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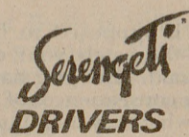
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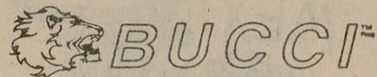
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POST OAK MALL

**La. lawmaker rebukes Texas' crawfish claims**

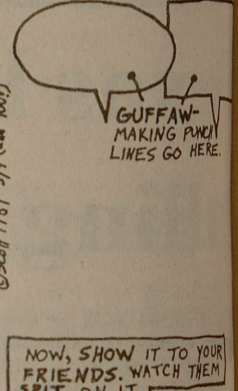
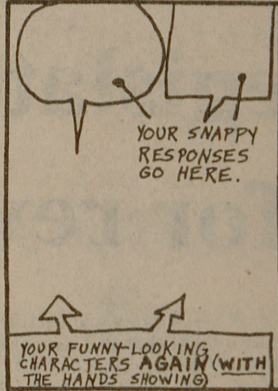
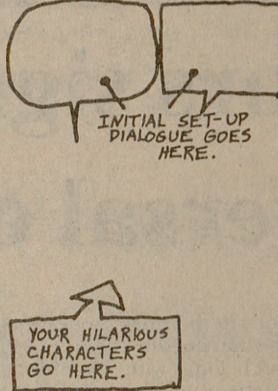
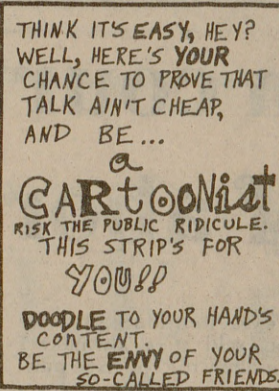
SHREVEPORT, La. (AP) — A Texas politician's assertions that Louisiana crawfish are smaller, smellier, dirtier, dumber and less tasty than those in the Lone Star State brought an angry reaction Wednesday from the Louisiana agriculture commissioner.

"At long last we have a pure Texas crawfish that is going to save us Texans from the shame and humiliation that we have experienced over the last many, many generations of having to eat those smelly, mud-coated, itty-bitty, slow-witted crawfish from Louisiana," Texas Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower said on Tuesday.

"Jim Hightower will have to back out and crawl," Louisiana Agriculture Commissioner Bob Odum said on Wednesday, referring to the way a startled crawfish runs from danger.

"The one market we've gone head to head with Texas crawfish has been in the Swedish market," Odum said. "Louisiana beat the hell out of them in the Swedish market. Out of seven countries involved, Texas was last."

**Warped**



**Waldo**



**A&M management professors say Landry's dismissal handled poorly**

By Holly Beeson

REPORTER

Although opportunity has knocked at former Dallas Cowboys Coach Tom Landry's door in the form of offers from San Antonio to help the city land a professional football team, offers for sports announcing positions and suggestions that he run for public office, many people believe Landry's dismissal could have been handled more tactfully.

Landry should have gotten the opportunity to step down gracefully, two Texas A&M management professors said.

New Cowboys owner, Jerry Jones, fired Landry without thinking about his well-being, Dr. Gerald Ferris, associate professor of management, said.

"I think Jones was interested in getting things going, bringing in his own new head coach, Jimmy Johnson," Ferris said. "He really didn't consider allowing Landry to step down with some dignity."

Dr. Don Hellriegel, professor of business administration and management, thought it was

unfortunate that the process Jones used to dismiss Landry fit the stereotypical view of the rough, raw, gross Texan, even though Jones is not from Texas.

"I think it fits with the mind set of the 'I'm boss, I'm owner, I can do what I want and it's my property,'" Hellriegel said. "It certainly fits that philosophy more prevalent in the early 1900s — not today."

Both professors agreed Landry would have opted to step down if he had been given the opportunity.

"Landry's a person of obvious character and could have taken the initiative to exit gracefully," Hellriegel said.

Ferris thinks Jones was in such a hurry to get things done, he didn't find time to sit down with Landry to talk about his options.

"Jones should have at least incorporated Landry's opinion in his decision," Ferris said, "rather than just flying over and saying, 'You're fired.'"

Bringing in new upper management is a typical procedure for a change in administration in virtually any kind of organization, he said, particularly in professional and collegiate sports.

Ferris used the recent resignation of Jack Sherrill as an example, saying Sherrill was given the option to resign rather than being fired.

In more sophisticated organizations, Hellriegel said, it's a common process to give individuals the opportunity to step aside gracefully without unnecessarily attacking their self-worth.

"The goal is to leave the person intact as a man being," he said, "not to destroy their opportunities for options with other organizations where it becomes a public humiliation."

The public wasn't outraged by the outcome of Jones' decision, Hellriegel said, but more by the way he handled the situation.

"I don't think Jones set himself up well in the way he handled this issue," he said. "It may send signals to others in the organization on how he might handle their own situations in the future."

It's not uncommon for people to get fired when merges and acquisitions occur, Ferris said, even if they've been with the organization for 25 years, such as Landry was.

"It's not right and it's not the kind thing to do," Ferris said, "but it happens every day."

**Union to teachers: Ignore violence memo**

HOUSTON (AP) — A union leader suggests that teachers ignore a local school district memo advising them to intervene in certain confrontations involving violent students.

Gayle Fallon, president of the Houston Federation of Teachers, citing the high potential for civil or criminal liability against teachers, blasted the memo issued recently by the Houston Independent School District.

Already, she noted, 12 HISD teachers are suspended after separate allegations that they physically or sexually abused students. The union is directing teachers to avoid any physical contact with students, Fallon said Monday.

"Students are telling teachers, 'If you touch me, I'm going to say you hit me,'" Fallon said. "We're saying, 'Don't touch the kid for any reason.'"

At a teacher training session last

week, Jones High School teachers were given the memo. The memo advised teachers how to handle security situations, including those involving violent and potentially violent students.

"Often . . . when we see two students fighting, we falsely assume that it is a mutual combat situation . . ." the memo said. "What you may be seeing is an assault or robbery taking place, and your immediate intervention may be necessary to stop the attack."

The advisory further states that "If the person is not acting in a hostile manner, inform the school office of the situation and formulate a plan of action to confiscate the weapon."

But one Jones teacher said he would not risk his career or personal safety to stop a physical confrontation.

"There was a time in my career when I would have broken up a fight," American history teacher Andy Dewey said. "But I don't want to give a hint that I have in any way hurt a child."

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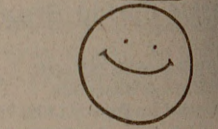
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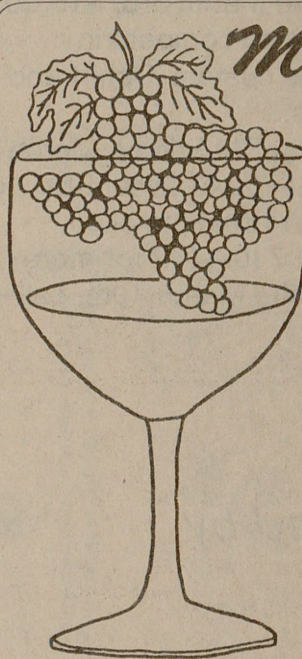
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