

Friday, June 23, 1989

A tradition may die with Shasta V University may not replace mascot with another live cougar

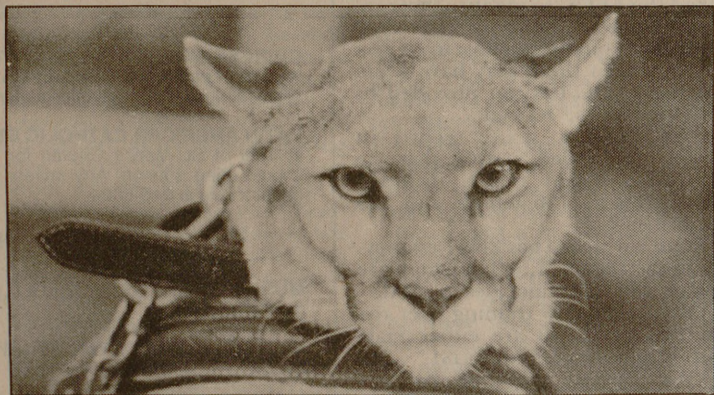
By Kelly S. Brown

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

After the cougar mascot at the University of Houston, Shasta V, died in May, the school was left in a quandary — do they try and raise \$125,000 to expand the "box-size" cage for a new cougar, or do they let the tradition of having a wild animal as the holder of school spirit die?

Slowly, universities around the country that have had wild animals for a mascot, like Penn State — a lion, or LSU — a tiger, have replaced them with another type of animal or a person dressed like the animal, citing safety and expenses as reasons. UH already has a student dressed in a cougar costume at some games, but the live cougar is considered its mascot.

The dilemma UH faces as to continuing the tradition has split the school down the center, and officials said a decision won't be made until the fall when all the students and



Shasta V

Photo by Russell James

faculty can be there to voice their opinions.

Some people have already made up their minds.

After an informal vote Wednesday the faculty senate opposed a plan that would replace the cougar with new one.

Roland Smith, vice president of

student affairs and final decision-maker as to whether they get a new cougar, said, "Under no circumstances will they find a new cougar until a new facility is built."

Animal rights groups have protested in the past, arguing the cougars existence in the 10 foot by 10 foot cement cage is inhumane. Were

a new cage to be built, officials said it would be larger and have indoor-outdoor living areas. Costs to expand are estimated at \$125,000.

Smith said the money will have to come from sources other than the university. The Cougar Guard — a group of 10 to 15 students who care for the mascot and her living quarters — raised \$20,000 for the new facility, but this was done before Shasta V died of kidney failure last month.

Supporters of a plan to replace the animal said the feline is a part of their school tradition, and that a cougar would be just as content in their facilities — if expanded — then it would be in a zoo.

Judy Myers, president of the faculty senate, said because of the intense feelings on both sides about the cat, she recommended the senate members to talk with their constituents about the issue.

"I hear people saying that just the idea of having a wild animal for a

See Cougar/Page 4

Lawmakers' agreement on workers' comp fails

AUSTIN (AP) — State lawmakers said Thursday progress is being made on resolving the battle over reforming the workers' compensation system, but a move to speed a compromise along apparently fell off the tracks.

"We saw a little ray of light at the end of the tunnel, and unfortunately it turned out to be a train," House Speaker Gib Lewis said.

Lewis had earlier said he and Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby agreed to a fast-track maneuver for a workers' comp bill, which indicated state leaders may have been near an agreement.

Later in the day that plan evaporated, but state officials still claimed they were making headway on the thorny issue of overhauling the method of compensating employees injured in on-the-job accidents.

"My impression is we will have a bill and it will be a done deal by this time next week," Gov. Bill Clements said.

Sen. John Montford, one of

several senators crafting a workers' comp bill, agreed. "I think we can have a bill in about a week, if we roll up our sleeves and hash it out," Montford, D-Lubbock, said.

The Senate State Affairs Committee approved a workers' comp bill 8-2 and the full Senate will consider it Friday.

Clements called lawmakers into a special session after the Legislature failed to reach a compromise on workers' comp during the 140-day regular session.

The controversy has pitted business groups against organized labor and trial lawyers, who represent injured workers in court.

The major stumbling block between the House and Senate has been whether to allow jury trials to resolve some workers' comp disputes.

Businesses say jury trials are to blame for skyrocketing workers' comp insurance premiums, which have increased 148 percent over the past four years.

Suspected AIDS carrier jailed for sexual assault of teen-ager

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — A suspected AIDS carrier has been charged with aggravated sexual assault because his alleged sexual activity caused "serious bodily harm" to a 15-year-old boy who recently tested positive for the deadly virus, a prosecutor said.

Thomas Anthony Zule, 42, was being held in the Nueces County Jail on Thursday in lieu of \$100,000 bond on the aggravated sexual assault charge.

Justice of the Peace Ben Garza Jr. set the bond for Zule on Wednesday.

It is the first local case of criminal action brought against someone alleged to have knowingly transmitted acquired immune deficiency syndrome, authorities said.

AIDS, for which there is no known cure, is a disease caused by a virus that attacks the body's immune system. In its advanced stages, it leaves the body susceptible to fatal diseases.

The complaint against Zule alleges that he "inten-

tionally and knowingly caused serious bodily injury (to the 15-year-old) while (Zule) was infected with a transmittable and deadly disease, to wit, AIDS."

Nueces County Prosecutor Michael Hummell said he charged Zule with aggravated sexual assault instead of simple sexual assault because of the "serious bodily harm" allegedly suffered by the 15-year-old.

Hummell said a case of assault is considered "aggravated" because the victim has been beaten, shot or stabbed.

"In this particular case, (the victim) was not injured by beating, shooting or stabbing, but by being inflicted with a transmittable, deadly disease," Hummell said.

Corpus Christi Police Sgt. Phil Cunningham said the man is accused of engaging in anal intercourse with the boy early last month.

The youth told police that Zule had committed oral sex acts with him since last August, according to Cunningham's affidavit.

Three Texans charged in coupon scam

LUBBOCK (AP) — Ten people, including three Texans, face federal conspiracy and mail fraud charges after the U.S. Postal Inspectors Service uncovered a \$2 million counterfeit coupon scam.

A federal grand jury here on Wednesday handed down a 24-count indictment in connection with the scheme, in which coupons for food and other products from 47 major consumer product companies were allegedly printed and distributed nationwide from Texas.

Among those charged were David George Rackmill of Stamford, Texas, and James Floyd Richards and David Keith Rees, both of San Antonio, said assistant U.S. attorney Steven M. Sucus.

The defendants face a maximum penalty of five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine on each count.

The indictment said that beginning in June 1988, Rackmill advertised the coupons in a circular mailed to hundreds of people nationwide after buying the fake coupons from Rees, who had them printed by Richards.

The coupons were similar to those

offered by manufacturers to customers in exchange for proof-of-purchase seals and were valued between \$1 and \$10.89.

"They were generally much better than what would be issued by manufacturers in newspaper circulars," said Sucus.

Program offers taste of India

The India Association is sponsoring an Indian music, dance and entertainment program Friday at 7 p.m. in 201 MSC.

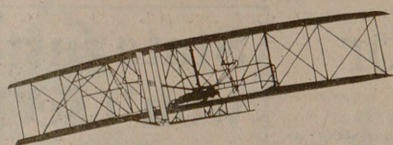
V. K. Dorai, chairman of the exhibition committee, said they are sponsoring the program to increase interest in an art exhibition in the MSC Forsyth Center Galleries titled, "India: The Land and the People." The exhibition features 25 pic-

tures of India taken by photographer Beatrice Pitney Lamb.

Dorai said the free program and exhibition will increase people's cultural awareness of India.

"At the program we will have singing and dancing from people in the community," he said. "These events will give people the opportunity to participate in some real Indian activities."

FAMOUS FIRSTS



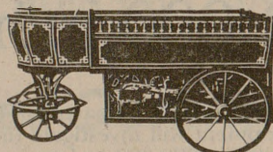
FIRST AIRPLANE

The Wright Brothers began experimenting with kites in the 1890's and in 1903 became the first to sustain flight for 852 feet over the beach at Kitty Hawk.



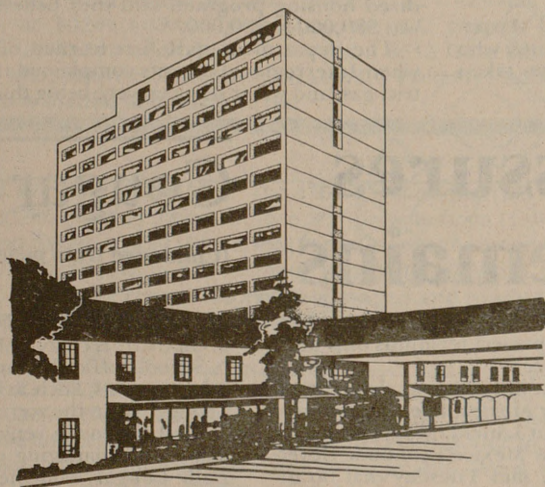
FIRST LOVE

She was the only one who didn't laugh when you fell off the jungle gym and broke your leg. She even let you win at checkers. What a woman!



FIRST CAR

The world's first motor car, the Lenoir, named after its inventor, ran at an average speed of 4 miles per hour. In 1863 the 1 1/2 horsepower vehicle made its first drive of 6 miles in only 3 hours.



UNIVERSITY TOWER

It's time to introduce another Famous First, University Tower. In August, the privately-owned and managed property will open as a dormitory. At University Tower you'll find 24-hour on-site security, a huge bedroom and private bath, full meal plans, an exercise and weight room, study rooms & computer room, an indoor pool, a sport-court, a volleyball pit, laundry facilities, housekeeping service, and a shuttle bus to campus. It's the first and only dorm of its kind at A&M. Call or come by for leasing information for Fall/Spring '89-'90!

"Above and Beyond the Rest"

University Tower
410 South Texas Avenue
(409) 846-4242
1-800-537-9158



University Tower is managed by one of the most experienced student housing management company in the United States. Dr. Richard A. Berns, general manager for Wallerstein Property Management, manages dormitories at the University of Texas at Austin and Arizona State University for over 1800 students.

AM/PM Clinics
Our New College Station location offers
Birth Control Counseling
Women's Services
Female doctors on duty
Student 10% discount with ID **693-0202**

Sign a lease before July 4 and get special rates for Fall and Spring

No Utility DEPOSIT
6 FLOOR PLANS
Mon-Fri 8-6
Sat 10-5, Sun 1-5

- Swimming Pool
- Tennis Courts
- Basketball
- Volleyball
- Jacuzzi

PLANTATION OAKS
1501 Harvey Road/693-1110

Pizza Hut Northgate Pizza Hut
501 University Dr. Presents
A John Wayne Weekend
Friday 5pm-11pm Saturday 11am-11pm
Continuous showing of 9
Free John Wayne Movies

Cowboys	True Grit	Rooster Cogburn
The shootist	Rio Lobo	Big Jake
Rio Bravo	Chisum	Cahill US Marshall

Food & Drink Specials
50¢ Lonestar Longnecks
99¢ Nachos