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Survey to be considered in ruling to change Taps

By ROSEMARIE ROSE
Battalion Reporter

One of Texas A&M University's most honored traditions may soon be changed. The Silver Taps ceremony is, according to "The Standard" of the Corps of Cadets, "that final tribute paid to an Aggie who, at the time of his death, was enrolled in graduate or undergraduate courses at Texas A&M."

Traditionally the memorial ceremony has been held the first Tuesday following the death of a student during the academic year. No Silver Taps are held between Aggie Muster on April 21 of each year and the beginning of classes in the fall.

But on Nov. 7 the Student Senate heard a bill which would schedule Silver Taps on the first Tuesday of every month from September to April after a student dies.

The bill was referred to the Student Services Committee which researched the

subject and held a meeting Nov. 13 to discuss suggestions to be made to the Student Senate.

Vice President of Student Services for Student Government Brad Smith said that because the bill was so important and because passing it would "change one of the best traditions A&M has," the committee decided to refrain from making recommendations to the Student Senate until they could take a student opinion survey.

Students will have the opportunity of voice their opinions Tuesday and Wednesday in the Memorial Student Center. Smith said the committee will provide lists of pro and con arguments so the students will have some definite ideas to consider.

On Dec. 4 the committee will consider the results of the opinion survey and vote on recommendations to be made to the Student Senate.

The Senate will hear the committee's

recommendations on Dec. 5 before they take a vote on final passage of the bill.

If the bill passes the Student Senate it will be referred to Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services.

Koldus said his office would act to implement whatever recommendations the Student Senate makes.

"It (Silver Taps) is a student function, so the students must make the decisions. Whatever the Student Senate recommends I will accommodate," he said.

Tracy Cox, the junior class senator from the College of Business, wrote the bill. Cox said he introduced the proposal to the Senate because of declining attendance at the ceremonies and because of the change he has seen in students' attitudes.

"Students either didn't know when Silver Taps was to be held, or they felt it was coming too often," Cox said, referring to the fact that the ceremony was held four

times during the first eight weeks of this semester.

"The student population has increased so much that the probability of having Silver Taps is greater than in the past," he said. The more Silver Taps is held, the lower the attendance becomes and the less significance the ceremony holds for the students, he said.

Terrell Pruett, commanding officer of the Ross Volunteers, agreed that the frequency of Silver Taps is detracting from the impact it has on the students.

"Students have to be mentally prepared for Silver Taps," he said, and if they have to go through the emotional preparation every other week, they will just stop going.

Dale Laine, graduate representative for the College of Business who co-authored the bill with Cox, said that A&M has be-

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Urgent U.N. consultations today offer hope to American hostages

United Press International

TEHRAN, Iran — An urgent U.N. Security Council meeting and a U.S. official's pledge to ask Congress to investigate the deposed shah offered some hope today for the 49 American hostages held for the fourth week in the U.S. Embassy.

The special Security Council meeting was requested Sunday by Secretary General Kurt Waldheim and endorsed immediately by the United States. Waldheim said in New York the crisis in Iran was "the most serious threat to peace since the Cuban missile crisis" in 1961. It was the first time in 19 years a secretary general invoked his special authority to call an urgent meeting — a privilege usually reserved for the 15-member countries of the council.

No time for a meeting was scheduled but closed-door consultations were set for today.

Rep. George Hansen, (R-Idaho), in the Iranian capital on an unofficial "mercy mis-

sion," pledged he would ask Congress to set up a commission to hold an inquiry into Iranian allegations against Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

A spokesman for the militant students holding the Americans captive for the 23rd day today telephoned United Press International Sunday to ask if there had been any reaction to this proposal from the United States.

He said the students "will watch closely Hansen's movements to make sure he was not lying when he claimed to represent the American people."

The students are demanding the return of the shah to face trial in Iran and Washington has flatly refused to extradite him.

Hansen, the first American official permitted to see and talk to the hostages at length, was led blindfolded past a mob of Iranians and into the compound, where he spent four hours visiting the hostages Sun-

day. He said the 49 were in reasonably good physical condition — although wearing the same clothes since the embassy was seized Nov. 4. One suffered from chicken pox, another had a cold and a third had blisters.

President Carter said Sunday he was "not particularly" optimistic the Security Council session would lead to the release of the American hostages, but said, "but we're trying in every way we can."

Acting Foreign Minister Abol Hassan Bani-Sadr first said Sunday he was flying to New York today to address the United Nations, but a few hours later it was announced he would not come until mid-December.

The Republican congressman was unable to say if he saw all the hostages in the embassy who were kept "pretty much separate — a few in one room and a few in another." He said he had an interesting dialogue with the student captors.

But there seemed no mood of reconciliation on the streets where thousands of people, their clenched fists in the air, marched on the embassy Sunday shouting "Death to Carter," "Death to America," and proclaimed in a broadcast "if the Imam (Khomeini) calls for the Jihad (holy war) not one American soldier can stand in front of us."

The strong anti-American statement also called on all Moslems to go to war against the United States and "rub America's snout in the dirt."

The thousands who marched included Iranians from supporters and non-supporters of the Ayatollah Khomeini. The two sides jeered and heckled each other, but there was no violence.

On the economic front, Iranian Oil Minister Akbar Moinfar warned, according to the officials Pars news agency, that any country adopting a hostile attitude to Iran would be subjected to an oil boycott.

Silver Taps, the memorial service for Texas A&M students who die while enrolled, may soon be scheduled for once a month. This view of an actual Taps ceremony is seen from the front steps of the Academic Building.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Man flees from plane to avoid hijacking to Iran

United Press International

EL PASO — Jeff Huppert figured the escape from a hijacked airplane was less risky than an unscheduled trip to Iran.

Huppert, 32, was one of the 73 people aboard American Airlines Flight 395, hijacked after it landed Saturday at El Paso International Airport en route from San Antonio to Los Angeles.

But Huppert had a special reason for leaving a trip to Iran.

"They don't allow Jews in Iran, so I left," said the Jewish sales representative from San Diego in explanation of his decision to flee the plane. He pretended to have to use a restroom but then slipped out near cabin door and down a flight of stairs.

"I was scared. I looked around and saw a head-and-take situation and I decided that I rather make my play here than somewhere else," he said.

The hijacker, who authorities identified as Gerald James Hill, 18, of Chester, Mass., remained in the El Paso County Jail Sunday, where jailers said he spent a quiet night.

Held in lieu of \$500,000 bond on charges of attempted hijacking and crime aboard an airplane, Hill was scheduled for another hearing before a federal judge today.

Authorities have declined to reveal why Hill wanted to go to Iran.

Airline officials Sunday could not explain how he could have gotten through airport

security with the large knife — variously described by hostages as a "Bowie knife," "machete" and "butcher knife" — he used to begin the hijack.

Officials said the San Antonio airport, where Hill boarded the plane, has two X-ray machines and a security guard and that all passengers were checked. An FBI official said the hijacker got aboard by running to the gate at the last minute and possibly dodged past security.

American spokesman John Raymond said the airline still was trying to determine if Hill had been on another plane before boarding in San Antonio.

"If he came off another plane he may have been in a sterile area (where passengers already cleared by one security system would not have to go through another). If that were the case, we would have to take the microscope off San Antonio and look elsewhere (for the security breach)."

No one was injured in the four-hour incident and all women and children passengers were freed shortly after it began.

Sid Campa, one of about 20 hostages freed when the FBI slipped aboard the plane and captured Hill, said he heard a bystander say the hijacking attempt "wasn't much" as far as hostage situations go.

"That may be," Campa said later, "but I would have traded places with almost anyone this morning."

Ninety demonstrators arrested at nuke plant

United Press International

GLEN ROSE, Texas — Ninety demonstrators opposed to nuclear power clambered over a fence at the Comanche Peak nuclear power plant Sunday and were arrested on trespassing charges, sheriff's officials said.

As soon as protesters landed on power plant property, sheriff's officials moved in to make the arrests, said Somervell County Sheriff's spokesman Bobby West.

By mid-afternoon 66 protesters had been processed at the sheriff's office, but several refused to give their names or leave the police bus that carried the prisoners from the demonstration site to sheriff's headquarters, West said.

All were to be charged with criminal trespass, a Class C misdemeanor punishable by a fine of \$1 to \$200, and released. They were to be notified by mail of their required appearances in court.

After their release, protesters continued their demonstration against further construction of the nuclear plant, rallying outside the sheriff's offices, listening to anti-nuclear speeches and conducting a worship service.

A large number of those arrested already face criminal trespass charges stemming from a similar demonstration June 10 in

which 48 protesters were arrested. The group originally was tried together, but the case ended in a mistrial because the jury became deadlocked 4-2 in favor of acquittal.

Now, the defendants are undergoing separate trials in a tactical move by special prosecutor Tommy Altaras.

In both the first trial and the retrials, the anti-nuclear forces have used the courtroom to expose what they say are the dangers of nuclear power.

The \$1.7 billion plant, owned by Dallas-based Texas Utilities, is scheduled to begin operating in 1981 with a capacity to generate 2,300 megawatts of electricity.

Builders of the plant are finding defects in more than 40 percent of certain welds that would not have been tested had it not been for a former construction worker's charges.

The welds in question are not narrowly defined as "safety related" but could be important to the overall safety of the plant.

Although the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said federal regulations did not require testing of the non-safety related welds, it substantiated charges that construction foremen were ignoring a program of random testing.

Folk medicine alive and well in Bryan

Woman makes own herbal remedies

By CLAY B. COCKRILL
Special to the Battalion

Opal Payne lives in a small trailer in north Bryan. She doesn't own a television or an air conditioner.

"There's nothing but junk on television," she said. As for the air conditioner, she likes having her trailer windows open in the summer, and she spends most of her time outside anyway.

In the spring and summer, she wanders the vacant lots and cow pastures near her home, looking for wild herbs.

Goose grass, century plant, wild grape, sow thistle, and cocklebur — they all are useful to her. She cuts and dries them on her front porch. From the dried matter she makes teas and body lotions.

"Most herbs are good for the whole body," she said, "but each one has a particular ailment it is best for."

She burns the grapevine and uses the charcoal as a toothpaste. The cocklebur lotion, when applied long enough, will "draw a thorn or metal sliver right out of the flesh," she said.

But she doesn't confine her belief in herbs to minor ailments. She said that an eyewash made from a plant called century (not the cactus) can prevent glaucoma and cataracts; and that willow tea is good for hemophiliacs.

Do the herbs work? Many folk medicines have been tested scientifically and shown to be effective; others have been proven ineffective, and still more have never been tested. Bruno Gebhard, M.D., writes in "American Folk Medicine," it is estimated today that "primitive medicines are 25 percent objectively helpful."

The history of folk medicine is the history of medicine itself, and both are much older than the medical profession, Gebhard wrote. Medicine did not acquire an academic status in this country until around the turn of the present century. In other words, the modern medical profession has its beginnings in the cutting and drying of wild herbs.

Evelia Jasso, who sells patent medicinal herbs from her bakery in Bryan, perhaps best explained the origin of folk medicine.

"People long ago, living in the mountains, couldn't get to a doctor. There weren't any doctors around. So

they treated themselves," she said.

To define exactly the degree to which folk medicine exists today would be difficult, because some form of home remedy exists in almost every family. But Gebhard says research indicates that for the third generation of city-born people, the pharmaceutical industry and patent medicine have more or less taken over.

Folk medicine exists today only on the outer fringes of society among older Americans, less literate, rural groups and in highly traditional societies like the American Indian. Jasso said that most of her herb customers are older people.

Folk medicine persists as a medical alternative for groups of people who feel modern medicine is in many ways inadequate.

Gebhard quoted James Marion Sims, a successful surgeon, who said this about the developing practice of medical science around 1840:

"It was heroic, it was murderous. I did not know anything about medicine but I had enough common sense to see that physicians killed their patients, that medicine was no exact science, that it proceeded empirically and that it was preferable to put one's confidence into nature and not into the dangerous skill of physicians."

Of course medicine has come a long way since those days, but apprehension toward it still exists.

"If I had cancer, I wouldn't go to a doctor," Payne said. "I might die with it, but I would rather take my chances with the herbs. All the doctors will do is cut on you, and I don't trust that."

"When the Lord made us, he put things on the earth that are good for us," she said. "I don't trust all these machines that doctors have now."

Jasso said she believes one reason people still use the herbs is because "they're cheaper."

"You can't go to a doctor now for less than \$10 or \$20," she said. "Just for a consultation."

Jasso said she doesn't believe that herbs as a medical alternative prevent people from seeing a physician when they need to.

"If they get really sick, they'll forget about the herbs and go to a doctor," she said.



Opal Payne, a firm believer in the benefits of nature in curing ailments, scours fields and pastures to find the herbs she uses to make teas and body lotions.

Battalion photo by Clay B. Cockrill