

Women charge discrimination; Corps suit seeks injunction

By KIM TYSON
and DIANE BLAKE
Battalion Staff

A federal sex discrimination lawsuit has been filed against Texas A&M University by the American Civil Liberties Union on behalf of women members of the Corps of Cadets.

The lawsuit, filed in the U.S. District Court in Houston Friday, charges the university with discrimination in admittance to the Corps' honor organizations, stipulations in the class-action suit are against Zentgraf, a junior Air Force cadet, and other women in the Corps. There are presently 54 women in the 2,100-member corps.

The suit, sponsored by the Brazos County and Houston chapters of the ACLU, seeks a declaratory statement saying that there has been sex discrimination at A&M, an injunction to prohibit further discrimination, and damages.

It charges that policies, practices and customs of the Corps of Cadets violate the

14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, the Texas Equal Rights Amendment, and the Texas Constitution.

Zentgraf, a member of the Corps for three years, contacted the Brazos Civil Liberties Union (BCLU) earlier this year saying that women in the Corps were being harassed and discriminated against; the BCLU then announced an investigation. On March 21 Zentgraf's charges made national news as columnist Jack Anderson criticized the A&M Corps for mistreatment of women members and cited Zentgraf's specific complaints. James Bond, general counsel for Texas A&M, said preliminary meetings were held with members of the BCLU and that the university had been advised of the impending lawsuit.

However, earlier last week negotiations about the situation with the women and the suit broke down.

"The condition for not filing (the suit) was that we make a public admission that there'd been discrimination against women on the basis of sex in the Corps of Cadets,"

President Jarvis Miller said Friday. "We're not prepared to admit it. In fact, we have a strong case in court.

"When we saw what they wanted, we wouldn't accede to their demands," Miller said. "We think the way to handle it is in court. They'll have their day in court and we'll have ours."

A five-man, three-woman cadet committee — including Zentgraf — was organized in January to study the problems caused by both men and women in the Corps. A report, including assessment of the problems and possible solutions, was expected to be complete by the end of April. However, Corps commandant Woodall has returned the report to the group for revisions.

Specific Corps organizations named in the suit are the Ross Volunteers, the governor's honor guard; Parsons' Mounted Cavalry, another honor guard, Fightin' Texas Aggie Band; Rudder's Rangers, a field training organization; the Fish Drill Team; a freshman rifle drill squad; and the color guard, a flag-bearing group. None of

these organizations has ever had a woman member.

The suit charges that "the plaintiff and the class have been subjected to extreme humiliation, harassment, verbal abuse, physical danger and threats when they have sought to participate."

Texas A&M has "refused to institute non-discriminatory policies with regard to the plaintiff and the class in blatant disregard of the Equal Protection Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, Title IX," the suit says.

Relief measures sought include a preliminary injunction against harassment, sex segregation in the school's activities, and compensatory and punitive damages. Defendants named in the suit are Dr. Jarvis Miller, Texas A&M president; John Koldus, vice president for student services; James R. Woodall, commandant of the Corps; and Robert Kamensky, cadet Corps commander.

Bond said that A&M had acted in good faith to address any grievances by setting up a committee within the Corps to discuss problems with the women and recommend changes. The counsel said the university will solidly deny that discrimination has taken place.

"We have no indication that the majority of women feel they are harassed or discriminated against (in the Corps)," he said.

"The university has certainly made no admission of discrimination against women in the Corps," Bond said.

THE BATTALION

Vol. 72 No. 151
10 Pages

Wednesday, May 16, 1979
College Station, Texas

News Dept. 845-2611
Business Dept. 845-2611

Inside Today

The end of the American love affair with cars leaves a lot of broken hearts.

See page 2.



Report criticizes U.S. Embassy for not being alert to cult moves

WASHINGTON — A House staff report Tuesday criticized the U.S. Embassy in Guyana for not keeping alert to irregular activities of the People's Temple commune in the months preceding the 1978 massacre of 909 cult members in Jonestown.

The 782-page report for the House Foreign Affairs Committee was made public at a crowded session with strict security force to guard against a possible disturbance by still-loyal members of the San Francisco-based cult that was led by the Rev. Jim Jones.

Five relatives of Rep. Leo Ryan, a California Democrat shot to death during investigation of the jungle commune, were in the front row, blinking back tears when Ryan's courage was eulogized by committee members. They included Ryan's daughter, Erin, and his sisters, Sheila Ryan and Mrs. Shannon Tophy.

The report covered events leading up to, during and after the mass slaughter in the South American country on Nov. 17, 1978. Among its conclusions:

—The U.S. Embassy in Guyana "did not demonstrate adequate initiative, sensitive reaction to, and appreciation of the progressively mounting indications of highly irregular and illegal activities in Jonestown." The embassy made an attempt to warn the State Department in June of 1978, but the Washington reaction was negative.

—The embassy and the State Department, however, "performed with distinction" in managing affairs after the tragedy.

—The State Department and the embassy avoided investigating the commune before the massacre because of excessive concern that the cult might claim it was protected, as a religion, under the Privacy and Freedom of Information Acts.

—The Guyana government did not cooperate in the investigation. "There is evidence of a strong working relationship between the People's Temple and some officials of the Government of Guyana, especially in the areas of customs and immigration." Large supplies of guns and drugs were allowed into the commune.

—Jones "was a genius in the area of human psychology; a master of mind control; of brainwashing," but also suffered "extreme paranoia." Although he amassed an estimated \$12 million from his followers, "He was not driven by greed for money but for power and control over others."

Ordinance will affect liquor sales

By ROY BRAGG
Battalion Staff

The Bryan City Council approved the first reading of a new ordinance Monday night that would prohibit the sale of alcoholic beverages near a church, school or hospital.

The law, if put into effect, would only affect new establishments built within 300 feet of a church, public school or public hospital.

There would be two exceptions to the law, said City Attorney Charles Bluntzer. Existing establishments would not be affected by the law. In addition, establishments built before a church, school or hospital built in the same area would not be subject to the law, Bluntzer said.

However, Bluntzer said, an exempt establishment would not be allowed to get its liquor license back if it ever failed to renew the license.

Violators of the law could be fined up to \$200 a day if found guilty, Bluntzer said.

At a public hearing about the ordinance at the last council meeting, a resident spoke in favor of the law because she had heard a Seven-Eleven store was to be built on the corner of Haswell and 29th.

She didn't want the store in her neighborhood because it would protect the residential sections of town.

Bluntzer told the council Monday night the store would not be affected by the law.

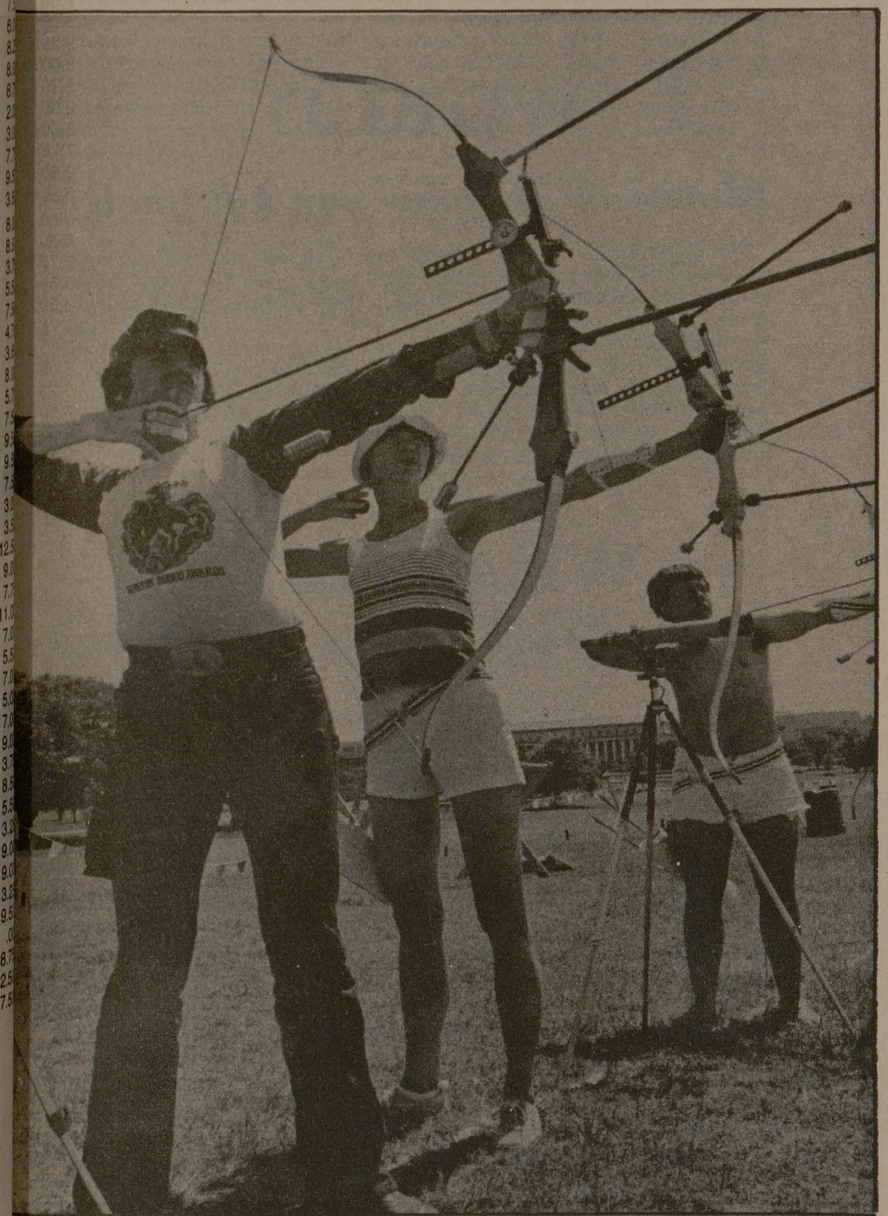
Five citizens spoke out in favor of the ordinance.

The ordinance will become effective following a second reading at the next council meeting and after publication in the Eagle.

The publication and effective dates for the ordinance have not been set, Bluntzer said.

In other action, the council:

- awarded \$125,000 in bids for work orders and equipment purchased by the city. The largest single bid was for \$40,000 for a garbage truck by Davis Truck & Equipment of Waco.
- also approved the plans for the Richard P. Lopez fire station. The cost of the station is projected to be \$196,000.
- ordered payment for estimates and invoices for electrical system and street construction totaling \$660,000.
- approved the first ordinance of an ordinance renewing the franchise of Community Cablevision Corporation.



Battalion photo by Clay Cockrill

Archers—to your bows

Robert Massey (left), Ruth Rowe and John Johnson were practicing in the polo field Tuesday for a national archery tournament to be held here this Thursday through Sunday. The winners may eventually end up in an international tournament July 14 in West Berlin.

Sadat extends peace symbol, with a catch

United Press International

CAIRO — Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, facing mounting isolation in the Arab world, cautiously extended an olive branch to the Soviet Union Tuesday declaring he was completely prepared to "reciprocate friendship with friendship."

But Sadat hedged his offer by announcing that he would reject any Soviet attempt at interfering in Egypt's affairs or imposing communist ideology on Egypt.

Sadat was addressing a political rally at a small village southeast of Alexandria at the conclusion of a week-long provincial tour of the Nile Delta.

"Moscow radio broadcasts abuse of the Egyptian people every day, Sadat said. "Moscow incites the actions of the Arab dwarfs around us and rejoices in the rupture of Arab relations" with Cairo.

"And yet, we are completely prepared to reciprocate friendship with friendship," he said.

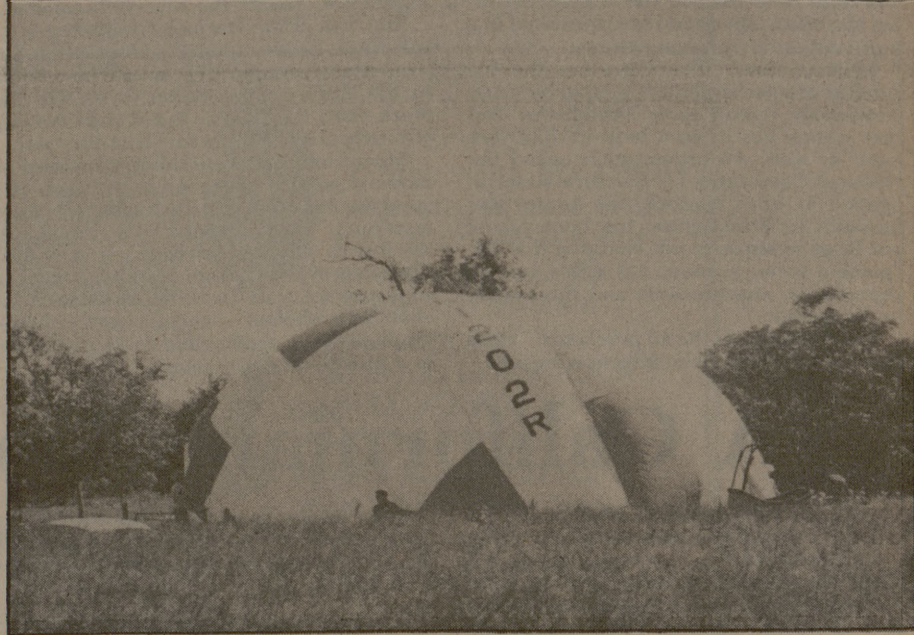
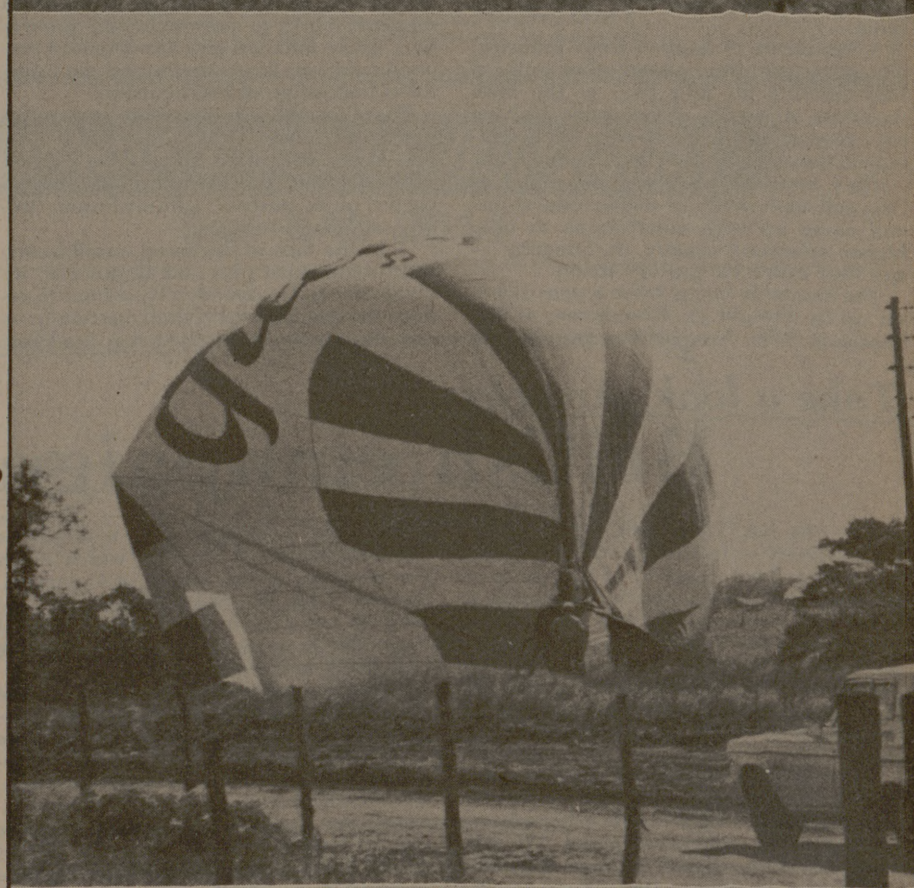
"But the Soviet Union should know that we reject interference in our affairs, we reject its methods and reject any attempt at imposing its regime on us," he said.

In Lebanon, after four days of bloody clashes, the two largest right-wing Christian militia groups said today they had merged into one organization.

The move was seen as an effort to prevent further violence. Police sources said at least 25 people had been killed and about twice as many wounded in the fighting with rockets, mortars and machine guns — the worst between rival Christian militias in 11 months. The battles were particularly severe in the southeast suburb of Furn Al Chebbak and Ain Rummaneh.

The right-wing Phalangist radio said that the Phalangist and National Liberal parties formally merged at midday Tuesday into a unified political command.

Earlier Egypt Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil said Arab nations spurning the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty have failed to come up with a working alternative to the pact and Egypt's policy was the "sole path" toward a solution.



Battalion photos by Mike Stone

Look out below

Mickey Gilley's hot-air balloon got off to a good start Sunday morning, but eventually fizzled out when it ran out of fuel about a mile from downtown Snook. The balloon from Houston ran out of gas and landed in a pasture around noon after taking off from the polo field on campus earlier that morning. Local residents offered help, but no one was injured.

Proposed amendment

Voters could make own laws

United Press International

AUSTIN — The House Tuesday tentatively approved a constitutional amendment giving citizens indirect initiative and referendum but proponents must find another 11 votes for final passage of the proposal.

The constitutional amendment by Rep. Carlyle Smith was adopted 89-33 but 100 votes are needed for adoption of constitutional amendments. Fourteen members were recorded as present but not voting.

Under the proposal, citizens would be able to submit to the Legislature proposed statutes and constitutional amendments and would be allowed, through referendum, to repeal existing laws.

Both initiative and referendum processes would require signatures from 15 percent of the citizens casting votes in the last gubernatorial race. Each petition would have to be signed by 15 percent of the registered voters in at least 50 of the state's 254 counties.

The petitions would have to be gathered during a nine-month period and have to be submitted at least 60 days before a statewide general election.

The legislation is not what Gov. Bill Clements has asked for, but he has said he would accept the compromise.

Reps. Mary Polk and Luther Jones, both D-El Paso, tried separate approaches to make major changes in Smith's measure.

Ms. Polk offered a substitute that called for at least 15 percent participation in petition gathering in 20 of the state's 31 senatorial districts. Her proposal would have al-

lowed citizens to request adoption or repeal of certain laws. Any bill proposed through initiative would have to be introduced in the Legislature by the speaker and the lieutenant governor.

But Smith argued Ms. Polk's proposal was not true initiative and referendum.

"This is a petition bill, it's not initiative and referendum," he said. "They've got to do it (gather petitions) in 20 senatorial districts just to let you know what they want."

Jones' amendment was an appeal to Clements, who made initiative and re-

ferendum one of the central themes of his campaign last fall. Jones' proposal would give citizens the right to draft and repeal legislation without the consent of the Legislature.

Jones urged members to ignore threats by Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby that the Senate would defeat any initiative and referendum legislation.

"Experience has taught us that when the pressure is on, Gov. Hobby folds. So don't worry about him," Jones said before his proposal was defeated 66-70.

10,000 refugees a month expected from Vietnam

United Press International

JAKARTA, Indonesia — Hanoi announced Tuesday night it was ready to send 10,000 refugees a month directly from Vietnam to countries of resettlement, mainly the United States, Australia, and France.

Vu Huong, head of the Vietnamese delegation to the conference on Indochina refugees here said Hanoi has already accepted 20,000 applications by Vietnamese seeking to escape the Communist nation.

He said he plans to submit the paperwork May 23 to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees in Hanoi for final approval by the resettlement countries.

Huong said that if the Commissioner

approves the Vietnamese plan, the Communists would send 10,000 refugees next month to resettlement countries, mainly the United States, Australia, and France and added that Hanoi will not oppose in any way the human outflow.

He said Hanoi could send 10,000 refugees a month for an unspecified period of time.

He said Vietnam decided to send the refugees directly to countries willing to accept them on a permanent basis because Hanoi wanted to alleviate the "boat people" burden on neighboring countries. Thailand, Malaysia and Hong Kong have shared the brunt of the arrivals.