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Member quits board of state's deaf school

AUSTIN (AP) — A 12-year member of the governing board of the Texas School for the Deaf resigned Monday, following more than a week of protests by students who said she had offended them.

Gayle Lindsey, of Austin, announced her resignation in a letter to Gov. Ann Richards Monday afternoon, following an afternoon of protests at the state Capitol by more than 100 students from the deaf school.

The students, who come to the residential campus from across the state, have held marches and boycotted classes since a letter Lindsey wrote to Sen. Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin, was distributed last week.

The letter criticized legislation requested by a coalition of deaf-rights groups that would require a majority of the school board to be hearing impaired.

Lindsey is not hearing-impaired. She has a 25-year-old daughter, a 1987 graduate of the school, who is profoundly deaf.

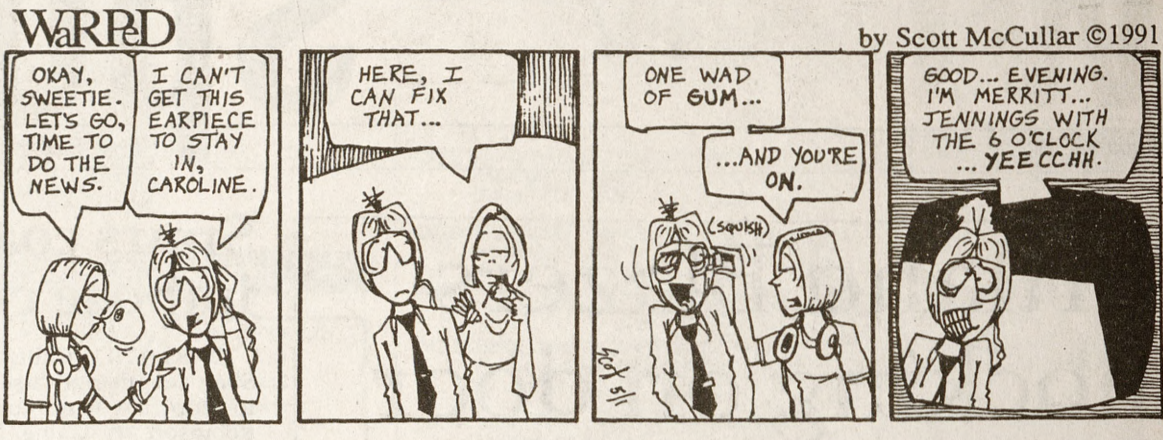
Currently, three board members must be hearing-impaired, three must be parents of deaf children, and three must have professional associations with the deaf.

Lindsey argued in the letter that the list of "qualified and competent deaf people" to serve on the board "will be exhausted in a very short period of time."

In announcing her resignation to Richards, Lindsey wrote: "The controversy surrounding my reappointment is interfering with the education of the Texas School for the Deaf students, a situation that I find abhorrent; I refuse to participate in such a process."

The governor said Tuesday that Lindsey had served on the board "with distinction."

"Above all else, she has devoted her life to serving the deaf community and has worked selflessly on their behalf," Richards said in a statement.



Risks aid reduction of smoking

Continued from page 1

in consumption is due to the well-publicized risks of tobacco use.

While domestic consumption is down over the last 30 years, exports of U.S. tobacco products have risen from 65 billion cigarettes in 1986 to an estimated 160 billion in 1990.

The report asserts that if American tobacco products are allowed to compete worldwide, they will dominate the market because of their high quality.

"I think the outlook for tobacco growers is very good," Blaine said.

Program involves 300 entities

Continued from page 1

ciate Provost Dr. Sallie Sheppard, is an associate director for the program.

Nationwide, the program involves more than 300 institutions.

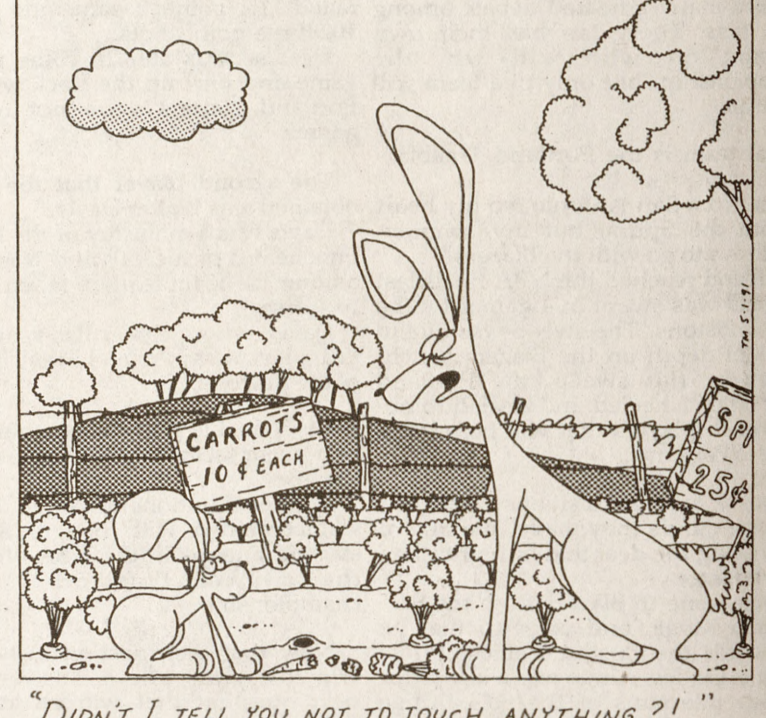
Space-grant programs in 46 states and the District of Columbia each have their own consortium that includes schools, private companies, non-profit groups and government agencies.

Japan should lift import ban on rice, lawmaker says

DALLAS (AP) — Japan should drop its barrier to rice and import up to five percent of its annual consumption, a Japanese lawmaker said Tuesday to a group of Dallas area business leaders.

Kabun Muto, a Japanese congressman and former trade minister, said his country's leaders should try to break the stalemate in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) talks in Brussels over food imports and exports.

Nerd House



Endangered turtle lays eggs in Texas

CORPUS CHRISTI (AP) — To the Kemp's ridley sea turtle, laying 107 eggs this week was a natural act. But to conservationists trying to preserve the endangered species, it was a sign that efforts to establish a new nesting ground could be succeeding.

Tourists at Padre Island National Seashore south of Corpus Christi spotted the turtle laying eggs in a sand dune Monday and alerted National Park Service officials.

It is believed to be the first time a Kemp's ridley has laid eggs on a Texas beach since 1988. Park officials said additional nesting ridleys they hope to find could indicate the success of a 10-year project launched to provide an alternative nesting ground.

"We're dropping everything in hopes it's the start of something," said Donna Shaver, a natural resources management specialist for the Park Service.

But researchers remain cautious. It may have been a random nesting by one of only 300 wild, mature female ridleys known to exist. Their primary nesting site is a 14-mile stretch of Mexican beach near Rancho Nuevo.

The Padre Island nest will be significant only if "we see three or four this year," said Dr. Edward Klima, director of the National Marine Fisheries laboratory in Galveston.

"If one turtle turns up, it's great to see that," Klima said. "But unless there's three or four, it wouldn't mean too much."

"In terms of establishing a second nesting beach, that may not be," he said of Monday's nesting. "It may just be a stray."

The Fisheries Service, in a project with the Park Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and its Mexican counterpart, Instituto Nacional de Pesca, ended a 10-year project in 1988 that included packing eggs from the Rancho Nuevo site in sand from Padre Island.

The experimental effort was an attempt to establish a secondary breeding colony.

When the eggs hatched, the silver dollar-sized turtles were allowed to wade in the surf off Padre Island before being recaptured and flown to Galveston for a year of protective care.

Ridley's are believed to "imprint" the beach where they make their way to the ocean for the first time, and later return to the same location to lay eggs.

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