

Ags outswim Rice, Midland College

The men's swimming team took its first victories of the year, while the women's team added to its growing list Tuesday night.

Both groups took substantial wins over Rice University and Midland College.

In an early season performance, the women qualified one four-person medley relay team for Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) nationals. In team swimming, Jeannie Buckles, Carol Hemphill, Beth McArthur and Debbie

Starr, placed first with a 4:17.26. Qualifying time is 4:20.

Outstanding performances for the men came from Bruce Hoak with a 10:19.79 in the 1,000-yard event and Jim Yates with a 500-yard freestyle time of 4:56.19.

Team scores were as follows: Men — A&M, 85; Rice, 22; A&M, 66; Midland, 49; Women — A&M, 70; Rice, 16; A&M, 53; Midland, 33.

Buckles bettered the old women's school record with a 1:03.12 in the 100-yard backstroke. That totals seven school records that have fallen to the women this year. Other record breakers are Susan Johnston, 2:34.68 in the 200-yard fly; Buckles, 2:18.44 in the 200-yard backstroke and 2:20.51 in the 200-yard individual relay; Hemphill, 2:39.33 in the 200-yard breaststroke; Starr, :25.94 in the 50-yard freestyle and :55.67 in the 100-yard freestyle. The records were set during the LSU and U of H meets held last weekend.

The men have broken only one school record.

Roger Lien broke the standing men's 1,000-yard freestyle record with the sub-10 minute swim of 9:57.87 at the U of H meet.

Although the men aren't sparking like the women, they are "turning in good times for the workloads they've been carrying in practice," said Coach Dennis Fosdick.

The team, whose practices cover nearly 15,000 yards daily or nine miles daily, have been at school since

Jan. 5 preparing for the spring season.

The men and women travel to the University of Texas on Friday to meet the strongest women's team in Texas and a traditionally threatening men's group. Saturday afternoon the women swim Southwest Texas here at 1.

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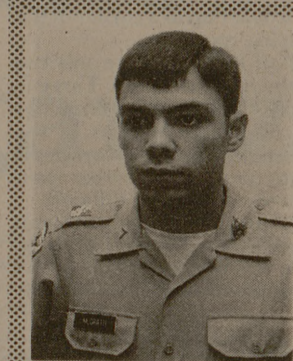
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Sportfolio

By PAUL McGRATH
Battalion Sports Editor

It all started at a post-game party, celebrating a victory by the Texas A&M basketball team over the University of Houston on Tuesday night of last week.

It ended . . . well, it hasn't yet. The news that College Station police officers had confiscated some 10-11 lbs. of marijuana from the apartment housing the 50 or so revelers, of which several were A&M athletes, was spread rapidly by the media. The same is true with all hot gossip, especially when athletes are involved.

Yesterday, misdemeanor charges were filed against Pat Thomas, Skip Walker and Cedric Joseph. Each was a standout athlete during their careers at A&M.

A few ounces of cannabis was found in the adjacent apartment belonging to Thomas and Jackie Williams. No charges have been brought against Williams as of yet.

A number of other athletes have been questioned in connection with the investigation.

Hundreds of cases involving illegal substances are made each year, so why the uproar in this particular instance? Is it because athletes are involved, specifically football and basketball players?

Last semester a member of the track team was expelled from school for possession of marijuana. Why were there no headlines in that case?

Despite being in the public eye to a large degree there are many cobwebs which blur the view into the athlete's world. Visions of cars and payoffs bias opinions into creating lives of luxury for athletes.

There is no denying that such activities do occur. However, the acceptance of these items not only censure the athlete, but an equal load of guilt must be placed on those who offer them.

Because athletes are involved in this particular instance there has been a great deal of attention drawn, much of it undue. There is a certain document under glass which guarantees that a person shall not be persecuted unjustly. This country's first war was fought to obtain this right amongst others.

In turn, the title of "Joe Football" should not incur favoritism. In last week's incident, no charges were filed immediately. College Station Police Chief Marvin Byrd said that in some cases no charges are filed until the grand jury meets. Just how often this occurs he was unable to say. Whether or not this was because of the parties involved is speculative to say.

Byrd also stated that his office had been watching Thomas for some time. This includes the period prior to Thomas' leaving the athletic dormitory to rent an apartment.

From this it can be inferred that there has been some illegal activities in or around Wofford Cain in the past, if not presently. Undoubtedly, the dorm will come under closer scrutiny by athletic department officials.

If others are to be indicted in this case or any other case involving athletes, let us remember that they are being tried as persons who have made a mistake, not because they are athletes.

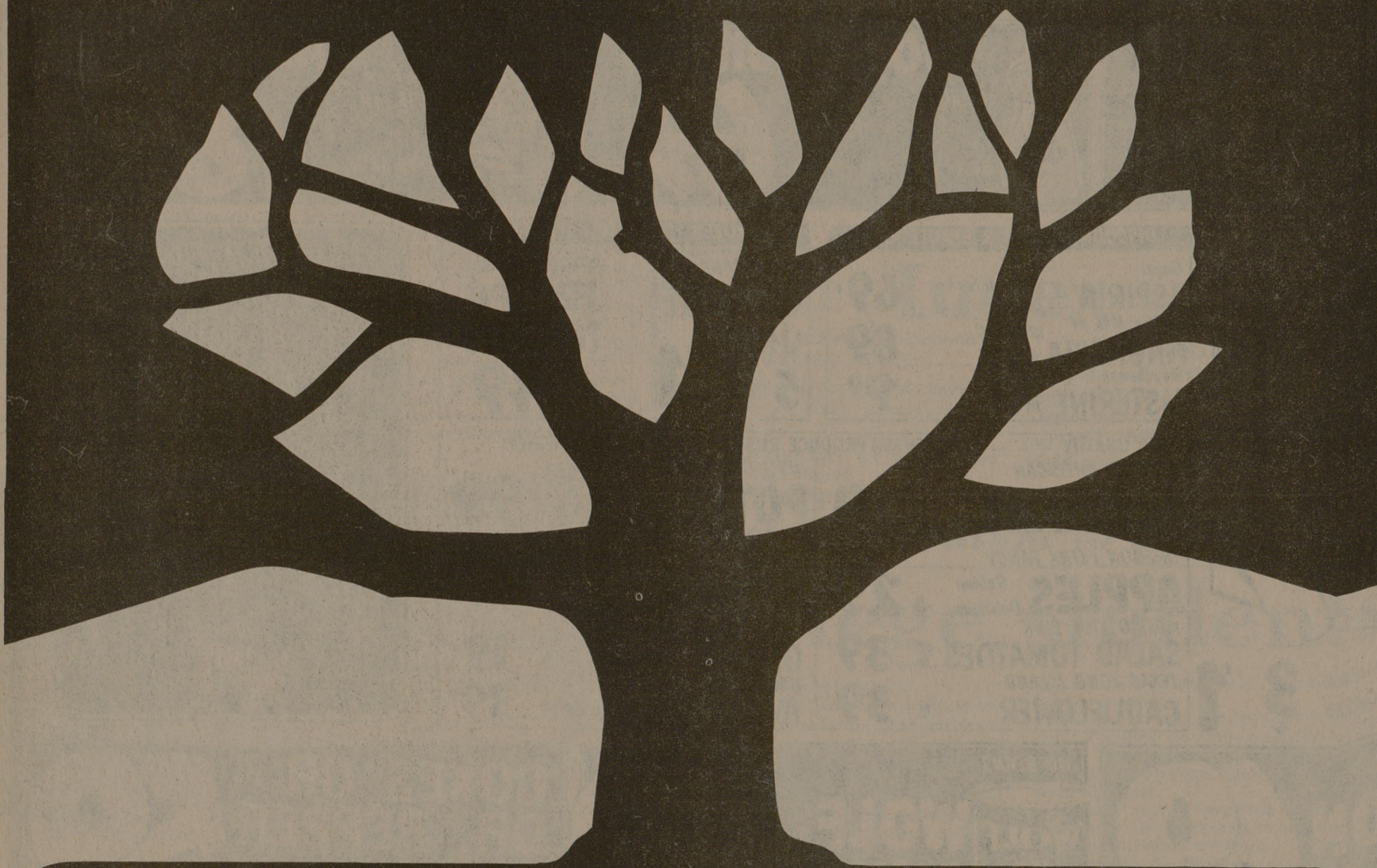
In a lighter vein, one has to question the lack of utilization by Emory Bellard in regards to halfback Bubba Bean.

In the Senior Bowl, Bean caught seven passes for 157 yards and a touchdown. During his stay at A&M Bean was accredited with 14 receptions. How come nobody noticed this before? It might have made Arkansas think twice about using a nine-man line.

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