

THE BATTALION

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Wednesday, September 10, 1980
College Station, Texas

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The Weather	
Yesterday	Today
High 91	High 85
Low 74	Low 69
Humidity 77%	Humidity 60%
Rain 0.0 inches	Chance of rain 50%

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Anderson gets League OK for debates

WASHINGTON — The League of Women Voters Tuesday voted unanimously to invite John Anderson to its presidential debates and appeared to rule out sponsoring any debate between President Carter and Ronald Reagan.

The decision by the board gave the independent hopeful a significant victory — though Carter had not yet decided whether to participate in a debate with assurances of a head-to-head meeting with Reagan alone.

Asked in Perth Amboy, N.J., whether he would appear in the first debate scheduled for Sept. 21 in Baltimore, Carter replied: "We'll decide about that and announce it later."

Campaigning in New Jersey, Anderson said he is "pleased to accept the invitation."

"I eagerly look forward to the opportunity to meet my two opponents face-to-face and discuss the major issues of the election before the American people," he said.

At Midway Airport in Chicago, Reagan said, "The ladies decided Anderson's a vi-

able candidate. He certainly should be included and I'll be there."

As for Carter's refusal to participate in any debate involving Anderson, Reagan said: "That's his problem."

Ruth Hinerfeld, chief of the League's Education Fund which is sponsoring the debates, said she has invited representatives of the three candidates to meet Wednesday and iron out details.

The White House had said Monday it must have assurances Carter also will have a one-on-one debate with Reagan before

agreeing to a three-way confrontation.

Press secretary Jody Powell said, "We're perfectly willing to participate in multi-candidate debates, involving three, four or five candidates," but added, "There's got to be assurance there will also be a one-on-one debate. There is no assurance at this point."

Asked whether the League would sponsor a Reagan-Carter debate if it was the only way to include the president, Hinerfeld said:

"Having gone through many hours of

establishing fair and reasonable criteria, I do not see that we can do so."

She also said that while it is important to include a president, it is more important to "maintain the independence of the sponsoring organization."

James Baker, Reagan's senior adviser, called on Carter to participate. But he said the Reagan had not decided whether to debate Anderson alone.

"We will be there if President Carter is. Whether it is a one-on-one or a multi-candidate debate," Baker said. "If (Carter

declines to come, we are leaning in the direction of being there anyway. We would want to review the format and network coverage."

Hinerfeld said, "Mr. Anderson has clearly demonstrated significant voter interest and support as indicated in a number of nationwide public opinion polls examined by our board of trustees."

"Our task was relatively easy," she said. "Since the polling data was clear and unambiguous, our decision was unanimous."

Former D.A. on trial

Jury hears murder plot tapes

BROWNSVILLE — Prosecutors in a perjury trial contend the voice discussing a murder plot on tape recordings reportedly made by a jail inmate is that of former Hidalgo County District Attorney Oscar McNinnis.

A federal jury heard tapes Monday which purportedly involved McNinnis, 64, discussing a contract to murder the former husband of Patricia Parada.

McNinnis' lawyer spent two hours cross-examining prosecution witness Daniel Rodriguez, who has testified he made the

tapes with a recorder supplied by the Hidalgo County sheriff.

McNinnis and Parada, 24, a former nurse, are accused of lying to a federal grand jury about a plot to hire out the killing of Parada's ex-husband.

McNinnis has pleaded innocent by reason of insanity and diminished mental capacity to six counts of perjury. Parada pleaded innocent to one count. Solicitation of murder charges against the two were dropped because of jurisdictional questions, since the intended victim was in Mexico.

Prosecutors said McNinnis visited Rodri-

guez when he was in jail awaiting transfer to federal prison in 1978 and propositioned him about the murder. Prosecutors said Rodriguez informed his jailers, who supplied a recorder for the inmate to tape other conversations with McNinnis.

Prosecutors played one tape, and said when Rodriguez used the code words "my lawyer won the case," it meant Parada's ex-husband had been killed.

The taped voice said to be McNinnis' also told Rodriguez to deny any knowledge of the plot.

"I'm talking as far as this thing, about this old boy, you don't know s--- from shinola," the voice said.

In cross-examination, defense attorney Frank Maloney of Austin implied that Rodriguez was a well-known "snitch" who dodged officials on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border.

Rodriguez admitted that even though he was convicted of murder and drug trafficking, Sheriff Brig Marmolejo made him a jail trusty, allowed him to go home without supervision and permitted him to drink whiskey with the guards.



What you say?

Dennis Ivey, pictured above, plays his own brand of "dance music" at a honky-tonk outside Bryan. Ivey and his band, the Waymen, are almost as much a part of Texas A&M tradition as going to bonfires and kissing dates after every touchdown.

An interview with Ivey will be the cover story for the Focus tabloid in Thursday's Battalion.

The new, bigger Focus will contain detailed television listings for all channels receivable in Bryan-College Station, for both cable companies, and include Home Box Office listings.

Other stories in this week's Focus will be features on fraternity rush and luaus, and a review of the movie "Up in Smoke."

Tuesday primaries yield surprises

Voters in New York, Florida and 11 other states cast ballots Tuesday in state primary elections that included two U.S. senators and two congressmen indicted in the Abscam scandal.

Early voting was brisk in New York City, where veteran Sen. Jacob Javits faced his toughest election fight. But the turnout was light in Florida, where freshman Sen. Richard Stone is also in a tight battle.

And the leading Democratic contender for Dodd's House seat is John Dempsey Jr., son of former Gov. John Dempsey.

In another Democratic House race, service station owner Q. Wayne Konitshek faces John Aristotle Phillips, the "A-Bomb Kid," who designed an atomic bomb in 1976 as a Princeton University undergraduate. The winner will oppose Republican Rep. Stewart McKinney.

Leahy, D-Vt., Barry Goldwater, R-Ariz., and Jake Garn, R-Utah.

In Minnesota, Rhode Island and Wyoming, House races are the most important contests on the primary ballot.

Javits, first elected to the House in 1947 and the man who beat Franklin D. Roosevelt Jr. for New York attorney general in 1954, is facing his toughest election contest and his first primary in 33 years.

The ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee faces conservative Hempstead Town Supervisor Alfonso D'Amato, who has made a major campaign issue out of Javits' age — 76 — and his failing health.

High costs force air service down

By DEBBIE NELSON

Discontinuation of local air service may be part of a broader economic problem buffeting the airline industry.

Alamo Commuter Airlines received Texas Aeronautics Commission approval Sept. 5 to suspend flights to and from Eastwood Airport for one year.

Rio Airlines, the only airline now serving Easterwood, will discontinue one daily round-trip Houston flight on Oct. 1 because of a slackening demand.

Harry Rodgers, director of air carrier administration for the TAC (the state branch of the federal Civil Aeronautics Board), said the problem started with airline deregulation in Oct. 1978, which gave each airline the power to set fare charges on air routes.

As a result, the large airlines went where the money is — and commuter airlines bloomed to fill in the gaps at smaller airports.

Then economic pressures set in. "Deregulation was good; the recession is not good for commuter airlines," Hart said.

Gave Hart, general manager of Alamo Airlines in San Antonio, agreed a failing economy caused discontinuation of the flights. "The travel market is way, way down all of a sudden, everywhere," he said.

Cost of operating an Alamo aircraft is about \$170 per hour, including fuel, insurance, ground support and other costs. But with only \$80 worth of traffic per hour some days, "We weren't making a profit," Hart said.

Cynthia Link, Rio station manager at Easterwood, said, "Our (passenger) loads are down, but every airline is — major and commuter and whatever. A lot of commuters are going under right now."

Link said airline demand has dropped since the late 1979 but added, "It's really not us lately, in the past four months."

Rio flies to Dallas and Houston; Alamo flies to Austin and San Antonio. Since the airlines did not serve the same cities, Rio will see little effect from Alamo's cancellation.

Rio's fares went up \$5 one-way on July 1, due to rising fuel costs. Link said they are trying to hold fares down, sometimes by raising freight rates, although that causes people to turn to alternate shipping methods.

Hart said Alamo, which served College Station for about one year, believes the area has a demand for air service, and will reinstate the flights as soon as financially possible.

"They specifically requested a suspension rather than a discontinuation," said Rodgers said.

"They did not wish to pull out of there on a full-time basis," Rodgers said.

A TAC interim order granting the suspension said Mayor Gary Halter of College Station was the only one formally objecting. Halter said Alamo Airlines had not advertised sufficiently or served the market for long enough to develop its potential.

Rodgers said Alamo had "exhausted its experimental money," and could not afford College Station service. Most connecting flights to out-of-state destinations are from Dallas-Fort Worth or Houston, which also made the College Station flight less attractive, Rodgers said.

Rodgers said in the TAC decision, "the financial harm that would be done to Alamo by continuing service outweighs College Station's desire to have the carrier stay and try to develop the market under present conditions."

As for advertising, Rodgers said, "There has to be a cut-off point somewhere between the advertising and the return you get out of it."

Rodgers said some blame should be on the community for falling air service demand, because no amount of advertising can help an airline if residents are opposed to flying.

Rodgers said College Station is progressive enough to accept Air travel, though.

Halter said Tuesday the only way to make College Station air service affordable would be to upgrade Easterwood for larger aircraft.

Halter suggested a local airport authority with a taxing authority would be a good way to speed up proceedings of airport renovation. There is no such authority now, although Bryan, College Station and Brazos County have donated money toward receiving matching federal grants for an airport, he said.

Halter said if Alamo doesn't reinstate Easterwood service before Sept. 1, 1981, it will either ask for an extension of the suspension deadline or delete the city from its schedule altogether.

Former Sen. James Buckley, who was given the label carpetbagger when he represented New York State in the Senate, has gone back home to Connecticut. Buckley was considered the front-runner in the Republican Senate race there, but polls showed State Senate Republican leader Richard Bozzuto closing what was once a wide gap.

Connecticut is somewhat of a family affair. Rep. Christopher Dodd, son of the late Sen. Thomas Dodd, already has the Democratic nomination for the seat being given up by Sen. Abraham Ribicoff.

The Democrats are engaged in a lively four-way contest for their Senate nomination. The Post poll showed Rep. Elizabeth Holtzman held a fivepoint lead over Bess Myerson, a former Miss America who had led earlier.

Former New York City Mayor John Lindsay and Queens District Attorney John Santucci were trailing the two women.

In Florida, Stone's freshman record is considered so vulnerable five Democrats have challenged him for renomination and six Republicans are fighting for the right to oppose the winner. There will likely be an

Traffic appeals slowed waiting on signature

By JENNIFER AFFLERBACH

University traffic ticket recipients who wish to appeal their cases are up a creek without a panel.

The Traffic Appeals Panel, a student-faculty board that hears and tries appeals on traffic and parking violations, is not yet functioning this semester.

The panel members have all been chosen, said Thomas Parsons, director of security and traffic, and it is "just a matter of getting the mechanism under way."

The snag in "the mechanism" is the written approval from Texas A&M University Acting President Charles Samson.

Samson must sign a document confirming the committee appointments.

"The committee will be functional as soon as his (Samson's) signature appears on that document," said Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services.

Tuesday morning, Dr. Thomas Adair, secretary of the Academic Council, which appoints the panel, had not received that signature.

Once Samson's approval is received, it still may be awhile before the panel is ready to start hearing cases.

"We're trying to find out some things before we get started so we'll do it right," said Dena Todd, who will serve as a chairman on the panel. It also takes a while to get in touch with students who will serve on the panel, she said.

Anyone receiving a ticket believed to be unwarranted has 10 calendar days from the date of violation notice to file an appeal. Until the panel is set up, Parsons said, the date a person comes to the Police Department to appeal will be recorded on the ticket so it can be appealed later without penalty.



Photo by Dillard Stone

A final tribute

The Ross Volunteer firing squad, commanded by Doug Walterscheid of Hereford, presents arms at Tuesday's Silver Taps in this time exposure.

The ceremony was held to honor eleven Texas A&M students who died between Muster on April 21 and the start of school.