



Battalion photo by Mary C. Becker

### Going, going, gone!

Prospective bidders inspect one of the 25 bicycles auctioned off Saturday at the Grove Theatre. The Texas A&M Wheelmen and Alpha Phi Omega collected \$1098.25. A red tricycle sold for \$11.

## Committee considers presidential nominees

By LEE ROY LESCHPER JR.  
Battalion Editor

Texas A&M University could have a new president by late July and he will come from a list of candidates university officials have opened to public nominations. The faculty committee considering nominees for the presidency will recommend finalists for the job before the A&M Board of Regents meeting July 29, Chancellor Jack K. Williams said Friday. The committee makes its final recommendations to Williams. Williams, who will make a final recommendation for the presidency to the board at that meeting, said the regents may or may not appoint a new president at that time. Williams is acting president until a new president is appointed.

"I'm sure they'll want to interview these people before making a decision," Williams said. The 12-man Faculty Advisory Committee to the President, made up of representatives elected by secret ballot from each of the colleges of the University, is reviewing a list of 41 nominees, with the chancellor, Williams said. That list included 11 nominees from within the University system and 30 from "outside." The committee will try to fill the post with someone from within the system before considering outsiders, Williams said. "We've spent one day removing people from the list that don't meet the qualifications," he said. The regents earlier established a set of criteria the new president must meet.

Those requirements include: an earned doctorate in an established field of study; "considerable experience" in education at a land grant university or system; classroom teaching experience; good character and health, and age of 45-60 years. The board originally required someone 45-55 years old, but someone up to 60 would be acceptable, Williams said. "We're seeking the men," he said. "We're not interested in having the men seek us." So the committee is accepting nominations for the presidency from anyone interested in submitting them, he said. "We're pleased to have nominations from anyone. Or comments anyone may have on the presidency for that matter," he said.

## Youth sets fire to padded cell, gases kill 42 prisoners, visitors

United Press International

COLUMBIA, Tenn. — Authorities said the foam in a padded cell would be analyzed today to determine the "toxic agent" that apparently killed 42 prisoners and visitors in a fire in the Maury County jail.

The fire, allegedly started by an emotionally disturbed youth in the padded cell during visiting hours yesterday, was confined to the 6 by 10-foot cell, but black smoke and gases spread through the ventilating system.

"This two-inch thick foam padding was what caused the killing gases. We're going to get it analyzed," said assistant fire chief Wayne Hickman.

Dr. George Mayfield, a local physician, said blood samples were taken from eight of the victims and autopsies would be performed on two of the dead to determine the "toxic agent" that killed them. He did not rule out simple carbon monoxide.

Sheriff Bill Voss said Andy Zimmer, 16, a fugitive from a home for mentally disturbed children in Dousman, Wis., set fire to his cell, possibly with a cigarette given him by someone visiting another prisoner.

Around 75 persons were in the one-story, cross-shaped jail when the fire broke out about 1:30 p.m. CDT. "I'm on fire," Zimmer screamed, and the cry of "fire!" rose above the buzz of conversation in the jail.

Panic ensued. Jerry Wayne Dickey, the sheriff's criminal investigator, ran back to open the cells and collided with visitors stampeding toward the jail entrance through the smoke.

"All the visitors tried to get out the door where I was, and they pinned me against the wall, and I dropped my keys. I shouted for the dispatcher to call and get a bulldozer over here so we could push the wall down and get the people out," he said.

The lethal gas took its toll so quickly that the screams from the jail stopped

within four minutes after the fire was discovered. Four members of one family were believed to be among the victims.

Ambulances shuttled 75 persons to Maury County Hospital. Hospital officials said early today that 42 persons were killed and 33 were injured. Of the injured, 12 were transferred to Nashville hospitals, six were treated and released and 15 were hospitalized here.

One witness said Zimmer's padded cell "went up like wildfire."

Chief deputy Bob Farmer and jailer Willie Cummings dragged Zimmer from his smoking cell as the ventilation system gushed blinding smoke through the building.

Firemen rushed to the jail from their station a block away and began punching a

hole in the back wall. They cleared a hole about the time Dickey, alternately running outside to get fresh air and then groping along a smoke-filled corridor, found the keys. That was about 12 minutes after the fire began.

"That place was so full you could hardly walk in it," said ambulance attendant Eugene Ford. "It was absolute hell."

Most of the dead were found piled in a corner of the back wing. "The apparently heard us trying to get them out," the sheriff said. Most of the bodies were covered with soot, but few were burned.

Zimmer was rushed to a Nashville hospital, where he was reported in critical condition with burns over 25 per cent of his body.

## Bishop defies Pope Paul — could be excommunicated

United Press International

PARIS — Rebel Roman Catholic Bishop Marcel Lefebvre has defied Pope Paul VI and left himself open to excommunication by ordaining a traditionalist priest and promising more this week in violation of a direct papal order.

The 71-year-old French bishop Sunday ordained Benedictine monk Augustin Marie in the monastery of Flavigny sur Ozerain in Burgundy, a Lefebvre spokesman in Paris told reporters.

He said Lefebvre, who was suspended last year from all priestly functions by the Pope, still plans to ordain 13 priests and 22 subdeacons Wednesday at his traditionalist seminary in Ecône, Switzerland, despite a papal warning.

The former archbishop of Dakar, Senegal and Tulle, France, was suspended for his rejection of the liturgical reforms ordered by the Second Vatican Council.

In a hand-written letter to Lefebvre made public last week, the Pope warned the ordinations would be "making irreparable the break with the unity and charity of the Catholic communion" — a warning that excommunication would follow.

As news of yesterday's act of defiance by Lefebvre reached Rome, the Pope appeared at the Vatican balcony overlooking St. Peter's Square for his regular Sunday blessing of pilgrims and appealed for "firmness in the Catholic faith."

Some observers said the pontiff was asking the faithful to remain firm in the face of Lefebvre's challenge.

The heart of the quarrel lies in Lefebvre's refusal to accept the Second Vatican Council reforms, which, among other things, allow the mass to be celebrated in languages other than Latin and require the priest to face the congregation rather than the altar.

Lefebvre has said of his quarrel with the Pope, "I am not the revolutionary, he is," and has publicly labeled the Pontiff a "heretic," "schismatic" and a "tool of communism."

One of Lefebvre's spokesmen, asked about the new papal warning, said, "The threats do not impress us. We are used to them."

Earlier this year a group of Lefebvre supporters occupied a Paris church and demanded they be given their own church in which to conduct the traditionalist mass. The French government owns most church buildings in the country.

### Prosecutors to get evidence

## Business associate claims Yarbrough forged car title

United Press International

HOUSTON — A Houston newspaper is reporting that Travis County prosecutors will get evidence today alleging Texas Supreme Court Justice Donald B. Yarbrough participated in the forgery of an automobile title last month in his Austin hotel.

In a copyrighted story in its Sunday edition, The Houston Post said the matter had been turned over to Travis County District Attorney Ronnie Earle. The Post, in its Saturday editions, re-

ported Yarbrough sought to have a former banking business partner, Bill Kemp, killed for \$2,500, and have the body taken out of the country. The murder-for-hire plot was hatched because Kemp could incriminate Yarbrough before a grand jury, the article said.

District Attorney Carol S. Vance of Houston said the matter is alleged to have occurred during the time Yarbrough has served on the state's highest court. "This did occur while Justice Yarbrough was a member of the State Supreme

Court. I don't want to get into any details of the case whether it involves a Supreme Court justice or just a lowly man on the street," Vance said.

"It will be up to him (Earle) to determine how to proceed from there. I can't go into the details of the case which might be pending before a court."

John William "Bill" Rothkopf, 58, a former business associate of Yarbrough, claimed he was with the justice May 16 when he forged the title to a 1974 Chevrolet Monte Carlo, the Post said.

The car initially cropped up in a Harris County civil court trial in January, when Yarbrough testified he deeded the car over to Rothkopf in return for what he owed a builder for construction of bookshelves.

Yarbrough then produced a purported receipt signed by Rothkopf in an effort to show that if anyone owed for the bookshelves it was Rothkopf, the Post said.

Rothkopf told the Post the car belonged to Yarbrough when he was in control of the Commercial Bank of Victoria in 1974. He said Yarbrough gave him the car in return for leaving the area and staying out of sight when any legal actions came up involving the Houston businessman and attorney.

Rothkopf told the Post the complex maneuver of obtaining a title in a third person's name for Rothkopf's use involved license plates from an unknown county in Alabama.

He said the Austin forgery was the next step in getting a Texas title and license plates.

## Oil company to drill well on A&M land

By JERRY NEEDHAM

Drilling of a 23,000-foot depth oil and gas well will begin soon on Texas A&M University-owned land six miles south of the main campus, say Getty Oil Company spokesmen.

The site of the proposed well is east of highway 50 on a 3,192-acre tract of land adjacent to the Brazos River in Burleson County.

Skelly Oil Co. obtained a three-year lease on the land at a public auction on May 25, 1977, at a cost of \$430,928 or \$135 an acre. Skelly has leased the land for the last five years and conducted extensive tests in the area.

Six days after obtaining the lease, Skelly merged with Getty Oil Co. Another oil company was in serious competition for the lease, said James Bond, attorney for the Texas A&M University System.

Ray Faudry, a spokesman for Getty's regional office in Houston, said the well will take about a year to complete the well at an approximate cost of \$6,000,000.

Allen Weatherby, a spokesman for Amoco, Getty's operator for the project, said yesterday that final arrangements on a contract to drill the well are still ongoing, but that a deal should be consummated within three weeks.

Meanwhile construction of the foundation for the drilling platform has already begun.

The three-year lease can be extended indefinitely at a cost of one dollar per acre per year as long as the company is producing oil, gas or sulfur in paying quantities.

The lease provides that if the company strikes oil, gas or sulfur, the Texas A&M University System gets paid one-fifth of the profits.

Any royalty money collected by the University System would go into a special mineral fund, Bond said. The royalties themselves are not ever used, Bond said, but interest on the money is used for permanent improvements on university system land.

## Annual pay raise for members part of Congress' busy agenda

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Members of Congress will be faced with two strictly self-interest roll call votes amidst a busy week in advance of a 10-day recess over the July 4 holiday.

The \$12,900 annual pay raise which members accepted four months ago without a vote is back this week, as well as a vote on whether to pass up an annual cost of living increase due members in October unless they vote to spurn it.

On Tuesday the House calls up a \$941 million appropriations bill to finance Congress and related agencies in the 1978 fiscal year beginning Oct. 1.

The emotional issues of abortion and school busing face the Senate, meanwhile. Both are included in a \$60.7 billion money bill for the Departments of Labor and Health, Education and Welfare.

The House's embarrassing pay problems start with a Senate-passed bill that calls for skipping an estimated 5 per cent cost of living pay boost for Congress, top executive branch officials and the judiciary.

The measure is expected to pass easily, as it did in the Senate. It will set the stage for a tougher fight over cutting the 29 per cent pay boost Congress got March 1.

Opponents of the increase complained because a roll call was avoided when the raise was adopted on recommendation of an independent panel.

Now, House Speaker Thomas O'Neill says critics will have their chance to see a vote on the issue because an amendment will be offered to cut the current \$57,500 a year pay back to \$44,600 when the congressional appropriations bill is considered.

In the Senate, the most explosive issue

this week is a provision in the HEW budget which says no federal money can be used for abortions except to save a woman's life, in a medical emergency, or if a woman is a victim of rape or incest.

A House-passed version of the bill prohibits federal money for abortions under any circumstances. A similar anti-abortion measure approved last year is now before the Supreme Court.

### Battalion places second; editors receive awards

The Battalion received two first place awards for journalistic excellence in feature and editorial writing during ceremonies Thursday at the 1977 Texas Press Association convention in Galveston.

The Battalion placed second in its division of Texas newspapers with circulation 8,000 to 150,000, and was the only student newspaper in the TPA awards program.

The award-winning articles were written by former Battalion Campus Editor Lisa Junod and Battalion Sports Editor Paul McGrath.

Ms. Junod's feature story on the antics of Dr. Rod O'Connor on the first day of class in Chemistry 101 and McGrath's editorial on illegal search and seizure of fireworks in the Corps dorms were judged best in a field of 10 other Texas newspapers by a team of Florida judges.

Accepting the awards for The Battalion were fall editor Jamie Aitken and Student Publications Director Gael Cooper.

The TPA convention brought some 400 representatives of daily and weekly newspapers from throughout the state.



Battalion Staff Photo

### The county giveth and the county taketh away

College Station's City Council has decided to accept bids on a new modulance-type ambulance for the city. That modulance would be similar to the unit the city now has on loan from Brazos

County (shown above). County commissioners earlier this month gave the city notice that the county wants its unit back, to be loaned to Mid-Tex Ambulance of Bryan.