

# No ransom demands made on 19 masterpieces worth \$20.4 million

By The Associated Press  
**LONDON (AP)**—What do you do with 19 masterpieces worth about \$20.4 million, that you stole in the world's greatest art robbery?  
 One thing's for sure—you can't sell them for anything like their market value. At least not openly. Right now, those 19 paintings are possibly the hottest chunk of stolen property in the world. Art dealers and police around the globe have been alerted to watch out for them.  
 It poses a problem for police in Ireland investigating the raid last weekend by an armed gang on the collection of gold and diamond millionaire Sir Alfred Beit.  
 So far, the gang that pillaged

Beit's mansion near Dublin April 26 has made no ransom demands of any kind.  
 But some art experts and some police officers believe the robbery was politically motivated. Beit himself thinks the gang was out to make a killing by ransoming off the paintings for hard cash. And he's also said firmly he won't pay a cent if that is correct.  
 Stealing art treasures has been a lucrative business for centuries. But in these days of terrorism and revolutionary politics it has assumed a more sinister aspect.  
 Hugh Leggett, a respected London art dealer and international art historian, said: "There are new motives behind these art thefts. In the old days, thefts were often insurance frauds. Now

there are sociopolitical reasons and some form of blackmail is likely."  
 There has been speculation the gang that raided Beit's County Wicklow mansion at Blessington, near Dublin, may be linked with the Irish Republican Army, an underground guerrilla movement

fighting to unite the British-ruled province of Northern Ireland with the Irish republic to the south.  
 The gang of five, led by a French speaking brunette, screamed revolutionary slogans, such as "capitalist pigs" at Beit, and accused him of exploiting the working class.

This, the experts believe, indicated the raiders were probably motivated by something more than just personal gain.  
 In the last three or four years, according to police estimates, art treasures worth \$3 billion have been stolen.  
 Most law enforcement agencies

agree the thieves these days are far more organized internationally and more knowledgeable about art than ever before.  
 And they are convinced that a lot of major works that vanish after they are stolen are sold to wealthy collectors who in the words of one dealer "lust" after

paintings their riches can never buy legitimately.  
 However, some detectives suspect, no thief would be able to dispose of 19 famous masterpieces even to shady collectors. This reasoning tends to back up the theory the Irish robbery was politically motivated.

# The Battalion

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## Hardee's platform for people's rights

"When elected, everyone will know how to reach me and talk to me. My opponents underestimate the spirit of Sparkey Hardee," state representative hopeful Sparkey Hardee told The Battalion Thursday night.  
 Hardee showed this reporter a TAMU memorandum written by a department dean to his staff, requiring each of them to report any legislative communications they receive to him. Hardee said this was a direct violation of the people's trust and civil rights.  
 "I have more of these memos," Hardee said. "I can hang the man who wrote this but he's just one part of a political pyramid that's set up between the top and bottom in the university community."  
 "I've talked to over 100 people on campus about these things, and I'll say this, I'm conservative on spending money in government, but I'm liberal when it comes to civil rights for all people, not just deans and department heads. I mean for the lab technician, the cooks and custodians and others," Hardee said.  
 Confident of victory in Saturday's Democratic primary, Hardee said he will work for a corporate tax on Texas-based oil companies. Citing his past work experience with Texaco, Inc., Hardee claims the large oil companies are "ripping us off" in the energy crisis. He advocates the state building an offshore superport instead of allowing the petroleum interests to do so, believing they will again try to "rip off" the people.  
 He favors parimutual betting as a revenue source along with a tax or service charge on all oil

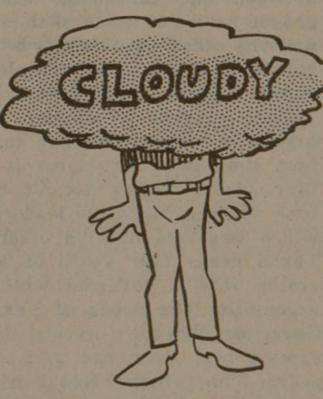
leaving the state. He is opposed to taxing any of the "necessities of life," such as food or income.  
 "The right-to-work issue is a blind one," he said. "We don't have it in the United States Constitution, so why write it into our state charter? It should be a statutory law."  
 "I believe it is the right of every individual to assemble and discuss business or unions. I protested that Food Services' memo last month because certain people were and still are trying to suppress people voluntarily seeking (See SPARKEY, p. 4)

### Today

Mysteries written p. 3  
 Track meet p. 5

### Weather

Mostly cloudy becoming partly cloudy in the afternoon Friday and Saturday. 20% chance of showers Friday increasing to 30% chance tomorrow. High today 89°. Low tonight 71°. High Saturday 83°.



## Court affirms prior decision, disbars Agnew

By DAVID GOELLER  
 Associated Press Writer  
**ANNAPOLIS (AP)**—Describing Spiro T. Agnew as a man who consciously cheated the federal government, the Maryland Court of Appeals disbarred the former vice president Thursday.  
 In a unanimous 13-page ruling which took away Agnew's right to practice law, the seven-judge court, Maryland's highest, termed Agnew "so morally obtuse that he consciously cheats for his own pecuniary gain."  
 Agnew pleaded no contest last October to federal income tax evasion charges, an action tantamount to conviction.  
 The court's decision affirmed a recommendation made in January by a three-judge Circuit Court panel.  
 Agnew was not available for comment on the decision in the disciplinary action brought by the state bar association.  
 The Court of Appeals ruling is not subject to appeal, although Agnew could petition the court at any time for reinstatement as a lawyer, his profession before entering politics full time in 1962.  
 Agnew was not a member of the federal bar, and his disbarment in Maryland prevents his practicing law

elsewhere.  
 His lawyer, Leon H. A. Pierson, argued before the court in April that the former Maryland governor should only be suspended from the practice of law.  
 Previously, Agnew personally pleaded with the Circuit Court judges not to deprive him of a means of earning a living. Agnew since has announced he is writing a political novel, which publishing experts have predicted will earn him \$100,000 or more.  
 The high court said it considered tax evasion a crime involving moral turpitude, fraud and deceit and, as such, required disbarment under state law, previous court decisions and the ethical rules of the American Bar Association.  
 "It is difficult to feel compassion for an attorney who" cheats the government "he has sworn to serve, completely disregards the words of the oath he uttered when first admitted to the bar and absolutely fails to perceive his professional duty to act honestly in all matters," the ruling said.  
 "To do other than disbar the respondent in this case, therefore, would constitute a travesty of our responsibility," said the ruling, written by Associate Judge J. Dudley Digges.



SOFT BALLADS and foot stomping music could be heard coming from the Forum Theater Thursday night. The music was for Prof. Sid Cox's English class as part of its research on folklore and folksongs. (Photo by Kathy Young)

## Granberry, McBrayer meet in Republican primary Saturday

The Republican party will conduct its state-wide primary Saturday from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m.  
 Precinct conventions in College Station will begin at 7:30 p.m. at all polling places.  
 Some precincts have had to be combined in anticipation of a small turnout by Republican voters.  
 Precincts consolidated include Precincts 1, 2 and 9 which will vote at the A&M Consolidated

Superintendent's Office on Jersey Street.  
 Precinct 8 will vote at South Knoll School, Precinct 10 at College Hills School, Precinct 11 at Crockett School, Precinct 12 at Sul Ross School and Precinct 13 at Henderson School.  
 Precincts 21 and 22 will vote at the Memorial Student Center. Precincts 3 through 7 and 14 through 19 will vote at Travis School.  
 The candidates and positions on

the ballots are, for U. S. Representative from District 6, Carl Nigliazzo; in the gubernatorial race, Odell McBrayer and Jim Granberry and in the race for lieutenant governor, Troy Skates. Tom Cole is running for Attorney General.  
 Nick Rowe is running unopposed for Comptroller of Public Accounts. Robert G. Holt is unopposed for State Treasurer.

The Democratic Primary will also be Saturday. College Station precincts are: South Knoll, all area within city limits south of Holleman Street; A&M Consolidated Middle School, the area between Jersey and Holleman streets; College Station Fire Station, the city east of Texas Avenue and College Station Municipal Building, the area north of campus to the city line.

## Applications available for two positions

Applications are now available for one student position on the Athletic Council and the Student Publications Board.  
 Seven student positions are also open on the Athletic Advisory Council, a non-university committee and there is a vacant seat in the Senate in the under-graduate off-campus position.  
 All senator applicants must have a 2.25 GPR. Student Body President Steve Eberhard presents nominees to the Senate for all positions where a two-thirds approval by those present and voting is required.  
 Applications will be available in the Student Government office until noon on Tuesday.

## Opening of lounge delayed until fall

The Old Exchange Store building, presently serving as Registration Headquarters, was planned to be the largest student lounge for the 1974 Spring semester.  
 A number of conditions have kept the hope of a lounge from being realized. The most recent problem was the radiator-type heating of the building.  
 A main pipe broke, flooding the entire first floor of the building. The Physical Plant replaced not only this pipe, but the structure's whole plumbing system.  
 Before this, delay of the arrival of furniture and a transformer-circuit breaker failure were preventing the opening.  
 Plans for the lounge's opening affected students from Milner Hall, who were deprived soft drink and candy machines because they could be available "across the street." The

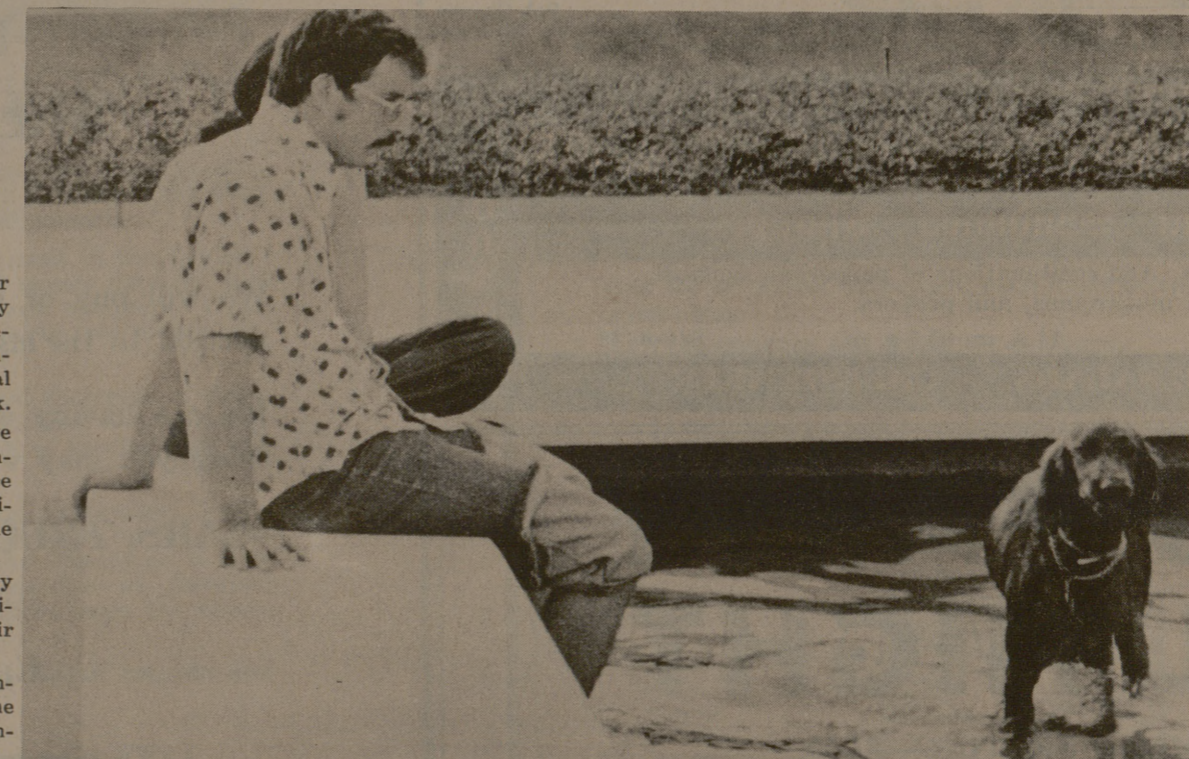
Memorial Student Center Basement Committee was also affected because it had intended to present performances there. It now uses outdoor appearances.  
 The lounge won't be operational for summer school students either. Registration for summer school and for incoming freshman and transfer students will occupy the building throughout the summer.  
 "The building could be opened as a lounge in the evenings if Dr. Koldus, vice-president of Student Services, request it," said Don Carter, director of Registration. "But, we prefer that it remain closed for protection of the equipment used for registration."  
 When the building does open as a lounge, it will be carpeted, furnished with molded plastic modern furniture and assorted vending machines complete with microwave heating ovens.

## Nixon's lawyer gets 'broad privileges'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Judiciary Committee Thursday granted President Nixon's lawyer broad privileges to participate in its impeachment proceedings.  
 The rules of procedure permitting Nixon's lawyer, James D. St. Clair, to see impeachment evidence, suggest additional witnesses and evidence and even question witnesses was approved by the committee by voice vote.  
 The live television coverage of the meeting was approved by the committee earlier but they won't start with initial presentation of assembled impeachment evidence scheduled to begin next week.  
 On a partyline vote, the committee rejected by a 22 to 15 vote a motion by Rep. David W. Den-

nis, R-Ind., giving St. Clair the right to cross-examine witnesses. The only Republicans voting against cross-examination were Reps. Tom Railsback of Illinois and Hamilton Fish Jr. of New York. But the committee approved rules giving St. Clair the right to question witnesses and Dennis said later he believed that would allow the lawyer to cross-examine them anyway.  
 Opponents of the cross-examination right contended St. Clair could use it constantly to disrupt the impeachment proceedings but chairman Peter W. Rodino Jr. said in response to a question during the meeting that he would not tolerate any obstruction.  
 Procedures for the impeachment proceedings also provide:

—All members and St. Clair will be given a written summary of evidence with reference to specific tapes and documents assembled by the staff at the initial presentation scheduled next week.  
 —Each member will then have access to all evidence in committee hands, including evidence the staff does not consider significant enough to include in the summary.  
 —After that any member may suggest seeking additional evidence or witnesses and St. Clair will be invited to do the same.  
 —St. Clair also would be invited to supply a response to the committee staff's initial summary of impeachment evidence.  
 —Rulings on St. Clair's special (See NIXON, p. 4)



TIRED, SORE FEET? Dan Garey and Barbara Gibbs followed a friend, Inga, to the Rudert fountain to indulge in a refreshing pastime. (Photo by Kathy Young)

## Parking fee: 100% increase gains support

Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, approved the traffic panel's recommendation of a 100 percent increase in parking fees and proposed free bicycle registration Thursday. The doubling of parking fees, if approved by the Board of Directors, will affect all campus parking (including carpool rates) except the College View and Hensel areas.  
 Also, bike registration will be free next semester, pending approval of the Board. But failure to register a bike within two weeks from the beginning of the fall semester will cost \$5 in fines. Koldus said the free registration may encourage students to use bikes instead of cars.  
 University National Bank  
 "On the side of Texas A&M."  
 Adv.

# Remember Saturday's primaries; get out and vote