

Local

# White to rule on A&M presidential candidate list

By **BERNIE FETTE**  
Battalion Staff  
A first draft of the opinion which may or may not require the Texas A&M University Board of Regents to disclose a list of candidates for the presidential election has been completed and is expected to go to Attorney General Mark White for approval in two to three weeks.

"I can't predict with any certainty how long it will be," said Susan Garrison, chairman of the attorney general's opinion committee. "From this point on, it depends mostly on the attorney general's schedule."

She said, she knows nothing about White's schedule.

A presidential search committee in February chose 20 names for consideration from a list of over 100 possible candidates. Since that time The Eagle, a Bryan daily newspaper, has been unsuccessful

in its attempts to acquire and publish the list.

The Board of Regents, through the University's legal staff, has refused to give up the list.

The Eagle claims the list is not protected information under the Texas Open Records Act and should be made available to the public. One recent attorney general decision The Eagle is relying upon was handed down Oct. 29 and concerned whether or not the identity of persons who have applied for a position with a governmental agency constitute public information.

The decision in part read:  
"A member of the public has a strong interest in being apprised of the names of persons being considered for important public positions, so that, prior to selection, he may attempt to influence the choice, and, after selection, he may evaluate the wisdom of the

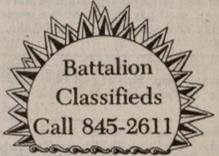
choice."  
"We realize the importance of not deterring qualified persons from seeking public employment. Nonetheless, we believe the weight of authority requires us to find this information available to the public."  
The Eagle's position was explained in a February editorial:  
"The Regents said that many of those 20 may not have known they were being considered and to reveal their names would have been embarrassing... It certainly cannot be an embarrassment to anyone to be considered for this highly important position. If it is, that person should have asked to have his or her name withdrawn."  
The Eagle said it does not want to conduct lengthy interviews or discussions but only to publish the names and basic information about those persons being considered, such as ages and current

positions.  
"Clearly, the people of this state, those thousands associated with the University and with other institutions of higher learning, and the citizens of the Brazos Valley will be affected by that person," the editorial said. "All of those and the thousands of A&M former students have an unquenchable thirst in knowing who those candidates are."  
"There can be no harm in making the public aware of those who are being considered for this high-

ly important post," it said. "There could, on the other hand, be considerable harm for the selection process to be held in total privacy."  
James Bond, system vice chancellor for legal affairs, said late in February that the list in this case is covered by an exception to the Open Records Act and is therefore not protected.  
Bond said Section 11 of the act excludes inter-departmental and intra-departmental memoranda which concern advice and recom-

mendations and that the list clearly comes under this exception.  
The candidate list is a recommendation from the search committee to the regents.  
Garrison said it would be difficult to predict when the decision would be final because other legislative requests may take priority over this opinion.  
Once the committee's opinion is reviewed by one member it goes on the agenda for its next meeting, Garrison said. If it is approved by a majority vote, it then goes to the

attorney general's executive assistant, his first assistant, Judge Zolie Steakley (who Garrison said is a specialist in cases such as this one), and then to the attorney general for final approval.



# Murder of A&M student still under investigation

By **KAREN KALEY**  
Battalion Reporter  
The murder case of LaShan A. Muhlinghaus still is an investigative priority, Lt. Ronnie Miller of the College Station Police Department said Monday.

Muhlinghaus, a Texas A&M University student, was stabbed to death at her College Station residence in the Travis House apartments on Oct. 12, 1979.

An autopsy revealed that Muhlinghaus' death was caused by more than 25 stab wounds to the chest, back and torso.

Witnesses gave conflicting descriptions of a man in the apartment near the time of the murder, Miller said.

A composite drawing was constructed from an eyewitness description of a man she saw inside the apartment as she walked past the window, he said. Drawing brought in many calls but yielded few leads.

The weekend Muhlinghaus was murdered was a busy weekend for Texas A&M, Miller said. There was a great influx of people from the oilfields, the opposing school and that makes the case difficult, he added.

The weekend Muhlinghaus was murdered, College Station's population was almost doubled in size, he said.

College Station police have investigated similar murders in San Angelo, Amarillo, Farmer's Branch and Austin, Miller said. The Austin murder is the one College Station police are most interested in.

In that case, the body of Sandra Dabbs, a St. Louis woman traveling through Austin, was found in a wooded area off Highway 35 on Oct. 8. She received 30 stab wounds.

The man suspected in connection with the two murders is serving time in the state penitentiary (Ramsey unit) for violation of parole.

He was paroled after serving time for the aggravated assault of three girls.

Miller said the suspect could be placed in Austin and College Station around the time of the murders. The man is only a suspect and the College Station and Austin police don't have any concrete evidence against him, Miller said. The only way police can prove he committed the murders is if a witness can make a positive identification, Miller said.

It's been more than a year since the murder, and a positive identification would be difficult to get, he added.

Miller said the man may have no connection with the murder at all. That is what the investigation is for.

# Love Run' begins today; joggers need sponsors

By **CARLA SUTTER**  
Battalion Reporter  
Today marks the beginning of America's Love Run for the Muscular Dystrophy Association in the Bryan and Waco area.

The MDA is asking runners to get sponsors to pledge at least 5 cents for every mile they run during April.

Last year, 20 miles was the average distance during April.

The nationwide event will take place in May, but because the spring semester at Texas A&M University ends in May, the Bra-

zos Valley will hold its Love Run during April.

This is the second annual run for the University and the fourth national run. Last year the Bryan-College Station area made over \$900. "We're hoping for a lot more this year," Pat Murphy, program coordinator for the MDA program, said.

Murphy said last year about 50 people participated in the run, but she doesn't know how many will be participating this year.

The money from the project will go directly to the Bryan-College Station MDA.

People interested in participating in the run can pick up an application at WTAW radio station and from bulletin boards around campus.

"You can start at any time," Murphy said. "If a runner decides to run after the month begins, he can still register, keeping record of the miles he ran at the beginning of the month and getting sponsors as soon as possible."

Texas A&M track coach Charlie Thomas is the local chairman again this year.

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