

THE BATTALION

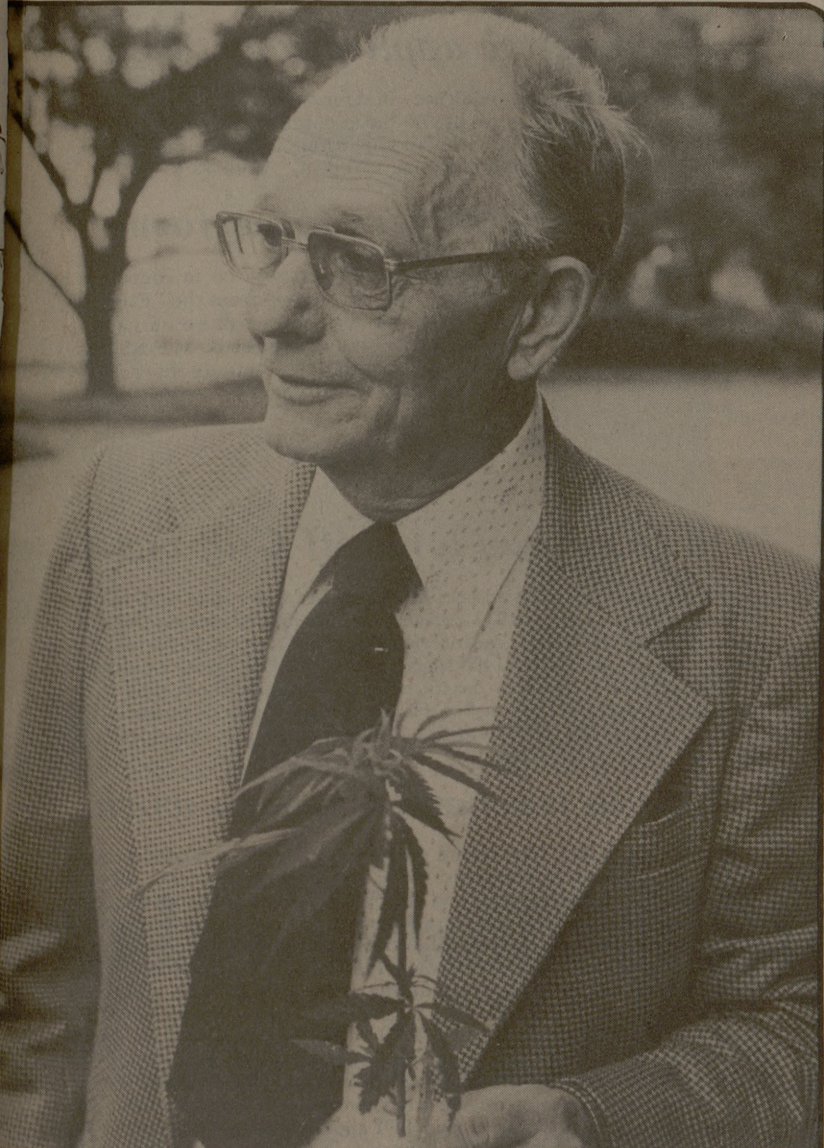
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Inside Wednesday

The YMCA — once more than an office building, p. 8.
Industry in space, p. 11.
Earl Campbell to join the Houston Oilers, p. 12.



Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leshper, Jr.

University Police Investigator J.D. Gossett holds what appears to be a marijuana plant that was found growing in a flower bed near the Academic Building Tuesday.

Marijuana plant found on campus

By JAN BAILEY

The grass is always greener on the other side, and in this case that was the other side of the Academic Building. There amid pink, spring poppies grew one, lone cannabis sativa plant, more commonly known as marijuana.

Dr. Ed McWilliams, associate professor of horticultural sciences, identified the plant after observing a leaf sample under a microscope and comparing it with dried samples in the horticulture department.

"I feel confident that it is marijuana," McWilliams said Tuesday. He added that the plant is sometimes hard to identify because of its varied leaf pattern. Some types have five leaves in a cluster, while others have seven or nine.

McWilliams said the plant near the Academic Building was probably a few weeks from flowering. He said it could have grown there from seed or been transplanted from a seedling.

J.D. Gossett, special investigator for the University Police, said the plant was probably three or four weeks old.

Gossett said he believes the seeds got there one of two ways: dropped by "vandals who wanted to make us look bad" or carried in bird droppings.

However, don't waste your time looking for the plant on your next nature walk across campus. Gossett uprooted the plant and said he'll keep it in his office until it dries. He plans to run chemical tests on it.

Ex-Aggie quarterback running for treasurer

United Press International

AUSTIN — For the first time in 36 years, the name of the late Treasurer Jesse James is missing from the Texas Democratic primary ballot.

Another treasurer with a famous name — appointee Warren G. Harding — is seeking election to a full term as James' successor and is being challenged by former Texas A&M football player Harry Ledbetter and former Bexar County auditor Charles R. Sanderson.

Harding, former Dallas County treasurer, was appointed state treasurer by Gov. Dolph Briscoe after James' death last year and has been the frontrunner throughout the campaign because of the incumbency status and his support by the state's bankers, who traditionally have played major role in election of the treasurer.

Ledbetter, who as an Aggie quarterback more than a decade ago was involved in one of the state's most talked about football plays, had campaigned hard and claims to have the momentum in the final weeks of the campaign.

As the Aggie quarterback in 1965, Ledbetter threw a "bounce pass" to Duke McClain, who scored on the play and propelled A&M to a 17-0 lead, even though the Longhorns eventually won.

This year, Ledbetter has driven a pickup loaded with \$500,000 in fake dollar bills around the state to demonstrate to taxpayers how much money he contends Texas is losing because of Harding's policies for investing state revenue.

He also has criticized Harding's connection with what he terms the "downtown Dallas gang" — an apparent reference to major banking interests — and accused the incumbent of using strong-arm tactics to persuade bankers to contribute to his campaign.

Harding conceded his campaign is adequately financed, but says no unusual tactics were used to generate the contributions.

He ran unsuccessfully for state treasurer in 1956, losing to James, and said he had considered a 1978 race even before James' death.

Unlike Ledbetter and Sanderson, Harding carefully avoids any personal criticism of his opponents, repeatedly telling reporters, "I don't run against anybody, I just run for the office."

Questioned about his predictions of the campaign outcome, Harding responds, "I would hope I will win without a runoff and I feel reasonably certain I will, but to stand out on the porch and yell that would certainly be naive."

Ledbetter disagrees, saying, "About the only thing he's got going for him is his famous name, or should I say infamous?"

"Whichever, its clear Texas voters have abd their fill of famous names and incompetent leadership. The people will not be deceived this year."

Ledbetter has borrowed \$100,000 from geologist Joe Moore to finance his campaign, and says if he loses he'll have to work for Moore to repay the loans.

"Talk about incentive to win, I've got it," Ledbetter said. "I'm not going to lose the race, but the agreement is that if I do, I've got to go to North Dakota and work in his oil field to pay him back."

Sanderson, one of the first candidates to announce for office this year, did little public campaigning in the early stages but has said he will attempt a blitz in the final week before the May 6 vote.

There is no Republican candidate for treasurer, so the winner of the Democratic primary nomination is assured of election in November.

Israel's Dayan wants to stop arms sale to Arabs

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Congress awaited President Carter's controversial Mideast warplane package today just as Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan began trying to persuade U.S. officials to withhold the jets from the Arabs.

Dayan arrived Tuesday for talks expected to center on the \$4.8 billion package as well as attempts to find a compromise plan for the future of occupied Arab lands as part of a Middle East peace agreement.

Special Middle East envoy Alfred Atherton returned from Cairo late Tuesday to help Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and other U.S. officials prepare for today's session with Dayan. Dayan's visit coincides with Carter's formal submission of the arms package to Congress. The administration wants to sell 60 F-15s to Saudi Arabia, 50 F-5E's to Egypt and 15 F-15s and 75 F-16s to Israel.

The president told a news conference Tuesday he sees the aircraft sales as a single package. "If the Congress should accept one portion and reject another, then my intent is to withdraw the sales proposal all together," he said.

"These proposals are in the national interest and it is important for our country to meet our commitment. I will make my consideration to the Congress based on what I consider to be in the best interest of our own nation."

Dayan said as he left Tel Aviv that Israel would rather do without planes it has on order from the United States than see

Saudi Arabia and Egypt get sophisticated U.S. jet fighters.

Carter said the United States "would not sell the planes to the Saudis if we thought their desire was to use them against Israel. But I am completely convinced that the Saudis want the airplanes to protect their own country."

Dayan said he and Vance also will discuss the Israeli-occupied areas of Jordan and Egypt.

"What we have to discuss really — and I

think this comes as the top priority — is whether there is a practical plan about Judea and Samaria (the West Bank and the Gaza strip) or about Sinai over which we can reach an agreement with the other party."

In commenting on Middle East peace prospects, Carter said, "I have reason to be optimistic ... if there were no hope Dayan would not be coming to Washington to explore further avenues for progress."

"I am firmly convinced that both Israel and Egypt want peace. My commitment is deep and irreversible, and as long as I am in the White House I will continue to pursue without any slackening of my commitment the avenue toward peace."

It is not yet clear whether Dayan will see Carter, but the State Department announced this week Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin will attend a White House reception Monday in honor of the 30th anniversary of Israel's independence.

Drug treatment program erases leukemia symptoms

United Press International

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — A combination of drugs and chemotherapy has eradicated leukemia symptoms in 80 percent of the children undergoing the program, the director of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital said Tuesday.

Dr. Alvin Mauer said 300 children have undergone the 2½-year program and 80 percent of them no longer exhibit symptoms of leukemia and are able to resume normal lives.

Some of the children, most of whom live within a 200-to 400-mile radius of Memphis, have been off treatment for 10 to 12

years with no recurring symptoms of the lymphocytic leukemia, which strikes nearly 2,000 a year, Mauer said.

But Mauer refused to call the programs a "cure."

Mauer said none of the children freed of symptoms for six years after treatment was discontinued have suffered relapses. He said recurrence of the disease after such a period of time is "unusual, especially with lymphocytic leukemia."

Leukemia causes bleeding problems and infection complications, Mauer said the treatment program, developed over 16 years of research, centers on clearing the blood.

When the disease is diagnosed, children are given three drugs that flush the leukemic cells from the blood and bone marrow.

Once the remission process begins, additional drugs are combined with radiation treatments to clear the leukemic cells from the nervous system.

In the final phase, two drugs — 6-Mercaptoparine and Methotrexate — are administered.

The review of the treatment program at the Memphis hospital and its results will be presented by Dr. Steve George, head of the St. Jude's biostatistics section.

Misplaced for two years

Confidential records burned

By LIZ NEWLIN
Battalion Campus Editor

Texas A&M University officials burned two boxes of student records containing grade slips Monday night to correct a mistake made two years ago.

It's normal for the Department of Student Affairs to burn confidential records when they are no longer needed, said Dr. Charles Powell, director of the department. These records, dating from 1972-73, were discovered in a closet Monday evening in the student lounge between Crocker and Moore halls on the north side of campus.

A student telephoned The Battalion Monday afternoon and said the records could be obtained easily from the study lounge, which is open 24 hours a day. The Battalion found the boxes of records were not being supervised by officials and that the locked plastic folding door covering the closet could be lifted back to reveal the records. No sign was posted to mark the closet an unauthorized area.

Students' grades are protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974. The act states that an institution shall formulate and adopt a policy "not disclosing personally identifiable information from the educational records of a student without prior consent." The University requires written permission from a student before his transcripts can be released.

Chris Kling, students' legal adviser, said the law "implies reasonable security procedures to see that the information does

not get out."

After finding the records, The Battalion called several University officials, and Powell was informed of the records' location. In an interview Tuesday afternoon, Powell said he and Assistant Area Coordinator Rick Crow, whose name was on the boxes, went to the lounge, retrieved the records and destroyed them Monday night.

"I burned them," Powell said. "We don't know how they (the files) got in there." He said the closet was a storage area for a now-defunct student radio station.

Powell speculated that the records were "shuffled in there" during an office move about two years ago.

"That's not where the records were stored," Powell said. Confidential records would not be stored in the closet because students involved in the radio station had access to the area, he said.

The records belonged to Rick Crow, a former counselor for some of the north side dorms.

"I just overlooked a box of grades I should have destroyed four or five years ago," Crow said in an interview Tuesday morning. He said he burned "hundreds" of records when he moved his office from the Crocker-Moore lounge and had intended to burn these files.

"They're old files that I had on students in previous years," Crow said. "I should have destroyed them."

Powell said that in his opinion Crow was "negligent."

Leaving the records in the closet was a "mistake," Powell said. But it was not a critical mistake, he said, because the records were not "critical," mainly because of their age.

The student who told The Battalion about the records had told assistant area coordinator Tom Murray the records were in the closet two weeks ago.

"I couldn't find them at the time," Murray said in an interview Tuesday morning. "I couldn't get into one of the offices. After that I just forgot about it."

"I didn't think to look behind the curtain. I probably should have checked a litter farther than I did."

Murray said the student only told him about the records "in passing" and didn't come to him about them specifically.

Area coordinators no longer keep academic or serious disciplinary records in their offices. Disciplinary records of a serious nature and a book of grades are kept in the main office of the department.

When Crow was a counselor for the north side dorms, grade slips were distributed in bulk to the counselors' offices, Crow said. The counselors would look over the grades for students in the dorms assigned to the counselor.

If a student appeared to be having academic problems, Crow said, he would "call them in and see if there was anything I could do for them."

Counselors, renamed area coordinators or assistant area coordinators, have not routinely reviewed grades for at least three years, Crow said. Now records in

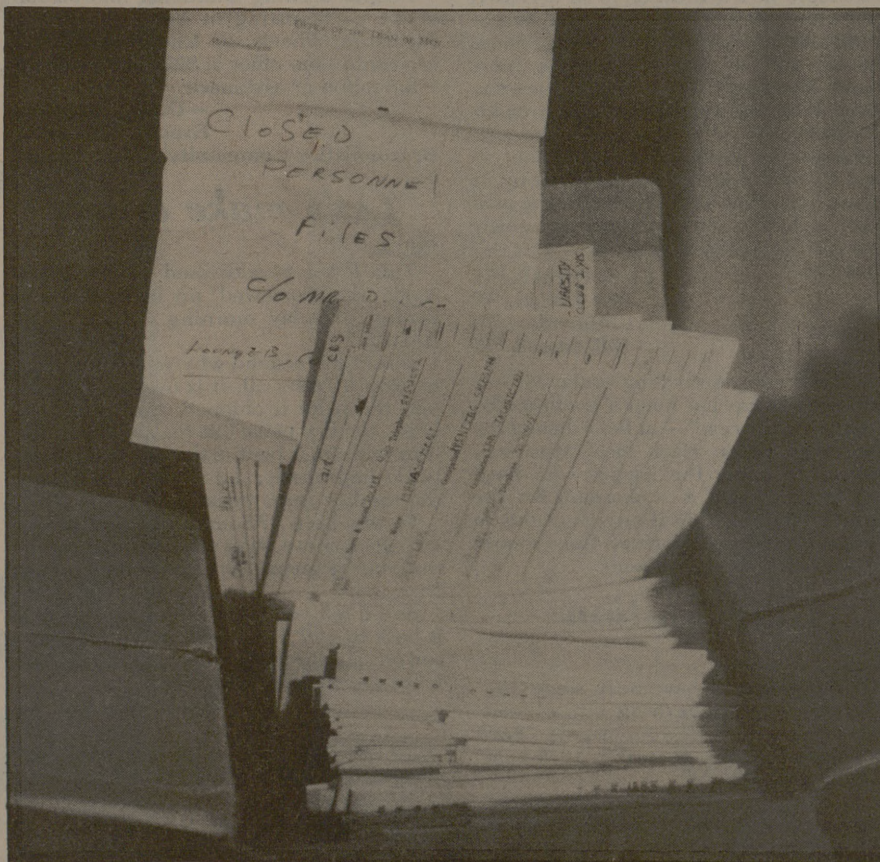
the three area coordinators' offices contain minor disciplinary complaints and directory information. Directory information includes such items as birthdate, address, awards or membership in student organizations.

Powell began changing the contents of the counselors' records when he became head of the department in 1972, he said. Now, Powell said, all critical records are kept in his office. Each year the disciplinary files are cleared of "minor" information by his staff. Files are destroyed when a student graduates, Powell said, unless the information would pertain to an investigation of a former student for military security clearance.

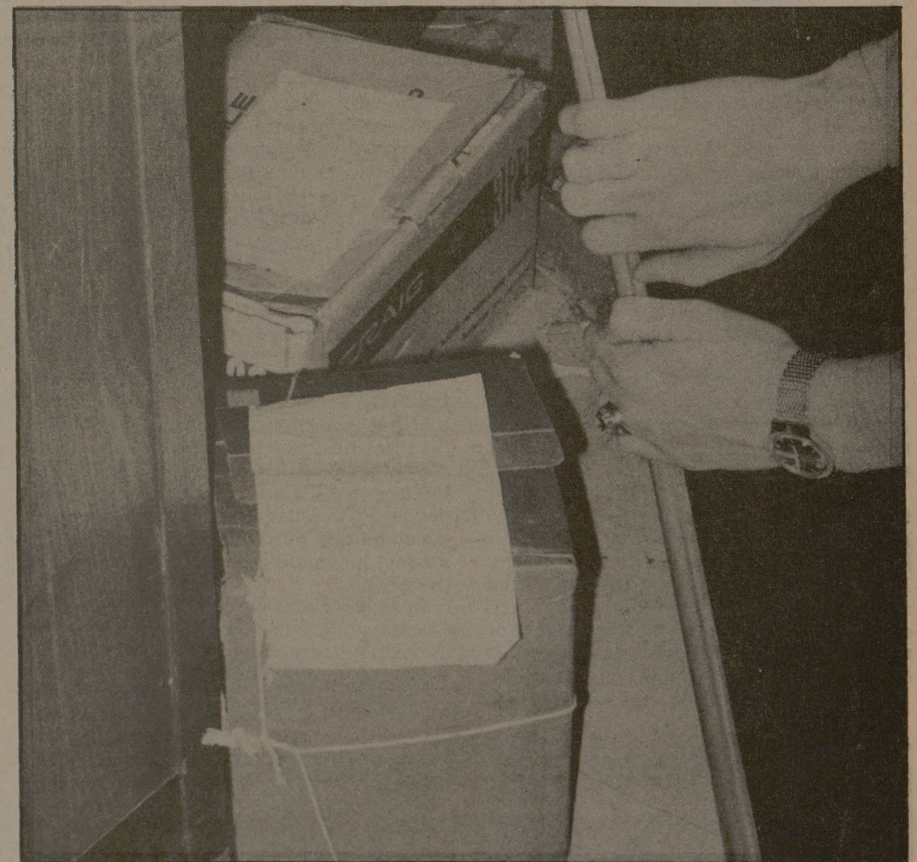
"We spend a great deal of our time studying manuals to find out what's legal and not legal to keep in records," Powell said. He said his department has presented seminars for other universities on student disciplinary records.

He emphasized that students have the right to review their records in his office or their academic records.

Original grade slips are stored in the records section of the Admission and Records Department in Heaton Hall. Dave Worley, assistant registrar and head of the records section, said any student may see his permanent academic record if he has the proper identification. Student records in the fireproofed room date back to the early 1900s, Worley said. Microfilm copies of the records are stored in bank vaults, he added.



"Closed personnel files" dating from 1972-73 were discovered by The Battalion in a closet in the student lounge between Crocker and Moore halls Monday evening. After University officials were



informed of the confidential records' location, they retrieved them from the closet and burned them. Officials say the records should have already been destroyed.

Battalion photos by Liz Newlin and Lee Roy Leshper, Jr.