

# THE BATTALION

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Where did all those quarters go? Try asking the machines...

## Rabies threaten vet students exposed to cow

By ANDY WILLIAMS

Staff Writer  
An estimated 65 people may have been exposed to rabies this month through two animals which were under observation at Texas A&M University's veterinary school. A state agency in Austin told Texas A&M officials Thursday that the head of a cow which had been at the school's large animal clinic showed the animal had been rabid. School workers had sent the head to Austin on the suspicion that the animal had rabies.

The case was the second the school learned of this week. Texas A&M officials were told Monday that a horse which was bought here Feb. 10 had been rabid. Both animals had been brought to the center by their owners for observation.

Dr. Claude Goswick, director of the Animal Health Center, said the center is trying to trace the vaccination records of people who may have been exposed. These people are in various stages of

reasonable immunity," he said. He said most of those being screened are third-year vet students.

Most of the students have been vaccinated, but some may require boosters. Goswick said if there is anyone who had not been vaccinated, he would require a series of shots.

Robin Parker, a secretary in the necropsy, or animal autopsy, division of the clinic, said the cow's head was removed and sent to Austin last weekend.

She said the about 25 people who are being checked are suspected of being exposed to the horse, and between 40 and 50 to the cow.

Dr. Leon H. Russell Jr. said it is unusual for two rabies cases to be reported in one week at the school.

"It really depends on the occurrence of the disease in the state" how many cases Texas A&M encounters, Russell said. "In 1979, we've had more than we had before for about 20 years."

## Israel reported to have N-bomb

United Press International  
NEW YORK — CBS News has reported Israel exploded a nuclear bomb off South Africa last fall with Pretoria's "help and operation," a move that would make the Jewish state the seventh nation to test a nuclear device.

The network also said on its evening news program Thursday Israel called the report "complete nonsense," and South Africa termed it ridiculous. U.S. officials could neither confirm nor deny it.

The State Department said: "The only information we have is the repeated Israeli declaration that they will not be the first to produce nuclear weapons into the Middle East."

Informed sources in Rome told CBS the Israeli test was carried out with the "help and cooperation" of South Africa. The two nations have friendly relations and a history of cooperation.

The television network cited as a source a unpublished book by two Israelis, Ely Asher and Amy Dor-On, who said Israel tested the device in September 1979 in the Atlantic Ocean.

The report said South Africa first offered to test site to Israel in 1966, but the Israelis declined. In 1979, however, Israel wanted to see if the bomb worked and accepted the offer.

No publication date was given for the book, which has not yet passed Israeli censorship. But CBS said it "confirmed" Israel possessed an atomic bomb and had carried out the test.

A successful nuclear test by Israel would make it the seventh nuclear power, joining the United States, Soviet Union, China, Britain, France and India as nations that have exploded a nuclear bomb.

The Israeli book says Israel has several dozen atomic bombs and some H-bombs,

which would give it more nuclear weapons than India and put it just behind China. CBS said a U.S. satellite detected the blast in September off the southern African coast, but could not confirm it was a nuclear test.

It said the bomb probably was built at a plant in Dimona in the Negev Desert and the reactor was built by France, with South Africa supplying the uranium.

Three years after the 1973 Middle East war, diplomatic reports surfaced some Israeli American-made F-4's aircraft were capable of carrying atomic weapons and were prepared to do so.

## Build a fence to keep people out of prison?

United Press International  
ORANGE — Remember the joke about the cemetery and all the people dying to get in? That's somewhat the situation at the new Orange County jail.

Commissioners declared an emergency this week and set a meeting for Monday to reconsider bids for a fence around the jail to keep people from breaking in.

Their haste was caused by a proliferation of incidents in which people slipped up to the jail's windows, loosened putty and passed contraband inside to prisoners.

County Judge Pete Rannels termed the fence proposal "the most ridiculous thing in the world" and said the structure would detract from the appearance of the new building.

## Hostage situation like Camp David

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — White House aides compare the current ups and downs in negotiating freedom for the U.S. hostages in Iran with the Camp David summit, a cliffhanger that finally ended with agreement two years ago.

Carter was to confer today with his top foreign policy advisers on developments in the prolonged efforts to bring the American hostages home.

Despite a stiffening attitude on the part of Iran, press secretary Jody Powell said Thursday he knew of no snags in the diplomatic process under which a U.N. sponsored commission of inquiry, now waiting in Geneva, will go to Tehran.

Another aide said the commission had spent "two productive days" in preparing for its work. He cautioned, however, that negotiations "are like a roller coaster" and there will be ups and downs.

Aides find the situation similar to the Camp David summit when it was touch and go between Israel and Egypt before a Middle East accord was reached.

On the social side, Carter planned an afternoon reception to honor Pittsburgh's championship teams, the Steelers and the Pirates, and other Pittsburgh personalities.

Afterwards the fatigued president was to go to Camp David, and will be joined by his wife Rosalynn on Saturday for a weekend of rest in the Maryland mountains.

Carter's family, Vice President Walter Mondale and the president's surrogates have blanketed New Hampshire in the past few weeks to drum up votes in the contest with Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass. The president has been doing his campaigning from the White House, and probably this weekend from Camp David, by telephone.

Carter indicated Thursday he will approve the oil windfall profits bill — including \$136 billion in individual and corporate tax cuts — Congress is expected to pass shortly.

The president also said he was not so happy with the work of a House-Senate conference working on legislation to set up an energy board to speed selected projects through the state and federal systems.

Carter said the conference members, who have met about 10 times and still have major differences to settle, "have not acted responsibly and our nation waits, and waits and waits."



'Unequivocally the best'

After receiving five standing ovations from an appreciative Texas A&M University audience Thursday night, singer Anne Murray proclaimed it was "unequivocally the best" crowd she'd ever performed before. Ironically,

circumstances almost prevented Murray from singing for that audience. For details, read The Battalion's review of the concert, page 3.

Staff photo by Steve Clark

## Fire service

### Brazos volunteer units improve efficiency

By RICHARD OLIVER

Staff Writer  
Volunteer fire units in Brazos County have long been condemned for their lack of communication and organization. Now, however, some progress is being made toward solving that problem.

Although negotiations on a new firefighting contract between College Station and the county are still in progress, College Station City Councilman Homer Adams said improvement in the county is noticeable.

"Everything's the same, except the county has gained on their volunteer services," he said. "They've got some equipment now... the county's still trying to get their act together."

The present firefighting contract calls for the county to pay the city every time the city fights a fire outside the city limits. The city has claimed, however, that the county

has not paid for several calls made over the past few years.

For this reason, the county and city are reevaluating the present contract and working to upgrade the county's volunteer services.

The present contract was due to have expired last Dec. 1, but the expiration date has now been extended until July 1.

Bryan does not have a contract with the county, but still responds to rural fires when asked.

Adams said the original complaint by College Station was a move to bring the county to the bargaining table.

"We're not being unreasonable or anything, we just wanted to get their attention," he said. "As long as we did what they wanted us to do, there was no use for them to talk. We were doing it (fighting county fires) as an accommodation."

College Station Fire Chief Douglas Landua said the situation has not changed. "If we get a call in the county, we go ahead and run it," he said. "I imagine they're running (fighting) quite a few fires themselves, but I would never know, because then we don't get the call."

Landua said he believes the volunteer units are much better organized than in the past, however.

"At a lot of the structure fires we've been fighting, we do what we can and the volunteer units are showing up. If we've done all we can, we give it over to them," he said.

The College Station Fire Department has fought slightly fewer fires outside the city limits, Landua said, but added this may be due to the higher humidity recently and the overall weather, which cuts down on grass fires.

Paul Philbin, Bryan fire chief, said he also feels the county units are better organized.

"We feel they're a little better equipped

now," he said. "They have better organization and equipment. We've noticed they're showing up a little faster at the fires, and at some instances, they beat us there."

Philbin said the Bryan Fire Department has donated two pumper trucks to the volunteer units, along with some hose and breathing equipment.

Philbin said he believes the volunteer units will work out their problems.

"I think they're going to come up with a viable system. We're just waiting on a little organization, training, etc.," he said.

Adams agreed, saying, "I think the county is basically going to take over the firefighting."

Adams added he feels no drastic changes will be made in the contract by the July 1 deadline.

Brazos County Judge Dick Holmgren, who is representing the county in negotiations, was out of town and unavailable for comment.

## Suspected drug trafficker Chagra arrested in Vegas with \$180,000

United Press International  
LAS VEGAS, Nev. — A five-month manhunt for highstakes gambler Jamiel Alexander (Jimmy) Chagra, a suspected "Columbian connection" in international drug traffic who jumped bond in Texas, ended under the glaring lights of the Las Vegas strip.

Chagra, 34, was arrested Thursday night by federal drug agents and Las Vegas police who moved in as he drove along the casino-lined boulevard in a car loaded with \$180,000. The cash, mostly in bundles of \$100 bills, was found in a cardboard diaper box.

Authorities confiscated the money. Chagra refused to explain why it was in his possession.

Elizabeth Chagra, his wife, was taken into custody at a nearby hotel and later released. Two children at the motel were

turned over to the couple's private nurse.

Chagra was immediately taken before U.S. Magistrate Joseph Ward for a late night court hearing. The fugitive was ordered held on \$3 million bond pending a removal hearing scheduled Feb. 29. Ward said Chagra would be returned to Texas after the court received a certified copy of the warrant.

Chagra had been on the run since last September when he jumped a \$400,000 bond rather than appear for sentencing in Austin, where he was convicted of continuous criminal enterprise and conspiracy to distribute cocaine. The Texas jury took only two hours to decide Chagra was responsible for a network of drug smuggling from 1974 to 1978.

"I can't run anymore... I wanted to turn myself in," Chagra was quoted as saying to arresting officers. Defense attorney Steven

Stein emphasized in the hearing before Ward that Chagra was not arrested by federal Drug Enforcement Administration agents but rather surrendered to officers in a black and white police unit.

Chagra offered no resistance and was not armed. Authorities said he had phony Wisconsin identification in his possession.

Prior to Chagra's indictment in Texas, he frequented Las Vegas casinos and played highstakes poker. He was indicted last year in Midland, Texas, as part of a sweeping federal narcotics crackdown related to grand jury investigations in six states.

The killing of his brother, El Paso attorney Lee Chagra, in December 1978 stepped up a series of federal investigations into international drug trafficking. Three men were arrested as suspects in the killing of Lee Chagra, a lawyer known for defending narcotics cases.

The slaying sparked a series of grand jury investigations into interstate racketeering, gambling, prostitution and narcotics trafficking in Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Florida, Nevada and Washington. Grand juries in El Paso, Midland, San Antonio and Seattle conducted simultaneous probes. The indictment of Jimmy Chagra related to his activities in Texas, Florida and Colombia, South America.

U.S. District Judge John Wood, who was to have presided over Chagra's trial, was assassinated in San Antonio before the trial started.

During Chagra's Texas trial, co-conspirator Henry Wallace, an El Paso dirt farmer, testified he went to Colombia in late 1977 and arranged cocaine and marijuana smuggling deals for Chagra. Wallace acknowledged participation in 20 drug-smuggling episodes.