

# THE BATTALION

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Christmas is the season for kids — and for Aggies, too!



## 'Merry' Christmas?

Two Moore Hall residents found a unique way of getting into the holiday spirit. Their stockings take

note of an early Christmas present and express hope for a later one.

Battalion photo by Sam Stroder

## Athlete stable after being shot in head

By MIKE BURRICHTER

Battalion Reporter

Ed Patterson, 19, from Portland, a sophomore reserve offensive guard on the Texas A&M football team who was shot in the head during a scuffle after midnight Wednesday, is listed in stable condition in St. Joseph Hospital, Bryan.

At press time doctors were unavailable for comment.

Brazos County police arrested William Jennings Brannan, 21, and charged him with aggravated assault. Brannan, of 1501 North Sims in Bryan, posted \$1,000 bail and was released Thursday morning.

Brazos County Sheriff Bobby Yeager said details of the incident which took place in the parking lot of the Texas Hall of Fame on FM 2818 are still sketchy and

under investigation. Yeager said he was pretty sure that Patterson was "shot from a car at fairly close range with a .38-caliber pistol." He said Brannan was arrested at the scene.

Texas A&M head football coach Tom Wilson was on a recruiting trip when the incident occurred, but returned to College Station Thursday morning after hearing the news.

"We're just happy he's alive," Wilson said.

Wilson also said there is a bullet still lodged in Patterson's head and it will be surgically removed sometime next week.

"He's supposed to have an operation in the next three or four days," Wilson said. "They have to wait for the swelling to go down. He'll probably lose his right eye."

A bartender at the Hall of Fame said he saw the police apprehend a man with the gun.

"The trouble may have started inside, but most of them take their fights outside so they won't get arrested," he said. "There was a big crowd out there right after closing." The bartender said a man in the parking lot who is supposed to stop fights "came running in after the shot was fired and told the manager. He and a couple of other guys went outside and started tackling heads."

Kelly Raper, 18, Patterson's roommate at Wofford Cain Hall, said Patterson was trying to break up an argument when someone in the back seat of a car shot him. "I talked to him today," Raper said Thursday. "He's going to lose his right eye but he's just happy he's alive."

## Small hospitals need to compete, Gramm says

By DEBBIE NELSON

Battalion Staff

U.S. Rep. Phil Gramm visited St. Joseph Hospital Thursday morning to discuss health legislation and to tour the facilities of the hospital.

At an informal reception afterward, Gramm told hospital doctors and administrators he is concerned with problems facing small hospitals, rising costs and the need to provide low-price health care.

Gramm referred to a defeated HEW bill that would have put a lid on hospital revenue and eliminated one-third of the nation's hospital beds. Gramm said this bill was dumped in the House in favor of a bill Gramm co-sponsored to define factors producing rises in medical costs and encourage price competition.

Because small hospitals need all avail-

able bed space, a bed-cut is impractical, Gramm said. Although he foresees no easy solution, Gramm proposes price competition and voluntary hospital cost containment as two solutions.

Pre-paid medical plans are another proposal, Gramm said. In such a practice, people would pay a doctor a specified amount every year in return for a guarantee that the doctor will give them the best possible medical care when necessary.

Pre-paid plans may increase price competition and raise profits, however, 95 percent of all medical care is purchased by a third-party payer such as Medicare, Gramm said. Because the buyer is not paying for his own care, he is not cost-conscious.

Gramm is also concerned with the load of paperwork on hospital administrators,

leaving them less time to administer medicine. Gramm has sponsored bills to decrease the paper work, but said more could still be done.

Sister Reginald of St. Joseph Hospital said her staff is cooperating with voluntary cost-containment. In this program, the hospital budget is submitted to the government and the hospital works within it.

Repair work on the hospital boilers increased the 1978-79 budget, Sister Reginald said.

However, the hospital cut heating and electricity costs one-third from last year as a result of the renovations.

Small hospitals don't have a deep reservoir of funds to rely on, Gramm said. If they are to survive being transferred to big cities, small hospitals must find ways to contain costs without strict revenue controls.

## Dissident Iranian mob seizes provincial capital

United Press International  
TEHRAN, Iran — Tens of thousands of Iranian demonstrators seized the northeastern city of Tabriz Thursday, posing a major domestic challenge to Ayatollah Khomeini in a move that could jeopardize the early release of 50 American hostages held in Tehran.

Dissident supporters of moderate religious leader Ayatollah Kazem Shariatmadari first captured the radio and television

stations in Tabriz, then fanned through the city of 2 million near the Turkish border.

In radio broadcasts, the demonstrators said they had fired the province governor, Nur-eddin Charavi, urged other towns to mobilize for revolution and claimed the backing of local police and army units.

The demonstrators were demanding changes in an Islamic constitution that would give Khomeini absolute power in Iran for life.

But they carefully pledged their continued support for Khomeini personally as well as for Shariatmadari, a champion of the minorities in Iran and the chief challenger to Khomeini over the constitution that voters overwhelmingly endorsed this week.

Several revolutionary guards who tried to stop the demonstrators were disarmed.

Political observers said the takeover of Tabriz represented a major domestic challenge to Khomeini and could complicate

fresh and seemingly hopeful moves to secure the release of the Americans held for the 33rd day.

The major outbreak of domestic unrest came as Iran cautiously welcomed a U.N. Security Council resolution calling for the release of 50 American hostages, now in their 34th day of captivity, as a "step forward" toward a peaceful solution.

But Khomeini, breaking several days of silence, denounced Washington as a

"bloodthirsty regime" and Iran's Revolutionary Council approved plans for mobilizing 20 million youth for military training in support of Khomeini's appeal to the country's youth to prepare for armed combat with the United States.

Khomeini appealed for calm and national unity in statement broadcast over Tehran Radio and indirectly accused the United States of fomenting domestic problems.

The protest followed a ballot by Iranians

at the start of the week on a referendum turning Iran into an Islamic Republic and giving Khomeini absolute secular and religious powers.

Shariatmadari opposed the constitution because he believed it gave Khomeini too much power. On Wednesday night his home in the holy city of Qom was stormed by a gang of gunmen. One guard was killed and nine others wounded. Shariatmadari himself escaped harm.

## Iranian newspaper agrees with Kennedy's comments

United Press International  
TEHRAN — A leading Iranian newspaper said Thursday Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., reflected the opinion of the American majority when he attacked U.S. support for the deposed shah of Iran.

"This is not the time for Kennedy to say anything contrary to American public opinion," the newspaper Bamdad said in a front-page comment, referring to the U.S. presidential election.

"Therefore, what he said was based on the opinion of the American majority," the paper said.

Bamdad said Kennedy's strong criticism

of President Carter's support of the shah "is our victory and a sign that the atmosphere is clearing up for the Iranian logic to be heard."

The comment followed several days of sporadic support to Kennedy, shouted by groups of demonstrators who have been gathering outside the occupied U.S. Embassy.

The state radio and televisions gave vast coverage to Kennedy's statements. But the Bamdad comment was the first Iranian reaction directly referring to the senator's remarks as a "victory" for Iran.

It said Iranians "must now be prepared

for a propaganda war on a wider scale" which, it said, the United States was to launch to counter Kennedy's statements.

Around the U.S. embassy, still housing 50 captives and controlled by hundreds of militants, occasional demonstrators carry placards such as "Kennedy tells the truth" and "Right on, Kennedy."

Kennedy, not a well-known name among rank-and-file Iranians, shot to prominence in the week when he said the shah had run "one of the most violent regimes in the history of mankind" and had stolen "umpteen billions of dollars from his country."

## Voluntary gas allocations set

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Energy Secretary Charles Duncan Thursday assigned voluntary 1980 gasoline reduction figures for each state and warned that if that doesn't work, harsh mandatory federal measures

may result. The voluntary cutbacks range from a high of 15 percent in Kansas to zero in Colorado and Alaska.

Among the key consuming states, Massachusetts was assigned an 11 percent re-

duction goal. New York and Ohio were assigned 10 percent reductions each, California and Pennsylvania 7 percent and Texas 5 percent.

Duncan said the overall effect of the voluntary cutbacks would be to reduce 1980 gas consumption by 5 percent compared to 1978. That would keep overall consumption about the same level as this year — 7 million barrels a day.

The state targets are based on their first-quarter 1979 consumption figures. "These (conservation) targets are voluntary," Duncan said Thursday. "But they could become mandatory under the Energy Emergency Conservation Act if the president determines a severe supply shortage is imminent or exists."

The national target for 1980 would limit consumption of gasoline to the 1979 level of 7 million barrels a day — a 5 percent reduction from 1978 levels.

Duncan said the voluntary conservation targets were being issued "to preclude gas lines or severe disruptions."

## Williams to head medical center

Dr. Jack K. Williams, a former chancellor and president of Texas A&M University, was nominated Thursday to head the Texas Medical Center, Inc.

Williams, 59, was chosen by a search committee to succeed Dr. Richard T. Eastwood as executive vice president and director of the medical center, the Houston Post reported this morning.

His wife confirmed the story this morning and said Dr. Williams was unavailable for comment.

The committee will formally nominate Williams at the center's board of directors meeting Dec. 18. Board president Herman P. Pressler said Williams would probably be chosen unanimously.

There are 23 institutional complexes included in the medical centers complex, whose combined capital investment for buildings without land is nearly \$650 million, with operating budgets of \$535 million.

## Clayton calls for revision

### College funding criticized

By NANCY ANDERSEN

Battalion Staff

Texas House Speaker Bill Clayton took time out from a full day in College Station to discuss higher education and the 1980 presidential election with the press Thursday afternoon.

Clayton said a critical problem facing the Legislature in 1981 will be developing a funding pattern for state universities. After listening to testimony from university administrators Wednesday in Austin, Clayton said the best way to accomplish this is still through formula funding. But, he said the current formula needs revision.

With the exception of Texas A&M University and the University of Texas — the only members of the Permanent University Fund — construction funds to state universities have been cut off by the passing of Senate Bill 621, Clayton said.

This bill abolished state ad valorem taxes, the source of university construction funds, he said.

Another university-related problem is dealing with leveling and declining enrollments, he said. However, neither Texas A&M nor UT have this problem, Clayton added.

As for the upcoming election, Clayton said he will support President Carter although he disagrees with Carter's energy program.

"Carter has made a valiant effort to accomplish things that no other president has tried," Clayton said. Among these, he added, are deregulating the airlines, revitalizing the Civil Service Act and trying to bring the budget in line.

As for the other Democratic presidential candidates Clayton said, "I certainly don't like the candidacy of Teddy Kennedy or Jerry Brown, either."

He added that John Connally would receive strong backing from Texas if his campaign is still viable in May.



Texas House Speaker Bill Clayton (left) and Representative Bill Presnal discuss the House Appropriations Committee and the 1980 presidential campaign at a press conference at Texas A&M University's Memorial Student Center Thursday.

Battalion photo by Cindy Colvin