



The Battalion

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College Station, Texas

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

weather

Mostly cloudy this morning, breaking to partly cloudy this afternoon and tonight. High today 94, low 75. Winds today south-southeasterly 8 m.p.h. with gusts to 16 m.p.h. Winds dropping tonight to 5-8 m.p.h. No rain expected for today and no change expected for tomorrow.

Prankster hasn't been found

Garbage can fire cracks 'can'

A fire in the bathroom of a Texas A&M University dorm early yesterday morning produced lots of smoke but only one victim — a cracked toilet.

Pranksters apparently ignited two paper-filled plastic garbage cans, one atop the ill-fated toilet, in the 4th floor bathroom of Dorm 8, College Station Fire Marshall Harry Davis said. Dorm 8, on the Corps quadrangle, houses about 215 male summer school students, dorm head resident adviser (R.A.) Ed Castillo said.

"It started sometime between 3 and 4 a.m.," Castillo said. "I was told about 4 a.m. the 4th floor R.A. told me, we went up and put it out with the fire extinguisher." The head R.A. of each dorm is issued a fire extinguisher for such emergencies.

A College Station fire truck responded to the fire. But the R.A.s had extinguished it before the truck arrived.

The fire blackened the bathroom walls and ceiling with soot and smoke. The toilet was cracked by heat from the burning garbage can on it, Davis said. The fire did not damage anything outside the bathroom. But the entire dorm was filled with smoke for some time, Castillo said.

Davis said the fire had been reported as arson.

"We'll probably never file charges," Davis said. "But we would file if we found who did it."

"We have no definite leads yet," Morris Maddox, asst. University police chief, said. University police are investigating the fire, but arsonists are hard to catch, Maddox said.

Dorm residents said at least one and possibly two other fires were started in the dorm in the last three weeks. Residents put out those fires without reporting them.

"We get lots of pranks and I'm sure that's what this was intended to be," Davis said. "But we're having more and more practical jokes and they're getting more serious. We're going to wind up having somebody hurt seriously."



A fire yesterday morning about 4 a.m. destroyed a toilet seat in Dorm 8. The toilet area on the fourth floor was filled with melted trash containers and burnt papers.

Presnal says 'ten worst' list meant to discredit speaker

By RUSTY CAWLEY
Battalion Staff

Rep. Bill Presnal says his being placed on Texas Monthly magazine's list of the "10 Worst Legislators" is a result of either misinformation or outright maliciousness.

Presnal, D-Bryan, representative for Brazos and Robertson counties, was accused in the July issue of Texas Monthly of losing control of the House appropriations committee which he chairs. The article said that because of Presnal's "abdication of responsibility" the committee budgeted money for unnecessary projects, a practice known as "pork-barreling."

Texas Monthly said the bill was over a half billion dollars higher than the target amount set by House Speaker Billy Clayton. It labels the entire half billion as pork-barrel.

"No one has told me where the pork barrel is in this bill," Presnal said Monday.

Presnal said the article should have spoken to specific issues rather than deal in generalities. He criticized the authors for suggesting he should have controlled his committee.

The appropriations chairman no longer dictates to other committee members what will be and will not be in the bill, Presnal said.

"We're saying 'no' in different ways," Presnal said. "We've opened up the process to where everyone can have his say."

"I can't tell a committee member 'No, you can't propose that,'" Presnal said. "He's representing the same number of people I am and he has the right to say and do as he wants."

"Once the bill is on the floor, I don't try to get the committee members to defend it. They're too independent for that these days. There is no way an appropriations bill will go to the floor and remain intact."

The oversized bill went to the floor of the house, where Clayton-Presnal forces attached an amendment that took all of the proposals other than the original bill out.

To put their individual projects back into the budget, each legislator had to propose an amendment to the amendment and face approval by a majority of the entire house. Most failed, and were bitter.

Presnal said the amendment was written by his staff under a set of guidelines. "I didn't even see the amendment until it was ready for presentation," he said.

"Notice the ones who are so critical of the job we did are the 'big spenders,' the one whose pet projects were cut out of the bill." Their statements are contradictory. They say I lost control, but would they want a dictator? I don't think they would," Presnal said.

Presnal said the story has two complete errors in it. One said that he sponsored a bill to split the Texas Department of Labor into two departments and the other, that he sponsored a bill to prohibit a Hearne bank from moving to Bryan.

These errors had appeared in newspaper accounts during the session, but had later been retracted.

"If they (Texas Monthly) had checked with the news staffs who wrote those stories, they'd know they were false," Presnal said.

The Legislative Budget Board decided to push the bill to take the regulation of business away from the Department of Labor by creating a Department of Business, he said.

"I don't think the Department of Labor can regulate business. There's an ideological conflict," Presnal said.

The commission of the Labor Department tried to discredit the bill, Presnal said, by revealing that his brother lobbied for employment agencies.

The bill failed. "If you want to kill a bill, you discredit it. I've seen it a thousand times and I've haven't involved in it a hundred times," he said.

Presnal said the bill on the Hearne bank was the project of Sen. Bill Moore, D-Bryan.

The only stock Presnal owns is about 40 shares worth about \$1,000 in City National Bank of Bryan he said.

"All I get out of that is a free meal once a year," Presnal said. "Come to think of it, I haven't been around to get that for the past three years."

The article quotes Presnal as telling a committee member who wanted to add money for his favorite college to the budget, "Why not? Might as well sink the boat all the way."

Presnal claims that he was misquoted.

"I anticipated the member was going to propose additional money and I said to him 'I think the boat is loaded enough that its going to sink,'" Presnal said.

"I was suggesting he not make the motion, and he didn't."

Presnal said he believes the article is an attempt to discredit Speaker of the House Bill Clayton, who is up for re-election. "If you could identify these writers, I think you'd find them to be people who are out to detract from the House leadership," Presnal said.

Clayton has proven he can do the job, Presnal said, and there is no valid way to attack him except through the appropriations chairman he appoints.

"It's an historical trend that if you want to attack a speaker when you can't attack him personally, you attack the man he chooses as his appropriations chairman," Presnal said, "that happens to be me."

"Like they say, 'If you don't like the heat, you better get out of the kitchen.'"

Nixon tapes public property, but release not expected soon

United Press International

WASHINGTON — It will be years before Richard Nixon's presidential tapes and papers become public, despite the Supreme Court's ruling that the government — not Nixon — may have control of them.

Federal archivists cannot even begin sorting the 42 million documents and 880 tapes until Congress passes regulations for screening them. That could take months.

If Nixon's lawyers then challenge the regulations in court, as they are expected to do, it could be another year or two until the screening process can begin, said assistant archivist Daniel Reed, who is in charge of presidential libraries.

A 1974 law that was upheld on a 7-2 division yesterday by the Supreme Court requires the General Services Administration to make public Nixon's presidential materials that provide evidence of abuse of power, he said.

General Services Administration will return to Nixon those tapes and papers which are determined to be personal, however, and will try to protect the privacy of other people who might be embarrassed by having their conversations made public.

Once the screening begins, it should be about three months before the first materials are made public, Reed said. With 100

archivists working on them, it could take some three years to sort them all.

Meanwhile, the papers remain sealed in large boxes at GSA's Federal Records Center in Suitland, Md. The tapes are in locked rooms in the Old Executive Office Building next to the White House.

R. Stan Mortenson, one of Nixon's lawyers, said yesterday he was still looking over the court's opinion, "trying to go through and understand it and all of its ramifications." He said "no decisions have been made" whether the court will be asked to reconsider its action within the 25 days allowed.

There was no comment from San Clemente.

Rep. John Brademas, D-Ind., sponsor of the 1974 law, said yesterday's ruling assured the public "this record of Nixon's presidency will not be tampered with."

He called for "speedy adoption" of the regulations by Congress. But a House aide said Congress may simply allow the regulations to take effect by failing to act on them within a period of 90 legislative days.

Congress rejected three previous sets of proposed regulations submitted by the Ford administration, but Reed said the major "bones of contention" now have been eliminated. Under current recommendations, copies of materials being made public would become available at

111 General Services Administration deposit areas across the country.

Justice William Brennan announced the court's historic 7 to 2 decision from the bench yesterday, saying Congress could treat Nixon differently from other presidents and seize his White House tapes and papers.

The justices said Nixon — the only president ever to resign and the only president to be pardoned for any crimes committed in office — was "a legitimate class of one" under the law.

This was the second blow delivered to Nixon by the court he did so much to mold by naming four of the present justices. The court ruled 8 to 0 in July, 1974, that Nixon had to provide White House conversations subpoenaed for the coverup trial of former presidential aides.

One of those was the so-called "smoking gun" tape which proved to be the last straw and forced his resignation.

The court will rule next year whether those tapes, which already are in the public domain, may be aired by broadcasters and mass marketed. Nixon argues that a U.S. Court of Appeals ruling allowing them to be commercially distributed would invade his privacy by placing the tapes in private hands "to be played at cocktail parties and in satiric productions."

Vietnamese abandoning Saigon, communists plan to 'let city die'

United Press International

OF AKIM, Israel — Vietnamese who fled their homeland say that Communist authorities are emptying Saigon of its people and resources — even light bulbs — and plan to let the city die.

The city is dying and the Communist authorities are letting it die," Dr. Tran Quang Hoa said of Saigon, once the capital of South Vietnam and now called Ho Chi Minh City by the Communists who took over in 1975.

The 33-year-old Hoa was one of 66 Vietnamese refugees who reached Israel Sunday after being rescued by an Israeli freighter from their sinking fishing boat in the South China Sea. All but 17

are from Saigon.

Israeli authorities settled the refugees in this small town 14 miles northwest of Beersheba, the capital of the Negev Desert, and housed them in air conditioned trailers originally bought to accommodate Jewish immigrants, mostly from the Soviet Union.

Hoa and other refugees said Communist authorities have evicted 700,000 Saigon residents and sent them by force to country-side "economic zones" to grow vegetables. Most of the 2 million residents remaining in the city will be evacuated by the end of 1978, they said.

"They (the Communists) have no plans to develop Saigon — just to empty it and

take everything to the north," said Hoa. "To them Saigon is only a city, whereas Hanoi is the capital they want to make bigger and richer."

"All the modern equipment in hospitals and office buildings, even the light bulbs, have been taken out and sent north," he said, adding that life in Saigon in 1977 is much as it was in 1950.

The Saigon-born Hoa said he served as a surgeon with the South Vietnamese army, was captured before the war ended and spent 16 months in a concentration camp.

Hoa said each Saigon family is allocated only 20 pounds of meat a month, and "all the good medicines are reserved for those in the Communist party."

Court considers death penalty for rape

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court may wind up its 1976-77 term by deciding whether the Constitution allows a man to be sentenced to death for rape — a crime in which no life has been taken.

The appeal by Ehrlich Anthony Coker, an Death Row in Georgia for sexually assaulting a 16-year-old girl in 1972, was the only major case which the justices have heard arguments on this term but left undecided. They planned to adjourn today until Oct. 3.

The ruling may decide the fate of four other men in Georgia besides Coker and

one in Florida who were awaiting execution for rape. And it may determine whether a number of state legislatures add a rape provision to their capital punishment laws.

The issue of whether the death penalty is "disproportionate" for rape was left undecided last year when the Supreme Court ruled that capital punishment for murder is not prohibited by the Constitution if fairly and evenly administered.

Since the government began keeping records in 1930, 455 men — 90 per cent of them blacks — have been executed for rape

in America. Before the Supreme Court struck down all existing capital punishment laws in 1972, 16 states sanctioned the death penalty for rape.

Today, Georgia is the only state authorizing execution for the rape of an adult woman. Florida, Mississippi and Tennessee laws allow death for the rape of children by adults.



Battalion photos by Steve Goble

Taking the 'work' out of workshop

Over 450 high school journalists from all over Texas have gathered at Texas A&M this week for the communications department's annual journalism workshop. Lecture and work sessions such as the one above on yearbooks haven't kept all the fun out of the week-long convention. At right, Charlie Heintschel scores a direct hit on Kayla Johnson during a shaving cream fight Monday evening after a workshop barbecue. Charlie and Kayla are from Sam Rayburn High School in Pasadena.



GSSO discusses plans for political involvement

By GLENNA WHITLEY
Battalion Campus Editor

A local gay rights group discussed plans for future political involvement in Bryan-College Station Monday night at its first public meeting.

Michael Garrett, spokesman for Gay Student Services (GSS) said previous meetings were essentially open to anyone, but the meeting place was not openly announced because of "fear and paranoia" GSS members felt.

"We've gotten over some of our fears," Garrett said. The organization wants everyone interested in human rights to join, he said.

"You don't have to be gay to join," he said. Twenty-two people attended the meeting. Most were already members in the GSS.

The group plans to boycott Florida citrus products sold by grocery, produce and fast food stores in Bryan-College Station.

"We feel that Anita Bryant has clouded the issue with emotionalism and religious diatribe," Garrett said. Bryant is employed by the Florida Citrus Commission. People in Florida have taken a stand on the issue as a result of the "no" vote in Dade County recently, he added. That

vote concerned an anti-discrimination ordinance involving homosexuals in public housing.

Garrett said letters will be written to stores carrying citrus products informing them of the boycott and urging them to buy Texas and California products. The group also plans to send protest letters to the Florida Citrus Commission.

GSS also organized a committee to handle political involvement of the group. The group plans to survey local councilmen and state and national representatives on their knowledge, if any, of laws, ordinances or legislation that discriminates against minority groups. The survey also asks if the elected official would support anti-discrimination ordinances. The results will be compiled and possibly published by the League of Women Voters, Garrett said.

"Anything beyond that will be on an individual basis," he said. The members were all urged to get involved with local grass roots politics. "We're not trying to infiltrate," Garrett said. "We just have to work within the system."

The next meeting will be held July 11 at the Unitarian Fellowship Church at 7:30 p.m. For more information, call the Gay Referral Line at 846-2469.

Federal appeals court asks for ban on firecrackers

United Press International

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court has told the Consumer Product Safety Commission to review its ban on big firecrackers, but the move will have little effect on next week's Fourth of July celebrations.

The commission rules allowed fire-

crackers of 130 milligrams last year for the Bicentennial but this year the legal size was reduced to 50 mgs — "ladyfinger" size.

The Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia yesterday questioned that ban and sent the rules back for further consid-

eration. It was not clear what this actually means to the ban, but one thing is clear: larger firecrackers won't be in use for awhile yet.

The reason, said John Conklin of the American Pyrotechnic Association, is that "there are virtually no 130 mg firecrackers

in the country — any that there are would be a carryover from last year, and that would not be many."

He said the court action "will have no effect on this Fourth of July," noting that it takes six months to order and receive firecrackers from the Orient.