

# The Battalion

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## Top of the News

### Campus

**A PUBLIC LECTURE** on financing the Alaskan pipeline will be presented at Texas A&M University tomorrow by Paul Phillips, senior vice president of Standard Oil of Ohio (SOHIO). The SOHIO official's program begins at 4 p.m. in the MSC 206. A reception follows the program. During his visit to campus, Phillips also will lecture classes on the impact of proposed break-ups of oil firms and capital budgeting and processes at SOHIO.

**ROBERT B. EKELUND JR.**, a Texas A&M University professor, has been appointed one of 18 associate editors to the Review of Social Economy, a publication of the Association for Social Economics. Ekelund, director of graduate studies in the Economics department, will be a part of the 35th year of the journal's publication.

**THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY** will offer around-the-clock quiet for studying during exam week so that students may prepare for finals. Sterling C. Evans Library will be open from 1 p.m. Sunday to midnight Dec. 14, Director of Libraries Dr. Irene Hoadley said. The library will be open Wednesday through Friday as regularly scheduled. There will be no checkout nor desk service from midnight to 8 a.m. next Monday or Tuesday.

### Texas

**A PRIVATE INVESTIGATOR**, who once assisted Houston police officers in a wiretapping investigation, has been indicted on a charge of plotting to rob the Houston police property room. J. L. Patterson, 45, now serving a five-year federal prison term after being convicted of possessing illegal electronic equipment, was named in the indictment returned yesterday by a Harris County grand jury. The indictment accused him of criminal solicitation of aggravated robbery. The indictment alleges Patterson solicited two private investigators in a plan for robbery of cash and other valuables in the police property room. The indictment alleged the plan called for the use of firearms and explosives.

**"CLEAR CUTTING"** was described in federal court in Tyler yesterday by one of six witnesses who testified against it as the U.S. Forest Service's meat ax approach to forestry land management. The hearing, to determine whether the U.S. Forest Service will be permanently enjoined from "clear cutting" its National Forest acreage in Texas, is expected by court observers to last at least a week. It will resume today.

### National

**THE 2.5 MILLION** cars sold without spare tires earlier this year should be getting the fifth piece of rubber soon, auto industry spokesmen said yesterday in Akron, Ohio. The shortage was caused by a four-month nationwide strike by about 60,000 United Rubber Workers. Major tire manufacturers in Akron said the spare tire shipments should be completed by about Jan. 1. Spokesmen said the tires were being shipped directly to dealers who will notify car buyers.

**THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S** decision not to require air bags in new cars has drawn praise from the nation's biggest auto companies and criticism from their long-time critic Ralph Nader. An auto insurance official said the decision was unlikely to have much impact on insurance rates. Transportation Secretary William T. Coleman Jr. announced yesterday that passive restraint devices — of which air bags are the best known — would not be mandatory until the 1981 model year at the earliest.

### World

**PALESTINIAN LEADERS** ordered their guerrillas on a maximum war alert along the Lebanese-Israeli border today, charging that Israeli forces were preparing to invade southern Lebanon by land and sea. A spokesman for the Palestinian high command in Beirut said joint forces of guerrillas and leftist Lebanese Moslems were deployed at strategic positions along a 30-mile stretch of the Lebanese coast north of the Israeli frontier.

### weather

Fair and cold with northerly winds 12-20 m.p.h. diminishing this afternoon. The high today in the mid-40s. Low tonight in the upper 20s. High tomorrow in the low 60s. No precipitation in sight.



### Christmas tree lights Northgate

This 20-foot Christmas tree was erected by the Northgate Merchants Association. The tree's lights were turned on at a brief ceremony yesterday at 7 p.m. The Association erected the tree in front of the Post Office on University Drive so that A&M students could enjoy it before they leave for Christmas vacation.

## Carter begins Cabinet search

By FRANK CORMIER  
Associated Press

PLAINS, Ga. — President-elect Carter is making the first of a series of trips to Atlanta to interview prospective Cabinet members in the privacy of the governor's mansion he once occupied.

Carter told reporters he would be conducting such interviews in Atlanta today and tomorrow and when he visits Washington tomorrow and Friday. Aides later said they expect Carter to return to Atlanta "more than once" to meet personally with candidates for Cabinet-level positions.

Reporters were forewarned they would be kept outside the grounds of the Georgia

governor's mansion today, and Carter indicated the names of some visitors might be kept secret, at least for a while.

Carter held an impromptu news conference yesterday outside the Plains polling place where hometown residents voted 90 to 71 to re-elect Mayor A. L. Blanton rather than turn over the town government to Billy Carter, the President-elect's younger brother.

The President-elect conceded there would be a lot of "guessing games" about his high level appointees, despite efforts to keep secret the names of those under consideration.

Later, he said, "As soon as I decide on

## Carter sends message Kissinger leaves for Europe

By BARRY SCHWEID  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Henry Kissinger is off today on his last diplomatic "hurrah" as secretary of state, carrying a message of support for the NATO alliance to Brussels for President-elect Carter.

The message, given to Kissinger by Carter in Plains, Ga., two weeks ago, pledges the new president's commitment to trans-Atlantic ties.

Strains have eased considerably since the United States was accusing the Europeans only two years ago of hostility on the economic and political front. The planned Brussels meetings are viewed as a pleasant overseas farewell for Kissinger, who has globe-trotted more than 550,000 miles in three years as secretary of state.

With Carter's backing, Kissinger hopes to boost Western resolve to maintain a first-rate defense, despite domestic pressures building in Britain and elsewhere to cut costs as an anti-inflationary measure.

One way preferred by the United States is to speed the process of standardizing NATO weapons. An estimated \$10 billion a year is wasted through duplication and lack of standardized equipment.

Carter's message of reassurance is designed to ease the uncertainty caused by his campaign pledge to cut the defense

budget at least \$5 billion. British Prime Minister James Callaghan, meanwhile, has said his government may have to choose between keeping the 55,000-man British Army of the Rhine in Germany and looking after its own economy.

The worry over Britain adds to the problems caused by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization by the Communist party's

strength in Italy and the quarrels between Turkey and Greece that have lessened their contributions to the military alliance.

In Brussels, Kissinger also plans to review the West's negotiating position toward the Soviet Union regarding a balanced reduction of military forces in central Europe.

## Reps. O'Neill, Wright to lead U.S. House

By JIM ADAMS  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Reps. Thomas P. O'Neill and Jim Wright, the two new Democratic leaders of the House, say their two goals are to get the jobless back to work and clean up the House's scandal-tarnished image.

House Democrats yesterday caucused and elected Wright of Texas as majority leader by a 148 to 147 vote, upsetting Californian Phillip Burton. Big-city mayors reportedly backed Wright.

O'Neill of Massachusetts was nominated

speaker by the Democrats by acclamation, tantamount to his election when Congress convenes Jan. 4.

New York City Mayor Abraham D. Beame reportedly collected votes for Wright in return for Wright's leadership role in winning congressional support of mass-transit money and New York City aid. Other mayors, including Chicago's Richard Daley, urged Wright's election largely for his leadership in boosting funds for mass transit in the nation's cities.

Although O'Neill declared strict neutrality in the four-man fight for Democratic leader, congressmen close to him and other candidates circulated word that O'Neill could accept anyone except Burton, his reputed rival for power.

Wright was chairman of the task force that created House Democrats' jobs program in the last Congress. After his election as majority leader, Wright told his party colleagues they must produce legislation "that will lift this country out of the slough of recession," O'Neill told them. "It is our responsibility to put the unemployed back to work."

Wright also said he will strive to restore the "pinnacle of respect" he said the House deserves. O'Neill reiterated to reporters his plan to set up a special committee to stiffen House ethics in the wake of disclosures that some congressmen have accepted cash and gifts from persons with alleged ties to the South Korean government.

### A&M group claims 61 students

## Top seniors study under fellows program

Completing their required college curriculum is challenge enough for most students — and more than enough for some.

At most institutions, however, a few students clearly demonstrate they are capable of work beyond the normally prescribed courses. An honors program is the traditional response, generally consisting of more demanding courses and perhaps a larger volume of assignments.

Texas A&M University has gone a step beyond the honors program and is allowing its top seniors the opportunity to engage in scholarly studies and research usually carried out only by graduate students or faculty members.

The new endeavor, called the University Undergraduate Fellows Program and offered as a supplement to the regular honors program, is proving popular among the institution's superior students, with 61 enrolled this fall, for a three-fold increase over last year, the first time it was offered.

"This type program is ideally suited for

Texas A&M, in that we have a large number of unusually qualified students coupled with a distinct research atmosphere on campus," noted Dr. Melvin Friedman, who coordinates the new program. He pointed out that Texas A&M is among the top 25 universities in the nation in enrollment of National Merit Scholars and in volume of expenditures for research.

Dr. Friedman said students enrolled in the University Undergraduate Fellows Program have a chance to apply their "classroom learning" to practical areas that arouse their interest.

"An English major, for example, can apply study of the novel to a particular author in space and time and then focus in on that author's view of some specific topic, such as the role of women in society," the geology professor explained, "or an economics student can move beyond the study of pure theory into the general effects of public policy on the Environmental Protection Agency's policies on the economics of energy."

## Unemployment rate drops to 2.2% in Brazos County

During November the Texas Employment Commission (TEC) in Bryan-College Station assisted 327 workers in finding jobs. This amount is a slight increase over the November 1975 total of 288.

Registered unemployment in Brazos County in November took a drop from the November 1975 number. Last month 264

residents filed with the TEC for unemployment, in contrast to a total of 500 claimants in 1975.

From the preliminary statistics of October 1976 Brazos County had a labor force of 30,763 with 30,086 employed and 677 unemployed. This gives Brazos County an unemployment rate of 2.2 per cent.

## Science unable to prove God exists, Miller says

Although current scientific theories of the origin of the universe seem to agree with creation as described in Genesis of the Bible, it is dangerous to try to prove the existence of God on the basis of these theories, said Dr. Gil Miller Friday night.

Dr. Miller spoke on "Cosmogony and Creation" to the Gulf Southwest section of the American Scientific Affiliation. The affiliation is a non-profit national organization of about 2,500 scientists who believe in God, the Bible, and Jesus Christ as the son of God.

Cosmogony is the study of the origin of the universe.

The danger in trying to prove the existence of God with scientific theories is that theories come and go.

The "big bang" theory of creation could be identified with the Biblical creation, Miller said. The big bang theory describes the universe as having been formed from an exploding ball of hot, condensed gases suspended in a vacuum. This theory has evidence to support it and is now generally accepted among cosmogonists, Miller said.

Debate now centers around how many big bangs there could be, Miller said.

Scientists have observed that the universe is expanding, presumably as a result of the big bang explosion.

According to the "closed model" of the universe, the expanding universe will reach a maximum size and then begin to contract. It will return to its original condensed state and then explode and start all over again. The closed model is infinitely oscillating, with lots of "bangs."

The "open model" of the universe holds that there was only one bang and the universe will go on expanding forever.

Although scientists have determined that the rate of the universe's expansion is currently slowing down, the open model has the edge in the debate, Miller said. But he does not advise Christians to decide on the basis of faith. Miller said that if a Christian tries to use God to explain things that aren't understood, and then later a natural explanation is found, some might decide that they "don't need God."

Gaining admission to the program is no small accomplishment. To be eligible, the student must be a senior with a grade point ratio of at least 3.5 (on a 4.0 system) and have the endorsement of a professor who agrees to be his or her faculty adviser, along with the approval of the appropriate department head and dean. After passing

those hurdles, the student is then required to submit an endorsed six-page proposal.

Once accepted to the program, the student and his adviser participate in a "community of scholars" which includes monthly meetings where students make presentations on their research topics.

## Divining rod can prove honesty, predict events, Bryan man says

By BRENDA GRISSOM

Can honesty be proven? Ben Polley, with the help of his divining rod, says it can.

A divining rod is an instrument used by persons called dowzers to search for hidden facts.

Polley said he dowzed for the honesty of

three 1976 presidential candidates. Ford, Reagan and Carter were shown to be honest about 55 to 60 per cent of the time, he said. Polley explained that the average person is honest 85 per cent of the time.

Dowzing apparently can determine more than honesty. When a skeptical friend challenged his dowzing ability, Pol-

ley said he dowzed 10 of his friend's mares who were ready to foal and predicted each foal's sex.

"Out of 10, I never missed one. I made a believer out of him," Polley said.

A divining rod is also proficient in discovering vitamin deficiencies, car problems, an unborn child's sex, and lost people, he said.

Polley emphasized that, however, the instrument can't be used to predict events. It can only be used to discover something that already exists or that has happened.

"You can't predict with the instrument and you can't do anything harmful or evil with it," said Polley. "For anything that's none of your business, you've got to have the subject's permission to dowze except for when the law is being broken."

With the help of his silver-hued divining rod and topographic maps, Polley said he's discovered underground oil, mineral, and water deposits in Brazos County.

"Only one of them has been verified, I'm waiting for the others to develop," he said.

"I've also located some opal and other minerals out at Big Bend," he added. "When one learns how to use a dowzing rod, there's nothing you can't find."

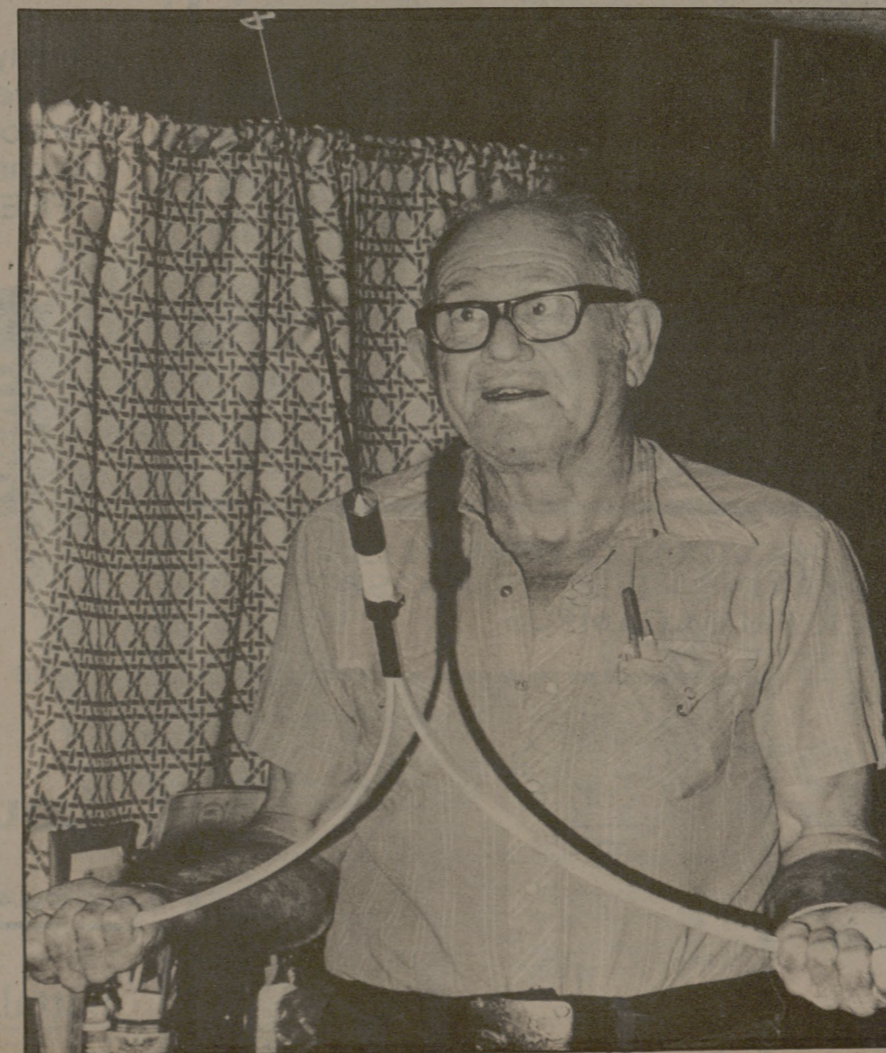
Polley, 66, uses his divining rod to keep a check on his blood pressure. Amid the organized clutter of magazines and a rock collection he demonstrated his dowzing technique.

He placed on a table a sheet of paper with numbers written on it and gripped the handle of his divining rod with his right hand. He passed the chrome, brass, and plastic rod slowly over the paper once, then twice. The third time, the tip of the rod pointed down at 134. He completed the process again and the instrument pointed at 84.

"I've been to the doctor and my blood pressure is right in the area of 134-84," Polley said.

Polley said he learned to dowze in a course offered by Treasure Hunting, Unlimited in Truth or Consequences, N.M. A three-day basic course costs \$200, he said. In addition, a \$300 dowzing rod must be purchased.

"People laugh when you say something about dowzing. They don't understand. Polley said. "It's something that works that just can't be explained."



Ben Polley