



PHOTOGRAPH: Brandon Bollom

Keeping in line Stephen Hilt, graduate architecture student, works on a floorplan drawing Wednesday afternoon in Langford Building A.

Lawsuit challenges school dress code

HOUSTON (AP) — School officials testified Wednesday they were protecting two students from potential rival gang violence — not infringing on religious freedom — when they instructed the teen-agers last spring to wear their rosary beads underneath their shirts.

Jerry Robertson and David Chalifoux were informed last March they had to wear the Catholic prayer beads under their shirts while at school because a school police officer had recently seen local gang members wear rosaries.

The boys' parents sued New Caney High School, claiming the 15-year-olds were being denied their freedom of religious expression and took their case this week before U.S. District Judge David Hittner.

School officials say they were only enforcing the school's dress code, which bars gang apparel and trying to prevent rival gangs from mistaking the intention of the boys' display of the beads around their necks.

"A safety standpoint was my foremost reason," said New Caney High School principal Charles "Toby" York.

The school, nestled in the piney unincorporated town of New Caney, 30 miles northeast of Houston, began taking a "zero tolerance" against rising gang activity in 1994 when graffiti bearing distinguishable gang symbols and colors began emerging in and around the area.

York made the decision to have the teen-agers wear the rosaries under their shirts after consulting with Lt.

Troy Wootton, who is the three-person school police force's gang expert.

Cobby Caputo, attorney for the high school, said in his closing argument Wednesday that the school has the right to enforce rules on behavior and that at no time were the boys told what to believe by school officials.

"The freedom to believe is absolute," Caputo said. "The freedom to act ... is subject to regulation."

But the boys' attorney argued that the school's fluid dress code was "too vague" and left too much decision making in the hands of Wootton, a police officer.

"Children do not check their rights at the school-house door," said Brent Perry, the boys' attorney. "What we have here is a situation where the bad guys are setting the rules for what the good guys can do... We think the schools ought to be a place where the students are encouraged to express their ideas."

Wootton stopped David when he saw him wearing the beads on March 13 because he had recently seen members of the local gang United Homies wearing rosary beads and asking one member why he was wearing them.

"Me and my homeboys wear these," the gang member supposedly told Wootton.

Jerry, a friend of David's who was also wearing rosary beads that day, approached Wootton about the same time, and was also told to wear the beads under his shirt.

Perjury counts lodged against educator

CALDWELL, Texas (AP) — A small-town superintendent has been indicted on perjury charges for the second time in connection with statements he gave after the death of his wife.

Frank Cook, 42, who is on paid leave from his job as school superintendent in the Brazos Valley town of Snook, was indicted on two counts of aggravated perjury by a Burleson County grand jury.

The charges accuse Cook of lying twice to the grand jury about his relationship with another woman.

Charles Sebesta, district attorney for Burleson and Washington counties, contends that Cook drove his wife to suicide. Janet Cook, 38, shot herself in the chest with a shotgun last August.

"Even though it is formally ruled

a suicide at this point in time, the investigation into her death continues," Sebesta told The Associated Press on Tuesday, one day after the grand jury's action.

The grand jury already had charged Cook with one count of perjury, accusing him of lying about his wife's life insurance.

"I'm surprised at the indictments," Cook told the Bryan-College Station Eagle. "I think there's a misunderstanding ... it sure is confusing."

In the latest indictment, the grand jury reviewed seven letters written in July 1995 to someone addressed only as "C." They were signed "Pancho" and, in one case, "AFC." Cook's full name is Atlas Frank Cook.

The notes were turned over to Texas Rangers in Tyler by Cook's former secretary when he was school superintendent in Bullard, a small town south of Tyler.

The indictments specifically accuse Cook of lying when he denied to the grand jury ever using the nickname "Pancho" or conducting

a flirtation with a woman other than his wife.

The letters, copies of which were attached to the indictment, were of an intimate nature. "You have already touched me deeply. Your Pancho," said one. Another said: "Te amo, (your) Pancho," which translated means "I love you, (your) Pancho."

No trial date has been set for the latest indictment. Trial on the first perjury charge is scheduled for Aug. 18 in Brenham.

Cook was chosen as Snook's superintendent in June 1996. Previously, he was superintendent of the Bullard school district from 1994.

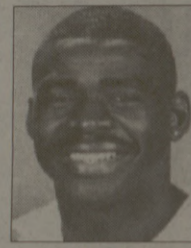
In Smith County, Cook still faces trial on two separate three-count indictments accusing him of violating state public records laws. The indictments, for which he is scheduled to stand trial on Sept. 2, relate to allegations by the Tyler Morning Telegraph that he acted with "criminal negligence" in denying the newspaper's employees access to public records three times in 1995.

Agreement reached in case Irvin, Williams settle defamation lawsuit out of court

DALLAS (AP) — Cowboys stars Michael Irvin and Erik Williams settled their defamation lawsuit against a television station in a deal that "represents a major step" toward rectifying the damage done to them, their lawyer said Wednesday.

Attorney Peter Ginsberg and an official for the Dallas-Fort Worth television station said they could not disclose details of the settlement with KXAS reporter Marty Griffin and Lin Television Corp., parent company for KXAS.

However, a source speaking on the condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press the settlement calls for the players to split a payment of at least \$2 million.



Irvin

"Erik Williams and Michael Irvin entered into a lawsuit to try to make a statement and try to get out a little more whole following the abuse that suffered," Ginsberg said. "There is no settlement in the world that could ever make up in whole the damage that was done to them. But the settlement represents a major step in that direction."

Doug Adams, KXAS president and general manager, said he is "pleased ... the terms of agreement don't allow any further comment."

The settlement announcement came on after Irvin and Williams left training camp in Austin to participate in mediation with the station's lawyers.

Williams refused to discuss the settlement. Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said he was happy the case was settled out of court.

CAMPUS CALENDAR

Thursday

The Writing Center (Dept. of English, Texas A&M): The Writing Center in 249 Blocker will consult with any TAMU student who needs help with his or her writing projects for Summer II. Hours are 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Come by or call 862-4181 for more information.

Aggie Roadrunners: There will be a daily run of 2-3 miles beginning at 7 p.m. in front of G. Rollie White. Runners of all levels are encouraged to attend. For more information call Hank Bullinger at 821-6339.

Texas A&M Women's Rugby: There will be practice from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the TAMU Rugby Field. No experience is necessary. For more information contact Wendy at 696-9012.

Friday

A&M Bahai Club: The A&M Bahai Club is having a speaker followed by dinner on July 25, at 6:30 p.m. at 1304 Merry Oak in College Station. The speaker will be Vhaid Hedayati speaking on unity throughout the world between men and women and all the races. For more information call Kriti Buohe at 764-3160.

Sunday

TAMU Chess Club: The TAMU Chess Club will be playing chess in 308 Rudder from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. For more in-

formation contact Scott Griggs at 696-3879 or griggs@myriad.net.

Monday

Aggie Roadrunners: There will be a daily run of 2-3 miles beginning at 7 p.m. in front of G. Rollie White. Runners of all levels are encouraged to attend. For more information call Hank Bullinger at 821-6339.

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Tuesday

TAMU Waterski Team: There will be a general meeting at 8:30 p.m. at Fitzwilly's. For more information call Mike Coyle at 268-2076.

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Texas Aggie Brew Club: There will be a meeting about beer and brews at Carney's Pub at 7 p.m. For more information contact Abel at 845-3313 or abelmann@iname.com.

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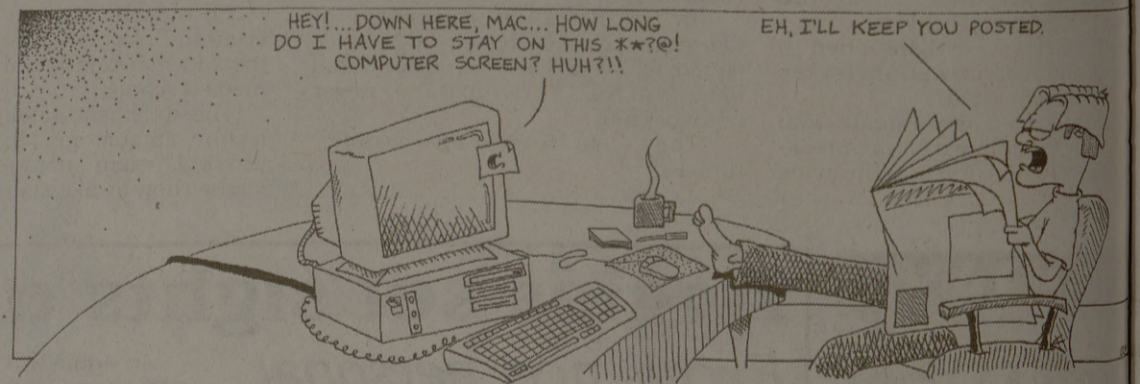
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Campus Calendar is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and faculty events and activities. Items should be submitted no later than three days in advance of the desired run date. Advertisements, deadlines and notices are in the events and will not be run in the Campus Calendar. If you have any questions, please call the newsroom at 845-3313.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly Cloudy High: 98° Low: 75°	Thunderstorms High: 98° Low: 76°	Partly Cloudy High: 100° Low: 75°

Sketch



By Quattrone

Correction

In Wednesday's story "Regents to accept admissions change," Senate Bill 1907 was misidentified as Senate Bill 1997.

Don't Miss 'Em in the Music Capitol!
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512.881.8499 (in Corpus Christi) • **504.522.5555** (in New Orleans)
All other National or International Requests: **800.966.SHOW** (7469).
For further **PHISH** info: **800.PHISH.IT**
Tickets subject to service/handling charges. Dates, times and support acts subject to change without notice.

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