

Failed writer hopes to be released by appeals court

HOUSTON (AP) — The writer jailed for not surrendering her notes and tapes to a grand jury will ask the full 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals to review its three-judge ruling against her, her attorney said Monday.

Leggett, 33, has spent nearly a month in jail for refusing to hand over all of her research for a book about a 1997 Houston society murder. She was found in contempt of court July 20 and could be held for up to 18 months.

Attorney Mike DeGeurin said Leggett will ask the full court to reconsider freeing her. A partial court ruled Friday that U.S. District Judge

Melinda Harmon did not abuse her discretion in finding Leggett in contempt of court for refusing to supply subpoenaed information.

"Ms. Leggett understands the legal process can mean more time in jail," DeGeurin said. "She's there at the insistence of the government and prepared to resist the oppression and intimidation to assert the right of the public to a free and independent press."

Leggett was researching the death of Doris Angleton, who was found shot to death in her Houston home April 16, 1997. Her husband, Robert Angleton, and his brother, Roger, were charged with capital murder.

Prosecutors alleged that Robert Angleton, a millionaire and former bookie, hired his brother to kill his wife to prevent her from getting millions in a divorce settlement.

Roger Angleton spoke with Leggett before committing suicide in jail. He left behind notes confessing to the slaying, saying he planned the murder and framed his brother. Leggett has given investigators tapes of her interviews with him.

Federal prosecutors contend Leggett is not a journalist and therefore does not fall under the First Amendment's protection of the press. Leggett has not published a book or news articles.

NEWS IN BRIEF

NASA Space center technician ignites airwaves with curses

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A technician at Houston's Johnson Space Center let loose with a pair of obscenities over the NASA airwaves Tuesday, embarrassing the straight-laced space agency.

The cursing occurred during the last round of news interviews with the returning space station astronauts, who are scheduled to land Wednesday aboard space shuttle Discovery.

NASA was switching from one TV interviewer to another when loud echoes were heard over the space agency's airwaves. The reverberations were followed by a male voice shouting curse words, which also echoed.

The Johnson Space Center's public affairs office fielded the resulting phone calls.

"We apologize for the inconvenience that caused, and that person will be counseled on proper use of language," said Johnson spokesman Pete Bethke. The employee was identified only as a technical-support person.

Doctor warns Alamo residents not to drink water

ALAMO (AP) — A doctor is warning his patients not to drink the tap water in Alamo because it could be hazardous to their health.

Obstetrician Jorge Miranda said Monday he is concerned about the high levels of a potentially cancer-causing chemical in the city's water.

Trihalomethane (THM) is formed when chlorine and water mix during treatment. The byproduct has been shown to cause cancer in laboratory animals, according to the Environmental Protection Agency.

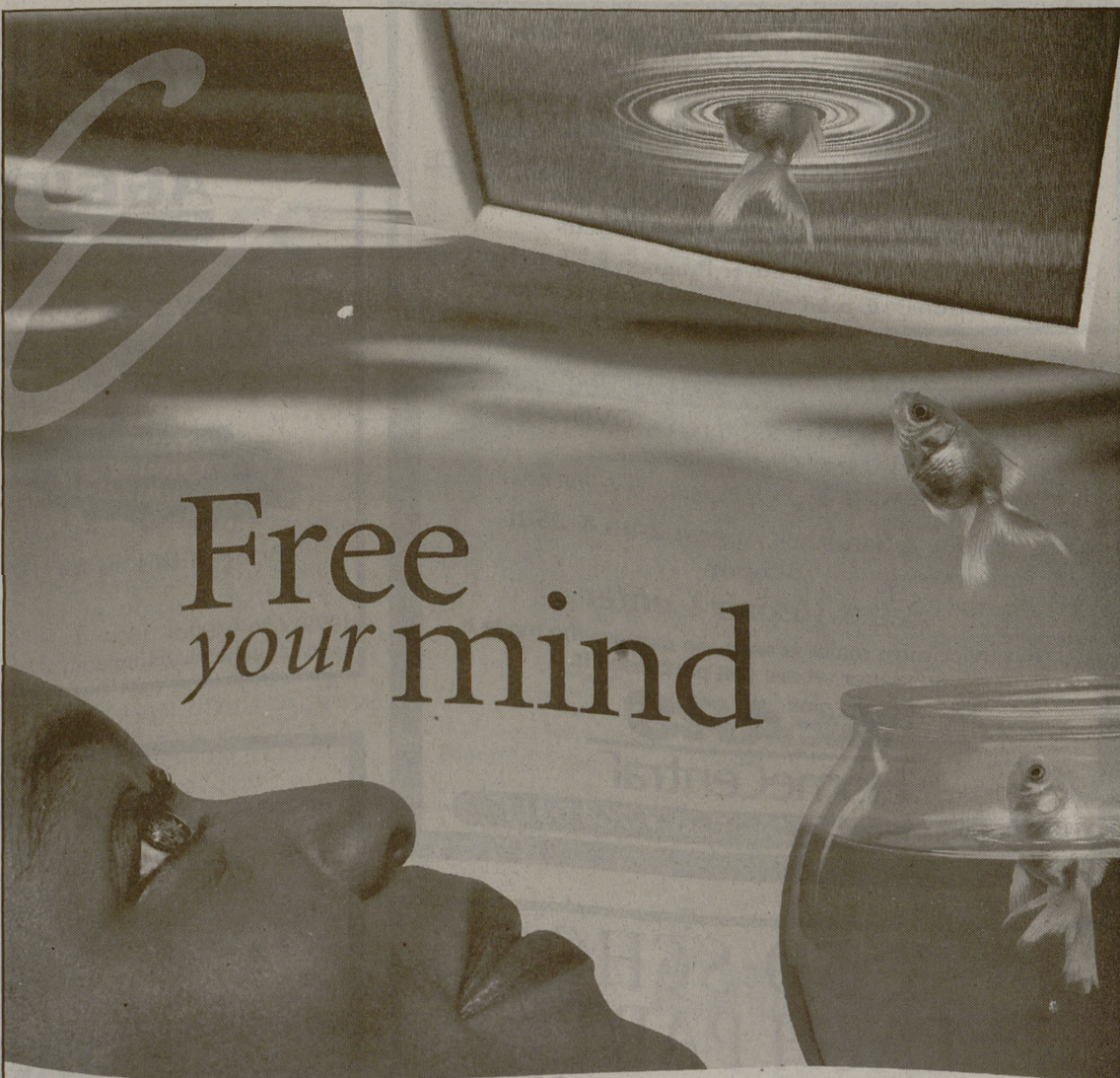
City officials sent a letter last week warning water customers about the THM levels. The letter said the chemical may lead to increased incidents of spontaneous miscarriages during the first trimester of pregnancy.

Residents should take the letter seriously, Miranda said. "We don't know the extent of the water problem," he told *The Monitor* in Tuesday's editions. "So right now, we're telling all of our patients in Alamo, especially those of childbearing age, to seek other alternatives to their drinking water."

A water plant, scheduled to open in November, will not have the problem with THM because it will use a different method to disinfect water, city officials said.

"I'm hoping (the water problem) will just be short term and patients can go back to drinking tap water," Miranda said.

Alicia Diehl, a water expert with the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission, said the odds are extremely low of having a spontaneous miscarriage or getting cancer by drinking the Alamo tap water.



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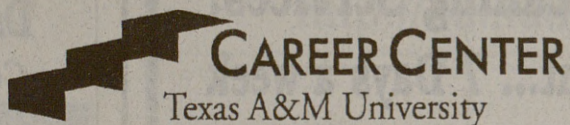
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