

The Battalion

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Nine hostages held by rioters killed by guns

ATTICA, N. Y. (AP)—All nine hostages killed during the storming of riot-gripped Attica prison died of gunshot wounds, a county medical examiner's report unexpectedly disclosed Tuesday. For 24 hours, state officials had attributed most of the hostage deaths to slashed throats.

"There were no cut throats or any kind of mutilation," said an autopsy report from Monroe County Medical Examiner John F. Edland. He examined eight of the bodies. A ninth had been established as a gunshot victim.

The nine were among 41 persons who lost their lives in 96 hours of mutiny, according to revised State Corrections Department figures on the worst riot in New York's penal history. Forty-two inmates were listed as injured.

"Shocked . . . bewildered," was the first reaction of a department spokesman to Edland's post-mortem findings.

Later, however, Deputy Corrections Commissioner Wim Van Eekeren said in Albany that there were witnesses to throat slashings of hostages. And for the first time, he claimed the rioters had zip guns in their arsenal of home-made weapons—guns fashioned from pipes, their firing pins powered by rubber bands, able to dispatch regular bullets.

"This is definite, these weapons were found," Van Eekeren declared.

But in Attica, without being told of Van Eekeren's statement, but after it was made, the Corrections Department public relations chief, Jerry Houlihan, was asked by newsmen if any firearms were found in the rioters' cache of weapons.

"No, no firearms have been found," Houlihan replied.

The confusing revelations came as officials ordered all hostages, witnesses, and police officers involved in the Attica situation not to talk to newsmen.

The slain hostages were among 38 guards and other prison employes held captive four days while 1,200 of Attica's mostly black 2,254 inmates mutinied. Throughout the uprising, state officials described the rioters as armed only with clubs, makeshift knives and spears and tear gas launchers seized from a store-room.

A few of the hostages who escaped the prison bloodbath had even described how their lives were spared by sympathetic inmates, who failed to carry out orders to execute them by slashing their throats.

The Attica death figures constituted the greatest U.S. prison toll since 1930, when disgruntled convicts set a fire in the Ohio penitentiary which took 320 inmate lives.

The first Attica fatality stemmed from the initial convict seizure of four of the prison's five cellblocks last Thursday, when fires were set and hostages taken. The victim was a guard, who died 48 hours later of head injuries.

In Monday's assault by more than 1,000 state troopers and sheriff's deputies following a tear gas drop by National Guard helicopters, nine hostages and 28 prisoners first were reported killed, presumably in the course of the assault, although state officials said some of the hostages had been slain hours earlier. Later the number of inmate dead was raised to 31.

During the day, a Buffalo federal court order barred Attica

officials from questioning the rioters, until they had been given a chance to consult with lawyers.

Herman Schwartz, a lawyer, argued in the U.S. District Court that virtually an entire cellblock of prisoners faced possible criminal prosecutions. New York State has abolished capital punishment except in rare cases—one being the slaying of a prison guard at the hands of an inmate.

A controversy continued to swirl around Republican Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller, who brought the National Guard to Attica and approved the bloody, all-out storming of Cellblock D, last bastion of convict resistance.

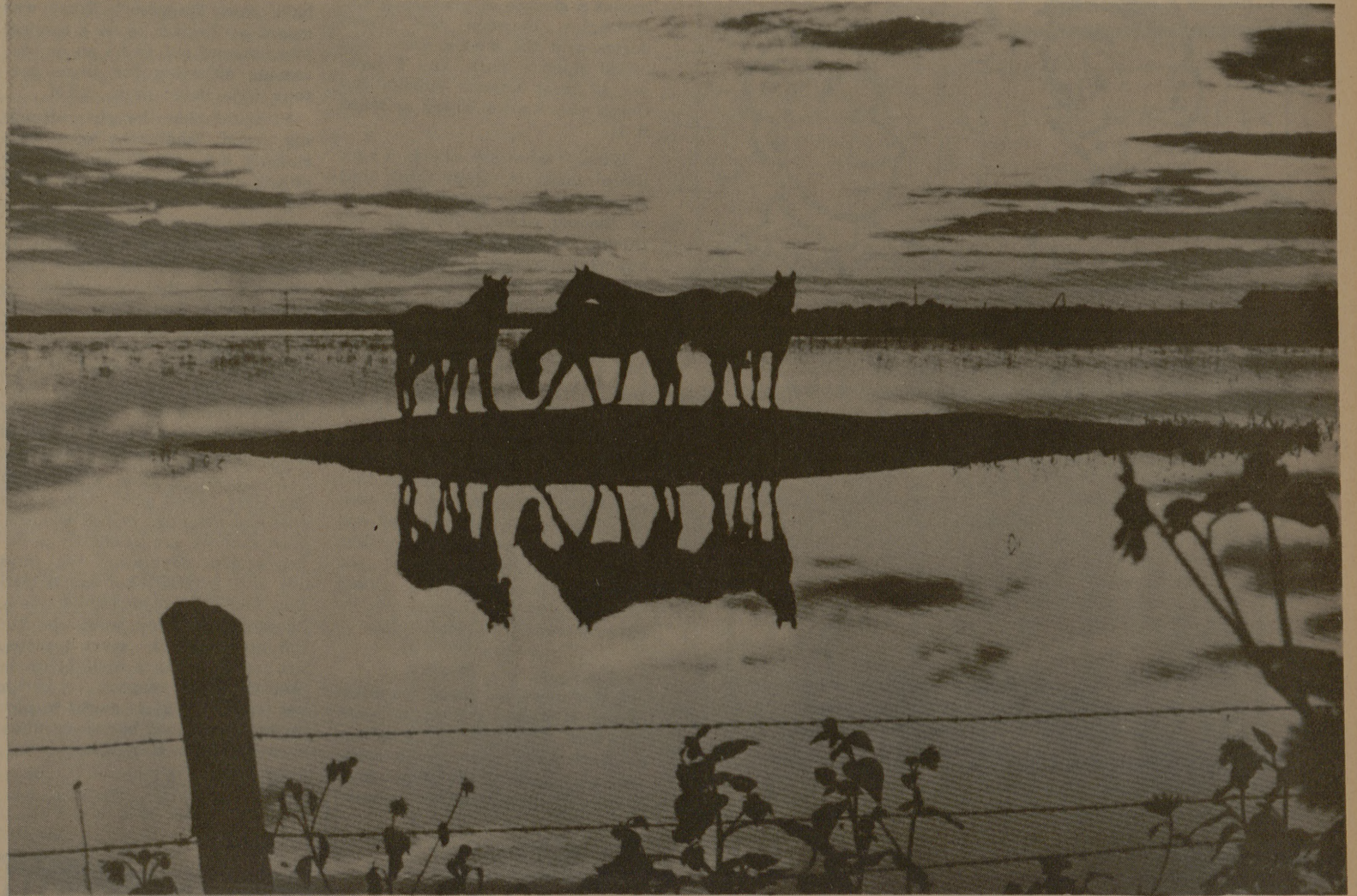
During the uprising, Rockefeller refused a convicts' demand to meet them in the prison yard, saying he felt no purpose would be served.

The governor also said he could not constitutionally grant a rebel demand for total amnesty, in return for freedom of the hostages. When an ultimatum for release of hostages subsequently was ignored, the police forces were unleashed against the rioters.

Before the riot, Attica's inmate population was 85 per cent black or Puerto Rican. All the guards are white.

Rockefeller was upheld, however, by President Nixon, a group of Republican congressional leaders, many of the nation's governors meeting in annual conference in Puerto Rico, and leaders of various law enforcement organizations.

Rockefeller had attributed the tragedy to "the highly organized revolutionary tactics of militants," and said he would seek to determine "the role that outside forces would appear to have played."



WONDERING WHERE ALL THE LAND WENT, five registered quarter horses stand atop a mound at sunset near Abilene, Tex. The horses were surrounded by 40

acres of shallow water, a result of recent heavy rains. (AP Wirephoto)

Seeks refuge in church

McGovern attacked in Saigon

SAIGON (AP)—South Vietnamese demonstrators hurling stones and firebombs trapped visiting Sen. George McGovern for half an hour Tuesday night in a church where he was meeting with antigovernment dissidents.

American soldiers dispatched by U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth Bunker escorted McGovern and four aides to safety—shaken but uninjured—after they telephoned the embassy for help.

The 49-year-old aspirant for the Democratic presidential nomination and critic of the Vietnam war was driven back to his hotel under an armed U.S. military police guard. He said he had no idea why the meeting was at-

tacked by the band of shouting Vietnamese.

An official U.S. military police report said the key demonstrators included "two Buddhist monks and 20 Anti-American demonstrators."

The military police said the crowds swelled to about 150 persons and at first blocked American MPs and embassy Marine guards from rescuing McGovern and his party. The U.S. MPs called for assistance from the Vietnamese police, who helped block the demonstrators while McGovern and his aides were sped back to their downtown hotel.

"This is one time I didn't go to sleep in church," the South Dakota Democrat quipped.

McGovern arrived in Saigon on Monday for a three-day visit. He had moved about without visible guards, but U.S. authorities assigned a military police detail to protect him after the stone and firebomb-throwing incident.

The attack on the church closed a day of anti-American demonstrations and violence in Saigon and in the old imperial capital of Hue in northern South Vietnam. The war itself settled into near-calm.

The group McGovern met with is known as the Committee for the Improvement of Prison Regime in South Vietnam, an anti-government group which seeks release of political prisoners and prison reforms.

It includes Buddhist and Catholic leaders, university students and lawyers. It is sometimes called the Con Son Committee, a reference to the prison island where last year a disclosure of "tiger cage" prison cells kicked up an international furor and led to replacement of the cells.

The anti-American demonstrations generated at least four fire bomb attacks against American vehicles in various parts of Saigon, including one in front of U.S. Navy headquarters and another near the residence of Deputy U.S. Ambassador Samuel D. Berger.

All the vehicles were damaged, but only one casualty was reported, a U.S. Navy petty officer was severely burned.

The attacks were carried out by youths riding motorbikes. They hurled fuel-filled bottles or cans at the vehicles and escaped.

The youths were believed to be radical university students who protest American presence in Vietnam and also oppose the government of President Ngu-yen Van Thieu.

Their antigovernment stance and the vigorously antiwar reputation that preceded McGovern to

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While there are no formal educational requirements, Dr. Nance said most successful candidates

possess an education at least equivalent to a bachelor of arts degree. Aptitude in written and spoken English is essential, the History Department head emphasized.

All applicants must have a sound knowledge of U.S. history and culture. Not being able to speak a foreign language does not disqualify an applicant, Dr. Nance said.

Old enough to vote for or against it, but not old enough to buy it legally.

That's the situation confronting 260 College Station persons under 21 who are eligible to vote in the Oct. 9 local option election on the sale of booze by the drink.

Brazos County Tax Assessor-Collector Raymond Buchanan said persons in College Station under 21 who have registered may vote in the election.

University National Bank

"On the side of Texas A&M."

—Adv.

TAMU makes more AF officers than any institution in the nation

A&M remains tops nationally in officer production through the Air Force ROTC program, official Air Force figures show.

"Comparative figures reveal that TAMU ranks first, rated with the nation's other 168 AF-ROTC detachments," stated Col. Robert F. Crossland, professor of aerospace studies.

During the 1971 school year, 112 Air Force officers were com-

missioned at A&M. Tabulations show the AFROTC enrollment at 1,025, second only to Memphis State's 2,131 which commissioned 50 officers.

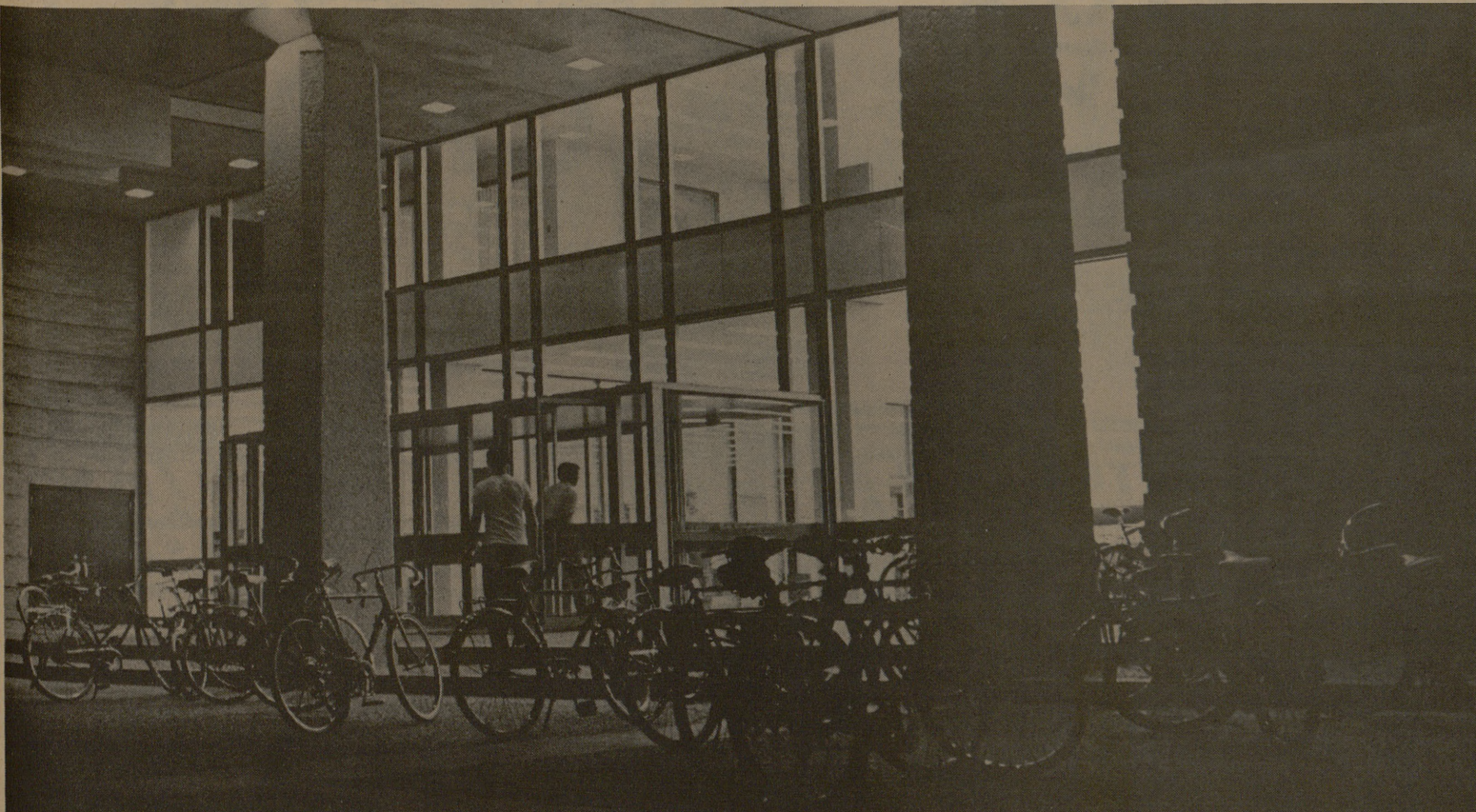
"We are very proud of the outstanding young men being commissioned through the AFROTC program at A&M, and that we are No. 1 in the nation," Colonel Crossland said. He expects the Aggie program to maintain its position indefinitely.

The ranking A&M Air Force officer indicated at least 150 officers are expected to be commissioned during 1971-72.

The Citadel, with 700 AFROTC cadets and 101 commissions last year, was runnerup to A&M among "military schools" participating in special enriched summer field training at Eglin and Tyndall AFBs. VPI and VMI commissioned at 40 and 30 per cent of the A&M pace in 1970-71.

A&M figures tripled enrollment and commissioning figures of the nearest of eight competitors in Texas. Texas Tech commissioned 35 of 346 AFROTC cadets in 1970-71.

In World War II, A&M had 14,000 officers and 6,000 enlisted men serve on active duty, representing more than a fifth of the ROTC-trained men who saw ac-



THE BICYCLES SEEM TO outnumber the students this fall. This photo, taken outside the campus library, emphasizes the possibility. Two students appear to have a

hard time locating the door through the maze of two-wheelers. (Photo by Joe Matthews)