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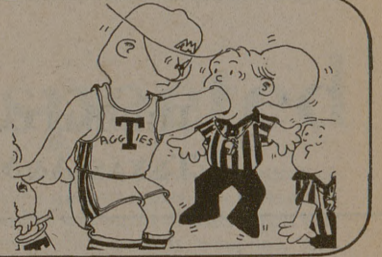
News Dept. 845-2611
Business Dept. 845-2611

Inside Monday:

Art from inmates, p. 5.

Radio KORP: a voice from the
Cadet Corps, p. 4.

Aggies lose on technicality 94-89.



Student trying to amend retirement system law

By ANDY WILLIAMS

Bob Carruthers, a graduate student in education at Texas A&M University, is trying to amend a state law which he says discriminates against him and people like him.

The law, Texas House Bill 612, prohibits students who are working half time or less from their universities from participating in the Texas Teacher Retirement System (TTRS). In effect, this means graduate assistants, Carruthers says.

Before passage of the bill in May 1977, graduate assistants at state universities were required to participate in the program.

Carruthers' amendment would allow these people he calls "career educators" to

continue to participate in the system. He says the bill penalizes those who taught in Texas public schools and were members of TTRS before they returned to college for higher degrees.

Before he enrolled at Texas A&M in 1976, Carruthers was a teacher and coach at schools in Abilene and Borger. He was forced to quit TTRS when House Bill 612 passed. He says he will lose pension, insurance benefits, sick leave, and holidays because he was forced out of the program.

Carruthers has presented his amendment to the Student Senate and the Graduate Student Council and plans to submit it to the Texas Student Association Convention here March 3-5. If it is passed by these groups the amendment will be

sent to the legislative committee of the Texas State Teachers Association and the board of trustees of TTRS. From there Carruthers hopes to send it to the Texas Legislature.

The Texas Teacher Retirement System provides a pension fund and insurance policies to its 390,000 members. It deducts 6.65 percent from each working member's paycheck and receives about 7.5 percent of its funds from the state.

Bruce Hineman, assistant director of TTRS, says that House Bill 612 passed largely because of support from a group of graduate assistants at the University of Texas. Hineman says the group objected to having money deducted from their paychecks without their consent. Graduate

assistants not continuing in the program after receiving their degrees had the money they'd paid into the program returned with 2.5 percent interest.

Carruthers says the low interest rate was the main objection for the bill's supporters. The rate has been raised to five percent for those withdrawing from the system before completing the 10 years required for receipt of pension.

Participation in the program could not be made optional to graduate assistants, Hineman says.

"Our plan is described as a group plan," he says, adding that it was necessary to include or exclude all graduate assistants.

"We did not favor this bill at all," Hineman says.

Mike Mitchell, president of the graduate student council, disagrees with Hineman's statement that the program could not be made optional to graduate assistants.

"That's ridiculous. It's not all or none," Mitchell said when told of the statement. He remarked that only a portion of Texas A&M's groundskeepers, janitors, maids and other employees participated in the system.

"If it can't be optional, then Carruthers' amendment is simply a moot point," Mitchell says the amendment required the separation of graduate assistants into categories, which violates TTRS's all-or-none maxim.

Mitchell says he would choose to make participation optional for graduate assistants but prefers keeping the involvement requirement rather than barring membership.

"My last choice would have been this fiasco," Mitchell says.

Sadat will argue case of talks with Americans

By United Press International

WASHINGTON — With no agreement in hand on how to resume the stalled peace talks with Israel, Egyptian President Anwar Sadat today undertook to argue his case with the American people.

Sadat and President Carter returned to Washington Sunday afternoon after two days and three long talks at Camp David, a secluded presidential retreat in the snow-covered Catoctin Mountains of western Maryland.

An interview with Sadat on NBC later made it clear the Carter-Sadat summit did not succeed in what American officials had described as a minimum goal: achieving early resumption of the foreign ministers' talks broken off by Sadat on Jan. 18 in Jerusalem.

Instead, Sadat said, it was agreed that Assistant Secretary of State Alfred Atherton Jr. will shuttle between Egypt and Israel in an effort to create some compromise language that would permit a resumption of the talks.

In the meantime, Sadat said, talks between the defense ministers in Cairo will continue.

The Egyptian president, meanwhile,

scheduled two days of meetings, appearances and interviews in Washington before a final session with Carter Wednesday.

Sadat's schedule called for meetings with American Jewish community leaders at Blair House Monday morning and a speech and question-and-answer session later at the National Press Club.

On Tuesday, he is to meet key congressional leaders, do at least two more television interviews and have a private "background" session with American editors and columnists.

Israeli Defense Minister Moshe Dayan has been invited to Washington soon after Sadat leaves Wednesday evening.

The Egyptian president said he would be willing to resume the foreign ministers' talks, but with a necessary precondition — agreement with Israel on a basic set of principles. The weekend talks had been designed, among other things, to produce such a declaration.

Sadat repeatedly made two points in Sunday night's interview with NBC's David Brinkley:

He expressed gratitude to the American people, particularly American Jews, for

the "sentiments they have shown." Speaking of the American Jews at one point he said, "I shall never fail them, or all the American people."

He accused Israel, at length, of taking the "wrong direction" after his visit to Jerusalem in November. He said the Israelis accepted his offer of recognition, direct talks, and full diplomatic relations as part of a comprehensive peace settlement without making any similar response in turn.

Officials concerned

Big Bend country has become corridor for drug trafficking

United Press International

MIDLAND, Tx. — A 350-mile strip of land stretching across the Big Bend country of Texas is causing concern for federal drug officials, according to a U.S. attorney.

Jamie C. Boyd of San Antonio during the weekend said the area, which stretches from Van Horn to Sanderson, has become

known as the Permian Basin corridor for drug trafficking. He said the corridor has the potential for corrupting local and county government.

The trafficking corridor, which has developed in recent years, includes Big Bend National park and the Presidio border entry port. It is one of the least protected

thoroughfares along the border for overland and airborne drug smugglers, Boyd said.

"The thing that troubles me most of all isn't the health problems caused by the drug flow, but rather the tremendous amount of money available for corruption of public office which is generated through the narcotics business," he said.

"One sheriff tells me he was approached and offered a six-figure number if he would lay off a particular road. He said he had heard of other officials who had had similar offers made to them.

"If there's that kind spread around, it's going to tell me we ought to make a hard attempt toward enforcement of the narcotics laws," Boyd said.

Boyd said he and members of President Carter's border agency reorganization team have reviewed the corridor's potential for traffickers and what can be done to stop the drug flow.

Big Bend National Park, a rugged and desolate region that attracts thousands of tourists each year, has developed a reputation as "the place to pick up your load,"

Boyd said. This has instigated recent talks Boyd and state and federal officials over how to make the park safer for tourists.

He pointed to recent roadblocks of major arteries cutting out of the park as a reason for the concern. One weekend in November resulted in arrests and seizures of nine persons for misdemeanor narcotics possession; two persons for stolen vehicles linked to trafficking; 104 pounds of marijuana; and \$10,000 believed payment for drugs.

"When I see lists of the type of people apprehended there and the type of nefarious things going on and the type of people dealing in trafficking, I would say tourists are not entirely safe. It's an unwholesome situation at best," he said.

In a 1976 drug seizure, a Sul Ross University student working undercover for government customs agents was killed in a gun battle. Agents seized more than 3,000 pounds of marijuana brought into the park across the Rio Grande.

Presidio has developed into a crossroad for overland drug traffic bound as far north as Chicago, Boyd said.

Contest draws 150 students

Students match wits with computers

By BETH DZIKOWSKI

There was a calm yet tense mood in the Remote Computing Center Saturday as 50 participants began a battle of computers in the ninth annual Southwest Regional Programming Contest.

Seventeen schools were represented in the actual competition. Each school had two teams which consisted of no more than four persons. The teams then elected to compete in the first or second division.

The strategy of this computer battle was to solve three problems in less than three

hours. The great minds from such schools as Rice, University of Houston, Texas A&M, and Abilene Christian University clashed to find the key program that would solve the assigned problems in division I. These problems had a higher degree of difficulty than those assigned to division II — teams from schools such as Baylor, Louisiana Tech and Prairie View A&M — filling the ranks.

The confrontation began at 1:15 p.m. and relief from the tedious skirmish would not come for three hours.

Two hours into the raging battle found the team "Nicholl's Worth" from Nicholls State University ahead of the pack in the second division. The A&M teams, "Great Gats," and "Primus," held their ground in division I.

Mass hysteria filled the room while last calculations were made. A ten-minute warning was announced and moans of "I'm going crazy" could be heard from the rows of paper-filled tables that line the RCC.

Data cards were punched out faster, minds moved more quickly as the teams

struggled to get their last programs runs into the computer.

Then it was all over. The last computation was made, the last data card was punched and the last runs were in the judges' hands.

Four gold and silver trophies patiently glistened as final results were tabulated for division.

In division II, LaTourneau College placed first. Second place was awarded to University of Tulsa. East Texas and Baylor took third and fourth place.

Division I did not do as well. Abilene Christian University was the only school to claim an award. Three gold trophies sat unattended as teams from Texas A&M, Rice, Stephen F. Austin, Houston and Trinity left with feelings of disgust and disappointment.

Many team members were highly frustrated and voiced opinions on 'unfair questioning' and 'not enough time.' But one member from the Rice team summed it up by saying, "This stinks!"

Vietnam gives in to U.S.; recalls U.N. ambassador

United Press International

HONG KONG — Vietnam has given in to an unprecedented U.S. expulsion order and recalled its chief representative to the United Nations. But, it denied that Ambassador Dinh Ba Thi was a spy.

The official Vietnam News Agency said Sunday that Thi, the first U.N. ambassador ever expelled by Washington, was being ordered home "because the U.S. government was hindering the activities of the Vietnamese U.N. chief."

Vietnam earlier said it would not comply with the expulsion order.

Thi allegedly was involved with U.S. Information Agency officer Ronald Humphrey, accused of leaking state secrets on Southeast Asia, and David Truong Hung Dzu, a Vietnamese who has been living in the United States for more than a decade. Both have been charged with espionage.

In Washington, State Department spokesman Charles Shapiro said the

Suspected kidnappers give taped confession

United Press International

NEW YORK — Three suspected kidnappers of fashion designer Calvin Klein's 11-year-old daughter have given authorities tape-recorded confessions of their ill-fated scheme, a prosecutor said Sunday.

A judge in Manhattan Criminal Court arraigned a French-speaking native of Martinique, her teen-age half brother and

another man on first degree kidnapping charges Sunday.

During the arraignment, Assistant District Attorney Thomas Demakis said all three had "made full, tape-recorded confessions." He said a "very strong case" would be presented to the grand jury within three days.

Marci Klein was lured from a bus on the way to school Friday and held captive nine hours in a Manhattan apartment until her father paid a \$100,000 ransom.

Acting State Supreme Court Justice Leo Milone ordered Paule Christine Ransay Lewis, 23, held on \$50,000 bail. Police claim the woman, who goes by the name of Christine Ransay, lured Marci from the bus.

Miss Ransay's 19-year-old half brother, Dominique Ransay, and Cecil Wiggins, 24, both of New York City, were ordered held on \$100,000 bond apiece. The judge set an additional bail of \$5,000 on Wiggins for a 1970 weapons charge.

State prosecutors had opposed bail for the three, but Legal Aid Attorney Harvey Fishbein argued that there was "no indication of injury" to Klein's daughter.

While Miss Ransay originally told police she had been forced to participate in the kidnapping by three men, she apparently changed her story later.

The arrests of the three suspects Saturday culminated an investigation involving hundreds of police officers and hundreds of FBI agents. At one point, however, confused agents mistakenly nabbed a 36-year-old New York man and his pregnant wife at a midtown parking garage.



Two students from Louisiana Tech University ponder over a computer program. They were among 29 teams that competed in the Ninth annual Southwest Regional Computer Program-

ming Contest, held Saturday in the Remote Computer Center in the Sterling C. Evans Library.

Battalion photo by Beth Dzikowski

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