

Wednesday, August 15, 1990

Exotic animal owner tries to sell baby Bengal tiger

By ELIZABETH TISCH
Of The Battalion Staff

Other than having nine lives, Ruffus is not your ordinary cat.

Ruffus is a 15-month-old Bengal tiger whose owner is selling him for \$1,000.

Betsy Henderson, an assistant in the College of Veterinary Medicine, is searching for an owner to take care of Ruffus because her other two large cats require most of her time and energy.

Along with Ruffus, she owns a jaguar named Deta and a leopard named Sultan.

"I love these types of animals," she said. "I have always had a desire to work with exotic animals."

Before coming to Texas A&M, Henderson was very involved with nurturing large animals that were malnourished due to owners' ignorance of their customary diets, she said.

As a result of the many cases of abuse to exotic animals, an owner is now required to have a permit before owning these native animals.

"So many people who were misinformed about the proper care of large cats were allowed ownership even without a permit," she said.

The permits allow the Parks and Recreation Department and USDA to monitor the animals' health.

Henderson says her unusual pets leave neighbors and friends fascinated. On several occasions, college fraternities have asked Hender-

son to let them "borrow" her large cats for parties with jungle themes.

Moreover, Henderson takes Deta, Ruffus and Sultan to Girl scout and Boy scout meetings for educational purposes.

Although all three cats are well mannered, Henderson said she must be aware of their every move.

According to past observations by researchers, the Bengal tiger, which is the largest and most typical of tigers, exhibits a large amount of fierce cunning. However, these great cats have always been successfully tamed for circus and animal shows.

Henderson says she is familiar with her cats' moods and knows when they are angry, happy or hungry.

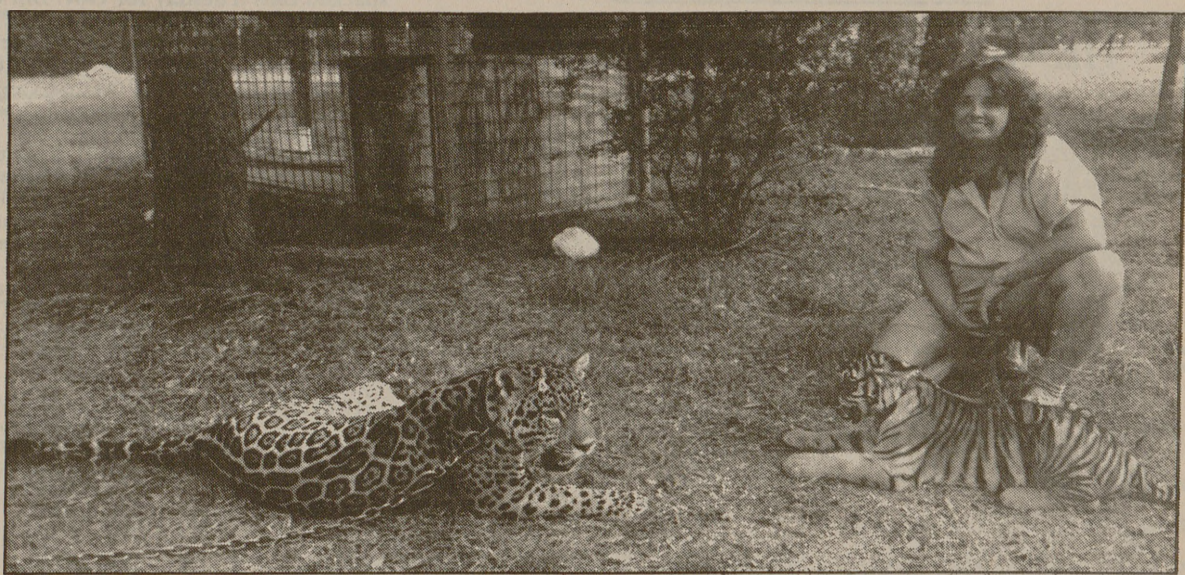


Photo by Eric H. Roalson

Betsy Henderson keeps Ruffus, a baby Bengal tiger, on a leash while he looks at Deta, a 100 pound jaguar who will eventually double in weight. Ruffus will eventually weigh 500 pounds.

Police investigate burglary of College Station apartment

Brazos County Crime Stoppers is seeking information about a July 26 burglary south of College Station.

Someone broke out the rear window of an apartment on Cain Road, south of College Station, during the day of Thursday, July 26.

The person(s) then entered the apartment, ransacked all the rooms and stole electronic equipment and jewelry valued at more than \$12,000.

A Magnavox television and stereo, an Emerson videocassette recorder, a Samsung microwave, a Minolta X-7000 camera and a Sears VHS camcorder were among the items stolen.

Investigators report that the person(s) probably used a vehicle to haul all the items away and that the vehicle probably was parked in a conspicuous spot during the burglary.

Due to the prevalence of daytime burglaries and the nearly impossible task of having police units in every neighborhood around the clock, lo-

cal law enforcement agencies are promoting and organizing Neighborhood Crime Watch Programs.

For more information about these programs, contact the Bryan or College Station police departments or the Brazos County Sheriff's Department.

This week, however, the sheriff's department and Crime Stoppers need your help in identifying the person(s) responsible for this burglary.

If you have information that could be helpful, call Crime Stoppers at 775-TIPS.

When you call, Crime Stoppers will assign you a coded number to protect your identity.

If your call leads to an arrest and grand jury indictment, Crime Stoppers will pay you up to \$1,000 in cash.

Crime Stoppers also pays cash for information on any felony crime or the location of a wanted fugitive.

Churches unite in anti-abortion program

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) Churches hoping to prevent abortions announced a project Tuesday in which they will pay living and medical expenses for pregnant women who opt not to have an abortion.

"We believe that no mother in Corpus Christi should even consider abortion because of a financial situation," said the Rev. Dennis Schiefelbein, pastor of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Corpus Christi.

Schiefelbein joined Bishop Rene Gracida of the Corpus Christi Catholic Diocese to announce the interdenominational "Gabriel Project."

So far, 16 Catholic and 16 other Christian churches have signed on to take part in the project, Schiefelbein said.

They had no estimate of the project's expected cost, but Schiefelbein said, "We believe the Lord will provide all the resources necessary to provide for that life which he has created in the womb of every

mother."
He said he expected more churches to join in the effort, which will be limited to the city of Corpus Christi.

Gracida said the project is similar to one in progress for the past year in the Diocese of New York.

Individual churches, as well as the Corpus Christi diocese will help pay expenses for the women and for the children after they are born, if necessary, Gracida said.

The project also will offer counseling and help the women obtain any public assistance for which they may be eligible, Gracida said.

The bishop said he thinks the project will help ease the division in his diocese over the abortion issue.

"Some Catholics over the past few years have expressed concern about the church's strong stand opposing abortion, have asked the question, 'Why aren't we doing more for a woman who is in a situation where she feels it necessary to terminate

the life of her child?'"

"This will give those Catholics who have been concerned about what they thought was a lopsided or one-sided approach of the church condemning abortion, but not doing enough for the unborn child and the child's mother."

About 3,000 abortions were performed in Corpus Christi last year, most of them at two large clinics. Anti-abortion activists regularly picket the clinics, and sometimes stage "rescues," in which they attempt to block access to the clinics.

Gracida this year has sent decrees formally excommunicating at least two abortion clinic employees from the Catholic church, in what were believed to be the nation's first formal excommunications over the abortion issue.

Rachel Vargas, one of the abortion clinic employees Gracida excommunicated, said Tuesday she thought the Gabriel Project was a good idea, and would consider mak-

ing its literature available at her Reproductive Services clinic.

"I think that if they are able to help these women, it would be wonderful," Vargas said. "I don't think it will prevent abortions, but I think that if they are going to help those women who opt to parent, then it is a good thing."

Each church taking part will display a sign identifying it as a participant in the Gabriel Project.

The project is named for the account in the biblical book of Luke, in which the angel Gabriel appears to the Virgin Mary and tells her she will bear a child through immaculate conception.

Schiefelbein said he did not know how many women would seek help from the Gabriel Project, but "I would say that the number of women that could use our service would be equal to the number of women in Corpus Christi who feel compelled to kill their babies."

Family, friends organize party for 'Old Army Lou's' birthday



Photo by Eric H. Roalson

J.E. Loupot greets Jerry and Carole Cooper at his 80th birthday party at the Clayton W. Williams Jr. Alumni Center. The former students' association put on party.

By KATHY COX
Of The Battalion Staff

J.E. "Old Army Lou" Loupot, Class of '32, celebrated his 80th birthday Sunday at the Clayton W. Williams Jr. Alumni Center.

Loupot's family and friends organized a birthday party for him, complete with a maroon-and-white cake and Aggie balloons.

Judson Loupot Jr. said the party was organized to celebrate the milestone and show appreciation for his father.

"We wanted to honor him for all he's done," Judson said. "He's the best example of one Aggie helping another. That's been his life."

Another part of Loupot's life is his business. He owns three bookstores in College Station.

But Judson said his father always puts business after family and friends.

An arch covered by maroon-and-white balloons with the A&M logo on them hung over a maroon-

and-white decorated table laden with food and drinks.

Loupot circulated during the party, shaking hands and hugging people who came to take part in the birthday festivities.

"I love this," Loupot said. "Most of the people here are family, and there's a lot of people here who have helped me make my living."

"I wouldn't be here if it weren't for some of these people."

Some of Loupot's A&M classmates were there, including his partner in a business venture selling uniforms during their freshman year.

B.H. Dewey Jr., another classmate of Loupot's, said he was glad to be at the party.

"I've known him all his life," he said.

Clayton Williams Jr., Republican candidate for governor, dropped by Loupot's store Friday to wish him a happy birthday, and Loupot also received a letter signed by President Bush, congratulating him on his 80th birthday.

Parking garage opens Friday

The parking garage on the south side of campus will open Friday in preparation for the start of classes Aug. 27.

The southside garage will provide parking space for nearly 2,000 students and ease parking congestion in other parts of the campus.

Visitor parking is available in the northside parking garage on University Drive and in Parking Area 48 on Houston Street off George Bush Drive for 50 cents per hour up to a maximum of \$4 per day.

Deferred plan available for parking permits

Parking permits for Texas A&M University faculty and staff are available on campus and can be purchased on a deferred payment plan.

For the first time, faculty and staff can purchase permits on a deferred payment plan that stretches the price of the permits from September through December.

The deferred payment plan is being offered as a one-year experimental program, said Tom Williams, director of the Department of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services.

The program will be evaluated during the middle of the year to see if it will be continued, Williams said.

Faculty members can purchase permits through the mail.

The permits, which range in price from \$100 to \$225, plus a \$6 handling charge on the deferred plan, are available on a limited basis for space in various parking lots and in the northside parking garage.

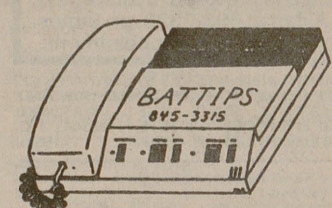
For additional information contact parking, transit and traffic at 845-9700.

BATTIPS

Anyone with story suggestions can call BATTIPS, The Battalion's phone line designed to improve communication between the newspaper and its readers.

BATTIPS' number is 845-3315.

Ideas can include news stories, feature ideas and personality profiles of interesting people.



What's Up

Wednesday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general meeting at noon. For more information, call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general meeting at 8:30 p.m. For more information, call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.

Thursday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general meeting at noon. For more information, call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general meeting at 8:30 p.m. For more information, call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: will have a general meeting at 8:30 p.m. For more information, call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.

Friday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general meeting at noon. For more information, call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.

Saturday

BRYAN PARKS AND RECREATION DEPT.: will present a free concert at Haskell Park at 8 p.m. The local jazz group Don Pope & Friends will be featured. For more information, call 361-3658.

Monday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general meeting at noon. For more information, call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.

Tuesday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general meeting at noon. For more information, call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS: will have a general meeting at 8:30 p.m. For more information, call the C.D.P.E. at 845-0280.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We publish the name and phone number of the contact only if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3315.

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