

# Prof pursues cheater, faces discipline

By LIZ NEWLIN  
Battalion Staff

An assistant professor of aerospace studies at Texas A&M University faces a possible reprimand from his commanding officer for blowing the whistle on a cheating incident here.

Capt. Joseph O. McNabb has received a letter from Col. Kenneth W. Durham, commander of the Air Force ROTC unit at Texas A&M, a letter of reprimand that will be placed in his Undesirable Information Files. That would hurt McNabb's chances in future Air Force promotions, assignments and special programs.

The scholastic dishonesty, which occurred last semester, prompted an Air Force investigation to determine if the cadet should be "disenrolled"; that is, other his contract to become a commissioned officer should be withdrawn.

Early this semester the student renegeed the contract and later withdrew from the Corps of Cadets. No further action was taken then.

Later McNabb told the dean of the student's college and University officials of the incident. The University took disciplinary action against the student, whose name is still not decided.

However, that didn't end McNabb's involvement in the case.

The letter of reprimand was dated Feb. 1979, and Durham gave McNabb three days to reply. As of Tuesday night, McNabb had not received notification of Durham's disposition of the letter. Air Force regulations state that an individual's

immediate superior has "sole prerogative" on whether the letter will be placed in the file. In this case, Durham is McNabb's immediate superior.

Despite the regulation, McNabb has legal recourse if the letter is approved. He can force Durham to take him to court to prove the charges or employ a lawyer to challenge the letter, which might involve sending the letter and reply to Durham's commander, Col. Hosea Skinner at Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska.

The Battalion has received the letter (stamped "For Official Use Only"), McNabb's reply, and supporting statements.

Neither Durham nor McNabb would comment on the case.

"I will not discuss internal Air Force business with the news media," Durham said Tuesday morning, "especially before it's consummated." Professional ethics prevent an explanation, or other comment, he said.

Other University officials, however, and the documents describe the series of events that led to the reprimand.

Some members of the academic community and cadets have come to McNabb's defense, most at his request to help rebut the letter. Some even say he should be commended for his action, not reprimanded.

The cadets and at least one professor besides McNabb say the incident was covered up by the administration. Others,

generally higher in the administration, say the situation was a result of poor communication, different interpretations of Texas A&M University Rules and Regulations, and poor decisions.

"You have blatantly violated a lawful order and have embarrassed the United States Air Force," Durham's letter stated. "Such conduct places your judgment seriously in question."

McNabb said in his reply that he was acting as a former student of Texas A&M, which he is, and so his action did not disobey the order. Other statements say that he earlier asked Durham if he could pursue the matter as a former student, and was told that the aerospace professors could pursue it only as former students.

"I have not violated any lawful order nor have I exercised bad judgment," McNabb wrote in his reply. "Moreover, if I had not taken the steps that I did, none of this critical information would have reached the proper University officials. ... I have conducted myself the only way in which my integrity and moral responsibility would allow me."

The series of events goes like this:

—The student cheated in an aerospace studies course, and received an "F."

—The student cheated in a course in the College of Business Administration (also his own academic college), and dropped the course, passing, when caught. The professor did not pursue the matter, which is his option under Rules and Regulations.

—The Air Force began a disenrollment investigation based on the cheating in the aerospace studies course, not knowing about the cheating in the business course.

—Simpson (head of the School of Military Sciences and liaison for the Corps of Cadets in the Division of Student Services) and Dr. John Koldus, vice president of that division, decided not to pass along information about the incident to the acting dean of the business college, Dr. Clinton Phillips.

—McNabb learned of the cheating in the business course and confirmed other dishonorable acts by the student.

—The student resigned his contract and from the Corps.

—McNabb knew the information, including the business cheating, had gone from him to Durham and Simpson, and wanted to know why it had not gone farther.

—He suspected a cover-up and talked with Dr. Charles McCandless, associate vice president for academic affairs, and later wrote a letter to him outlining the incidents, in both the business and military colleges. Acting as a former student he also talked about it to Glenn Dowling, President Jarvis Miller's assistant.

—Phillips and others in his college began a series of meetings with Koldus and other University officials to discuss the matter. Phillips began a disciplinary action, which is still unresolved.

—McNabb received notice of the letter of reprimand.

## Different interpretations of regs cited

The central question in the handling of the contract cadet's scholastic dishonesty is whether the information should have been forwarded to the cadet's academic dean.

Gen. Ormond Simpson, head of the School of Military Sciences, decided not to forward the information. He and Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, interpreted Texas A&M University Rules and Regulations to mean that the information could be kept in the Division of Student Services. Simpson is also liaison for the Corps of Cadets in the division.

"I made the decision not to move fur-

ther," Simpson said. "It got all muddled because of rumors of other incidents." At that time, he said, he did not know of cheating by the student in a business course, or his other dishonorable acts.

"I thought the penalties were commensurate with the infractions." The student soon resigned his contract for commissioning as an officer in the Air Force and withdrew from the Corps.

Dr. Clinton Phillips, acting dean of the College of Business, said that Simpson should have forwarded the information. The Rules and Regulations say, "Cases of apparent scholastic dishonesty ... may be

reported by the instructor through the head of the department to the dean of the student's college."

Phillips said that means he should have been told.

"He's probably right," Simpson said. "It was a judgment call on my part." As soon as Phillips, prompted by Capt. McNabb, asked about the incident, Simpson told him what he knew.

"Hindsight is 20-20," Simpson said. "I think they all, except the student involved, acted in good faith."

Koldus said the problem was one of poor communication and misunderstanding,

and he proposes to clarify the Rules and Regulations so administrators will understand their responsibilities when faced with a cheating incident.

Koldus said that handling the incident was unusual because the military is more strictly structured than academia.

Dr. Haskell Monroe, dean of faculties, agreed. He said McNabb's action — going outside regular channels — would be more readily accepted by the academic community.

"In an academic sense, this would not be considered as unusual or extreme as in a military sense."

# THE BATTALION

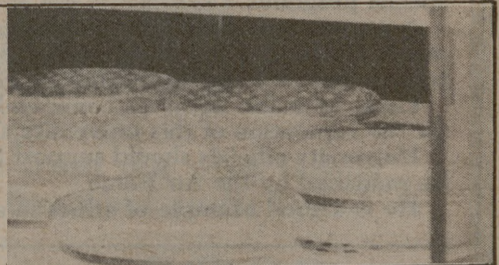
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### Cancer quicker

A Texas A&M University researcher uses these little dishes in finding out if metals can contribute to cancer. His method is significantly quicker and cheaper than by current methods. See page 11.



## Judge nominee denies knowledge of slush fund

United Press International

AUSTIN — Saying they want to study on a former Gulf Oil Co. attorney's role in slush fund scandal, members of a state committee have postponed action on the man's nomination to a district judgeship.

William B. Edwards, a Houston attorney, denies he did anything illegal while he was a Gulf attorney or knew an envelope he delivered from a company lobbyist to former Gov. Preston Smith contained money.

However, one senator said Edwards' denial to the Senate Nominations Committee appeared inconsistent with a 1976 statement he gave state officials.

The committee Tuesday then postponed action for a week on Gov. Bill Clements' nomination of Edwards to be judge of the 8th District Court.

Critics said they want more time to study files on state investigations into the company's political slush fund and a 1976 affidavit Edwards gave on his role in a scandal.

The voluminous file on Edwards and his firm contains affidavits Gulf officials gave in Secretary of State Mark White and Attorney General John Hill after the Securities and Exchange Commission accused a firm of operating a \$5.5 million slush fund.

"I have done nothing illegal," Edwards

told the committee Tuesday. "I have done nothing wrong."

Edwards said he was maligned by a report prepared by order of Judge John J. Sirica detailing Gulf's illegal campaign contributions and indicating Edwards admitted delivering corporate funds to Smith from Gulf lobbyist Oscar C. Wild Jr.

"This is unfair and misleading," Edwards said.

Edwards said he never opened the

sealed brown envelope Wild gave him to deliver to Smith, and denied he had any "actual knowledge" there was money inside.

But Sen. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, suggested the denial was inconsistent Edwards' 1976 sworn statement that the envelope for Smith was the only occasion "any funds (were) ever given to me earmarked for a specified recipient."

## Schlesinger: gas shortage possible, despite Iran's oil

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Even though Iran has resumed exporting some oil, Americans face the possibility of tight supplies of gasoline this vacation season and next, Energy Secretary James Schlesinger said Tuesday.

Schlesinger testified at a House appropriations subcommittee considering the Energy Department budget.

"In Iran today, we have had the first export of oil that has occurred for months," Schlesinger said.

But he added there is little chance Iran

will get its exports up to its former level and the shortage has lasted long enough to affect American inventories of oil.

Oil customers of Iran "have been going into the hole by 2 million barrels a day in excess of the normal drawdown (from inventory)," Schlesinger said. "In the longer run, we cannot afford to do that. We cannot afford to borrow against the future."

By summer, oil companies will have to be building their inventories for next winter, he said.

"We have the possibility of some spot shortages of gasoline this summer and some shortages next summer," Schlesinger said.

"Pernicious price controls" have kept refiners from expanding their capacity, he said, and, "We face the possibility of tight supplies and spot shortages this summer and next."

Schlesinger said the United States should not look for "panaceas" from Chinese, Mexican or even Saudi Arabian oil in the long run. He said China has oil but also an industrial development plan that will consume oil.

Mexico has huge supplies but a measured plan for exports, he said. And Saudi Arabia's production, on which the United States depends heavily, may not expand as much as formerly hoped, Schlesinger said.

### 'Mills' send catalogues, use charge system

## Selling term papers is big business

By PAUL BARTON  
Special to The Battalion

Ordering a research paper through the mail is not exactly like dealing with Sears Roebuck or Montgomery Ward, but it does bear certain resemblances.

The "term paper mills," as they are called, will, like the retail giants, let you charge your purchase. And they have catalogs to browse through as you make your selection.

Their names range from International Term Papers Inc. to Research Assistance. They all pursue the same customer: the student with too little time or competence to write a research paper.

One company that advertised last fall at Texas A&M University is Pacific Research of Seattle. For \$1, it will send you a 236-page catalog that describes papers like this one:

2366 THE NEW DEAL AND THE RADICALS OF THE NINETEEN THIRTIES

— Distinguishes between the radical right, which was economically oriented, and the radical left, which viewed economics as a means to a social end. The

proliferation of radical groups is shown to be unsurprising: the intact survival of American institutions is attributed to institutional flexibility and to FDR. 9 pages, 16 footnotes. 7 sources in bibliography.

But Pacific Research carries more than just history papers in its "warehouse." The topics it offers include music, dance, philosophy and social sciences like psychology — and none of them come cheap.

Pacific charges \$3 per page, and all papers over 24 pages cost \$70. But — let it be said — the student is not charged for the table of contents, title page, outline, or bibliography.

If not pleased with choices available in the catalog, the student can order some "custom research." This costs a little more — \$6.50 a page for an undergraduate paper and \$8 for graduate work.

Rush orders, completed in one week, cost \$1 more per page.

On the other hand, Pacific also offers at cost to edit, criticize or outline a paper you have written yourself. They call these "Writer's Guide" services.

"It is important, indeed, very important, that we pay particular attention to the business of going about denying people life or liberty," he said, "and that we be as exact as possible in our pursuits of justice."

Haynes was given the name "Racehorse" by his high school football coach for his motions on the field.

Davis, the Fort Worth millionaire who is Haynes' most famous client, was charged with paying FBI informant David McCrory \$25,000 to arrange the murder of Joe H. Eidson, Davis' divorcee judge. His first trial, among the longest in Texas history, ended in a hung jury, but officials say they plan a retrial.

Haynes stressed that particular attention should be paid in trials dealing with human lives, with no limit on trial length. "A human life is at stake," he said. "In the name of expedience we have cheated and robbed our country of the one thing that makes it strong and wonderful — and that is a government of law and not of men."

"For example, when two giant corporations are suing each other in an anti-trust matter, that litigation may take up to 15 years with literally hundreds of lawyers and hundreds of man-hours spent to resolve the case. No one gets upset with that."

"But, on the other hand, if there is a case that involves a citizen accused of a crime which goes on for six months to a year, then it's viewed as taking much too long. I think what I do is just as important as are the things lawyers representing corporations do."

Haynes was adamant in his view of capital punishment.

"I think everyone is capable of taking the life of another human being if provoked. As a matter of personal philosophy, I'm against the taking of a man's life."

"I do recognize that some fact situations are so gross that until you sit on the jury and hear the facts yourself it's difficult to say, I think, and studies have shown, that capital punishment has not deterred crime."

"To take a human being and fatten him up with whatever he wants for a last meal, then walk him down to a spot where you fry the juices out of him seems sort of barbaric to me."

Rather than capital punishment, Haynes says he believes in rehabilitation. "Taking a man's life will not bring back the deceased. Taking his life will not prevent anyone from his neighborhood from committing a crime," he said. "It will only mean he will be forgotten after a year or so by everyone except his immediate family."

Haynes said if another Davis trial is held, he will once again be the defense attorney.

(Please turn to page 5.)



### Sstreeeeeeettccchh!

Although it's National Health and P.E. Week, Texas A&M University students out jogging and exercising say they didn't know it. They say they just like to exercise and keep in shape for the fun of it. Here, Kris Simpson, a junior landscape architecture major, stretches on the Aerobic Track infield.

Battalion photo by Lyle Lovett