

Library art prints due May 1

Art pieces in the Texas A&M University library's lending print collection are due by May 1. Prints are to be returned to the circulation desk in Evans Library. A library spokesman said borrowers are responsible for lost or damaged prints.

### Computer to expand cataloging

Texas A&M University libraries will soon acquire a public service terminal that will link Evans Library with a computerized cataloging terminal. The Ohio College Library Center is a national system that allows member libraries to share cataloging records. This terminal will be available for use in the Reference Division of Evans Library. It will operate Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

### STATE Airlines argue over merger

Texas International Airlines has accused National Airlines of deception in its handling of TIA's recent merger offer to the Florida-based carrier. TIA said Tuesday that National mailed stockholders promotional materials last week recommending a merger with Pan American World Airways, ignoring TIA and violating National's responsibility to the stockholders. A shareholders' merger vote is scheduled May 16.

### Decision to come by weekend

The divorce suit of socialites T. Cullen and Priscilla Davis has dragged on for five years now. But a judge reports he'll have a decision by the weekend on how their community property should be divided. But no matter what property settlement is announced, attorneys for both sides have indicated they will appeal — which will further delay a divorce decree. Judge Clyde Ashmore, the third judge to preside in the much publicized case, says he'll announce Friday his decision on community property. Davis' attorneys have claimed there is no more than about \$600,000 to \$700,000 in community property. Mrs. Davis' attorney has claimed the community property figure is closer to \$50 million.

### Witnesses charged with perjury

A Bartlesville grandmother and her two sons, whose testimony during the Gene Leroy Hart murder trial was instrumental in his acquittal, Wednesday were arrested and charged with perjury. Joyce Paine, Owen Short and Larry Short were arrested by Mayes County Sheriff's deputies armed with warrants charging the three had lied under oath during the trial. Paine was scheduled to be arraigned in district court Wednesday. Court officials said arraignment decisions had not been made yet for her sons.

## NATION

### Journalists have to answer up

The Supreme Court ruled Wednesday that a journalist who is sued for libel by a public figure may be compelled to answer questions about the editorial process that went into preparation of a story. A six-member majority on the court overturned a U.S. appeals court ruling that a producer for the CBS "60 Minutes" program need not answer questions during libel proceedings about the "state of mind" he had when putting together a television documentary.

### Evans to contest death penalty

Confessed murderer John Louis Evans III faces his second date with the electric chair April 27, but his attorneys and state prosecutors are confident a federal judge will stop the execution so he can challenge Alabama's death penalty law. The Alabama Supreme Court set his latest execution date Tuesday, four days after the U.S. Supreme Court terminated a temporary stay that had saved him from the electric chair on April 5. Attorney John Carroll of the Southern Poverty Law Center and Assistant Attorney General Ed Carnes speculated that federal district Judge W. Brenard Hand most likely would block Evans' latest execution date at a hearing in Mobile, Ala., Friday. Carnes said last week that Evans' execution might be stalled from two to four years in the appellate process now that the inmate has decided to resist the death sentence.

## WORLD

### Earthquake causes little damage

A minor earthquake and six aftershocks shook much of eastern New England Tuesday night, but no injuries and only minor damage were reported. The quake was centered about nine miles from Wiscasset, Maine, site of the Maine Yankee Atomic Power Co. plant, which had been closed because of the geologic fault that caused the tremor. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission ordered Maine Yankee and four other East Coast nuclear plants closed March 13 because design problems with the plants' cooling systems raised concern about potential earthquake damage.

### Nader calls 'last resort' a lie

In a news conference Wednesday, consumer activist Ralph Nader said President Carter has lied to and misled the American people about nuclear energy. Nader said Carter had called nuclear energy "a last resort" during his campaign for the presidency, and then changed his mind and accepts growth in nuclear energy. "In the case of nuclear power, I believe President Carter has lied and has deceived the American people," Nader told the news conference. Nader said he wants existing nuclear plants to close and no new ones to be built. Opponents of nuclear energy said Wednesday they will march thousands strong on Washington May 6.

## THE BATTALION

### LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

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### Letters to Dr. Miller

## Honor system unfair

Dear Dr. Miller:  
There are two matters I would like to bring to your attention. The first concerns the use of grades from other institutions in determining whether a student graduates with honors from A&M. I assume you are aware that such grades may lower but not raise the final GPR.

This to me is obviously a double standard and unfair. Texas A&M is not supposed to be that way. The fair way to do things I think would be to either not consider grades from other schools at all or let them raise as well as lower a student's GPR. For example, I know one graduating senior who will have earned about 100 credit hours here and would most likely be Summa Cum Laude if just those grades were used.

However, due to a poor freshmen year elsewhere, he will probably barely be Cum Laude, which is still not bad, but is it what he deserves? Graduating with honors should be a reward for hard work and an incentive to academic achievement. I believe the present standard is not only unfair, but discouraging and somewhat self-defeating.

Secondly, are mid-term grades justified? Personally, I believe they are largely a waste of time and money. I believe the vast majority of students here know fairly well at any time how they are doing in a course, and can find out easy enough if they are in doubt.

Also, mid-terms are often based on only one test score and are not really indicative of a student's progress in a course. Such grades are also not a fair basis to deny someone the right to preregister. I have talked with several students and faculty members about this, and the consensus I got was that for freshmen and anyone genuinely failing or about to fail, mid-terms are probably worth it, but not for the whole 30,000 of us.

In the interests of fairness and efficiency I hope you will consider these questions and suggestions. I would also like to thank you and your predecessor and all the faculty, staff and other students here for helping make my education a really gratifying experience. I have been very pleased with the consistently reasonable and considerate attitude I have encountered time and again here from everyone. Thank you all very much.  
—Chris Wahlberg, '79

Dear Mr. Wahlberg:

The current policy relating to students graduating with honors was formulated in 1972 in cooperation with representatives of Student Government. The logic for its formulation is in two parts. First, an academic honor such as Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude or Cum Laude is one of the highest recognitions which an undergraduate can earn.

Thus, we believe that all college work must be considered when eligibility for such an honor is determined. Students who do all their college work at Texas A&M and have low grades in their freshman year are not permitted to exempt those grades from their GPR when honors calculations are made. It certainly would not be fair to them if we permitted transfer students to omit the low grades made at previous institutions.

Secondly, the qualifications for Summa Cum Laude, Magna Cum Laude or Cum Laude are determined by Texas A&M University and not other institutions. Thus, we believe that the GPR of all college hours attempted, as well as with the Texas A&M GPR, must equal that required for the appropriate category of honors. Again, I do not believe it fair to permit the student to graduate with an honor higher than that to which the student would be entitled, based on the Texas A&M GPR only.

Mid-semester grades are used very constructively by deans and other advisers in academic counseling sessions. In these sessions, students at all levels may be given assistance early in the semester to attempt to correct problems before they become serious.

We take pride in helping students in all areas and stand ready to assist at all times. Mid-semester grades are just one of the ways in which we hope to monitor these needs. Both departmental and college counselors assure me that these grade reports are very helpful to them in their work with individual students.  
—Dr. Jarvis E. Miller  
President, Texas A&M

## Rumor mongers loose

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — Gee, it's getting to the point where a bachelor governor can't go on a safari with a pretty rock singer without being stalked by eyebrow-raising and idle gossip.

Actually, from all I can learn, there was nothing between California Gov. Jerry Brown and Linda Ronstadt save a mutual regard for African wildlife.

Their recent foray onto the plains of Kenya came about, I understand, somewhat in this wise:

The governor and Miss Ronstadt happened to bump into each other at a meeting of Citizens for the Constitutional Amendment to Amend the Constitution.

It was the first time they had met since being introduced to each other at a meeting of Citizens Against the Constitutional Amendment to Amend the Constitution.

The governor asked Miss Ronstadt how she had been getting along. Miss Ronstadt said she had been getting along just fine, what with her concerts, record albums and all.

The only thing missing in her life, she said, was giraffes.

Miss Ronstadt said she truly had a hankering to see some giraffes in their native habitats. She pointed out that California was rather a poor place for gratification of desires of that type.

One could drive for miles along the freeways without laying eyes on a single

giraffe, she told the governor. And the prospects weren't much better on the back roads.

The governor told Miss Ronstadt he was well aware of that deficiency. He said he would like to install a few herds of giraffes around Sacramento but had been unable to overcome recalcitrance in the legislature.

He said if Miss Ronstadt really had her heart set on observing giraffes in the wild, he reckoned she would have to visit one of the wildlife reserves in East Africa.

Speaking of that, the governor said, he himself was planning a trip to Africa in April. If Miss Ronstadt would like to go along, he said he was pretty sure opportunities for giraffe-viewing would arise.

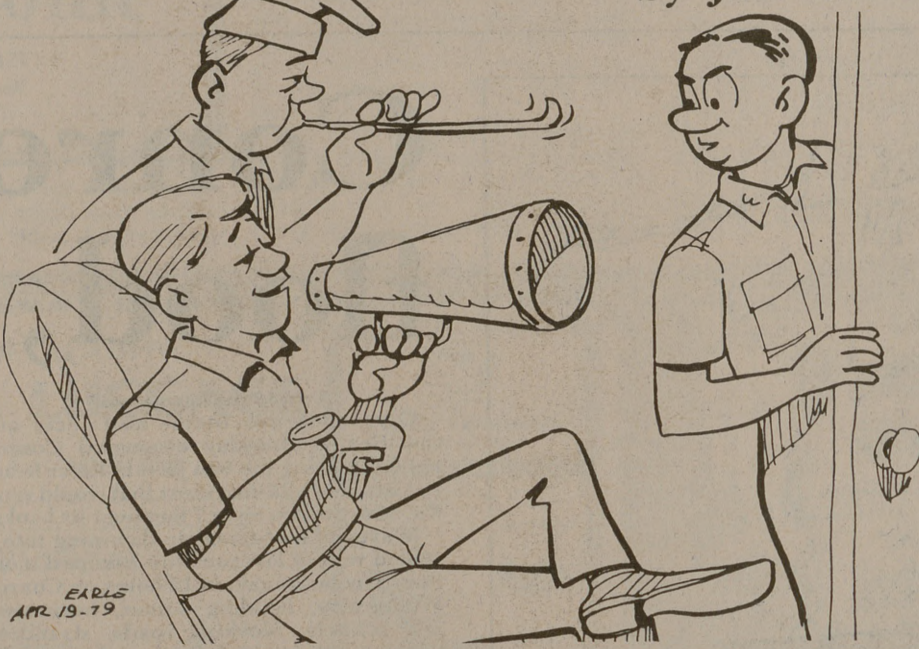
Hot dog, Miss Ronstadt replied. That sounded like a good deal to her. She said she would start shopping for pith helmets right away.

Just where people got the idea there was romantic involvement I cannot say. One possibility is that when Miss Ronstadt dropped by a store to pick up some mosquito netting somebody started a rumor she was buying a bridal veil.

Anyway, she and the governor spent so much time denying they were more than "just good friends" they had precious little time left for glomming giraffes.

That's what comes, I guess, of being so close to Canada. People start assuming the private lives of public figures are like Margaret Trudeau's book.

### Slouch



"Could you graduating seniors continue your count-down until graduation in minutes instead of in seconds? It would be appreciated by those of us who are not graduating."

## Topray or not to pray

By IRA R. ALLEN

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Senate's 100 members belong to 17 different religions or denominations, from the Christian Scientist belief of Charles Percy to the Greek Orthodox practice of Paul Sarbanes to the Schwenkfelder sect of Richard Schweiker.

Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., wears his Baptist religion on his sleeve and considers himself the most conservative member of Congress.

But his proposal for allowing voluntary school prayer, adopted by the Senate last week, is downright radical. The only saving grace for civil libertarians in the chamber is they were able to take Helms' bit of constitutional mischief off an important education bill and saddle it on to a less significant bill that is likely to be buried in the House.

Helms, who spent a record \$6 million in his re-election campaign last year, would make the Constitution worth about 2 cents if his method of introducing voluntary prayer were adopted.

His way of getting God back in the schools was not to offer a constitutional amendment, but a piece of legislation to take away the high court's jurisdiction over state laws regarding voluntary prayer. To him it is an essential matter of states' rights.

To others, like Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., Helms was trying to repeal the nearly 200 year-old principle of judicial review, the 1st Amendment and most of the rest of the Constitution as well.

### Letters to the Editor

## Rude Ags mar movie

Editor:  
I would like to address the issue of the "Aggie stereotype." One of the factors that has kept me from going to the Aggie Cinema has been the totally absurd behavior of so-called mature college students. I refer to their war-whoops, hisses ("horse laughs"), and boos. Not only is it totally obnoxious, but it disrupts the enjoyment of the film by the more mature students.

I'm sure you've receive many such letters concerning the Aggie Cinema. What I'm addressing is their conduct in the local community. Last night, I went to see "Midnight Express" at the Manor East Mall theater for what I hoped would be an evening of entertainment, and to experience what is considered to be a very fine display of art.

What I got instead was constant interruption during key scenes by some war-whooping, hissing, booing children. Too bad, since this reflects to our local com-

munity the ill-manners of Aggies. Since people typically generalize, such behavior can only be a detriment to the image we project to the community. Please children, for the "Aggie Image," behave yourselves!

—Julie Mollenst, graduate student  
Charles Raab, graduate student

### GTE out of order

Editor:  
I would like to add some information to your article about GTE service in your April 12 edition. The service has been poor ever since I waited an extra day to have the phone installed on Jan. 16, 1979 — with billing being the biggest headache.

Now not getting a bill is always good news. Who likes bills? But when you've called GTE three times and you get three different estimates that decrease in amount due over a two-month period then you definitely want a personal copy of the bill. So I decided to make a trip to the GTE phone mart at Culpepper Plaza on April 2.

But I was politely informed to call the business office. I called the business office that day and was once again assured my "lost bill" would be in the mail. That day my telephone was disconnected. Surprises like that make life interesting.

Then I wondered how I was going to bug the business office about my delinquent telephone bill. You know, the phone mart just tells you to call the business office. But how? Without a phone?!

Then I wondered if GTE had my correct address after four telephone inquiries. Hell, who knows, but I have the correct address. Because on April 10, I received a notice to disconnect my phone April 2.

Now the service has been disconnected and I'm still waiting for an itemized bill. I guess every month I could have taken time away from studies to keep up with GTE and chase all over town after my bill. After all why else am I paying (or have not paid yet) for telephone service? To serve GTE?

I have found a solution. If the telephone is a modern service that has not been conveniently served — return the telephone.

One last thing. I've even thought about going to college someplace where there is a Southwestern Bell system. After all I've had four years of good interrupted service from Bell and I've had GTE only two months.

—Delmar L. Milligan Jr., 81

### Thotz

