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Retirement change irks profs

Several faculty members feel they are being discriminated against by new retirement regulations for the Texas A&M University System, which allow all employees but them to work until they're 70. See page 5.

St. John's College in Annapolis, Md., may be the answer for students who are tired of worrying about grades and hearing only professors talk in class. See page 6.

Exit from Iran begun by U.S.

United Press International
TEHRAN, Iran — The U.S. Embassy Thursday put into effect a contingency plan to evacuate dependents of official American personnel who "wish to leave" in advance of expected weekend anti-shipment demonstrations during Islamic holy days.

Tehran airport was jammed with American, German and others leaving Iran. At the same time Western oil industry sources said strikes had forced Iran to shut a pipeline that carries natural gas to the Soviet Union and reduced production in other oil fields by more than half.

The oil industry sources said the strikes forced Iran to cut natural gas deliveries to Russia through a pipeline that once carried 1 billion cubic feet a day.

These sources said production in the other oil fields had plunged to 2.7 million barrels — less than half the pre-strike output.

Oil exports dipped to 2.2 million barrels in last month's 5 million, the sources said. Ten percent of U.S. oil imports come from Iran, which also supplies 85 percent of South Africa's petroleum needs and 60 percent of Israel's.

Americans, Germans and other foreigners jammed the Tehran airport. Most flights out of the country were booked and Israel's El Al Airlines said it added special flights to its Tehran-Tel Aviv route and all were departing full — mostly Iranian Jews fearing the overthrow of their protector the shah.

The U.S. Embassy said it had not ordered an evacuation of Americans in Iran, but those dependents of U.S. officials who wish to leave temporarily are authorized to depart for selected destinations in Europe.

The embassy said it has not ordered the evacuation of all Americans living in Iran. Authorized U.S. officials to send their dependents to Europe temporarily if they wish to leave.

Embassy officials said plans for the voluntary departure would be put into action immediately. There was no indication of how many Americans would take advantage of the offer.

U.S. diplomats did not disclose how many dependents of American officials now are in Iran.

In fact the diplomats said they were no longer sure how many of the original 41,000 Americans living and working in Iran still remained.

One diplomat said the southern city of Shiraz might provide a key to the numbers left. He said in September 1,300 Americans lived in Shiraz compared with only 500 currently registered there.

Tehran's martial law administrator warned against new protests reportedly planned during weekend Moslem mourning rites.

But Karim Sanjabi, the 73-year-old leader of the National Front opposition party who was released from jail Wednesday night announced his support for a massive peace march planned Sunday by Tehran's clergy.

Some 4,000 members of the German community reportedly have left Iran including nearly all the wives and children of Germans employed in Tehran.

German sources said thousands more of the once 14,000 strong German community were preparing to leave and tickets were difficult to obtain.

The Italian Embassy reported a similar situation.

The departure of Americans began in September and peaked Wednesday when hundreds piled onto flights as fears of fresh violence during the Moslem high holy days of Moharram mounted.

U.S. firms offered to evacuate dependents and employees who wished to leave and many took advantage of the free holiday.

Among those gathered at Tehran airport waiting for flights, most treated the journey like a delightful surprise jaunt. Few seemed to take seriously the insults and threatening letters received by many Americans over the past few months.

At Tehran University the army thwarted a planned student march to protest the regime of Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi.

Consol committee to select new head

By DOUG GRAHAM
Battalion Staff

The A&M Consolidated School Board set up a selection committee for a new school superintendent during a special meeting Thursday night.

Board president Bruce Ron appointed three trustees to serve on the selection committee. The board also voted to include two administrators and four teachers on the committee.

The three trustees, who will be the only voting members of the nine-man board are school board vice president Elliott Bray, who will serve as chairman; Bill Wasson; and John Reagor.

Robeck warned that the work involved in finding a replacement for Fred Hopson, whose contract was terminated in a \$54,400 agreement, will be great.

"I want each of you to think this over, yourselves, because the board in the coming months could have a phenomenal workload," he said.

The board directed the district's information officer, Peggy Crittenden, to start sending forms to faculty members that would get their input on superintendent qualifications.

Crittenden said it may be possible to have results ready by Monday night.

The forms also will be used for gathering nominations for teacher representatives to the selection board.

A short meeting has been called for Thursday, at which time Bray is expected to have the list of requirements.

Bray will then advertise the superintendent opening. He said he will work through trade journals and organizations such as the Texas Educational Agency.

Bray's committee expects to receive about 100 applications before the Feb. 15 deadline.

From those applications it will select approximately nine to submit to the entire school board for approval.

Since the board will have the final vote, Bray recommended making the administrative and faculty advisers non-voting positions.

The board also approved final payment to BFW Construction for work done on the Middle School.

However, \$10,058 has been withheld until certain items such as emergency battery packs and exit light fixtures have been installed.

Japan elects Ohira its new prime minister

United Press International

TOKYO — Masayoshi Ohira was elected Japan's 68th prime minister Thursday.

Ohira was in effect installed in Japan's highest political office by members of the 511-seat Lower House of Parliament. He was elected with 254 votes. There were 20 absentees.

The Parliament originally planned to elect Ohira Wednesday, following his upset victory over outgoing prime minister Takeo Fukuda in a party primary election last week.

However, intra-party feuding broke out over Ohira's decision to name one of his close political associates, Kunikida Saito, to the post of party secretary-general.

That violated a five-year party tradition that the secretary-general post should be held by one of the prime minister's own followers.

Several of Fukuda's supporters threatened to refuse to vote for Ohira for prime minister, stalling his takeover. They finally agreed to allow Fukuda a free hand to negotiate.



Battalion photo by Jeff Coulter

Bowl is the goal

Even though the stadium in Kyle Field is under construction, the Aggie football team is still practicing for the contest against Iowa State in the Hall of Fame Bowl Dec. 20 in Birmingham, Ala. The expansion, which will add a third deck to both sides of the stadium, will be completed soon after the start of next year's season.

Priscilla accused of wanting Cullen killed

United Press International

HOUSTON — A used car salesman who promoted himself as a professional killer met Priscilla Davis last winter and left her home with the impression she wanted him to slay her millionaire husband, he testified Thursday.

But in wavering muddled testimony in and out of the presence of the jury, self-promoting FBI informant and gambling debt collector David Binion also said Mrs. Davis never "popped the question."

"Did she seem to understand why you were there?" prosecutor Tolly Wilson asked.

"No," Binion said.

"What was her appearance?" Wilson asked the defense witness.

"Extremely upset," Binion replied.

"Did she ever ask you to kill her husband Thomas Cullen Davis or ask you to have her husband harmed?" Wilson asked.

"No," Binion replied over objections by defense Lawyer Richard "Racehorse" Haynes.

Earlier this week Mrs. Davis sat in the witness chair when Binion was brought into the courtroom and denied they had ever met or talked. Her husband is being tried for conspiring to have their divorce judge killed.

Haynes protested Wilson's questions but was chastised by District Judge Wallace Moore for having earlier left unsettled whether Binion actually was asked to kill Davis.

"You just walked right around conversation and got all this other stuff about a hit man in there," Moore said. "The basis for my ruling was your entire line of questioning gave the inference to jurors of this witness being a hit man and gave the impression something of that nature had happened with Mrs. Davis," Moore said.

Binion, now a Houston auto salesman, denied Jannings ever told him to "back off" undercover activities associated with his meetings with Mrs. Davis. But Binion also said Jannings gave him \$220 to post bond on a bad check charge and said he had worked out a recent "deal" in which he would not be tried by Fort Worth prosecutors for the offense.

Prosecutor Jack Struckland said he did not know whether Mrs. Davis or Binion was lying about their meeting.

"Obviously one of them is in error," Strickland said. "If it's Priscilla, I don't know if it's a question of was she lying, was she sick, was she on drugs or was she emotionally upset, if she met Binion."

"Suppose Priscilla wanted him, Davis, dead. How does that justify him plotting to kill a judge?"

The evidence against Davis includes audio and videotapes in which he can be heard discussing the killings of several persons including his wife and divorcee judge and seen accepting a silencer equipped automatic pistol. His attorneys claim they will be able to explain his role in the tapes.

Georgia chairman Marge Thurman of Atlanta said the equal representation rule was well-intended, but might pose impossible problems for states electing their delegates two years from now.

"Do we eliminate the men who get the largest number of votes because of their sex — or because they're not representing the right presidential candidate?" she asked.

South Carolina chairman Don Fowler explained each state will have a certain percentage of statewide delegates which in the past have been used to guarantee governors and party leaders at-large seats without their having to run for them.

Senate bill wants MSC grass made official memorial

By DILLARD STONE
Battalion Staff

The perennial dispute surrounding the grass around the Memorial Student Center may finally be resolved if the Texas A&M University student senate approves a bill presented at its last meeting.

The proposal, submitted by student body vice presidents Wayne Morrison and J. C. Colton, requests that several steps be taken toward declaring the MSC grounds a "living memorial" to Aggies who have given their lives in defense of the United States.

Also included in the bill is a provision to plant a two-foot-high hedge around the perimeter of the University Center grounds.

A tradition, observed and encouraged largely by the Corps of Cadets, says the grass surrounding the University Center is a memorial to Aggies who have died in their country's service. However, no official recognition has ever been extended to the tradition.

As a result, several conflicts have arisen in recent years between students who view the grass as a memorial and those who don't.

If approved by the senate at its next meeting on Jan. 24, the bill would be forwarded to the Board of Regents through Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, and President Jarvis Miller.

The bill's intent is to extend official University recognition to the tradition, Morrison said.

"It's not that not walking on the grass is the tradition," he said. "We couldn't give a hill of beans about that. That grass is a memorial in the first place and that's the reason for the tradition."

The bill would memorialize only those grounds adjacent to the MSC. The Rudder Complex grounds would not be included in the designation.

Only the MSC grounds would be declared a memorial because, Morrison said, the intent of the bill is to memorialize only those areas considered as such by tradition. The Rudder Complex grounds are not so considered, he said.

However, Morrison said, landscaping would be recommended for the entire University Center's grounds, in order to discourage their use and preserve their aesthetic value.

Originally, the bill called for the landscaping of all University Center grounds. However, Morrison said, due to anticipated objections from President Miller, the bill will be amended to allow the University landscape department to determine which areas would be appropriate for the landscaping.

Other provisions of the bill call for at least one sign to be placed on the MSC grass, explaining the reason for not walking on it, and the inclusion of the tradition in all publications dealing with University life and traditions.

Commissioner quits

For possible conflict of interest

United Press International

AUSTIN — Railroad Commissioner Jon Newton, who spent \$700,000 two years ago to win election to that regulatory agency, announced Thursday he is resigning effective Jan. 1 because natural gas production on land inherited might make it appear he had a conflict of interest in decisions affecting oil and gas matters.

Newton said his wife inherited a portion of her family's ranch in Goliad and although all his business interests have been in a blind trust since his election he is aware of gas exploration and production on the ranch which could result in substantial royalty income.

"Although I'm told by lawyers this is not a legal conflict of interest, I think the people on the street who are paying utility bills may not understand if a member of the Railroad Commission makes a substantial portion of his income from gas production," Newton told a news conference. "I was at the ranch three weeks ago at night and was drilling rigs on the property. The blind trust may be blind, but I am not."

Newton, a former House member from

Beeville, has four years remaining on his six-year term. His successor apparently will be appointed by Gov. Dolph Briscoe to serve until the next general election.

He said he had considered abstaining from any Railroad Commission decisions affecting the ranch property or Goliad County, but said he was not satisfied that would be sufficient.

"After lengthy discussions with my wife Judy and with Governor Briscoe and a few close friends, I have decided that resignation is the only course my conscience will allow me to take. The potential conflicts can be avoided only by my return to private life and I have so advised the governor."

Newton said he has not decided if he will remain in Austin to live after he leaves the commission. He said he sold his law practice and a nursing home and lived on money from that sale while campaigning for the commission.

Other members who regulate the state's petroleum and transportation industries, are Mack Wallace and John Poerner.

Aggie Christmas list

Two front teeth?

Cheryl Tiegs, look out. You are wanted in Aggieland. But so is Farrah Fawcett-Majors, \$1 million and a house-trained pooch. The requests are on a list of things students at Texas A&M University want Santa Claus to bring them this year. Students penned their wishes to a roll of paper stuck to a bulletin board inside the University's Memorial Student Center. The almost 200 requests filled a list over seven feet long and 18 inches wide. Wishes ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous; some were pragmatic, others pranks.

One female Aggie wanted a date with the entire offensive line of the Texas A&M football team, while another just wanted a boyfriend and \$1 million.

Practical wishes ranged from just wanting roommates to do the dishes, to a "C" in a junior level petroleum engineering course.

Other students wanted their very own oil well, a staff parking permit, the Houston Oilers football team to win the Super Bowl and a white Christmas.

One woman just wanted to be the first flat-chested female on the cover of Cosmopolitan magazine.

Other wishes were more economically oriented. Some students wanted to graduate and land a \$25,000-a-year job; another just wanted a job for next summer.

One student said all he wanted St. Nick to bring him was a "Diploma." Someone had written beside the misspelled entry, "That's optimism for you, he'll never make it that way."