fatten her up, check her for worms, and hopefully she will be adopted by someone who'll give her some tender loving care," French tells the man. He turns toward the dog and gives her one last pat. "You be a good girl now. I'll be back and you'll be fine. You're almost home, girl."

Back in the pickup, French says he's grateful that the neighbor called the SPCA.

"I have seen some of the most pitiful cases of animal abuse," he said. "What is sad is that people don't understand that animals have feelings. When you find a dog that is hairless, full of sores and sick, he still wags his tail."

I have seen some of the most pitiful cases of animal abuse. What is sad is that people don't understand that animals have feelings. When you find a dog that is hairless, full of sores and sick, he still wags his tail.

Bobby French
Pet-abuse investigator,
Dallas Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals

French is the only pet-abuse investigator with the Dallas Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, a private, non-profit animal welfare organization.

to arrest animal abusers. But he does have the right to speak his mind, take charge of abandoned animals and educate pet owners.

abandoned German shepherd. The neighbor — who has been feeding the dog a few table scraps and filling its bowl with water — agrees to keep an eye

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