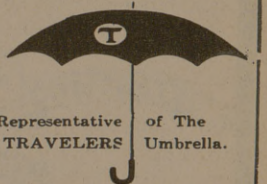


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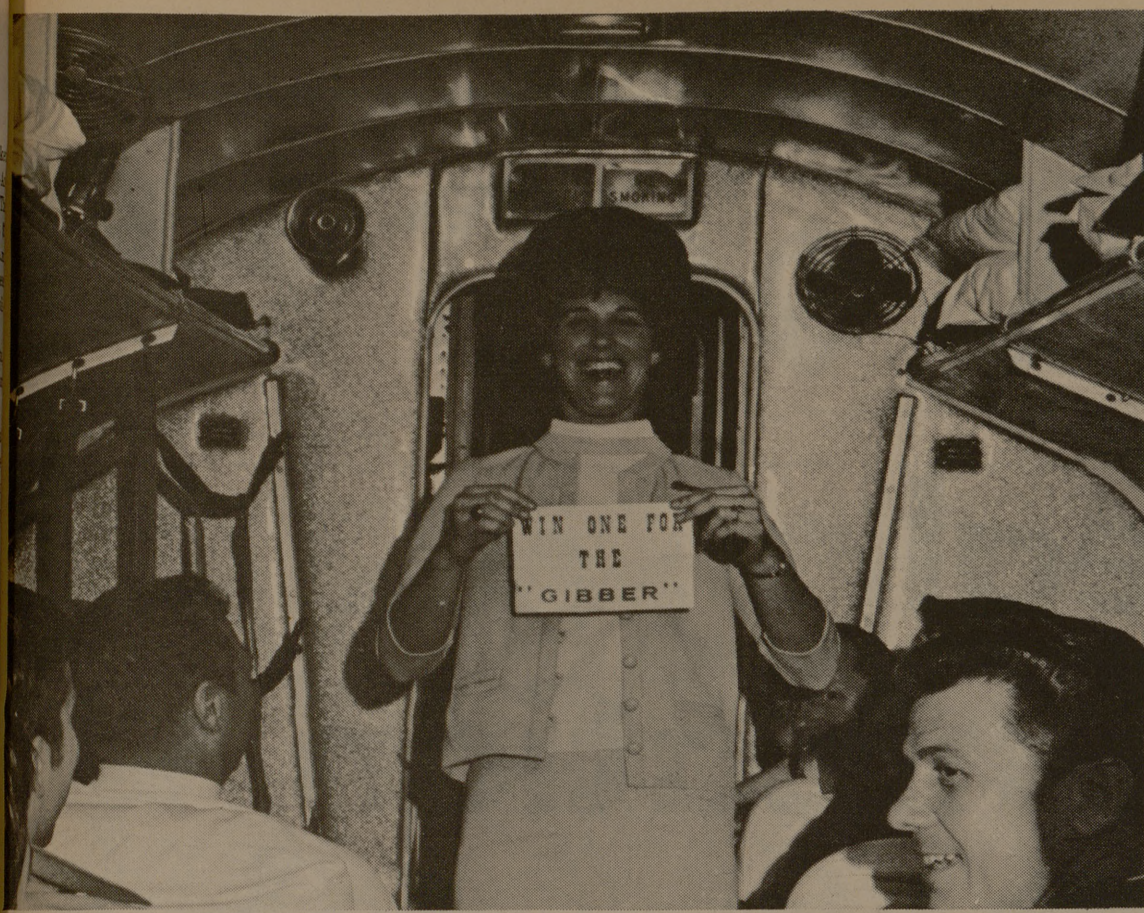
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Slow-Motion Films Exonerate Aggie Gridders In Cage Fight

Slow-motion films of the Aggie-Baylor basketball game have completely cleared A&M's football players of any wrong-doing in the fight in which Baylor cager Tom Friedman was injured. Aggie athletic director and head football coach Gene Stallings showed the video-tape and presented A&M's side of the story at a press conference in the Lettermen's Lounge Friday. The movies show Friedman committing an extremely flagrant and intentional foul on Ronnie Peret of A&M and then getting decked by Billy Bob Barnett, one of Peret's teammates. It further shows footballer Tom Buckman attempting to keep people away from Friedman and linebacker Bill Hobbs forming a bridge over the fallen cager in an attempt to save him from further punishment. Both Aggie grid stars were at the press conference and told of their part in the incident. "I knew somebody was going to come after Friedman," Buckman said, "and I was trying to protect him. I know there was lots of people in there I didn't know." Hobbs admitted that his first intention was to "get him" but he changed his mind and protected Friedman after seeing the condition the Baylor player was in. "He was bleeding bad when I got there," Hobbs said. "He was out cold. I didn't see anyone kick him. If he had been kicked anywhere around the head, I believe I would have seen it."



TECH PLEDGE FALLS SHORT

Betty Scarcell, Avion Airline Stewardess, displays one of the thousands of signs which covered each seat in Lubbock's Municipal Coliseum Saturday night. Gene Gibson, recently dismissed as Tech basketball coach, saw his team fall one point short as the Aggies took a 71-70 victory. Undaunted, the Red Raiders celebrated the defeat by carrying their coach off on their shoulders following the game. (Photo by Mike Wright)

Texas Aggie Fish To Tangle With Footballers Tonight

By RICHARD CAMPBELL The Texas A&M Fish basketball team will take a breather of sorts from Southwest Conference action Tuesday when they tackle a group of Aggie footballers in a special 5:45 p.m. preliminary game. The special match will precede

the SWC battle between Arkansas and the Aggies. The footballers who'll play include Curley Hallman, Barney Harris, Bill Hobbs, Tom Buckman, Bob Long, Ross Brupbacher and Mike DeNiro. In addition, a couple of basketballers—Larry Linder and Byron Chandler—will be with them. The group will be coached by Terry Trippet.

The remaining games for the Fish will be Friday night against Christian College of the Southwest at 5:45 p.m. and March 4 against the TCU Wogs in Fort Worth.

Aggies Start Soccer Tourney

Probable starters for the Fish will be center Rick Duplantis, Jeff Watkins and Robert Threadgill at forwards, and Frank Farnsworth and Skip Carleton at guards. The record for the Fish is now 6-4 for the year and 3-4 in conference action after dropping their last contest Tuesday night to the Baylor Cubs, 71-70. Watkins continues to lead the Fish in nearly every statistical category with a 23.0 scoring norm and 13.9 rebounds per contest. He also leads in field goal percentage with a 63.0 mark and in free throw shooting with a 75.0 percent average.

Texas A&M University opened its annual spring soccer tournament Sunday with Mexico beating Allen Academy 5-3 and Africa defeating the Pink Panthers 4-2. "The annual spring soccer tournament had started two years ago at A&M and will continue every spring semester with the hope that more teams from the North American continent will participate in the years to come," A&M soccer team captain and tournament organizer Ridha Labidi said. He said that this year's tourney includes: Africa, Allen Academy, Central and South America, Pink Panthers, and Mexico. This tourney will last until the middle of May.

Next Sunday on March 2nd Africa will play Allen Academy at 2 p.m. on the Allen Academy soccer field, and Mexico will face Central and South America at 4 p.m. in the A&M South Gate soccer field.

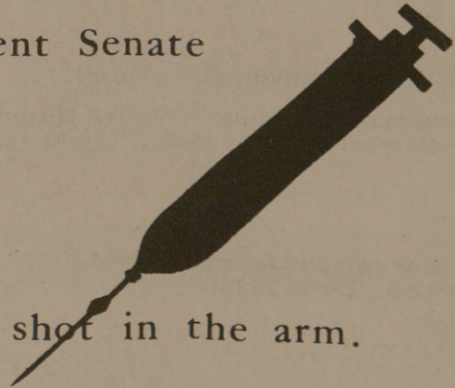
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