



Silver Taps will be held Thursday

Silver Taps Memorial services will be held Thursday for James S. McCaine, 22, a Texas A&M University senior killed Saturday morning in a two-car accident. The senior industrial distribution major was returning from Houston, his hometown. Services were to have been this morning in St. Mark's Episcopal Church under the direction of George Lewis Funeral Home of Bellaire. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions be made to the James S. McCaine Memorial Fund through the Association of Former Students.

Marine Corps-NATO, discussed

The U.S. Marine Corps' organization and role in support of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization will be presented Wednesday at Texas A&M University. Col. Frederick Vanous will speak at the meeting at 4 p.m. in Room 102 of Zachry Engineering Center.

STATE

Big welcome set for 'Columbia'

The Kennedy Space Center in Houston is scheduling a rousing welcome Saturday for "Columbia," the first Space Shuttle destined to be blasted into orbit. Officials at the center are preparing for a crowd of about 6,000 — mostly space program employees and contracting firms and their families — to watch the scheduled 2 p.m. arrival Friday. Speakers scheduled at the ceremony include astronauts John Young and Robert Crippen, who are scheduled to pilot the first shuttle flight, and Administrator Dr. Robert A. Frosch of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Among the work remaining to be done is installation of 7,000 fragile silica tiles designed as a heat shield to protect the occupants during re-entry into the Earth's atmosphere and installation of the shuttle's three main engines and two engines for the orbital maneuvering system.

Vote on tax relief bill today

The Texas House Ways and Means Committee has virtually completed six weeks of tedious work on a \$421 million tax relief proposal, and scheduled a final vote on the measure today in Austin. "It is my full intention to go straight forward with this morning and get finished with it," said Rep. Bob Davis, R-Dallas, chairman of the committee. "We've been on this thing for six weeks, and I think everybody is reasonably satisfied with what we've done." The proposal, which implements the voter-approved Tax Relief Amendment to the state Constitution, provides a local school tax exemption of the first \$10,000 value of their homesteads for persons over 65 and a \$5,000 exemption for other homeowners. The tax exemptions would reduce the amount of income school districts collect from local sources. The bill provides for the state to reimburse the districts on a dollar-for-dollar basis in fiscal 1980 for the revenue they lost.

NATION

Oil rig fire kills at least 2 people

A deep-water oil rig 45 miles off the Louisiana Coast burst into flames Monday, killing at least two persons. Coast Guard officials said another six workers are missing. The Coast Guard said the fire broke out aboard the Penrod Rig 30 in South Marsh Island block 281. A Coast Guard helicopter searched for the missing men while six boats sprayed water on the structure to combat the flames. The fire broke out at 6 a.m. Its cause was not immediately reported. The rig was situated in about 180 feet of water.

Passman's future to be decided

Former Democratic congressman Otto Passman, holding a cane in his right hand, sat quietly in a federal courtroom in Monroe, La., Monday while attorneys began choosing a jury to decide his fate on charges of bribery and income tax evasion. The 78-year-old former dean of the Louisiana congressional delegation is accused of accepting \$213,000 in bribes from South Korean businessman, Tongsun Park, and for help in steering shipments of United States rice to South Korea during the early 1970s. After the meeting, Judge Veron gave instructions to 150 prospective jurors and warned them the trial could last as long as two months and asked whether the sequestration would cause hardships on anyone. In consideration of Passman's health, court will run in session only five hours daily, from 9:30 a.m. to noon and 2 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday.

Police officers reject city offer

The New Orleans police union Monday rejected a city offer to free from contempt charges hundreds of police officers who took part in a 15-day strike that led to cancellation of Mardi Gras. The offer would have left 17 union leaders to face possible punishment. The rejection by the union meant more than 1,000 officers could be brought before Judge Richard Garvey, who issued a back-to-work order that was ignored by the strikers. The walkout ended Sunday when the policemen returned to work without the contract they sought from the city. City officials said the cancellation of Mardi Gras, a celebration older than the city itself, was the key reason the strike failed.

WEATHER

Fair to partly cloudy skies with winds south-southwesterly at 8-14 mph. High today 71 and a low of 47.

THE BATTALION

LETTERS POLICY
Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.
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Clements ducking politicians' potshots

By ROLAND LINDSEY
UPI Capital Reporter

AUSTIN — The heavily Democratic Texas Legislature has taken its first public shots at Gov. Bill Clements in retaliation for his criticism of the lawmakers, but both liberals and conservatives say the early disputes over relatively minor issues should not be considered as opening to a major confrontation between the governor and the Legislature.

How well Clements, the state's first Republican governor in more than 100 years, would fare with the Legislature has been a topic of almost constant speculation since the Dallas millionaire upset Democrat John Hill in the 1978 elections.

Thus far, there has not been a major confrontation between him and the lawmakers to serve as a measure of his performance. But both the House and Senate took rather pointed jabs at the governor last week.

The Senate Administration Committee, over protests of the governor and the man he appointed as secretary of state, approved a resolution directing the Board of Control to oust most of the secretary of

\$2 million to renovate the mansion. Schleuter said, however, the rough handling of the resolution concerning the mansion study was an isolated instance and not indicative of the prospects for Clements' other legislative proposals.

Rep. Ron Waters, D-Houston, a leader among House liberals, agreed. "I think when he gets to the big issues it'll be a little different story," Waters said. "I think he's going to do reasonably well over here; he's a personable guy, and he's an activist."

"That's one problem Briscoe had, he wasn't personable. The one thing this Legislature responds to is personality, and Clements has it. I personally like the guy, and I'll probably vote with him on about 50 percent of his programs."

Talk with Dr. Miller

Have a question about University policy and procedures? Talk with Dr. Miller is a forum for readers to get answers to their questions straight from the top — Dr. Jarvis Miller, president of Texas A&M.

Questions should be addressed to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, and should specify that they are to be used for this column. Names and phone numbers will be required on all questions and Dr. Miller has the option to decline to answer a question or request others on the staff or faculty to answer it.

Questions and answers will be published on the editorial page.

Reader's Forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Letters to the Editor, are welcome. All pieces submitted to Readers' forum should be:

- Typed triple space
- Limited to 60 characters per line
- Limited to 100 lines

Capitol Briefs

state's office from the Capitol to make room for senators to have larger offices.

Secretary of State George Strake Jr. told the senators such action would eliminate the access to the governor's office afforded all previous secretaries of state.

Senators agreed only to leave Strake a small personal office in the Capitol, even though Clements has said he will veto the resolution if it passes the full House and Senate.

Later in the week, House members took a more direct shot at the governor by forcing a delay in action on a resolution Clements suggested to create a committee to study renovation of the Governor's Mansion. While Clements recommended a \$1 billion cut in the overall state budget proposals, he sought a \$2 million appropriation for renovation of his living quarters.

"If he's going to recommend budget cuts, he ought to start at the top, in his office," one House member said. "The liberals are all mad as hell about it."

Rep. Stan Schleuter, D-Salado, said he concurs with Clements' conservative fiscal policies, but objects to the idea of spending

Baseball backers

Editor: With the spring semester winding down it is only natural for students to become restless for summer vacation.

Well Aggies, you're needed. It's about time everyone got out and supported our baseball team. We have one of the best, if not the best team in the nation. We are also coming off back to back Southwest Conference championship titles.

The Aggies are also returning two good pitchers in right-hander Mark Ross and All-America left-hander Mark Thurmond. A new addition to the team, in an attempt to replace All-America Robert Bonner, is a Texas A&M recruit from Louisville, Va., Brian (Twig) Little. Little was drafted by the Los Angeles Dodgers last year.

The Texas A&M baseball team also is blessed with one of the finest facilities available for college baseball in C.E. "Pat" Olsen Field. This tremendous structure has a seating capacity for approximately 5,000 people.

The Aggies are presently coming off a Southwest Conference sweep over the Houston Cougars, thus leaving the Aggies

6-1 for the season. The Aggies will be in a long stand in Florida March 10-18, returning with a game on March 20 against Arizona in AggieLand.

It's about time our team got the recognition and support it deserves. After all, what other Aggie athletic team is trying for a triple crown?

—Julie Harris, '81

'Good Ag' rescue

Editor: Sunday night I was returning to Bryan when the alternator on my car went out near Hempstead. My car could not be driven, and I was very happy when Kirk Newton and Patty McCarthy (sophomores at Texas A&M) stopped to help.

It was already 9 p.m. and dark, but they helped me for an hour as I was trying to find a way to get my car running. I had to leave my car there for the night but Kirk and Patty were nice enough to give me a ride to Bryan, and I want to say thanks to them.

It's Aggies like them that make Texas A&M the best university in the world.
—Mike Pustka, '80



Poll rates leaders low in race relations

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK
United Press International

WASHINGTON — There is not much mystery about the angry reaction of some black leaders to a recent Louis Harris poll on racial attitudes. Very simply, the poll concluded they were botching their jobs, and worse, that the people who were supposed to be following them were beginning to realize it.

The very first paragraph of the survey's "overview" said the task of rooting out prejudice in the United States "is still largely unfinished." It added: "Blacks, Hispanics, women, Catholics and Jews all still report experiencing prejudice against them in their daily lives."

The poll went on to report, "At the same time, the readiness of the American people to make new strides forward in reducing and eliminating prejudice emerges from this study as far greater than is widely assumed by those vested with the responsibilities of running the American establishment in the late 1970s."

When the stories about the Harris survey were written, most reporters focused on the finding that Americans were more willing to end discrimination than their leaders believed them to be.

Harris' finding that whites favor affirmative action programs in industry 67 to 17 percent provoked some sharp objections. Among others, Urban League President Vernon Jordan said "it is not true" and Urban Coalition chief Carl Holman said the findings "do not square with actual behavior."

Harris also conducted a subpoll among

community, corporate and black leaders, and some of those findings may explain the rather sharp reaction of the latter to what otherwise might appear to them to be good news.

Harris says the survey shows that American leaders are lagging behind the people in race relations, and this finding obviously is a reflection on the quality of leadership both blacks and whites are getting.

The survey says leaders, black and white, "perceive the country is in a period of severe regression on race relations and therefore it is a time for tempered speed and high caution."

But Harris says while 61 percent of all leaders (and 77 percent of the black leaders) interviewed "feel most Americans think that blacks have moved too fast," the actual percentage of whites who hold such a belief is only 37 percent.

"It is not an overstatement to conclude that claims that most whites are bristling with resentment about affirmative action for blacks, about blacks moving to improve their lot, prove to be a fairy tale," the report said.

The people who believe in this myth, it said, "are some in the media and the establishment and most of all some who have posed as social science analysts without any real evidence to go on."

If the point is not completely clear in those figures, they cannot be missed in the answers Harris got when he asked rank and file blacks to rate their leaders. The Urban League and NAACP both were down 14 points in effectiveness since 1970, black ministers were down 18 points and black elected officials were down 30 points.

Letters to the Editor

Texas teachers need wage hike

Editor: We are writing to encourage Texas A&M University students and faculty to support the school finance bill (SB 525) introduced to the Texas Legislature Feb. 8 by State Sen. W. E. Snelson of Midland.

This bill would raise the minimum salary for teachers with a bachelor's degree from the present \$8,545 to \$10,000. If passed, the bill would move Texas teachers' salaries closer to the national average of \$15,040.

We feel that passage of this bill is necessary in order that Texas be competitive with other states in attracting the most qualified teachers to our schools. In the face of continuing reports of a decline in the quality of education in Texas schools, it is imperative that we meet this goal.

An increase in teachers' salaries would also encourage teachers to remain in the profession rather than being forced to take up another occupation in order to support their families. It is appalling to think that at present other state employees with less demanding duties and less training are paid higher salaries.

A hearing on SB 525 will be held on the Senate floor at 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 7. We strongly urge all concerned students to attend this hearing. We will try to provide transportation to and from Austin.

Interested students may contact one of the people listed below for more information.

If you are unable to attend the hearing we urge you to write your state senator and representative in support of this vital bill.
—Mary Alice Williams, '80, 696-7069
Lee Maverick, '81, 845-1006
Janet Hessong, '80, 693-4676

Ads sign wasteful

Editor: Why must Texas A&M do everything that t.u. does? Does TAMU have a "little brother" complex and thus feel that it must do everything that "big brother" tu does?

I am referring to an article which appeared in a recent issue of The Battalion (Feb. 27) entitled "MSC Council chief favors electric signs."

What justification does MSC Council President Ray Daniels have for spending \$110,000 on an electronic sign system for the MSC other than that "people don't take care of the signs, they are left up for weeks after the events happen."

If Daniels was spending his own money he would see a much more economical solution to the problem. The MSC Council could give all student organizations notice that any sign not removed within three class days after the announced event would be removed and disposed of by MSC per-

sonnel. The cost would be must less than the \$110,000 for the purchase of the sign system or the \$1,800 rental fee that the American Sign and Indicator Corp. would charge for leasing the system.

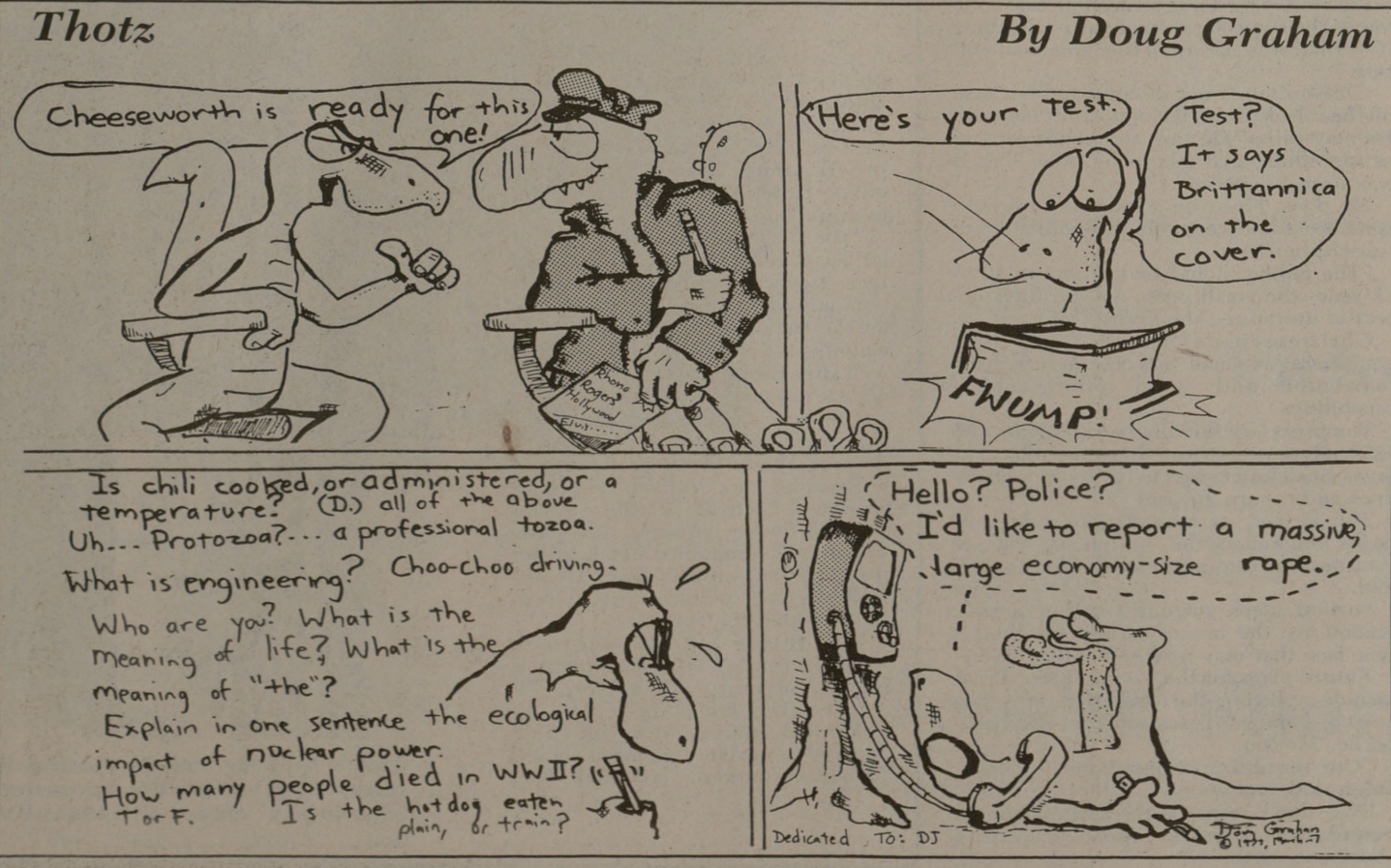
The MSC is one of the most luxurious student unions in existence, rivaling the Taj Mahal in extravagance.

Mr. Daniels says that "he is not sure where the money for the electronic signs will come from, but that funding will be decided if the new system is approved."

The cost of the system will undoubtedly show up on students' fee slips.

To most of the students at TAMU this will be of no great concern because their parents will fork over the increased fees. However, there is a small minority of students at TAMU that pay their own way and who get stuck every year with rising costs, making it just that much more difficult to stay in school.

Why must TAMU have everything that t.u. has? When will the pointless wasteful spending for opulent gimmicks stop?!
—L.E. Mayer, '80
R.D. Howard, '81



By Doug Graham
Dedicated To: DJ