

# THE BATTALION

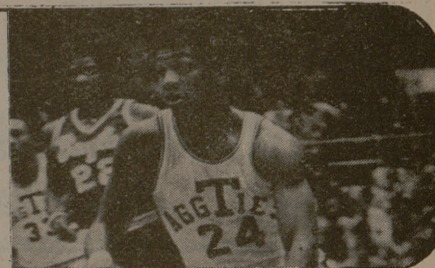
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## Loophole may shield drug-dealing doctors

United Press International  
AUSTIN — The Texas Board of Medical Examiners said Monday a loophole in state criminal statutes protects doctors from prosecution for dispensing dangerous drugs.

These few physicians do account for a large number of the drugs on the streets," San Stone, attorney for the state agency, said.

Board officials denied doctors are reluctant to take the medical licenses of such physicians but said there are serious problems in developing evidence needed to revoke a license.

Dr. A. Bryan Spires Jr., secretary-treasurer, and John H. Sortore, the board's chief investigator, called a news conference Monday to dispute a copyrighted article by the Fort Worth Star Telegram Sunday that said 10 Tarrant County doctors, operating with virtual immunity from prosecution, supply one-third of the dangerous drugs taken by drug abusers.

If the police in Fort Worth or any other

city are saying that addicts or habitual users are on the streets with drugs prescribed by physicians, then I think nobody can argue with that," Stone said.

Stone said action would be taken against any doctor if police or other investigators can produce evidence that can be used in court to substantiate charges the physician is prescribing pills for nontherapeutic purposes.

Sartore said in the past two years the board has canceled licenses of 13 doctors — including nine accused of improperly dispensing drugs — and reprimanded 47 physicians — including at least 23 involving drugs.

The doctors who lost their licenses included physicians from Vernon, Lubbock, Bonham, Brownsville, Sour Lake, Austin, Buna, Beaumont, Overton, Tyler and Houston.

Sartore said 753 doctors were investigated during their 1976-77 fiscal year.

"Any large city in Texas has several physicians under investigation at any one

time," Stone said. Stone said drug dispensing is "by far the largest single grounds of complaint against doctors" to the board.

The Board of Medical Examiners supported a bill in 1977 to make doctors subject to state criminal prosecution for prescribing drugs in a nonprofessional manner, but the measure failed.

"We must operate within the statutes prescribed by the Legislature," Stone said. Spires said he thinks the board has been effective in policing the medical profession.

"This business about a code of brotherhood among many physicians creating a situation where it is virtually impossible to get the board to do more than slap the wrist of an offending doctor — that's just not true," Spires said. "Physicians by and large are more interested in getting rid of the rotten apples than anyone else."

"Our big problem is to keep our board members from crawling over the tables and personally assaulting some of the physicians who have appeared before this board," Spires said.



## Block that ball

The Brazos Valley Amateur Soccer League competes weekly on the field at Eastgate next to the polo field. Teams that compete within the league

are formed by local businesses, service organizations and Texas A&M students.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

## Texas parties feature armadillo races, beer

By PAULA BUTTURINI  
United Press International

At this time of year in San Angelo they're issuing armadillo hunting licenses. People are looking for fast ones, not the tender ones they use for armadillo chili.

In Victoria, women likely are thinking about strange talents that will help them win the coveted Miss Vacant Lot of the World award. In Fink, officials can't wait to sing the town's anthem, "Fly the Fink Flag."

It's early summer and towns and cities across Texas are making up their annual excuses to throw a party.

In San Angelo, a contest billed as the National Armadillo Championship is scheduled June 24. The race is part of the Fiesta Del Concho, June 17-25.

"Anyone can enter as long as you have an armadillo," advertisements say, but entrants must adhere to stiff rules ("No drugging of the armadillos will be allowed") or face disqualification

by the armadillo inspector, whose decision is final.

Victoria has scheduled its eighth annual International Armadillo Confab and Exposition for July 28-30.

Armadillo races are the big event, but the selection of Miss Vacant Lot of the World draws considerable interest. One year the winner played a tune on her nose. Another year the winner stuffed her mouth with pennies. Last year, the 200-pound winner dressed like an armadillo and sang an armadillo song.

Contests at the Confab include a world championship body-painting competition, the beer can smash, the yell-off, a Bohemian apple-eating contest and a jalapeno gobble.

Officials in Fink are preparing for the National Fink Day celebration set for June 23 when the Fink of the Year will be chosen.

"National Fink Week was created to restore a little honor and dignity to the grand old name of Fink," said Fink Chief Robert L. Fink of Con-

verse, Tex.

Officials of the northeast Texas hamlet have been accepting nominations for the honor from across the country. A Bristow, Va., man wrote, "Fink of the year? Billy Carter, who else. Nominations closed."

The Fifth Annual Tex Ritter Roundup and Reunion is scheduled in Carrollton, a Dallas suburb, July 8.

Ritter fan Texan Jim Cooper initiated the roundup in 1974 after the screen hero and Grand Old Opry star died of a heart attack in Nashville, Tenn.

Events include screening of "Trouble in Texas," Ritter's fourth film, which features 17-year-old Rita Hayworth in her first major role.

In Dallas July 1-3 the Texas World Music Festival will feature concerts by Willie Nelson, Rita Coolidge, Kris Kristofferson, Emmylou Harris and numerous other popular singers. The event includes the Willie Nelson Fourth of July Picnic on July 3.

## Workers seek final victim of Kansas boating tragedy

United Press International  
OTTAWA, Kan. — Rescue workers, emotionally and physically drained from two days of pulling bodies from muddy Lake Pomona, say the fifteenth victim of the state's worst boating disaster might be pinned to the lake floor by debris.

The two dozen volunteers, many of them working with little or no sleep, cruised the 4,000-acre lake from 11 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. Monday, trailing grappling hooks and looking for some trace of Melissa Wright, 9, of Topeka. Dragging operations were to resume Tuesday.

The young girl's mother and grandmother were among the 14 other persons who drowned Saturday when a quick-forming, willowy tornado capsized the dinner theater showboat "Whippoorwill" only 10 minutes into a three-hour cruise.

The canvas-covered bodies were trans-

ferred Sunday to local funeral homes. Only Melissa's body remained to be claimed from the lake located about 70 miles southeast of Kansas City.

"We'll only drag during the daylight hours," said Osage County sheriff Robert Masters. "There's a possibility the body may be pinned under the anchor or be stuck under something else near the bottom of the lake."

"Diving is such a slow process we don't want to call them back in until we find something. We've got a depth finder out there now. It does locate fish so no doubt it could give us some help in locating a body."

One rescue worker, who took a short break before resuming a second pass over the lake, said the search operations would continue until the girl was found, no matter how long it took.

"We'll just keep doing it," he said.

An Osage County sheriff's office spokesman said they had been besieged by volunteers.

"They have really been wonderful. The office has received more than 50 offers in the past two days to assist in dragging and diving operations."

Meanwhile, a spokesman for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Kansas Forestry, Fish and Game Commission said they would not investigate the seaworthiness of the 65-foot, double-decked paddle-wheeler since it had been inspected recently and since the accident was obviously from natural causes.

"The accident was an act of God," said Masters.

"There ain't no way this could have been prevented other than not having a boat," said deputy district coroner Dr. Dwight Adams said.

## Vietnam consulates closed by Chinese

United Press International  
BANGKOK — China ordered Vietnam Monday to close its three consulates in southern China in a growing confrontation that may be coming to a head.

Radio Hanoi indicated Vietnamese officials may refuse Chinese ships permission to begin an evacuation of ethnic Chinese from Saigon and Haiphong Tuesday.

In a Vietnamese language broadcast monitored in Bangkok, Radio Hanoi said the Chinese government recently demanded the closing of Vietnamese consulates in Canton, Kunming and Nanking.

Vietnamese diplomats have been ordered out of the three Chinese cities "in the shortest period of time," the broadcast said.

The Chinese demand apparently stopped short of closure of Vietnam's only other diplomatic post in China — its embassy in Peking.

Closing the consulates, said the radio broadcast, has caused "a further deteriora-

tion of relations between the two countries."

"The Chinese side is entirely responsible for this situation," the broadcast said.

Ironically, the Chinese order to close the Vietnamese consulates came at almost the same time Vietnam offered Peking permission to open consulates in Haiphong and Saigon, a Chinese demand resisted by Hanoi for years.

The Hanoi broadcast said it was quoting a foreign ministry note to the Chinese side, passed to the Chinese Embassy in Hanoi Monday.

Earlier, in another note to the Chinese embassy, the Vietnamese Foreign Ministry "demanded" Peking answer a request for information on the seaborne evacuation of ethnic Chinese due to start Tuesday.

Vietnam said it had agreed to let Chinese ships into Haiphong and Saigon port areas, but first required information on the ships themselves and their crew.

It said China had refused three requests for the information.

## Lebanese militia revolts against UN interim forces

United Press International  
BEIRUT — Christian militiamen in southern Lebanon declared open revolt Monday against the central government and warned they would fight any United Nations forces that try to enter the border region.

In a communique distributed in the south by the "War Council of the Militias of South Lebanon," the militiamen declared: "We are forced to resist UNIFIL (the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon), though we have nothing personal against the force commanders and members, but we consider Dr. Kurt Waldheim and his organization in Lebanon as servants of the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) and Yasser Arafat."

The communique referred to orders by the central government of Sunni Moslem Prime Minister Selim al Hoss that

Lebanese army commanders Maj. Saad Haddad and Maj. Sami Chediak confine their men to their barracks and facilitate the task of the U.N. peace-keeping troops in the south.

"The military commanders of the south were and are the gallant officers of the Lebanese army, Maj. Saad Haddad and Maj. Sami Chediak," it said. "The militias are looking upon them as brave military leaders and will return to serve under their command when the evil declaration and orders of Dr. Selim al Hoss will be canceled."

Although reliable information from the south has been sketchy, a conflict apparently developed between rightist army commanders, who want to obey the orders of the central government, and the militias, who do not.



Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

## Sailing at Somerville

Saturday was a beautiful day for sailing at Lake Somerville, and several Texas A&M students took advantage of the warm weather and slight summer breeze that blew across the lake. These sailboats were moored on the north end of Somerville.

## Police chief Luther dies after long illness

Funeral services are scheduled Wednesday in Bryan for O. L. Luther, chief of the University Police Department at Texas A&M University. He was a former Texas Ranger and Department of Public Safety officer whose entire law enforcement career centered in Brazos County.

Luther died Monday evening in a Bryan hospital following a lengthy illness. He was to retire July 1 from Texas A&M.

Services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday in the Hillier Funeral Home Chapel. Graveside services only will be conducted at 3 p.m. in the Oakwood Cemetery, Corsicana. Both services are under the direction of the Hillier Funeral Home.

The Rev. Clifton Barnett, pastor of the Wheelock Baptist Church, will officiate. Pallbearers will be Texas Rangers from Co. F in Waco. Two Texas flags have been sent by the DPS in Austin for the funeral. One will be at half-staff and the other will drape the casket, a distinct honor.

Luther is survived by his wife, Mrs. Margie Luther of 1602 S. College Ave., Bryan; two sons, O. L. "Bud" Luther Jr. of Houston and Jim Luther of Edinburg, and one granddaughter, Tiffany Luther of Edinburg. Both sons are former students of Texas A&M.

Luther always considered himself an Aggie and worked closely with students, including assisting those who had problems.

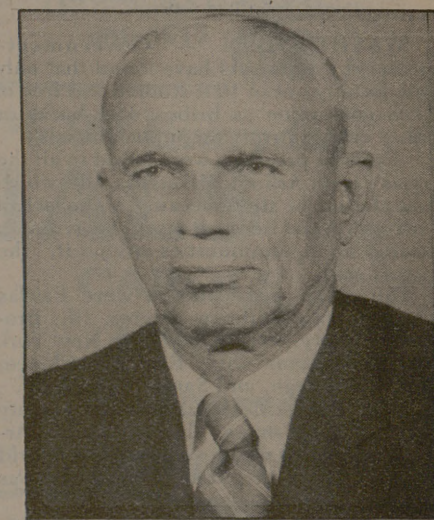
Twice during his career, once as a ranger and once as police chief, Texas A&M students went to Austin and borrowed Bevo, the University of Texas mascot.

The students hid the big Longhorn in the Brazos area and kept quiet. Bevo could not be found. Both times political pressure was put on Luther to recover Bevo.

Each time he gained the confidence of the students and told them if the steer was returned they had his promise cattle rustling charges would not be brought, but he emphasized he had to get the animal back unharmed and unbranded.

Each time the students gave Luther the Longhorn.

Among his many honors was the Bryan-



Chief O. L. Luther

College Station Jaycees' Outstanding Law Enforcement Officer Award in 1971. He was considered one of the great modern day rangers and an outstanding investigator.

Luther in 1961 was appointed to Texas Ranger Co. F. He was one of 80 Texas Rangers when he retired to join the Texas A&M staff on Sept. 1, 1971.

He was honored many times for his law enforcement record with the DPS and the rangers, and participated in the investigation of most of the major Texas crimes during the 10 years he served as a ranger.

Born Sept. 4, 1916, in Frost, Texas, Luther graduated from Emhouse High School in 1934. He joined the DPS in 1942, taking a leave of absence to serve in the U. S. Navy during World War 2.

He was decorated for combat action in the South Pacific in 1945 and 1946.

Luther rejoined the DPS after the war and was named supervisor for a five-county area in 1957.

He was a graduate of many police schools, including a special FBI Academy class, and he served as an instructor for the DPS in Austin.