

The Battalion

Vol. 70 No. 82
6 Pages

Friday, February 25, 1977
College Station, Texas

News Dept. 845-2611
Business Dept. 845-2611

Regent selections approved

State Senate votes to maintain the local school property taxes

By ANN ARNOLD
United Press International
AUSTIN — Sen. William T. Moore, says the local school property tax issue whose time has passed. Moore doesn't get out of the legislature until it'll be an issue in the next campaign, he said. Moore's constituents voted 17-12 yesterday against Moore's plan to prohibit local districts from levying property taxes to support operation of elementary and secondary schools, but the Bryan senator said he is confident he'll succeed eventually.

"I'll keep trying," Moore said. "This was more or less a trial run."

Moore said he hopes some of his colleagues will be persuaded to switch sides by a deluge of constituent protests.

"I have a feeling the people are going to be sympathetic to what we're trying to do," he said. "There must be a halt somewhere on the power of these school boards to go out and raise assessments and say that's what you have to pay."

Moore said one of his constituents had his school taxes on 338.5 acres near College Station increased 565 percent in four

years — from \$685 in 1972 to \$4,382 in 1976.

If the House and Senate approve Moore's plan to amend the state constitution to limit school property taxes, the proposal will be submitted to voters in the November 1978 general election.

Proponents of a plan to impose a new tax on petroleum refined in Texas want to couple it with the property tax repeal.

The refinery tax is expected to raise \$1.6 billion a year, an amount equal to the sum school districts expect to receive from local property taxes in 1980.

Moore is co-sponsoring the refinery tax.

In other action yesterday, the Senate approved 23-5 Gov. Dolph Briscoe's appointment of Jess Hay of Dallas to be a University of Texas regent.

Sen. A. R. Schwartz, D-Galveston, argued successfully for a postponement to investigate Hay's role in illegal contributions to the Briscoe re-election campaign in 1973 and 1974.

The governor's selection of Jane Blumberg of Seguin and his personal physician, Dr. Sterling Fly of Uvalde, to be UT regents won easy approval.

Gag rule issued in Davis trial

United Press International
AUSTIN — A state district judge would not be surprised today if attorneys ignored his request for voluntary compliance with a gag order in the murder trial of millionaire T. Cullen Davis.

Judge Tom Cave said he hoped jurors who disregarded his request would not be surprised if he sentenced Davis to 30 days in jail for contempt of court.

Davis, a diminutive man who speaks in a monotone, wears gold-rimmed glasses and usually smokes unfiltered cigarettes in his chambers, was obviously riled yesterday.

Davis is being tried for the slaying last night of Andrea Wilborn, 12. He also is charged with the capital murder of Stanley 31, who lived with the child's mother, Priscilla Davis. Mrs. Davis is the aged wife of the defendant. Davis is charged with the attempted murder of his wife and a family acquaintance. Defense attorney Richard "Racehorse" Jones of Houston protested against a gag article in a local newspaper in which a prospective juror was identified as saying he believed the defendant guilty.

Jones refused a defense motion for a gag order, but he requested the judge to identify or quote potential jurors' comments made in open court. Jones later clarified his request.

"The more that is published, the more seen on TV from this point forward means it will take longer to pick a jury," Cave said.

"Lay off publication of individual jurors, who they are, where they live and what they say. Now, do I make myself clear. I don't want to make this an order, but if I have to, I damn sure will."

In his chambers, Cave was almost apologetic.

"Don't worry, I'm not going to bite anyone's head off," he said. "I just sound that way some times."

He said publication of the names and comments of the prospective jurors could prevent selection of a panel.

"I detest courts ordering the press to do

or not to do things," Cave said. "Much more can be gained through friendly cooperation when problems arise."

Cave said he understood some news media members might continue identifying and quoting prospective jurors. The result, he said, would be an order formalizing his request.

Asked what action he would take if his order was violated, Cave said: "Send them to jail, not for two days but for 30, if that does occur."

Three prospects were questioned individually yesterday, and two were excused. The third was accepted by the defense but challenged and dismissed by the prosecution.

Council discusses Holik tract

The future of part of the 25-acre Holik tract south of Holleman Drive and east of Welsh Street dominated last night's College Station City Council discussions.

Residents from in and around the West Knoll area asked the council to consider developing a city park within the Holik tract.

The possibility of connecting both portions of Dexter Drive (one is on the north side of the Holik tract and the other on the

south side) or ending the street in a cul-de-sac was also considered.

Other actions taken by the council included:

✓ Signing a resolution honoring former Councilman Antone L. Rosprim who died Jan. 27. Rosprim was a Councilman from 1961 to 1967.

✓ Giving Welsh Avenue a consistent name. Different sections of the street had

Weather

Increasing cloudiness today with gusty winds from the south at 12 to 24 mph. High today is expected to be in the low 80s with a low tonight in the mid 60s. Precipitation probability is 20 per cent tonight. A cold front should hit early tomorrow morning causing thundershowers, and gusty northerly winds from 10 to 20 mph. The weather will turn cooler tomorrow with a high and low temperature in the mid-60s. Cloudiness will remain throughout the day tomorrow.



Battalion photo by Molly McMillan

The way of an actor

James Harper prepares for his part in The Acting Company's performance of "The Way of the World." The play was sponsored by Texas A&M University's Opera and Performing Arts Society last night in the Rudder Center Auditorium.

Theater demands better performance

By JOHN TYNES
Battalion Staff

James Harper says he is doing what most actors dream of doing but never get the chance to do.

Harper is a member of The Acting Company, a touring repertory theater company that performed Wednesday night and last night at Texas A&M University.

In a conversation before the Wednesday night performance, Harper said The Acting Company offers its actors the opportunity to perform different roles, travel widely and refine their acting skills in a situation that demands high-quality performances.

"This company is an experience you cannot find anywhere else," he said.

The Acting Company, a permanent touring repertory company, was founded five years ago by actor and director John

Houseman as a means of bringing repertory theater to areas that may not get the chance to see it often.

The Acting Company presently has four plays in its repertoire. "Love's Labour's Lost" was performed Wednesday night and "The Way of the World" last night. The other two productions, which were not performed at A&M, are "The Kitchen" and "El Camino Real."

The members of the company teach workshops and theater classes at the various universities and colleges where they perform, Harper said. Some of A&M's theater arts classes were given presentations by members of the company during their stay.

The company travels about nine months of each year, performing four or five times a week. Often they stay in one place long enough to do one or more of their plays, as they did here.

There is tendency to get bored with a role when you perform it over and over again, Harper said. He added, however, that this can be overcome by continually re-examining the character and trying to better understand the playwright's image of him.

The company has received many theatrical awards and honors, including two Tony nominations.

The attitude of the actors is very casual and nonchalant when they are relaxing backstage. One actor was wandering around singing: "We're second-rate pros, we're second-rate pros. Where we perform, nobody shows."

This attitude vanished onstage and paid off in generous applause from the audience on both nights.

Bills attempt to restrict pornography

United Press International

AUSTIN — Bills including a measure to force adult bookstores out of residential areas have been introduced in the House to place statewide restrictions on the display and sale of pornography.

"This is the first time Texas, or any state as far as I know, has attempted to restrict the location of adult bookstores," Rep. Ralph Wallace, D-Houston, said yesterday.

Wallace, who wrote the legislative package, said one of bills would prohibit stores selling pornographic books within 2,000 feet of any church or school. He said bookstores already within the limit could stay only by applying to city councils for an exemption.

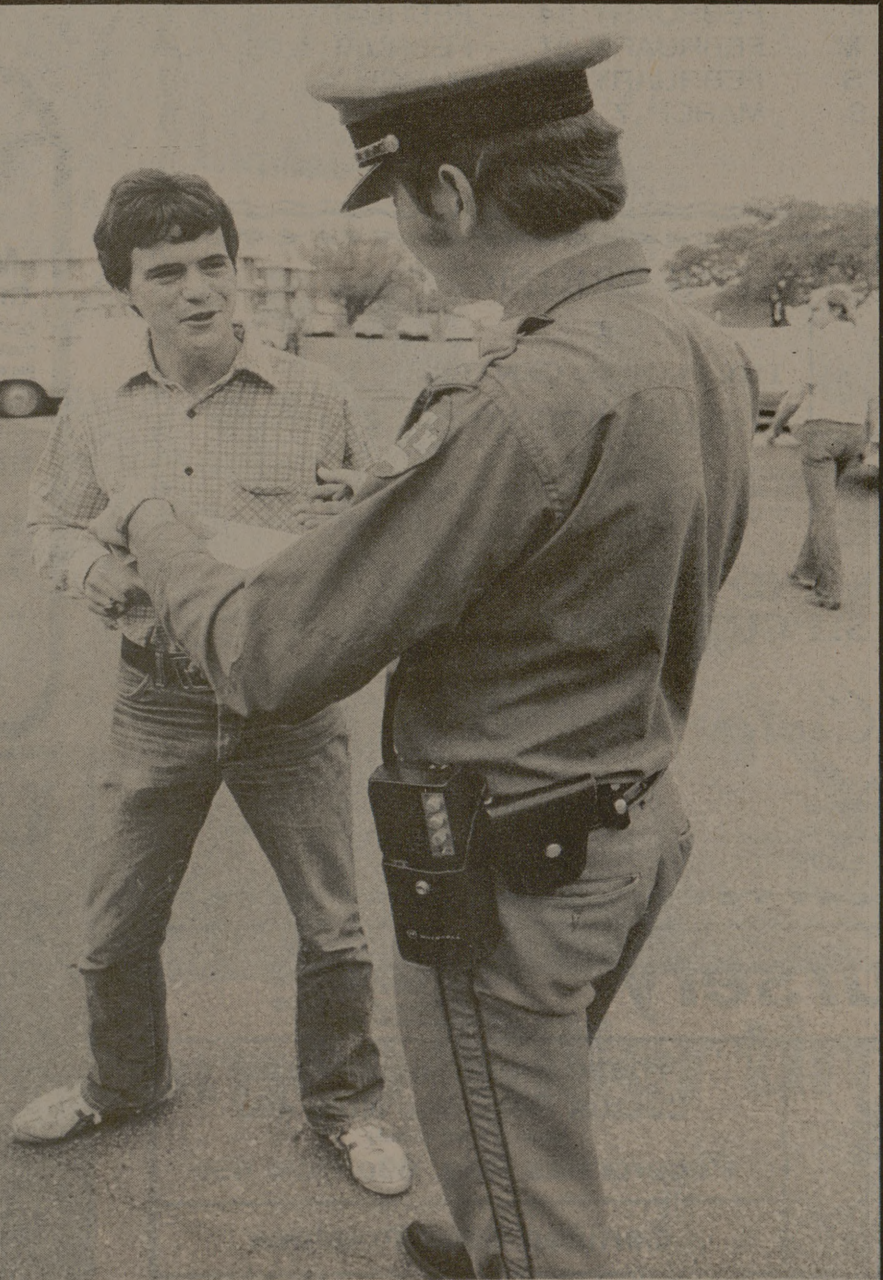
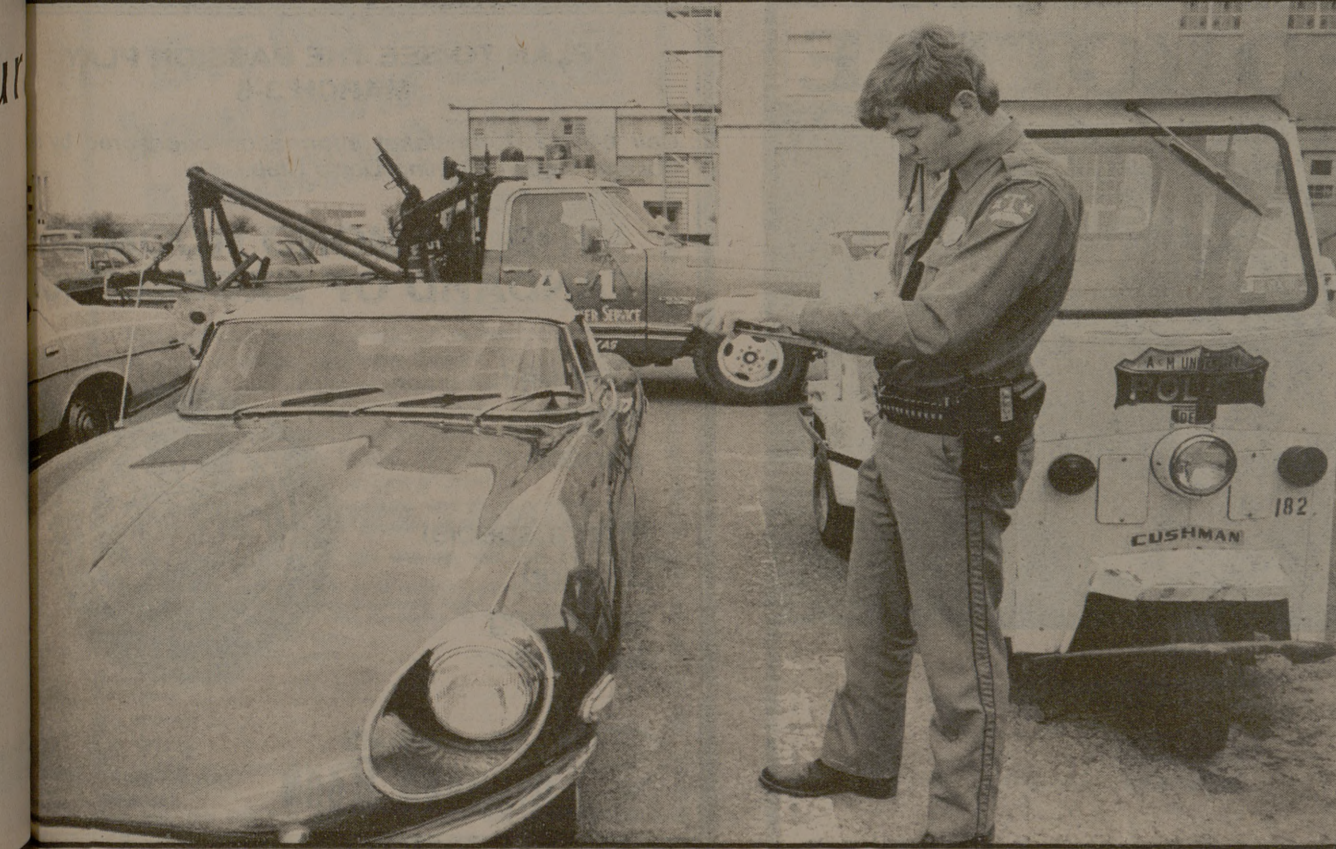
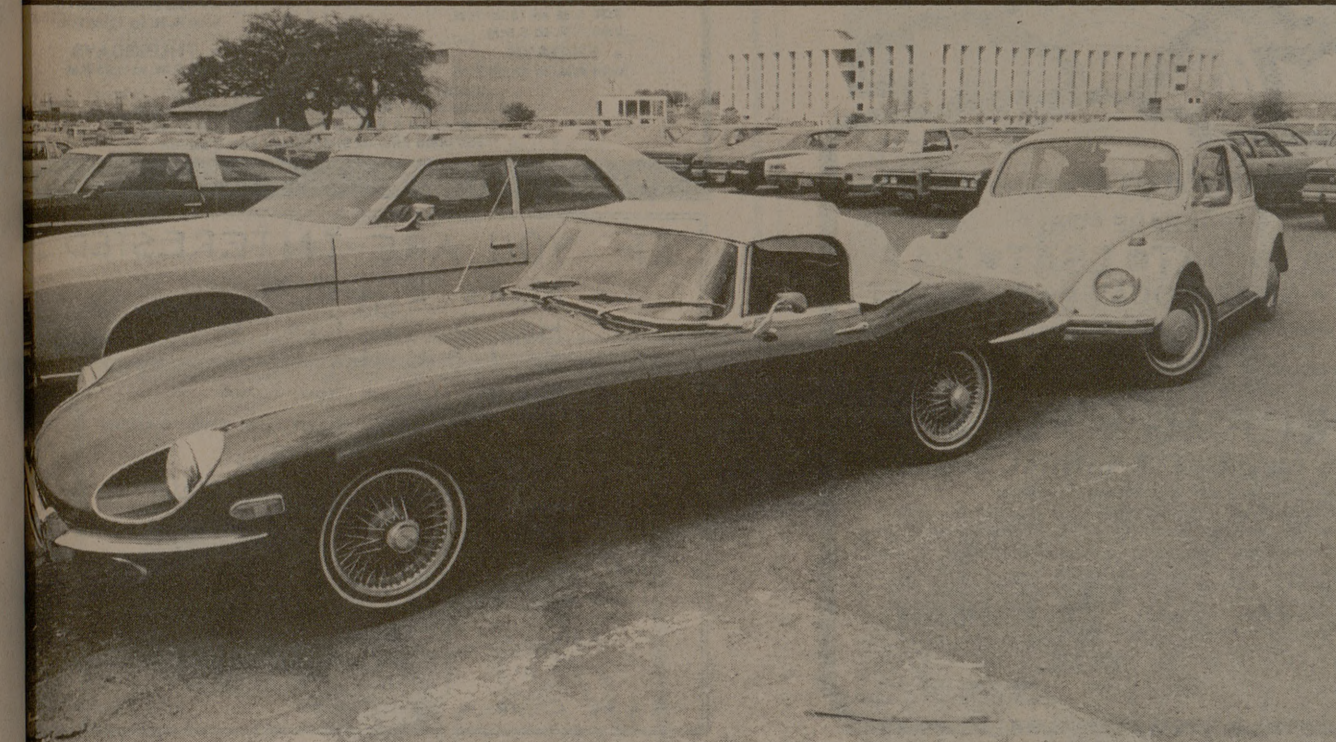
"We feel this is really going to put the heat on pornographic bookstores," Wallace said. "What we want to effectively do is get them out of the residential community."

In Houston, there are a lot of pornographic bookstores downtown close to some churches, and they're going to have to petition the city council for an exemption to this act if they stay there."

Other bills filed by Wallace would: Make it a felony to employ minors in the sale of commercial obscenity. The offense is now a misdemeanor.

Prohibit the showing of a person younger than 17 observing or engaging in explicit sexual conduct.

Prohibit the display of harmful materials at business establishments where minors may be invited as part of the general public. Violation would be a misdemeanor punishable by a \$200 fine and/or one year in jail.



Battalion photos by Kevin Venner

Short term parking is expensive

The owner of the reserved parking space said that she was not about to let the Jaguar get away. She parked the Volkswagen (upper left) behind the sleek sports car and had someone call the University Police and a tow truck. Officer Jack Ely (left) said this type of violation is common on campus parking lots. Steve Glaspie, a senior finance major and owner of the maroon Jaguar, arrived before the car was towed away. But the incident still cost him \$10 for the tow truck service call and \$5 for a parking ticket.