

Lifestyles

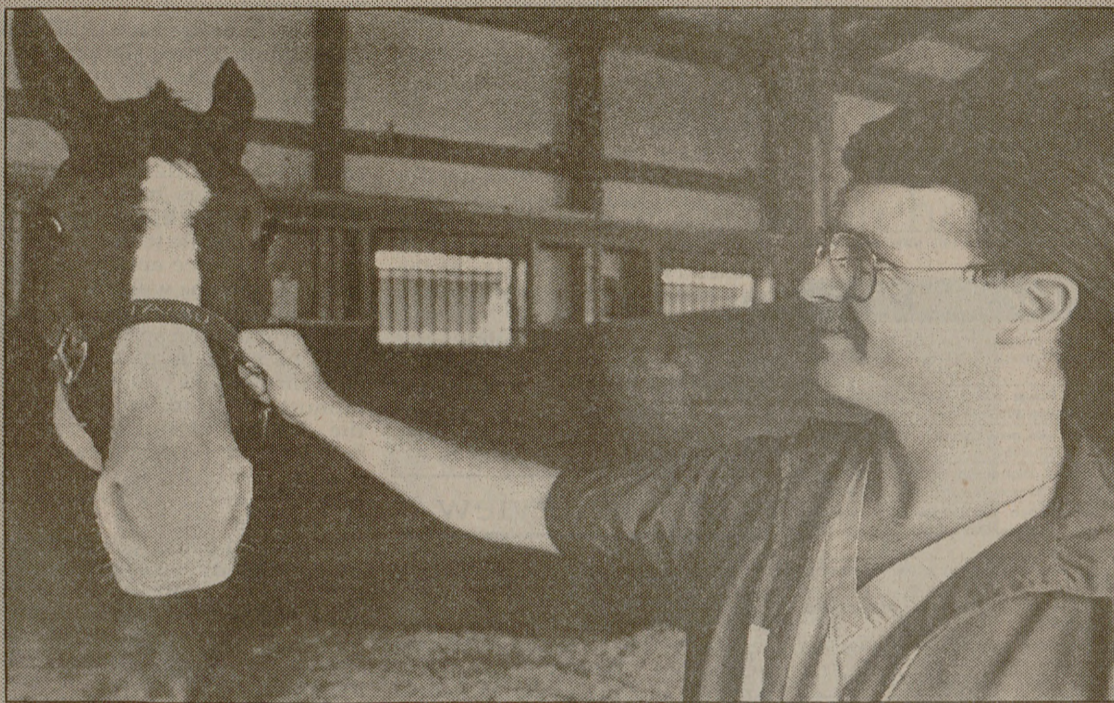
Thursday, September 19, 1991

The Battalion

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Back on his Feet

Dallas sends injured police horse to A&M Vet School for hospitalization



Karl A. Stolle/The Battalion

Dr. Jeff Watkins and a staff of nine others put in a three hour surgery to put the police horse back on his feet.

By Pamela Lee
The Battalion

Dallas Police Department's horse is doing well after major surgery for a torn joint at the Texas A&M Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

Tom-Tom, a thoroughbred and quarter horse cross, was injured Sept. 4 after an automobile hit him to avoid another horse.

The accident took place at the Dallas Independent School District office, where teachers, parents and students were striking the layoff of several teachers.

After examining Tom-Tom, doctors at the Cedar Hill Veterinary Clinic, mobilized him for delivery to A&M's Veterinary school that night.

Wes Taylor, a veterinary student and attendant for Tom-Tom over the last two weeks, said "I saw Tom-Tom getting out of the trailer with a fixation device around his leg. He was in pain. It's difficult to describe pain in terms of animals, but they limp when in pain."

Tom-Tom had a damaged joint above the

left rear leg that was completely exposed, increasing the risk of infection.

Led by Dr. Jeff Watkins, associate professor of large animal surgery, four surgeons, one anesthesiologist, three technicians and two students operated on Tom-Tom at that night.

Dr. Robert S. Playter, associate dean for clinical and outreach programs, said the three-hour surgery, called arthrodesis, is not done at the clinic often, but that A&M was chosen because it specializes in and has the facilities and staff to handle the technique.

During the operation doctors used plates, screws and bone grafts to fuse Tom-Tom's joint.

Although Tom-Tom appears to be progressing, Playter said the school is still watching for signs of any infection.

To avoid infection, Taylor will continue to change the horse's cast and do daily examinations of the horse.

"Care of the cast requires extensive care," Taylor said. "The horse must first have a physical work up (examination), then

checked to be sure he is okay for anesthesia, then the horse is tied up and turned on his side - all just to change his cast."

Playter said the horse should recover within six months to a year, but will return to Dallas in two or three weeks to minimize expenses, already estimated at \$3000 or more.

Taylor said the decision to keep an animal alive after injury is left 100% up to the client.

"The veterinary role is complex," Taylor said. "The medical role should provide information as to whether the animal is in pain, whether the condition will get worse or better and monetary expenses."

Taylor said the working and emotional attachment the Dallas police have for Tom-Tom is hard to place a monetary sum.

"There is a certain bond between an officer and his horse," Taylor said. "They work together everyday. Tom-Tom is a well mannered horse and very obedient. If he did not have that character they (DPD) may not have made the same decision (to operate on his leg)."

Taylor said Tom-Tom's attitude is also making a speedy recovery possible.

Music Reviews

Toll goes for issue-oriented rock; confronts racism, censorship

By Chris Eklof
The Battalion

The Toll
Sticks and Stones and Broken Bones
Geffen

The combination of guitar rock and social commentary sold millions of records for U2 in the '80s. Now, in the '90s, this successful formula is being used by The Toll for its second album, *Sticks and Stones and Broken Bones*. They confront issues ranging from censorship to racism to the destruction of the American dream with a musical sound that is reminiscent at times of U2, INXS and The Cult.

The Toll was formed in 1983 in Columbus, Ohio. The band went through 12 drummers and three bass players in one year before setting the present lineup. The Toll's first album, *The Price of Progression*, released in 1988, focused more on personal issues and feelings than society's problems.

The members of The Toll are not outstanding musicians by themselves. This album does not introduce any musical twists that have not been heard before. Their musical abilities are just good enough to provide a vehicle for lead singer Brad Circone's vocal acrobatics. Circone's

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Michigan's His Name Is Alive resembles sour European acts

By Kevin Robinson
The Battalion

His Name Is Alive
Livonia
4AD Records

If you take a quick look at the cover for His Name Is Alive's new album, *Livonia*, without listening to the first couple of tracks, you might think this is just another British ambient band, locked away in some London flat, making moody synth music. Everything points to this. The band has their first album on British indie 4AD. The cover is designed by goth design wizard Vaughn Oliver. The album is mixed by Ivo Watts-Russell and John Fryer of This Mortal Coil. And to make matters even more interesting, the album can only be found only as an import release. Another depressed European band right? Nope.

They're a college band from Michigan. Coming from the land of the Great Lakes is hardly what you'd expect from a band like this. In the college-rock scene of numerous Red Hot Chili Pepper and R.E.M. wanna-bes, the densely structured soundscapes of His Name Is Alive is definitely the odd man out. On

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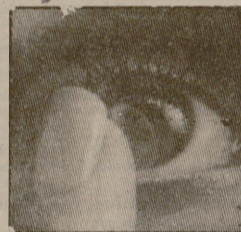
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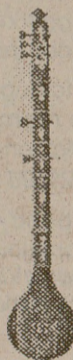
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