



Thom Marshall

Gone in a puff of smoke ... ?

A COUPLE of days ago, at the same time the story was breaking about the big tobacco companies seeking to settle the lawsuits against them, I was studying a tobacco exhibit at the Jesse H. Jones Library. The library serves the Texas Medical Center. It is surrounded by hospital buildings where medicine is practiced, buildings where medicine is taught, buildings where medical research is going on, and a few parking garages, too. Two few, if you ask me. I had to go clear to the top floor of one for a spot that cost \$5 for only a couple of hours.

Here I am griping about a measly five bucks. I should be embarrassed. When tobacco is involved, \$5 is nothing. A lot of smokers burn more than that in one day.

Which is why tobacco companies are so rich. A story I saw said RJR Nabisco and Philip Morris may be willing to pay as much as \$300 billion to buy their way out of lawsuits over smoking-related health problems.

"The most addictive thing about tobacco is money."

Alan Blum said that while we were looking at the exhibit. He is the doctor and anti-tobacco activist who founded DOC, which stands for Doctors Ought to Care. The exhibit was put together by Alan and DOC.

Telling the big story

It is small. Only a couple of display cases. But it tells a big story about the history of tobacco.

First item in the first display case is a book published in 1839 *The Lancet*. In this old volume is a discussion of adverse health effects of smoking and also its economic and social toll.

"One old magazine ad on display says, 'Came! invites you to enjoy the interesting features of the Camel cigarette exhibit at the A.M.A. Convention ...'"

By the 1930s, cigarette advertisements were appearing in medical journals. In 1946, a big advertising campaign based on a survey of 133,597 physicians claimed "more doctors smoke Camels" than any other cigarette.

In 1964, there were 12 resolutions submitted by delegates at the AMA annual meeting, urging support of the conclusions of the U.S. Surgeon General's report released earlier that year, regarding the health hazards of smoking.

Instead, an exhibit caption says, "the AMA issued a pamphlet, entitled 'Smoking Facts You Should Know' that stressed the dangers of burns and suffocation from falling asleep while smoking and warned about the costly damage cigarettes could do to sofas, rugs and clothing."

A newspaper story from 1978 in the display has this headline: "Tobacco Can Cause Cancer in Animals, Liggett Admits."

Dated in Washington, the story begins: "Liggett and Myers Co. apparently has become the first cigarette maker to acknowledge that tobacco causes cancer in laboratory animals."

Almost 20 years ago, and yet it has some striking similarities to a big story in the news just days ago.

Fast-forward a few frames

I have to skip a lot because of space limitations, but the final item on display is from current times, a copy of the March 24, 1997, issue of *Physician's Weekly*. It reports "... the AMA hasn't excised tobacco shares from its own employees' 401(k) plan, which is run by senior AMA execs ..."

Items in the exhibit came from a huge collection amassed through many years by Alan and DOC. The organization recently kicked off a drive to raise funds for a museum to make the collection available to the public.

At DOC offices where a portion of it is stored, Alan opened a few boxes at random, describing or commenting upon the contents.

The collection shows how tobacco has been weaved into the fabric of our society.

Tobacco companies sponsor a wide variety of sporting and cultural events. Tobacco money is donated to charitable causes. Doctors get grants of tobacco money for certain research projects ...

Based upon what he has collected and what he has studied about the tobacco industry over the years, Alan predicts the current court cases and investigations and any settlements that might result won't really change much in the long run.

He predicts the tobacco industry is going to be around for a long time to come. And it will continue to find creative ways of promoting and advertising its products to hook new customers.

And it will continue making a whole lot of money.

Thom Marshall's e-mail address is thom.marshall@chron.com

Jury members say holdout had own agenda

By STEFANIE ASIN
Houston Chronicle

The holdout juror in the capital murder trial of Marcus Cotton was definitely stubborn and intent on a "personal agenda," two of the other jurors told the Houston Chronicle.

For much of the four days the jury deliberated, Kay Lynn Eberhardt would not budge from her not-guilty position and simply refused to discuss the case with the others, jurors Greg Boyd and Sam Bryson said Thursday.

Refused to discuss case with panel

"The general consensus was we felt she had a separate agenda before she even entered into the deliberation stage," Boyd said.

After 21 hours of discussions, the jury told state District Judge Michael McSpadden on Wednesday that they were hopelessly deadlocked at 11-1. The judge declared a mistrial and said the case would be retried in October.

Cotton will continue to be held without

bail on a charge of murdering Gil Epstein, an assistant district attorney in Fort Bend County who was shot in the parking lot of the Jewish Community Center last September.

Boyd and Bryson said that last Friday afternoon, the first day of deliberations, three jurors weren't yet ready to convict Cotton. But on Monday morning, everyone was — except Eberhardt.

Boyd said Eberhardt refused to listen to

any arguments and gave no rational reason for not wanting to convict.

She also exhibited some strange behavior, he said. On Monday, for example, Eberhardt, a chemical engineer at Exxon, threw a fit, waving her fist, turning red and spewing profanities.

At one point, she made a remark about Jewish people being rich enough to give money to Crime Stoppers so rewards can be posted that lead to tips. But Boyd said he didn't think anti-Semitism was the reason for her unwillingness to convict.

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Saluting their sacrifice



Paul S. Howell photos / Chronicle

Woman slain in River Oaks home had filed for divorce

By S.K. BARDWELL
Houston Chronicle

A woman shot to death Wednesday night had filed for divorce but continued to live with her husband in their River Oaks home where her body was found.

Doris McGown Angleton, 46, was found in her home at 3031 Ella Lee Lane about 9:40 p.m., after her husband and 12-year-old twin daughters returned from a softball game.

She had also been at the game, where daughters Nicole and Alessandra were

playing and her husband, Robert, 48, was coaching, but she left to get a baseball bat from home.

Police said she had been gone about two hours when her body was found.

Her husband arrived home, found a side door ajar, backed his car out of the driveway, went to a neighbor's house and called 911, officers said.

They found Doris Angleton's body inside. She had been shot seven times in the head and five times in the chest.

Houston homicide investigators said little about what they had learned.

They found no witnesses who saw anyone

or any vehicles leaving the Angleton house near the time of the shooting, a time police would not divulge.

One neighbor, who would not identify herself, said she went outside about 9:30 p.m. to see why her dogs were barking, and heard an unfamiliar voice coming from the direction of the Angleton home saying, "Get in the car, get in the car."

The neighbor, thinking someone was trying to steal her dogs, was taking them inside when she heard the voice say something unintelligible.

Other neighbors said they did not know the Angletons well but were shocked

at the slaying.

Robert Angleton owns Roadrunner Couriers Inc. in the 1100 block of Post Oak Boulevard, and has real estate holdings in the area and out of state, according to those familiar with him.

The Angletons were married May 8, 1982. She filed for divorce Feb. 7 and won a court order that, among other routine items, barred her husband from entering their safe deposit boxes at several banks.

Her affidavit said Robert Angleton dealt in cash and stored it in those boxes. She

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Greanias defines focus for campaign

By ALAN BERNSTEIN
Houston Chronicle Political Writer

Houston mayoral candidate George Greanias, a former city controller and City Council member, said Thursday the focus of the campaign should be on how the city can afford to continue Bob Lanier's successful programs.

"The mayor has done very many good things, but he has also created some substantial challenges for the person who follows him," Greanias said after filing a document that allows him to start raising money to finance his campaign for mayor.

As controller, Greanias repeatedly clashed with Lanier about the wisdom and legality of the mayor's

permissible to the public.

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Associated Press

Teacher stabbed to death

Midland law enforcement personnel remove the body of Helen R. Johnson, 53, out of a caliche pit where they found her buried in a shallow grave. Four teen-agers have been charged with capital murder in Johnson's stabbing death. Page 39A.

Bill proposed to cut emissions from older plants

By BILL DAWSON
Houston Chronicle Environment Writer

State lawmakers are considering a proposal aimed at reducing air pollution from older, "grandfathered" industries, exempt from state emission permits since the early 1970s.

Permits generally impose stricter emission limits. Gov. George W. Bush recently urged grandfathered plants to cut pollution voluntarily.

To encourage such actions, a new bill by Rep. Ray Allen, R-Grand Prairie, would

make a separate change in the state's Clean Air Act sought by the industry.

Allen said he intends his bill to persuade industry representatives to resume discussions with state environmental officials on cutting the emissions of grandfathered units.

Before Allen unveiled his measure this week, prospects appeared dim for legislative action on the issue this year, although state officials recently concluded most industrial air pollution across Texas still comes from plants without permits.

In the Houston area, federal law requires massive reductions of emissions that form

Attacks grow over tax plan

By CLAY ROBINSON
Houston Chronicle Austin Bureau

AUSTIN — As Gov. George W. Bush and House Speaker Pete Laney spent much of Thursday trying to sell a \$4 billion tax plan to lawmakers, the proposal was drawing fire from several other directions.

Business people attacked it as anti-business, while a number of liberal and moder-

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House members said they feared it would hurt low-income Texans.

And, renewing his opposition, Texas Republican Chairman Tom Pauken said Republican votes for the legislation would compromise the GOP's stance as an anti-tax party.

The package, approved unanimously by a House committee on Wednesday, would trade sharp cuts in local school property taxes for higher state taxes.

The plan, which would expand the corporate franchise tax to business partnerships

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ground-level ozone smog. State documents indicate much of the smog-forming pollution at Houston-area industries comes from grandfathered units.

Grandfathered industries do not have the permits required by state law at new or modified plants. Many of these older, non-permit facilities also have taken advantage of Texas law's standard exemption, which allows plant modifications if they do not increase air pollution significantly.

Lawmakers limited the standard exemption to plants with permits in 1991. A new bill would limit exemptions at grandfathered

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THE STRIKE

TOBACCO AND SOCIETY