

Experts' Watergate tape erasure findings challenged

WASHINGTON (AP)—With encouragement from the White House, two challenges have emerged to a crucial finding of the technical experts examining the subpoenaed Watergate tapes. One came from a volunteer, and the other from an unnamed expert consulted by James D. St. Clair, President Nixon's chief Watergate attorney.

At issue is the report of the six-member panel of experts on the 18½-minute gap in the tape of a June 20, 1972, conversation between the President and H. R. Haldeman. The panel, chosen jointly by the White House and special prosecutor's office, and then appointed by Sirica, told the court it had determined that the Uher 5000 recorder on which Rose

Mary Woods, the President's secretary, had listened to the June 20 tape, had been stopped and started manually at least five times during the 18½-minute segment. The experts said they based their conclusion on the electronic marks made by the record and erase heads on the Uher machine. The marks, small parallel lines, are left on the tape when the record key pops up and sends a momentary pulse of electricity through

the heads just before they are deactivated. St. Clair questioned the experts about whether they were certain that deactivating the heads simply by pulling the plug out of the wall wouldn't leave the same marks. The experts conceded they hadn't done that but they said they were certain pulling the plug would not leave marks. The experts also testified that they had found a defective part in Miss

Woods' recorder and replaced it. It was that action which was the basis of the most publicized challenge. The challenge came from Allan D. Bell Jr., president of Dektor Counterintelligence and Security Inc., who appeared first on a Washington television interview program. He said he believed the defective part, which is linked to the power input on the machine, could have caused pulses that would have left the same marks the

experts said were caused by pushing of buttons on the Uher. Members of the White House staff suggested to reporters that they watch the show on which Bell was appearing. More recently, when Bell's theory was discussed favorably in an article in Science magazine, a publication of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, White House Press Secretary Ronald L. Ziegler told reporters they ought to read the article. But Ziegler also told reporters at a briefing on Tuesday that Bell was not the expert St. Clair has cited in statements challenging the panel's finding. The White House has refused to name the experts.

Bell said in a telephone interview that his conclusions were drawn from an examination of the panel's report and he conceded that he had no access to either the tapes or the recorders turned over to the court-appointed group.

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Lighter penalty asked in card case

By LATONYA PERRIN
Staff Writer

TAMU was accused of administering unusual punishment by Senator Brad Bryant (business) Wednesday night in a resolution concerning illegal use of a TAMU I.D. card.

Appearing before Student Senate, Bryant said a new memo from Dean Charles Powell would make those who illegally use their student I.D. subject to conduct probation, which Bryant described as unusual punishment.

Powell said in a telephone conversation that the fine had been five dollars but the penalty stated in the University Rules and Regulations was suspension from the university.

"The fines just did not seem to be working," said Powell. "We are just looking for a solution to the problem."

Bryant pointed out in the Senate meeting that the punishment had already been used on three students, but another student did not receive such punishment because of a communication problem.

"One girl was let off with a much lighter punishment because Dean (Toby) Rives didn't know that Dean Powell had sent a memo saying to change the punishment," said Bryant.

The Senate approved a resolution asking that (See Lighter penalty, page 4)

Gasoline may be scarce in area as month ends

By KAREN HUSUM-CLARY
and STEPHEN GOBLE

The gasoline shortage may come home to area residents toward the end of the month.

A Battalion poll of service stations in the Bryan-College Station area revealed that one-third expect to run out of gas next week. Twenty per cent more said they felt there was a good chance

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they wouldn't have enough fuel to last until their March allocations.

Other stations in the cities hope to remain open by cutting back hours and raising prices, which range from 35.9 to 52.9 cents for one gallon of regular gasoline.

Most of the operators questioned agreed that the situation for both consumers and stations looks very bad.

Some stations in the area have already

run out of their liquid merchandise.

David Dean's Exxon station is typical of the stations struggling to get by on their gas ration. He was "closed half the months of December and January—no gas," said Dean.

This month he has averaged three and a half days with gas in his pumps.

"If you're here on Monday, you'll get it; if you're in here Thursday, you won't," says Dean. His self-service pumps will remain shut down until he's allotted more gas in the far-off future.

Running out of gas is not the only problem facing independent dealers. They face losing regular customers if they have to turn them away.

They also say they are losing money, although prices have increased about 15 cents since last year.

"We're taking in more money, but we aren't keeping it," said one dealer. "The oil companies have got it."

"I'm making less money—making less per gallon. I tell you, it's the roughest it's ever been."

None of the dealers surveyed has yet imposed a 10-gallon limit. Labor is costly, and the same amount of labor can sell 20 gallons as easily as 10.

Those area residents who are still able to find gasoline next week may find other problems facing them.

According to an article in the Wednesday edition of The Wall Street Journal, as stations pump their tanks dry, they may fill cars with water and dirt rather than gasoline.

The article cites the case of Ann Bearden of Brooklyn, N.Y., who got up at 6 a.m. to wait to buy gas. After a 15-minute wait, she got some fuel.

"Then I drove half a block and—sputter, sputter—the car just stopped," Bearden recalled. Her tank had been filled with a mixture of dirt, gasoline and water.

After towing and mechanic's charges, she paid \$183—plus the cost of the "gasoline."

The article claims most station tanks collect condensed water and other garbage on their bottom, and cites cases of people whose cars have broken down mere blocks from their last fill-up. The water and dirt make a layer in the tank bottom as they are heavier than gasoline.

The article warns that auto gasoline tanks which remain mostly empty can also condense water inside. A fill-up of a near-empty tank containing water and dirt may stir up the bottom mixture and cause auto failure even if the gas pumped in is pure.

The future of the gas situation remains in the hands of government policy and the law of supply and demand. On the local level, perplexed dealers are keeping their eyes and ears open wondering what next month—or the month after that—is going to be like.



THE GENTLE ART of enhancing mother nature is demonstrated by Debbie of "Mademoiselle" magazine as she applies eyebrow make-up to Susan Warren in Wednesday's "Grooming." The noon-time event in the Rudder Center Lobby drew an audience of 250 or 300. Members of the New York magazine's staff will be on campus the remainder of this week and next week, getting a perspective on life at TAMU. (Photo by David Spencer)

Poor school districts get no aid

AUSTIN (AP)—Legislator-delegates voted Wednesday against giving future lawmakers the power to distribute the \$362 million Available School Fund to school districts that need help the most.

The constitutional convention's Education Committee had included such authority in its version of the education article, but delegates turned it down, 106-55.

Instead, they restored the current provision of the Texas Constitution that divides the fund among school districts each year on a per pupil basis after paying for textbooks and instructional materials.

Rep. Dan Kubiak, D-Rockdale, Education Committee chairman, endorsed the return to the present system. He said denying Available School Fund money to school districts that are so rich they do not receive any other state aid would add little money to less fortunate districts. It would amount to \$2.30 per child more, he said, while forcing a 9 per cent local tax increase in the rich districts.

The available fund consists of income from investing money received from oil leases and other uses of state lands dedicated for support of the public schools. It also receives a fourth of the revenue from motor fuel taxes.

An Education Committee majority had hoped to make the fund available to strengthen schools in districts with impoverished tax bases.

Rep. Doyce Lee, D-Naples, failed 147-20, to eliminate a requirement that the legislature provide a "first class" system of higher education.

He said the words were put in the constitution "in an attempt to demagogue and are not necessary."

"If you delete the words, 'first class,' to me there is the connotation that the legislature would provide something of the second class or the third class or the fourth class," said Rep. Doyle Willis, D-Fort Worth.

Thursday, the delegates will take up one of the more controversial issues — the Permanent University Fund. Some favor making the \$31 million annual income from the fund available to all state colleges and universities, not just the University of Texas and Texas A&M systems. Others want to allow the use of bonds guaranteed by the fund's income for minority programs at the two schools. But a majority appar-

ently will vote to keep the funds as it is.

Delegates postponed action on a section prohibiting discrimination in the expenditure of education money.

Rep. Senfronia Thompson, D-Houston, asked for the delay so she could work out new language after Atty. Gen. John Hill ruled that the section approved by the

committee actually would rule out minority aid programs.

A 102-61 vote defeated an attempt by Sen. Oscar Mauzy, D-Dallas, to remove a section preserving county permanent school funds, made up of land, or money from sale of land, given to the counties by the state.

Mauzy said some county gov-

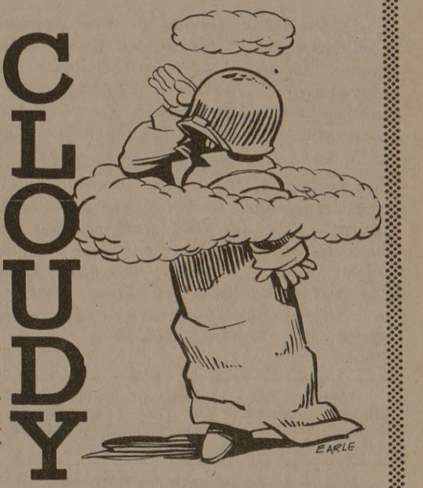
(See School districts, page 4)

Today

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Gasoline fighting p. 4
Baseball opens p. 6

Weather

Mostly cloudy and cool Thursday with continued cloudiness throughout the day. High Thursday 56°. Expected low tonight 37°. Fair and mild Friday. High tomorrow 61°.



The inquiring Battman

Should students be able to show any kind of movies on campus?

Interviews by T. C. Gallucci

Survey taken at south entrance of Library

Photos by Alan Killingsworth



JUDY PIANTA

I never really thought about it. It doesn't make any difference one way or the other.



TYRONE WRIGHT

Yes. Sure enough. This place is kind of behind. I've been to New York and all over and this place doesn't have anything like that.



BILLY OTTEN

Yes, because a university is a series of diversified tastes and should show many facets.



CONNIE HIMELHOCH

Definitely, the "Trash" thing was ridiculous. People have a very strong free will. If they don't want to see the movies, that is their choice.



DOUG MAYES

Yes, it's not harming anybody else. Beer and drugs could, but nothing is wrong with movies.



H. W. HARRY

Yes. I believe in freedom of speech of the Constitution. Students are adults, or at least they should be when they get here. Freedom is what is important.



LEATHA MORGAN

Gee, probably by the time a person is old enough to go to college, he should be allowed to choose what he wants to see.