

# THE BATTALION

Vol. 73 No. 159  
4 Pages

Thursday, June 5, 1980  
College Station, Texas

USPS 045 360  
Phone 845-2611

## The Weather

| Yesterday                 | Today                         |
|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| High . . . . . 90         | High . . . . . 92             |
| Low . . . . . 73          | Low . . . . . 75              |
| Humidity . . . . . 56%    | Humidity . . . . . 56%        |
| Rain . . . . . 0.0 inches | Chance of rain . . . . . None |

## Ex-students to be his 'secret weapon'

### Former genetics prof contests Caperton

by BARBARA LYNCH  
Battalion Reporter

The office isn't pretentious; there is a desk, a file cabinet, three chairs for guests and shelves full of elephant statuettes and elephant plates.

It's appropriate for the office of the Republican candidate for the State Senate from the Fifth District.

The candidate, Dr. Robert A. McNeil, is a retired professor at Texas A&M. He's a light-eyed, grey-bearded gentleman of

taught. When asked by a student before his retirement how he maintained his enthusiasm for the course, McNeil's answer was, "I do not teach subject matter. I teach students. There is a difference. I care about students, and every time I walk into a classroom I've got a new group of people, a different challenge."

McNeil maintained tight control in his classroom. He had a strict dress code which he required his students to follow. No sandals could be worn, no tank tops, no shorts. He expected regular class attendance and promptness and he always knew who violated his rules.

There was another side to McNeil the professor, though — a caring side. "My students, all 11,000 of them, would tell you that I never stood in front of them and that I was trying as hard as anybody could to teach my course material. They knew that I cared whether they got genetics or not."

He recalls one incident when a student understood genetics but couldn't seem to make above a C on any test.

As McNeil was handing back the last quiz before the final, he told the student: "You have asked the right questions all of the term. You know more genetics than you have shown on your tests, so I'll tell you what I'll do. If you'll make an 84 on the final examination, I'll give you a B."

McNeil said he knew the student was on

probation for poor grades and would be asked to leave school if he didn't earn enough grade points.

The student only made 80 on the final and didn't earn his B, but McNeil called his dean and asked the dean to give the student another chance. The dean did, simply because of his call, McNeil said.

"The day he graduated," McNeil continued, "he brought his whole family and he looked me up and said, 'Mama, daddy, I just want you to meet Dr. McNeil. If it hadn't been for him, I wouldn't have graduated today.'"

It's experiences like that, McNeil said, that make teaching worthwhile.

McNeil himself is a graduate of Texas A&M. He enrolled as a "fish" at age 16 in 1931.

He obtained his B.S. in agriculture in 1935 and taught vocational agriculture at an Alvin high school. For two years McNeil also worked as an education consultant to the Primary Training College in Mymensingh, Pakistan. For a while, McNeil said his was the only American family in Mymensingh.

During his tenure at A&M, McNeil won every award for teaching that was open to him, including the Distinguished Teaching Award and the Outstanding Professor Award.

When asked why he decided to end his teaching career, McNeil answered: "I have more patience than anybody can imagine, but there gets to be a point when you've used up all of your patience and it's time to retire when you don't have patience with students."

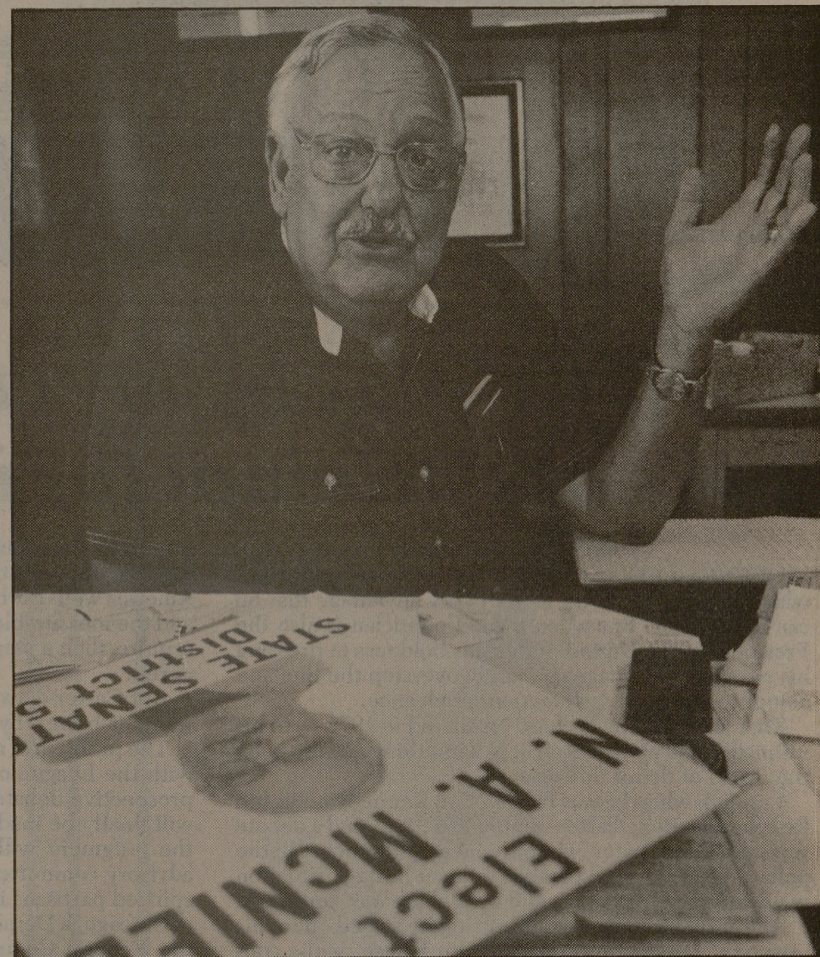
McNeil's life is far from over, now that he is retired. He's deeply involved in his candidacy for the State Senate. He is opposed by Kent Caperton, winner of the Democratic primary. McNeil said he has a "secret weapon" that Caperton does not possess: his former students.

"They'd do anything for me," he said with confidence. "If I could just let them know I'm running, they'd get behind me and I could win the election hands down."

McNeil said the free enterprise system is slipping, and he "can contribute to getting things back on track." He also wants to give the voters a choice between a Republican and a Democrat in the November election.

McNeil doesn't represent any special interest in his campaign. "Nobody has got any thumbscrews on me," he said. He's running at the urging of persons who would like to see a Republican represent the Fifth District.

McNeil thinks he has a good chance to win in November. When asked about his plans after the election, he chuckled and said, "Well, I'll just move to Austin."



Dr. Norbert A. McNeil, retired Texas A&M University professor of genetics and Republican candidate for the Texas Fifth Senatorial District seat, discusses his campaign.

Staff photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

See related story, page 3.

married with four grown children. He was born in Moody and still attends church though his home is in College Station.

McNeil has been interested in politics since he was about 14 years old, when he attended a political convention with his father. This is the first time he has run for a public office, however. Until last August, he had been busy pursuing his other interests.

For the past 22 years, McNeil has taught genetics 301 at Texas A&M. His class roll books contain the names of 11,768 students. Genetics 301 was the only course he

## 11,000 now registered for summer

by USCHI MICHEL-HOWELL

The second day of registration brought a number of students for the first summer term to just over 11,000, Donald C. Carter, associate registrar, said Wednesday.

Many students whose schedules had been fouled up by the computer — 3,500 on an unofficial estimate — came to G. White Coliseum Wednesday to pick their revised schedules.

A wrong head card had been placed in part of the computer cards that register students for their classes," Willis Ritchey, assistant registrar, said.

The card is normally used in the spring and fall semesters and tells the computer to distribute the students equally among sections, Ritchey said.

This time it assigned wrong sections that sometimes overlapped with another class,

Carter said. English, political science and history, the classes with several sections were hardest hit, Ritchey said.

The card was removed from the computer program Tuesday and students were told to go to the main floor of the coliseum to have their schedules corrected, Carter said.

"If there are any classes scheduled at the same time, the student should go and have the schedule changed immediately," Carter said.

For Jan Roge the foul-up meant standing in one more line.

"It changed my physical education class," Roge said, "but it didn't bother me too much."

"This has happened to me every semester," Sonia Jerez, a senior engineering ma-

ior, said. The computer had closed a marketing course that was not closed by the department, she said.

"It was not anybody's fault," Cathy Parrish, an accounting junior said. "This happens a lot and I don't want to complain."

To get the schedule adjusted takes one day, Carter said.

A memorandum sent by the registrar's office to University departments in May said late registration will be in G. Rolie White Coliseum beginning at Tuesday, June 3, and continuing through 5 p.m., Friday, June 6.

The memo outlined the drop-add procedure for the summer session.

Drop-add began Tuesday. Students wishing to drop a course should go to the departmental office in which the course is offered and that office will provide the stu-

dent with a drop-add request card indicating the course to be dropped. The student should then take the request card to the Drop-add Center in the coliseum.

The procedure is the same to add a course, except the department in which the course is being taught must indicate the section in which the student will be placed.

The student then takes the drop-add request card to the coliseum.

If a student wishes to change sections in a course, a drop-add request card must be completed by the department which offers the course, dropping the course and adding it back with the different section number.

Friday will be the last chance to drop a course without record.

Thursday, June 19 is the deadline for dropping a course without penalty (Q-drop deadline).

## Potts, judge agree to stay of execution

United Press International

REIDSVILLE, Ga. — Jack Howard Potts wanted to die today but his brother, father, a former girlfriend and fellow death row inmates convinced him he had something to live for.

After more than six months of steadfastly refusing to appeal his death sentence for kidnapping and murder, Potts suddenly changed his mind little more than 13 hours before his scheduled execution today in the electric chair.

A federal judge in Atlanta Wednesday night granted the convicted killer an indefinite stay of execution pending appeal.

It was a dramatic reversal for a man who complained the pain of gunshot wounds of the mouth he suffered when he was captured made life unbearable.

But attorney Millard Farmer said pleas from his family and an "emotional letter" from fellow death row inmates persuaded Potts to drop his death wish.

"This wasn't any game of a last-minute

appeal," said Farmer, head of the anti-death penalty Team Defense Project.

U.S. District Judge William C. O'Kelley agreed Wednesday night Potts' attorneys raised "numerous questions of constitutionality" and stayed what would have been Georgia's first execution in 16 years.

It was an incredible ending to execution-eve maneuvering that began and ended in a federal court in Atlanta and included hours of pleading with Potts in his death row cell

just 20 paces from the electric chair.

The appeal application, worded by Team Defense lawyers and accepted by Potts, said he "discovered he could use the media attention focused on him to publicize the inhumane and unconstitutional conditions under which all inmates at the Georgia State Prison at Reidsville suffer."

Potts' earlier appeals were rejected in state courts all the way to the Georgia Supreme Court.

## 4-H'ers round-up at A&M

by CATHY SAATHOFF

Battalion Staff

High school 4-H club members from across the state invaded the Texas A&M University campus Tuesday and Wednesday for the 1980 Texas 4-H Roundup.

The roundup is state competition for the students, who competed in 37 contests covering everything from livestock judging to family life and public speaking.

"To be eligible to come here the boys and girls have to compete and win at the county level and then at the district level," Mary Mahoney, associate editor for print media in agricultural communications, said Tuesday.

Mahoney said the roundup provides a growth experience for the students by providing competition and letting them meet professionals in their fields.

"Competition is always very keen here," Mahoney said, "because the teams that come here are always the cream of the crop. By the time they get here they're very professional."

Mahoney said the competition helps 4-H students to focus on what they want to do in life.

Stanton Gardner and Andy Miller, sophomores at Bryan Adams High School in Dallas, received honorable mention in the home environment competition with a beginner's guide to successful aquariums.

Both said their first impression of the Texas A&M campus was "It's big."

Gardner said he may come to school here one day.

The first place winner in their division was a display on custom drapery making, a

display which they beat at the local level, they said.

"They plan to come back next year, Miller said, to try again, possibly in a different category. Both agreed that daily practice is a must in the competition to perfect the presentation.

Mahoney said students were not the only ones honored at the round up. 28 outstanding adult leaders were recognized for their work with the students.

About 400 adult coaches made the trip to supervise the 1,600 participants, who were housed in unused dormitories around campus.

Prizes for winners ranged from ribbons and certificates to gold watches for the soil judging team.

Some of the judging teams will go on to national competition, Mahoney said.

## He's not pretty, but he can cook

One of the four best high school cooks in the state is a man.

David Smith, a 1980 graduate of Littlefield High School in Littlefield, told his mother all year that he was going to win the state 4-H foods competition.

He did it Tuesday at the 1980 Texas 4-H Roundup at Texas A&M University, with a broccoli salad.

Smith said he wasn't sure why he got into the cooking competition, which he has been in since he was nine years old.

"I just enjoy eating," he said.

In this year's state competition, Smith was one of three males competing in the side dishes category.

Smith said his invasion of what is traditionally a woman's domain is accepted by

others.

"It isn't any different except that the people you're competing against are a lot prettier," Smith said.

"My friends used to tease me, but now they respect my cooking ability."

The cooking ability is something that runs in the family; Smith's younger sister, Amy, won second place in the snacks and beverages category at the competition.

Another younger sister also competes, but Smith said the girls are the ones who come to him for help in the kitchen.

Smith's mother Jeri said at first she tried to discourage her son.

"I tried over the years to get him to quit," she said.

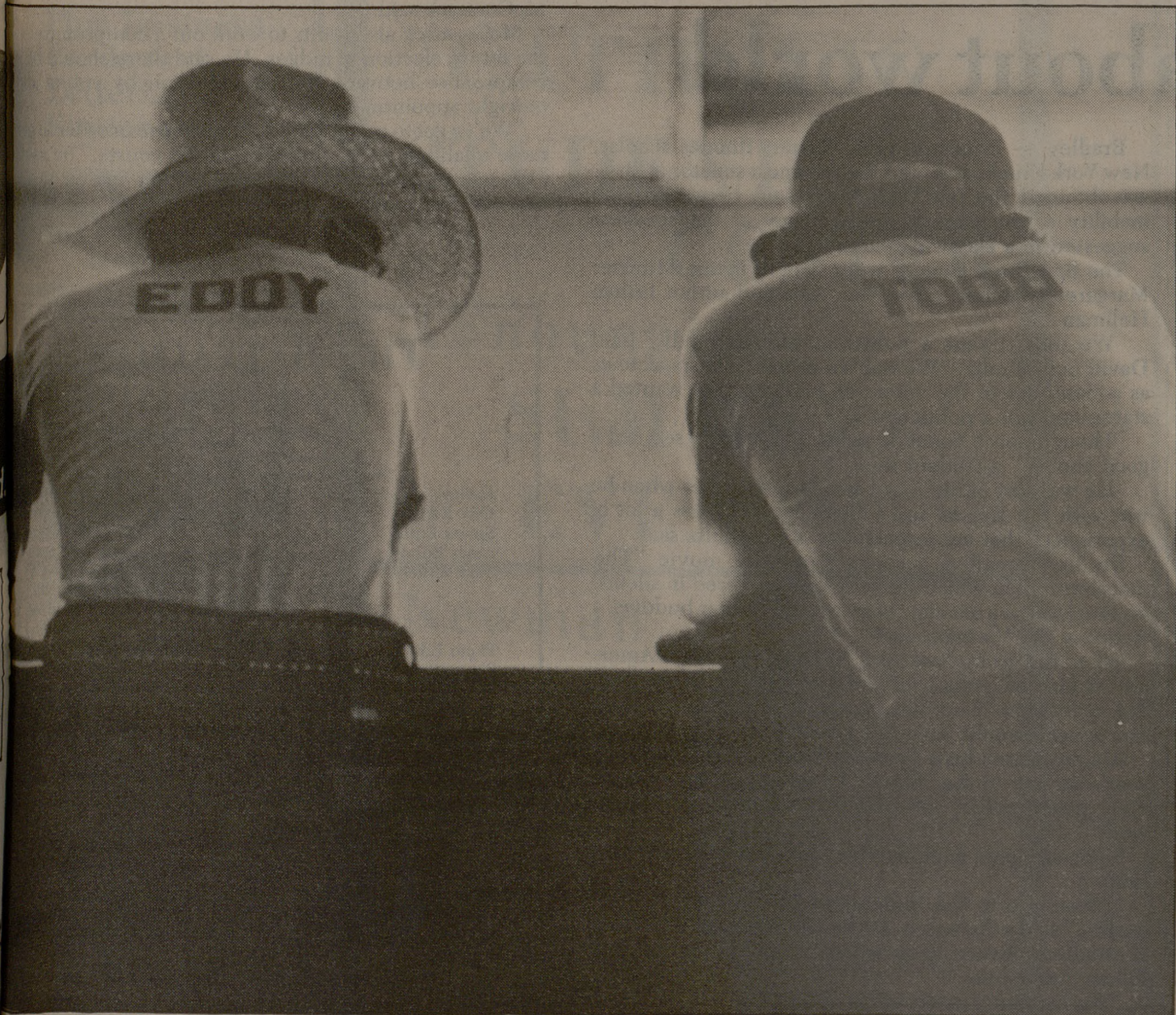
He also has competed in the methods

demonstration division of 4-H with displays on nuclear energy, and in the records book division, she said.

Different 4-H leaders and his mother taught him to cook, Smith said. He gets his recipes from friends and relatives, he said, and tries them out on his family before competition. His mother said he also likes to invent his own "weird" recipes.

Smith is the second male to win the state cooking competition, and received a \$500 scholarship from Morrison Milling company for his culinary achievements, as well as the Houston Stock Show and Rodeo Scholarship.

Smith plans to attend Texas Tech University, and major in agricultural engineering.



Staff photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Two 4-H club members survey the Rudder Exhibit Hall during a break in activities Wednesday. High schoolers

from across Texas held state 4-H competition on the Texas A&M campus Tuesday and Wednesday.