

# Bank leader sentenced for robbery of own bank

McALLEN (AP) — A former bank president who attempted to rob his bank has been sentenced to four years and nine months in prison.

Robert L. Freeman, former president of Elsa State Bank and Trust, was sentenced Tuesday by U.S. District Judge Ricardo H. Hinojosa.

Freeman claimed that during the Feb. 3 attempted robbery he was suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder because of his military service in Vietnam.

He resigned from the bank eight months before the attempted robbery.

A federal jury convicted the 44-year-old Brownsville resident last November on two counts of attempted bank robbery.

Hinojosa rejected a motion for a new trial and ordered Freeman to report to federal authorities Feb. 25.

Defense lawyer J.C. Castillo of Houston, Freeman's brother-in-law, said jurors erred during the first trial when they indicated the panel had decided Freeman's guilt before getting a clarification on the legal term "beyond a reasonable doubt."

Freeman's defense was based on a mental illness that afflicts mostly war veterans and trauma victims years after dreadful experiences.

The Vietnam veteran said he "snapped" when he disguised himself in camouflage clothing and a ski mask and attempted to rob two of his former bank tellers with a gun.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Terry Leonard said Freeman could have gotten a lower sentence had he accepted responsibility for his actions.

"He said he was there, but that he didn't intend to do it," the prosecutor said.

# Appeals court orders reporters to reveal sources

HOUSTON (AP) — The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals has let stand a trial judge's decision to force reporters from the Houston Chronicle and the Houston Post to identify potential witnesses at a murder trial.

Attorneys for David Charles Taylor, accused in the May 20 killings of cousins Calvin D. Sanders and Percy Banyon, say that Post reporter Felix Sanchez and Chronicle reporter James T. Campbell could help identify witnesses.

The day of the shooting, Campbell and Sanchez interviewed witnesses who asked to remain anonymous. Defense lawyer Kevin Oncken has been unable to find any of the people interviewed in the news accounts and wants the reporters in the courtroom to identify the witnesses in case they attend the trial.

Chronicle and Post attorneys said Tuesday they are reviewing options to the ruling, including trying to take the matter to the U.S. Supreme Court or having the reporters disobey the subpoenas ordered by state District Judge William Harmon. The subpoenas require them to identify story sources if they see them during the trial, scheduled Feb. 4.

Chronicle attorney Joel White said it is very difficult to persuade the U.S. Supreme Court to accept a case. And if the reporters disobey the subpoenas, they could be subject to contempt of court and jailed.

Oncken said he was pleased with the court's refusal since he viewed the reporters as essential to Taylor's defense.

"If David Taylor is to receive a fair trial, those people need to be there," Oncken said.

Sanchez said he doesn't plan to follow the court's order if nothing changes before the opening of the trial.

"This would be a bad precedent for other reporters who might be hauled into court to identify people," Sanchez said. "We're being asked to be investigators for the court."

White said Harmon has no authority to order any individual to sit through a trial and identify potential witnesses. He also said court precedent provides that reporters cannot be compelled to reveal confidential sources if there are other sources of information.

Both reporters have said they do not remember the sources and do not have notes reflecting their identity.

"We're certainly disappointed by the (appellate) decision," said Chronicle Managing Editor Tony Pederson. "With all due respect, we believe it to be incorrect, and we believe this is another example of the onerous infringements courts seem to be making on journalists."

## WRPD by Scott McCullar ©1991



ANOTHER TYPICAL DAILY SCENE IN THE WRPD WRITER'S OFFICE, AND IT APPEARS TODAY IS SPIN-OFF PAY.



HULK HOGAN'S HEROES by Paul Storm A situation comedy concept about American GI Wrestlers in a World War II P.O.W. camp



The Color Deep DARK Purple by Bernice Brown The further and even MORE depressing adventures.



HOW PATHETIC.

## Spade Phillips, P.I. by Matt Kowalski



I'M ABOUT TO BE KICKED BY TWO EAST GERMAN KUNG-FU DWARVEN N.O.W. RADICALS WHILE THEIR LEADER KIDNAPS ROLF AND DOLF. IF I CAN REMEMBER THAT LINE OF GERMAN ROLF AND DOLF TAUGHT ME, I THINK I CAN ESCAPE.



EINE DEUTSCHLANDERE JUNGFRAU AUCH EINE GUTENTEIT HEIST (TRANSLATION: "So, Nichey, Morlei tells me your mom helped sledgehammer down the Berlin Wall.")

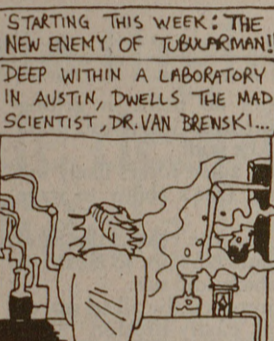


DU BIST EIN MELONKOPF! MAL-YAA SON SCHWEIN BLUT! ACH, SCHEIST!



GOOD THING NO W. RADICALS CAN'T TIE KNOTS. NOW TO RESCUE ROLF AND DOLF!

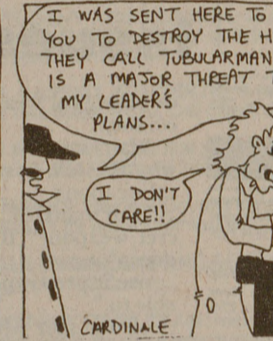
## Tubularman by Boomer Cardinale



STARTING THIS WEEK: THE NEW ENEMY OF TUBULARMAN!! DEEP WITHIN A LABORATORY IN AUSTIN, DWELLS THE MAD SCIENTIST, DR. VAN BREWSKI!



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WE ARE WILLING TO PAY YOU \$750,000. WHERE'S TUBULARMAN?

# Officer wants to keep rescued baby

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas police officer says he wants to adopt an infant he found near a garbage bin, but others are already waiting to bring the girl into their families.

Officer Bill Blackburn found the infant, known as Baby G, Sunday morning behind a trash dumpster at a North Dallas apartment complex.

Baby G was wrapped in two towels, and her umbilical cord was tied off with a shoestring.

"I feel kind of special about her," Blackburn said Monday of the infant.

"Depending on how your faith goes, I really believe that she was intended to live. Maybe she'll make a dramatic change in society some day."

Baby G's skin had a bluish tint, and Blackburn said he wasn't sure whether the color was caused by 45-degree temperatures or her early

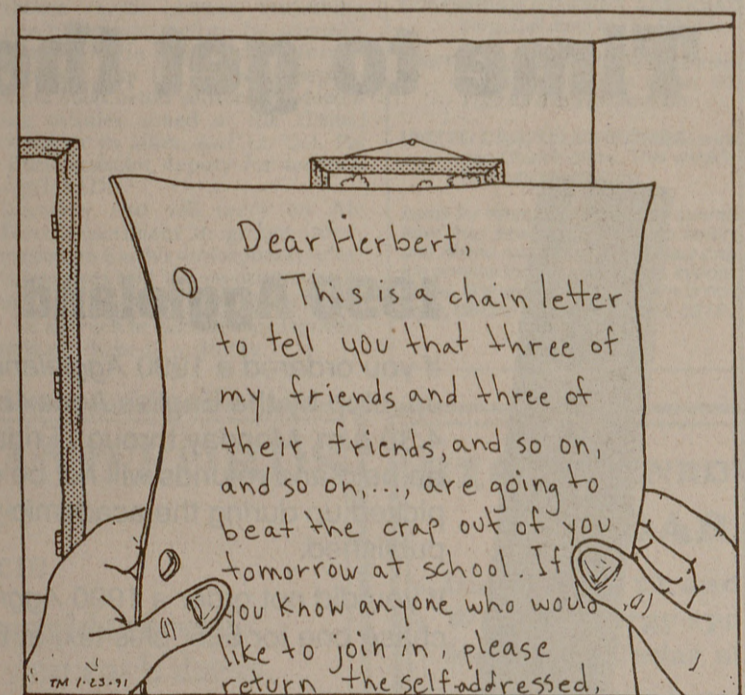
age. So he held the infant to his chest and turned his squad car's heater high.

"Once she got near a human body, she warmed up," the 11-year veteran officer said.

Blackburn had called his wife about the 6-pound, 11-ounce baby cradled in his arms.

"She said, 'Just bring her home,'" he said with a laugh.

## Nerd House by Tom A. Madison



Dear Herbert, This is a chain letter to tell you that three of my friends and three of their friends, and so on, and so on, are going to beat the crap out of you tomorrow at school. If you know anyone who would like to join in, please return the self-addressed.

# Fines increase for goods smuggled across border

WASHINGTON (AP) — Travelers who attempt to smuggle meats, fruits or vegetables across the Mexican border into Texas face stiffer fines starting Sunday.

The Agriculture Department said the fine for failing to declare prohibited goods will double, from \$25 to \$50, while cases involving concealment or misrepresentation may result in fines of \$100, up from \$50.

Any attempt to smuggle meats, fruits or vegetables into the United States is a federal offense.

"Bringing foreign meat and plant products into the United States poses a serious threat to the health of U.S. crops and livestock," said James W. Glosser, administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

James Fons, senior operations officer for port operations of the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, said the fines were raised because officers in the field believed they were too low to serve as a deterrent. The current fines have been in place for the past six years.

APHIS collected fines of \$723,345 last year on produce and

declared or not declared and hidden by travelers coming into the United States across the borders, at airports, or from Hawaii or Puerto Rico.

Fons said there were 300,834 interceptions of plant material on the U.S.-Mexico border last year and 29,860 interceptions of meat and poultry products.

Fons said APHIS officers logged 610,938 interceptions at airports of plant material in baggage entering the country from overseas and 10,990 interceptions of meat products.

According to USDA, no fines are imposed for prohibited products if they are declared during baggage inspections, and all illegal items are confiscated with no compensation. "APHIS spends millions of dollars to eradicate destructive pests and diseases that enter the United States inside fruits, vegetables and meats packed in personal luggage," Glosser said.

Tropical fruit such as mangoes, avocados, papayas and limes are among the illegal items most frequently intercepted at ports of entry.

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