

THE BATTALION

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focus premieres today

• A new feature and entertainment magazine makes its first appearance inside today's Battalion. Edited by Gary Welch, focus is produced by the same folks who bring you the daily Battalion. Enjoy.

• Bobby Tucker, student body president, vetoed the student government operating budget Wednesday night. See his reasons on page 3.

ERA one step closer to passing

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Senate defeated a so-called "killer" amendment Wednesday, virtually assuring that Congress will give states an additional three years and three months to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment.

Rejected by the surprising margin of 54-44 was an amendment by Sen. Jake Garn, R-Utah, who wanted to give states which already have ratified the ERA an opportunity to reverse themselves. This cleared the way for the Senate to give final congressional approval Friday to a House-passed bill extending the ratification deadline to June 30, 1982 — a big legislative victory for the women's rights movement and for President Carter. Otherwise, ERA would have been doomed. Only 35 of the constitutionally

mandated 38 states have accepted it to date and there was no chance for an additional three to ratify before the initial seven-year period expires next March.

The amendment, in its entirety, says: "Equality of rights under the law shall not be abridged or denied by the United States or any state on account of sex."

Both sides considered the Garn amendment crucial and both Carter and Vice President Walter Mondale lobbied hard against it.

Special presidential assistant Sarah Weddington said Carter made telephone calls to five senators and Mondale to three others. The administration also helped Sen. Floyd Haskell, D-Colo., rush back to the city for the vote.

Garn issued a statement later saying he had gone into the vote with "firm com-

mitments" from 53 senators and "the only flaw in our strategy, it seems, was the inability to predict that six senators would renege on their commitments." He mentioned no names.

Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind., the bill's floor manager, said, "If the Senate had not voted as it did today, not only would the ERA extension have been gutted to the point of death, but it would have effectively killed any chance for final ratification of the Equal Rights Amendment by the necessary 38 states."

Bayh said if the Garn amendment had passed, he probably would have withdrawn the measure as being "totally unacceptable" to the House.

Garn, summing up his argument prior to the vote, denounced those who called his proposal "a killer amendment."

Aggies take store owner to cleaners

A local Aggie fan has offered more than just yells to show his support of the football team. But Ron Vandiver's support has cost him \$10,000-12,000 — a bit of irony that this week made the national news wires of United Press International.

Vandiver, who owns a men's clothing store and two dry cleaning shops in College Station, figures to sell \$200,000 worth of clothing — much of it at a loss — because of the lopsided 58-0 Aggie victory over Memphis State University Saturday.

Wednesday night Vandiver said about 85 percent of his clothing stock was gone.

"Everybody thinks we're crazy. We think we're crazy ourselves, but if we put a

stipulation on our discount we'd be saying we were chicken," he said.

For the last three years Vandiver has run advertisements in the Aggie football program and elsewhere offering a discount equal to the margin of the Texas A&M University victory.

"They (the customers) are killing us," Vandiver told a Memphis newspaper, The Press-Scimitar, which put the story on the national UPI wire. Despite his losses, Vandiver said that the most important thing is to have his name associated with Texas A&M football.

"The biggest discount we had in the past was 49 percent and the customers killed us then," Vandiver said. "But this time it's

really bad."

Vandiver says he's committed to continuing the promotion through the rest of the season despite the financial loss. He said he hoped all the publicity will help him recover his losses.

Vandiver said that since he began the discount gimmick, his business has quadrupled. After this week's 58 percent discount, Vandiver said he has accumulated enough dry cleaning to keep him busy for the next two weeks.

"I started flinching from the first point against MSU, but the real reaction comes after 40," the businessman said. "I'm a big Aggie fan, but you can get to the Cotton bowl on three-point wins."

More inmates testify as case against state prisons continues

United Press International
HOUSTON — An inmate suing the state alleging substandard prison conditions admitted Wednesday he had been punished with solitary confinement for committing a homosexual rape, but denied he actually assaulted the other inmate.

"I was accused and punished. I was charged with assaulting another inmate and committing sodomy on him. I was sent to solitary," David Resendez Ruiz, 36, testified under cross-examination by a state lawyer.

"I didn't rape him. He was a homosexual that belonged to a building tender (an inmate guard)."

It was the first mention of homosexual rape — a key security complaint by other inmates — in a 3-day-old nonjury trial of eight inmates suits on behalf of all 24,000 inmates in Texas' 15 prisons.

U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice is presiding over trial to end alleged insecurity, overcrowding, abuse, use of inmate guards, poor health care, slave labor and denial of access to courts.

sitting at plaintiffs' table, O.D. Johnson, testified he had received inadequate medical attention for his eyes, headaches and earaches.

Inmate Leonard Ortega Diaz testified he once was beaten by corrections officers and at least one inmate helped to interrogate him. He said he had seen other inmate guards — given authority by officers — beat fellow inmates.

Johnson said on one occasion an inmate medical aide gave him a local anesthetic injection and used a sharp instrument to probe his ear for an obstruction. He said inmates did most of the work at the prison entry center.

"The inmates are the ones that checked

my eyes and my teeth. Nothing else really happened," Johnson said, although on cross-examination he conceded a doctor had examined him.

He ridiculed an inmate eye tester who "told me I had 20-20 vision. I told him I had worn glasses. He told me I must think he's some kind of fool." He later admitted prison doctors prescribed three different pairs of glasses for him.

Also under a date-by-date cross-examination of his prison medical history, Johnson confirmed he had skull x-rays, blood tests and had several different medications prescribed for his headaches.

Justice, expressing concern about a trial that might last a year, interrupted the lengthy questioning to say that dates of meetings with doctors and taking of drugs were not the issue.

"You've demonstrated he's received quite a bit of attention," the judge said. "Whether it was good attention or whether it was proper medication I'm not prepared to say at this point."

Diaz said he was beaten by several correctional officers and at least one inmate who were seeking information he did not have. Afterward, he said he underwent surgery to fix a broken jaw.

"He (the corrections officer) came at me and started hitting me on the face. At the same time, (two others) started hitting me at the same time until they knocked me down to the floor."

"I asked them what it was they wanted to know and they just kept beating on me until they got tired."



Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

'Speaking of Rip Van Winkle . . .'

The student who parked this trusty 10-speed bicycle outside Spence Hall may be in for quite a surprise when, and if he next decides to use it.

The fast-growing vines planted around Spence have neatly wrapped the bike in a leafy green coat.

Peace accords may be endangered if Israel intervenes in Lebanon

United Press International
BEIRUT, Lebanon — The heaviest fighting of the war between Syrian troops and Christian rightist forces raged unchecked Beirut Wednesday, reducing much of the city to blackened rubble and raising again the possibility of Israeli intervention on the side of the Christians.

The presidential palace was shelled and Christian shore batteries were reported firing with a Syrian naval vessel off the coast. A burning oil storage tank sent thick black smoke over the city for the second day.

Accurate casualty figures were not immediately available in the duels with rockets, mortars and artillery. The anti-wing Phalangist radio reported about

650 persons had been killed or injured in the past 24 hours.

The Voice of Lebanon said the Syrians suffered heavy losses. Several hospitals were reported so full they couldn't take any more patients.

Beirut Radio announced Wednesday afternoon Lebanese President Elias Sarkis and Syrian President Hafez Assad would meet "shortly" in an attempt to stem the fighting.

The fighting went on despite international efforts to arrange a cease-fire and prevent any possible Syrian-Israeli confrontation that could endanger the Camp David peace accords.

The United States Wednesday urged both Syria and Israel to exercise restraint

in the situation and announced its support for a French plan to remove Syrian troops from Beirut, to set up a buffer force of Lebanese army troops and to set up an international commission to oversee a cease-fire.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance conferred with Lebanese officials in New York Tuesday and held urgent talks Wednesday with U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim. The U.N. Security Council met in closed session and approved an appeal for a cease-fire later issued by Waldheim and Council President Jacques Leprêtre of France.

Syrian Information Minister Ahmed Iskandar Ahmed said in an interview with the Syrian Arab news agency that his

country "does not fear any threats by Israel, and we are ready for any eventualities."

Rocket, mortar and artillery fire thundered over a 20-mile radius north and east of the capital. The devastating artillery barrages of the past four days deprived large sections of Beirut and its suburbs of utilities, food and water. Damage was estimated in the hundreds of millions of dollars in the eastern Christian sector alone.

The heaviest battle was for control of a key bridge commanding the northeast approaches to the city but the Christian Phalangist radio also reported a rain of shells hitting eastern sectors of the city. One broadcast said, "We are still under Syrian volcanoes."

Candidate say taxes inhibit oil industry

By CHIP HARPER
Battalion Reporter
State Railroad Commissioner candidate Jim Lacey said Wednesday that his opponent, incumbent John Poerner, was appointed to the office without prior experience in oil and gas industry affairs.

The Republican candidate spoke to a luncheon crowd at the Holiday Inn.

"We can't afford the on-the-job training my opponent is getting," Lacey said. "It's costing the people of the state too much money." He said the oil industry is far too complex to be run by inexperienced commissioners.

Lacey, who has been an executive in the oil industry for 29 years, is a graduate of Texas Tech University with a bachelor's degree in petroleum engineering.

Lacey said his holdings in the oil business will not constitute a conflict of interest.

"If necessary, I will disqualify myself," he said. "I have put my holdings in a blind trust."

According to Lacey, current regulation doesn't encourage oil production. Tax expenses, he said, often inhibit well production.

"We need regulation to provide incentive for production," he said. "That's the only way we can enlarge our oil and gas reserves."

Lacey reported that in 1977, Texas produced 38 percent of the nation's oil and 36 percent of the natural gas. This year may not be as good, he said, since the number of operating drilling rigs in the oil-rich Permian Basin is down 10 percent. According to the Midland resident, 25 percent of the nation's oil is produced in the basin.

This could mean bad news for Texas taxpayers, Lacey said. Last year, the state collected \$4.4 billion in total revenue, \$1.5 billion of which was paid by state businesses.

Of that \$1.5 billion, the oil industry paid two-thirds, or \$1 billion. This is one reason, Lacey said, that Texas ranked 49th last year in per capita taxes paid.

Lacey also accused the Federal Energy Commission as being a waste of money, saying the \$10.6 billion budgeted for the commission exceeds the total monetary output of all the nation's oil companies for new oil production. For all the money spent, he said, the commission has issued no productive regulation.

Current energy legislation in congress is being passed as a "badge of honor," according to Lacey. "The energy bill is a bad bill. It puts the state under federal control."

The bill would take intrastate mineral sales out of state jurisdiction and place them under federal authority. According to Lacey, Texas has a good chance of defeating this measure.



Jim Lacey

Aggie Blood Drive taking application for contest now

"Put a little Aggie in everyone!" This is the latest groad joke, right? Guess again. It's a plug for something almost as traditional as the stories at midnight yell practice, but maybe not so well understood — the Aggie Blood Drive.

Since 1959, Texas A&M University students, faculty and staff have contributed over 18,000 pints of blood. Some of the blood components have been used for blood transfusions. The others have been used for research in cancer, blood diseases and leukemia.

Because Aggies have contributed so much blood, any Texas A&M student or former student can obtain blood credits for himself, a family member, or even a close friend through the Aggie Blood Club for just the processing costs of the blood units. Faculty and staff members are covered, too. This program will work as long as Aggies are willing to give blood through the Aggie Blood Drive to the Aggie Blood Club.

Who benefits from this blood drive? People who need blood for emergencies and surgery, people (like hemophiliacs) who need large quantities of blood, people who can obtain blood units for less money, and people whose diseases could be cured when further research is done. This is one way for an Aggie to help society and especially his fellow Aggies.

Almost anyone who is in good physical health can give blood. Everyone who donates is given a mini-physical check-up first to make sure that he will not hurt himself by giving blood.

This fall the Blood Drive will be held next Tuesday through Thursday from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. in room 224 of the MSC.

In addition, any group of people can donate blood as a contest team. Contest rules are available at the Alpha Phi Omega cubicle in room 216 of MSC. The entry deadline is 5 p.m. Monday. Any group is eligible if at least 20 people donate — or try to donate — in its name.