

Tuesday, September 25, 1990

TCLU changes structure, creates independent group

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Civil Liberties Union has undergone a major restructuring that includes the formation of an independent group called the South Texas Project.

The project, which until now was a major part of TCLU's mission, will be governed by its own board of directors and will operate independently of TCLU, an arrangement that one civil libertarian predicted would kill the project.

"This proposal will mean the end of a civil liberties project in the (Rio Grande) Valley, at least for the time being," said Beth Crabb, who is now a full-time attorney for the project.

Crabb, who will remain on staff in the project's Rio Grande Valley office, said the project and the TCLU will not be able to raise enough money to survive separately.

Representatives of the Communications Workers of America and the TCLU negotiated for 14 hours this weekend before deciding that the project would organize its own non-profit foundation.

The TCLU's reorganization, completed Sunday, was part of a settlement arrangement with Jim Harrington, the former TCLU legal director dismissed last week by the

group's state board.

Harrington, who is to become legal director of the South Texas Project and operate out of Austin, did not agree.

"I think that we certainly have in place the ability to raise the money that we need," Harrington said. "I am bound and determined ... to see that this organization becomes a viable civil rights organization that will take the place of the divorce that occurred today."

The agreement calls for Harrington, who had served as legal director of TCLU for 17 years, to complete work on his pending legal cases.

Volunteer attorneys would provide legal services until TCLU can hire a new executive director and legal director, officials said.

Jay Brim III, attorney for TCLU in the settlement talks, said that TCLU would give the South Texas Project \$85,000 pledged to it as well as \$35,000 agreed to during negotiations. Also, the two groups initially will have joint fund-raising efforts.

Under the agreement, most employees of TCLU and the South Texas Project will be represented by the Communication Workers of America.



BATTIPS

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

The BATTIPS number is 845-3315.

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

Police seek shooting details

Brazos County Crime Stoppers is seeking information about an early morning shooting Aug. 18 in College Station.

College Station police say a woman was shot once in the lower back at about 4 a.m. as she and another woman walked northbound on Eleanor Street near the Lincoln Center in College Station.

The women were walking down the street when they passed a group of men standing near a curb. As the women passed the men, they were verbally and physically harassed. One of the men shot at the women with a .22-caliber rifle.

Witnesses described the suspect as a large African-American man with short hair. Detectives believe there were several witnesses to the crime, but few have offered information.

This week the College Station Police Department and Crime Stoppers need your help in identifying the person responsible for this aggravated assault.

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

Origami folds fun with science

By JOE FERGUSON
Of The Battalion Staff

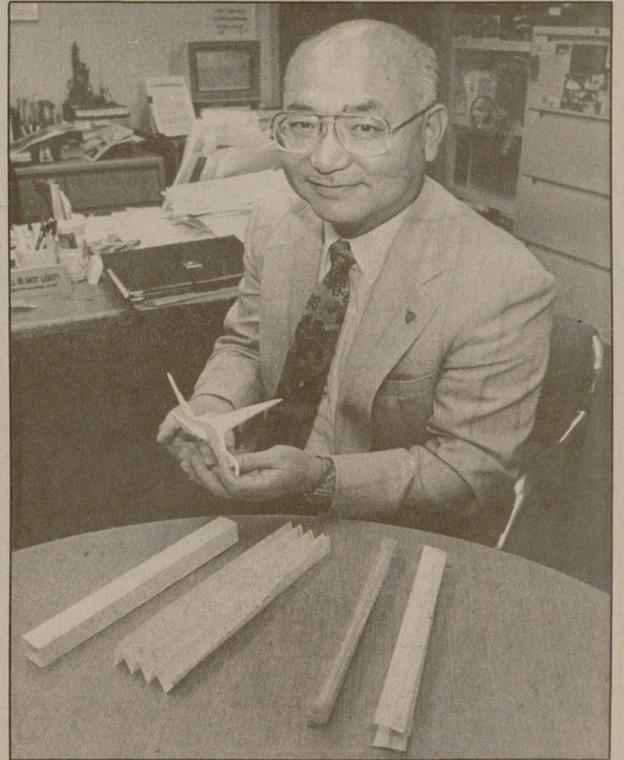
Helping students learn is what Dr. James Yao is all about.

Yao, head of Texas A&M's Department of Civil Engineering, says he enjoys teaching and working with young people and seeing them develop — what he calls intangible rewards.

"It's a great joy to have students remember me (after they graduate) and come back and say I helped in some way," Yao says.

One of many reasons Yao will be remembered is because of his fondness of origami — the art of paper folding. His creations are used as class examples and just for fun.

One of Yao's paper designs is a bird, which flaps its wings when he holds on to the neck and pulls on the tail.



Dr. James Yao

Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Up to that point, the paper is folded just for fun. But after flapping the wings for a period of time, the bird becomes an illustration to his classes about structural fatigue and tensile stress. The example helps Yao present material about an airplane as its wings fluctuate.

But there's more. Hold on to the other end and pull on the head, and the wings flap the other way.

The bird's standby redundancy is thereby utilized and the wings can flap about twice as long, he says.

Not all of Yao's creations, however, are examples of structural properties.

Each desk in the civil engineering office is adorned with paper wonders like dogs, horses, swans, sea horses, baskets and rockets.

Most of his creations just stand there, but like the wing-flapping bird, another office favorite is the hopping frog. Touch its little tail and it hops as far as two feet.

Besides the paper toys in the department head's office, Yao also likes games, particularly volleyball.

Hanging from the ceiling is a volleyball signed by the women's volleyball team from Purdue University, where he once was a professor.

Yao says his favorite game yell is "One more!" He says just as only one point can be scored at a time in a volleyball match, only one thing at a

time can be accomplished in life.

His desk is used as an example.

"If I looked at the mess on my desk and tried to clean it all at once, I'd find myself overwhelmed and probably would quit," he says. "Then the mess would only get larger. But by cleaning it one pile at a time, it will get done slowly, but it will get done."

He encourages students to take the same approach. Other advice he gives to students is to have the right aim in shooting for education and career goals.

"Don't put the cart in front of the horse," he says.

Academically, he encourages students to learn as much as possible, and grades will follow.

But Yao warns against choosing a career for the prospect of making money.

"Study what interests you the most," he says. "Life is too short to study what is hot at the moment. Understand what you're getting into. Collect information, analyze it and make an intelligent decision."

Yao says he takes his own advice. He says he always tries to learn because it keeps him enthusiastic about his job and it makes him a better teacher. That way, he says, both teacher and student improve.

In Advance

Health and Wellness Fair to be held Wednesday

The Texas A&M Health and Wellness Fair will be from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday in the MSC.

More than 40 community and student groups will provide health information and screenings, most of which are free.

Information to be covered in-

cludes blood pressure, coronary risk, scoliosis and weight.

Cholesterol tests will be available for a small fee.

Baseball head coach Mark Johnson will speak at 12:15 p.m. in the flagroom.

Minority Liberal Arts Society will meet tonight

All students in Texas A&M's College of Liberal Arts are invited to attend the Minority Liberal Arts Society's first meeting.

The meeting will be tonight at 7 in 401 Rudder Tower. Mem-

bers will organize a constitution and vote for officers.

Daniel Fallon, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, also will speak at the meeting.

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(Please bring at least 3 copies of your resume)

Interviews, October 3 & 4

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