

The Battalion

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Regents call gays 'diabolic'; decide to fight suit

By LEE ROY LESCHPER
Texas A&M University's Board of Regents this morning said they will "proceed in every legal way" to fight a suit demanding that A&M grant official recognition to a gay students organization.
In a statement approved unanimously by the regents said "so-called 'gay' activities run diametrically counter to the traditions and standards of Texas A&M University" and that the board will proceed in every legal way "to keep gay groups from organizing or operating on this or any other campus for which this board is responsible."
The Gay Students Service Organization filed suit in federal district court in an attempt to force A&M to grant official recognition to the group as a student organization at A&M.
The regents also restored to University President Jack K. Williams his full powers and duties as

university president. The board had reassigned Williams' regular duties to University Executive Officer W. Clyde Freeman in September when Williams was recovering from a series of heart attacks he suffered last summer.
Freeman will return to his former position and duties as A&M system executive vice-president.

Williams, looking fully-recovered, praised Freeman's performance, saying "I don't know how he did the four jobs he's had for the last 10 months. He's a good man," he simply said.
Freeman sat quietly during the meeting, listening to praises given him.

"It has been a pleasure," he said. "Thank you for making this decision."
The board had delayed making any decision on the administrative organization until Williams had

been cleared by his physicians to return to full-time duty.

Sitting at Board Chairman Clyde Well's right hand, Williams took an active part in a board meeting for the first time this morning, advising the regents on several decisions they made.

The board raised fees for A&M dormitories 7.2 to 8.8 per cent, depending on dorm. Fees for the least expensive dorms will increase by \$12 (\$135 to \$147) while those for the most expensive dorms will increase by \$28 (\$390 to \$418).

Married students will pay \$5 to \$13 more rent per month for University married student apartments.

The price of shuttle bus tickets will rise by \$5 this fall, with the regents increasing the price of student tickets from \$15 to \$20, student husband-wife tick-

ets from \$25 to \$30 and faculty-staff tickets from \$20 to \$25.

Howard Vestal, university assistant vice president for business affairs, had requested the increases to cover increasing operating costs, increased enrollment and a need for more shuttle buses.

Students will be able to purchase next year's A&M campus directory while pre-registering for fall classes because of a board decision to make the directory a check-off item on the fall registration fee slips. The directory will cost \$3 as a check off item and \$3.50 if bought over the counter later.

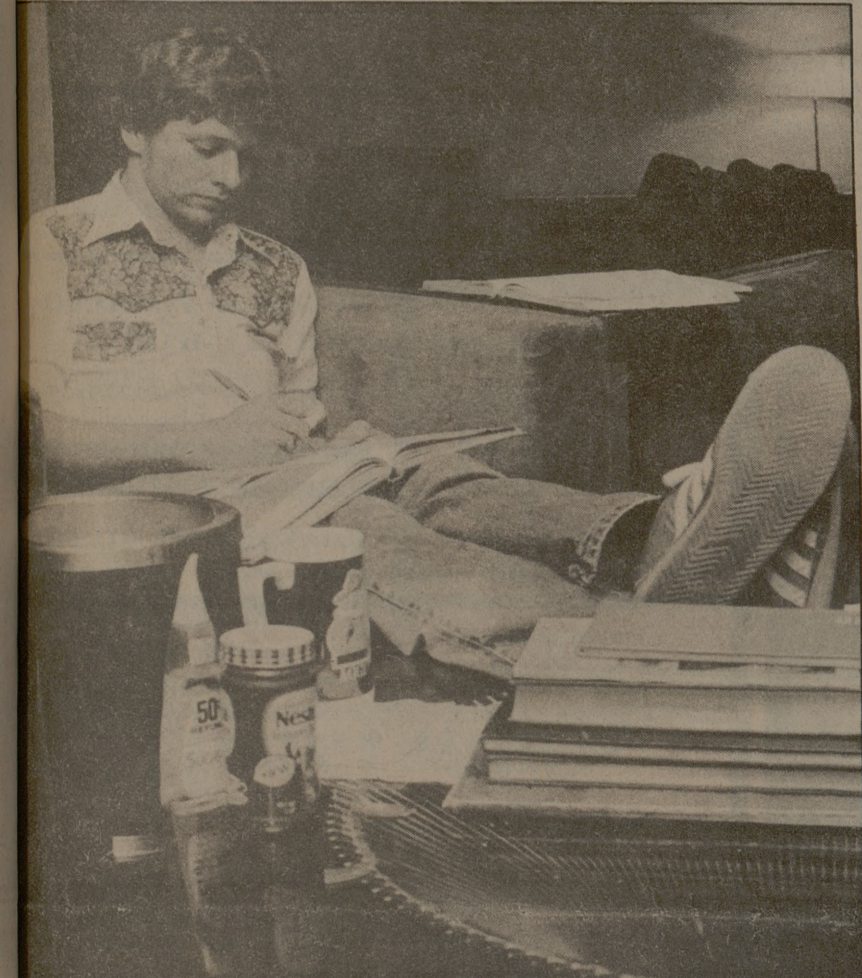
The regents awarded several construction contracts, including a \$730,000 one for improvements in Duncan Dining Hall and another of \$251,000 for construction of new sidewalks and repair of old ones on the A&M campus.

The board also authorized the first summer school sessions ever for A&M's Moody Maritime Campus in Galveston.

Freeman withdrew an earlier recommendation that the board issue \$9 million in permanent University fund bonds until the bond sale, which will be made in conjunction with one planned by the University of Texas at Austin, can be better coordinated with U.T. officials.

Three Agricultural Extension Service researchers received patent rights to inventions they developed while working with the extension service.

Under the university's patent agreement, the researchers may seek patents for their inventions in exchange for giving the university free use of the invention and sharing any patent revenue from the invention equally with the extension service.



Battalion photo by Kevin Venner

Back to the books

Some students may find it easier than others to get back into a study routine after spring break. Walt Cud, a freshman Biological Medicine major, began his long hours of studying earlier than many students. He was working on an English paper in the Commons at 3 this morning. He said it was going to be an "all-nighter."

Self-described mercenary holds hostages for 12 hours in bank

United Press International
TORONTO — A self-described mercenary held up to 15 persons hostage at gunpoint in a downtown bank yesterday in what an intermediary said today was a bizarre plan to assassinate President Idi Amin of Uganda.
The gunman, who identified himself as Bob McLagan, 38, of Vancouver, freed the rest of his hostages and was taken in handcuffs from the Bank Canadian National

shortly after 10:30 p.m. CST. None of the hostages was hurt.
The incident began 12 hours earlier when McLagan, carrying a sawed-off shotgun, locked nine women and five male employees in a second-floor room of the bank. He fired two shots inside the building and later seized a police sergeant.
Police encircled a four block area in the heart of Toronto's financial district. They said the man demanded a Hercules C-130

military transport plane to take him to Uganda so he could meet Amin.
Radio station CFRB reporter Charles Doering, who was ushered into the bank at the gunman's request in the early hours of the incident, said McLagan told him he "admired" but had never met the Ugandan president.
After the drama ended, however, Doering said McLagan's real purpose was to kill Amin with two fragmentation grenades he demanded from police. Doering said McLagan had also demanded two parachutes in case Uganda refused him permission to land.

Doering said the earlier story was broadcast "because he had a radio in there, and that's the story he wanted."
"He wanted Amin to welcome him with open arms so he could assassinate him," McLagan gave no reason for wanting to kill Amin, and apparently had never been a mercenary, Doering said.
In the early hours of the incident, McLagan released 11 hostages, but he seized S. Sgt. Bill Donaldson, who had escorted Doering into the bank.

After hours of negotiations, police brought in McLagan's brother Rick, from Hamilton, Ont., and his sister, Helen, from Mississauga, Ont., to try to persuade him to surrender.
Four hours after they entered the bank, Police Chief Harold Adamson announced to newsmen McLagan was in custody. Minutes later, the gunman, wearing a checkered shirt and light pants, was taken in handcuffs to a police car and whisked away.

Adamson said there had been "no terms" for McLagan's surrender, and no offer of immunity from prosecution was made.

Baltimore man frees hostages; sought publicity for family plight

United Press International
BALTIMORE — Anthony Griffin was desperate with frustration over a \$637 utility bill and the fact his wife and children might be evicted from their home, so he took 35 city employees and nine members of his own family hostage, using two pistols and a machete.

Police Col. James Watkins said Griffin, 40-year-old security guard who surrendered quietly yesterday after the three-hour ordeal, wanted to tell the world of his frustrations at a news conference.
"He was desperate about his family," Watkins said. "He face a \$637 gas and electric bill and a rent payment of over \$100. That's what drove him to do it. He said he wanted help from somebody and he

figured the press was the best way."
Griffin went to the city's Department of Social Services offices at Metro Plaza in Northwest Baltimore yesterday in response to a letter that his children were not attending school, police said.
Once inside the office door, he pulled out two pistols and a machete from a duffel bag and told the employees he wanted to talk to the media, police said.
For the next three hours, Griffin talked to police through a locked door about his plight, releasing the 35 city employees after about an hour.
Watkins said Griffin would be charged today with 35 counts of kidnapping and other charges related to using a gun in the commission of a felony and would face a bond hearing before a judge.

Leader to remain as caretaker

Indira Gandhi resigns

United Press International
NEW DELHI, India — Prime Minister Indira Gandhi resigned today. She will remain as India's caretaker until the opposition alliance, which handed her and her Congress party a humiliating election loss, can form a new cabinet this week.

Mrs. Gandhi, who submitted her resignation and those of her cabinet to acting President B. D. Jatti, said they will stay in until a new government is selected by the politicians who ended her party's 30-year domination of India.

Even before the official announcement of Mrs. Gandhi's resignation, jubilant leaders of the Janata People's Party and the Congress for Democracy had begun jockeying to fill the power vacuum left by the ousters.

A spokesman for the victors said the new deputies elected in the parliamentary elections last week will meet Thursday to select a new prime minister and party leaders — preferably by consensus but through a floor fight if necessary.

Weather

Partly cloudy and mild today with a high of 69. Light winds from the north at five mph becoming southeasterly tomorrow. Continued partly cloudy with slight warming trend tomorrow. Low tonight in the mid-40s, high tomorrow in the upper 70s. No precipitation in sight.

Aggie named agriculture commissioner

United Press International
AUSTIN — The biography put out by Reagan V. Brown's staff lists him as a special assistant to Gov. Dolph Briscoe, on leave from Texas A&M University.
It says he was once named "Man of the Year in Texas Agriculture" by the Progress-

sive Farmer magazine, and that in the four years he has worked under Briscoe he has made 422 speeches, and received standing ovations for 422 of them.
Yesterday a new title was added to that biography. Briscoe appointed Brown Texas commissioner of agriculture, replacing

John C. White, who was named deputy secretary of the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

"Gov. Briscoe said he'd like to make Texas No. 1 in agriculture, not No. 3," Brown said yesterday. "Texas needs to do its part to feed the world, even though it

would be a difficult task. I'd like to help farmers make profits, and by those profits they can produce more food."

"There's a lot of legislation before the current session of the legislature that would help relieve farmers."

Although he was appointed to serve out White's term, Brown already has said he will seek a full term in the 1978 elections. The appointment, however, must first be confirmed by the Senate.

Rep. Joe Hubenak, D-Rosenberg, who was one of those seeking the appointment, said earlier he definitely would be a candidate in 1978 regardless of whom Briscoe appointed. But Hubenak yesterday would not confirm his plans to enter the race.

Rep. Pete Laney, D-Hale Center, also sought the appointment and said he would decide on the 1978 race after the session ends.

Brown had withdrawn his name for consideration when White was first mentioned as a possible appointee in the Carter administration, but said last week the governor had put his name back in the race.

"I never did remove him from consideration," Briscoe said.

Briscoe said he was prevented from appointing a member of the legislature to the post because of a law prohibiting lawmakers from being appointed to state jobs if the salary for that job was raised during their term of office.

Program aided commissioner to get A&M degree

By FRANK V. VASOVSKI
Reagan V. Brown was born in Henderson, Tex., on a family farm "which was so poor that it took three acres of land to rust a nail."
Brown entered Texas A&M College in 1939 as one of the 4,000 residents of "Project Houses," which he described as "a product of the post-depression years."

A couple of sociologists, Dr. Dan Russell and Dan Davis, came up with the idea of "Project Houses" to assist students in need of financial support.

Large order buying was used to obtain lower prices for food and other supplies. Some parents provided peas, beans and other products to help feed the students, Brown said. Volunteer or hired "house mothers" assisted in cooking and upkeep.

Even though the monthly charge was only \$12 per student, many of them had to work extra jobs to pay for the books and tuition.

"Hundreds of them are top executives today," Brown said, "because they learned the hard way the value of money and hard work."

Brown was awarded a bachelor of science degree in Marketing and Finance in 1943.

After completion of the Officer Training School in Fort Benning,

Cal., and an assignment to Camp Wolters, Tex., Brown departed for Europe with the 69th Infantry Division. He was wounded in April 1945 near Kassel, Germany. A tour of duty with the American Graves Registration Command followed his recovery. Brown was discharged in 1946 with the rank of captain.

Brown joined the Texas A&M College Agricultural Extension Service in 1948, first as an assistant county agent in Hunt County and later as county agent in Kaufman County where he helped build the vetch seed program into "a million dollar enterprise."

In 1952 Brown accepted the county agent's job in Caldwell County. While there he helped develop Luling, Tex., into the largest producer of watermelons in the state. The United Service Clubs of Caldwell County recognized his efforts with a citation "for the eco-



REAGAN V. BROWN

nomie and social development of the county."

Brown regards support for farmers as a top national goal.

"America can no longer feed the whole world," he said. "The quicker we decide that our own farmers must come first, the easier it will be to feed the others."

In 1956 Brown was assigned to Headquarters Staff of the Agricultural Extension Service, Department of Agriculture.

(See AGGIE, Page 10.)

Council urges Bryan to restrict building in flood hazard areas

College Station city councilmen are urging the Bryan City Council to pass restrictive ordinances controlling development in flood hazard areas.

In a resolution passed earlier this month, the council also requested that Bryan refuse utility service to developments in the flood hazard area not under the control of municipal ordinances.

"If you build in a flood hazard area, you have a chance of being flooded," Bravence said. Persons living upstream or downstream could also be affected by building in the flood hazard area, he said.

Hubert Nelson, director of planning, traffic and inspection for the City of Bryan,

said Bryan has two resolutions regulating construction in the flood hazard areas. Nelson said the resolutions were passed when the city applied for federally subsidized flood insurance with the Federal Insurance Administration in April 1974.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers studied three local flood hazard areas, Nelson said. His office maintains the maps of these areas and additional information related to construction in the flood hazard areas.

"We have the documents and we use them frequently," Nelson said. Federal law does not prohibit building in the flood plains, but it does limit the amount and type of construction in these areas, he said.

"Anybody in the city can purchase subsidized flood insurance if they want," Nelson said. This insurance has been available to residents since the city was approved by the Federal Insurance Administration in May 1974, he said. Nelson explained that the insurance companies were not willing to offer the flood insurance due to the high risk involved, but now the subsidized insurance can be bought for about the same amount as fire insurance.

The City of Bryan anticipates updating their controls on the flood hazard areas, Nelson said. They hope to adopt an ordinance that will be more specific than the current resolutions, he said.



iArriba ... Andele ... Hullabaloo Caneck!

This photo of General Francisco (Pancho) Villa was taken by the late John Davidson Wheelan of Dallas. The picture was taken during the Mexican Revolution and is part of a collection given to Texas

A&M University by Wheelan's daughter and her husband, Mr. Thomas F. Smith of Houston. (see story on page 6)

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