

Warped



by Scott McCullar AIDS victim fights to get trial in robbery case

DALLAS (AP) — An investigation into a bank robbery an AIDS activist is accused of committing is stalled because of health concerns, but the defendant says the standstill is keeping him from clearing his name.

Mike Richards, a nationally known activist and co-founder of the Dallas AIDS Resource Center, is accused of committing the robbery in Grand Prairie.

He was arrested February 15 outside his Hawaii apartment in connection with the robbery.

The Tarrant County district attorney's office, which would present the case to a grand jury, says it will not proceed with investigations because of concern for Richards' health, the Dallas Morning News reported in its Sunday editions. Richards suffers from an advanced stage of AIDS.

Extradition proceedings were terminated on Feb. 21 because Richards was hospitalized and his doctor said the trip to Dallas would shorten his life.

Grand Prairie police say they haven't been involved in the case since Feb. 17.

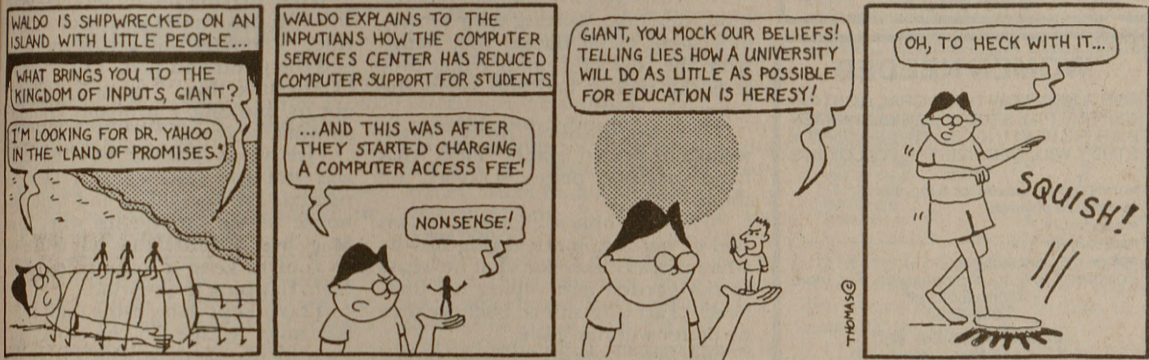
"Everything seems to be on the back burner," Richards said. "Every time I think about it I get so mad I can't see straight. I have never been in trouble in my life and I certainly shouldn't be in trouble now. I feel my reputation has been basically ruined."

Based primarily on his strong resemblance to the videotaped bank robber, Richards, 42, was charged with stealing about \$6,000 from Texas American Bank in Grand Prairie on Jan. 20, 1988, five weeks after he had moved to Hawaii with his parents, who are in their 80s.

His close friends and colleagues have been critical of the police investigation leading to Richards' arrest, which they say offered no physical proof of his involvement in the crime. They say they worry that the stress is likely to adversely affect his already crippled health.

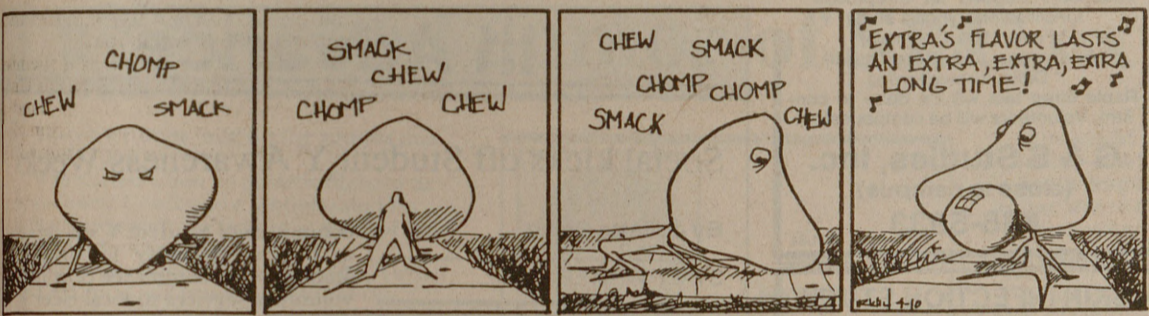
"This justice in limbo is killing him," said William Waybourn, president of the Dallas Gay Alliance, which operated the AIDS Resource Center. "We have begged the investigators to prosecute him or set him free. We think they're waiting until he dies so they can quietly drop the case."

Waldo



by Kevin Thomas

Proboscis



by Paul Irwin

Conference participants learn about world health problems

By Holly Beeson

REPORTER

In observance of World Health Day Friday, Texas A&M faculty members with international experience discussed topics such as immunization for childhood diseases, refugee problems and parasitic diseases at a conference on campus.

World Health Day is an international observance of global health issues that is recognized each year on April 7 in 166 countries, including the United States. It brings national and international attention to the importance of disease prevention and healthy living practices.

Dr. Barbara Doughty, associate professor of microbiology and parasitology at A&M, said the lack of immunization for childhood diseases is a grave problem.

Of the 360,000 children born each day, 25,500 won't live to their first birthdays, she said. Ninety-seven percent of these deaths occur in developing countries stricken with poverty and disease.

Infant and child mortality rates dropped between 1950 and 1980, Doughty said, but began rising two years ago because of a decrease in health and education budgets.

A goal set by the World Health Organization to immunize every

child by 1990 won't be reached because of an ineffective delivery system, she said.

Problems such as the global recession, uncommitted leaders and drought have prevented immunizations from being offered to all children, she said.

The worldwide refugee problem was another topic of the conference.

The United States ranks fourth in the number of refugees under the United Nations definition of a refugee: a person fleeing his country because of a well-founded fear of persecution because of race, religion, nationality, social affiliation or political reasons.

Pakistan and Iran have the highest numbers of refugees.

Of the one million refugees in the United States, 67 percent are from Southeast Asia and 10 percent are from Eastern Europe. These figures don't include most undocumented workers from Central America.

"The goal of refugee aid in any country is for that refugee to obtain self-sufficiency," Barbara Reiley, a lecturer of health education at A&M, said.

Parasitic diseases, once a serious problem here in the Brazos Valley, are still a potential threat, Dr. Thomas Craig, professor of micro-

biology and parasitology at A&M, said.

One hundred years ago in Bryan-College Station, 40 percent to 50 percent of the residents had hookworms, bloodsucking parasites that attach to the intestinal lining, Craig said. Pinworms, another type of intestinal worms, had invaded 80 percent to 90 percent of the community's population, he said. He said malaria was an epidemic in the Brazos Valley until World War II.

"Things could get that way again easily if we allow such things as infrastructure and water supply to disappear," he said.

It's estimated that one billion people in the world have intestinal worms, and 900 million have whipworms, Craig said.

An easily preventable parasite is the tapeworm. People get tapeworms by ingesting pork or beef that is not fully cooked.

"Our concern with parasites is who's got them, how many do they have and are they able to cope with the condition," Craig said.

Many vaccines have been successful in controlling some diseases.

"The eradication of smallpox is a major change in a disease predicted to kill half of all children before their fifth birthdays," Craig said.

Budget writers allocate funds to TCC members

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Conservation Corps, a work-study program for young adults 18 to 21, was closed in February 1988 amid allegations of mismanagement, and its 115 members were left without answers or paychecks.

But last week, legislative budget writers, saying the state had a moral obligation, agreed to appropriate \$150,000 for the members and the non-executive members of the program.

"I feel pretty good about it," Betty Kell, a corps counselor, told the Fort Worth Star-Telegram. "Of course, I'll feel better when I get the check in my hand."

Federal investigators say criminal charges could still be brought against some executives, but no actions have been taken even though an investigation was finished almost a year ago.

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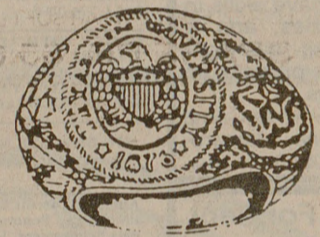
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Camp Counselor Interviews

Camp Champions, a private summer camp for boys and girls will interview prospective counselors at

T.A.M.U. on April 13th

Champions is located on beautiful Lake Lyndon B. Johnson in the Texas Hill Country. We feature swimming, sailing, skiing, horseback, football, baseball, soccer, tennis, basketball and many other fun activities. We are looking for college students who enjoy working with children (ages 7-15) and the out of doors. Being a summer camp counselor is one of the greatest experiences you can have. Our facilities are excellent as are the working conditions and salaries. If this sounds like what you are looking for this summer, please contact the Placement Center for an interview time.

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