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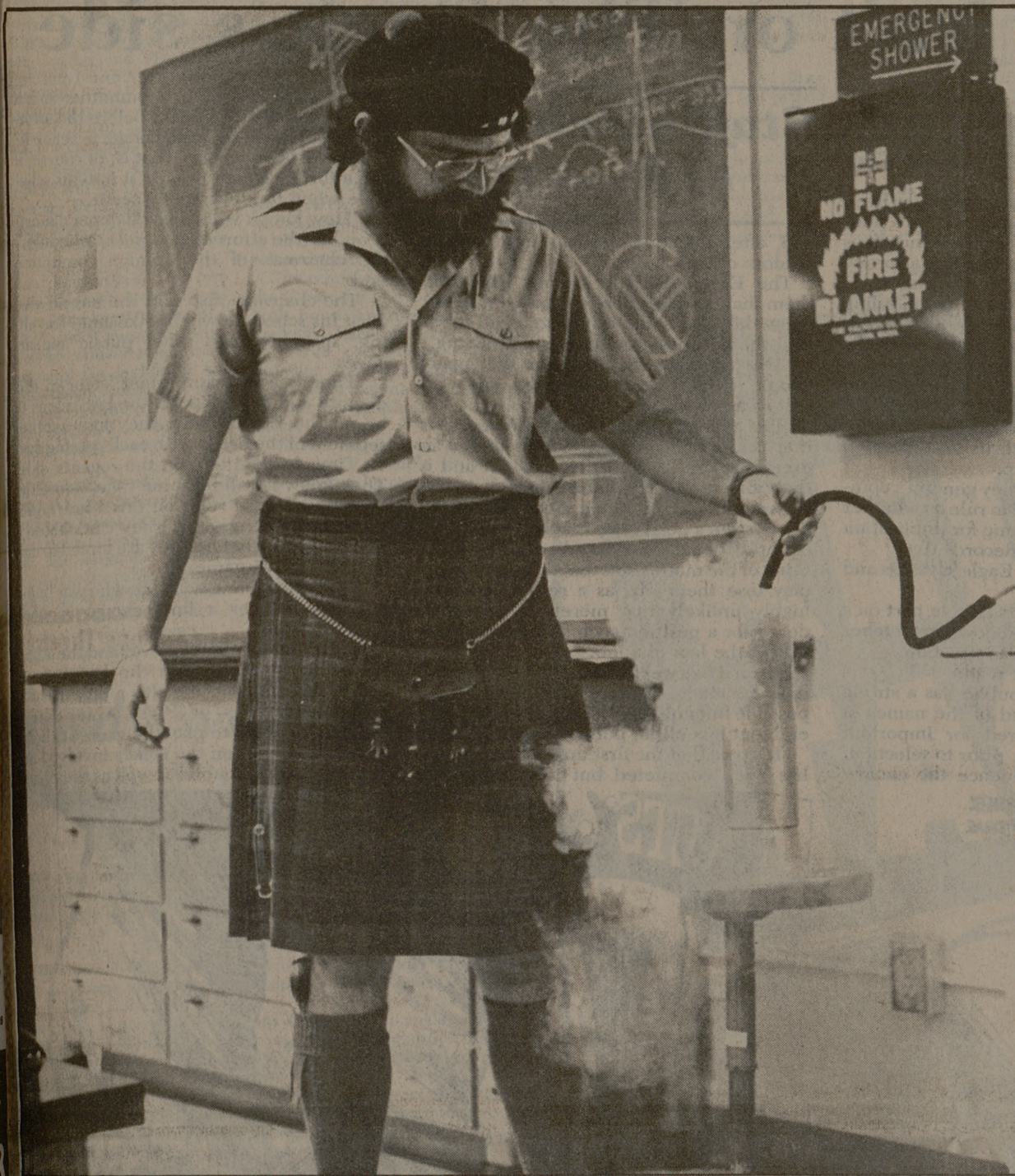
The Weather

Today

Tomorrow

High 78
Low 62
Chance of rain 100%

High 81
Low 64
Chance of rain 20%



Staff photo by Brian Tate

Does he feel good all under?

Sean Mahar, a graduate student studying industrial engineering, enjoys the warm weather as he breaks out his kilt. He says he only wears the kilt

on Wednesdays because he doesn't have any labs scheduled for that day. Mahar was given the kilt by his father.

District judge's ruling may affect AG decision

By BERNIE FETTE

Battalion Staff

A ruling on an open records dispute recently handed down in a district court may affect Attorney General Mark White's ruling regarding the Bryan Eagle's request for disclosure of candidates for the Texas A&M University presidency.

The Odessa American requested information March 18 on 14 applicants for chief of police after former Chief Jack Tomlin resigned March 4.

After White ruled that the newspaper was entitled to the information, District Judge Joe Connelly said Friday that City Manager Kerry Sweatt must give the information to the American.

David Donaldson, an Austin attorney representing the Eagle, said the Odessa ruling may have an effect in the Eagle's case since the cases are very similar.

"He (White) has consistently considered actions of judges in previous cases of this type," Donaldson said.

A presidential search committee selected 20 finalists from a list of over 400 possible candidates. Since then, the Bryan daily newspaper has been unable to acquire the list.

The Texas A&M System Board of Regents, through the University's legal personnel, has refused to give up the list.

The Eagle claims the list is protected information under the Texas Open Records Act and the Board of Regents claims the list comes under an exception to the act.

Susan Garrison, chairman of the attorney general's opinion

committee, said one contention being raised by the Regents is that this particular case contains questions which were not issues in former attorney general opinions.

Garrison said that to speculate on whether or not the Odessa case would have any influence on the Eagle's case would be difficult because of the different issues involved in the two.

A search advisory committee was used in the initial considerations and because the committee is not a governmental body the Regents claim it is exempt from the Open Records Act.

Garrison said that when only repeated issues are involved, the committee does not make a formal opinion but relies on previous ones to maintain consistency. There were enough new facts in this case for a formal Open Records decision to be issued, she said.

No definite completion date has been set for a ruling on the issue. But since the legislature is in session, Donaldson said, legislative opinion requests will take priority over all other requests.

Four names which have come to light as candidates for the presidency are: Dr. Stephen B. Sample, executive vice president for academic affairs at the University of Nebraska; Dr. Arthur Hansen, president of Purdue University; Dr. James D. McComas, president of Mississippi State University; and Dr. Jack E. Freeman, senior vice chancellor for administration at the University of Pittsburgh.

New student senate views work ahead

By TERRY DURAN

Battalion Staff

Although its first meeting was "unofficial," the 1981-82 student senate began operations Wednesday night.

The senate's constitution says the legislative body is not officially "in" until two weeks after voting returns are completed — in this case, April 23.

Newly elected student body president Ken Johnson emphasized the need to "hit the ground running" in the fall. Vice presidents for academic affairs, external affairs, rules and regulations and student services briefed both new and old senate members on what to expect in the upcoming school year.

One plank in Johnson's election platform showed signs of swift fulfillment: expansion of the student academic affairs committee.

Academic affairs vice president Kathy Bartholomew outlined a program to increase student input into the policy-making system. She said the Administrative Academic Council, made up of 150 faculty and administration members and one student — the student body president — did not lend itself to representative thought in academic affairs.

Bartholomew said the expanded academic affairs committee would be able to talk to faculty and administrators before a decision was made, thereby "letting the profs know what the students think."

She said four areas her committee will concentrate on initially are revision of Q-drop policies, abolishment of senior finals, the "research vs. teaching conflict," and professor evaluations.

Senators Mike Wolff and Mike Lawshe reported to the senate on the status of legislation currently before both the state house and senate which would double tuition for college students. They urged the senators to write letters to state legislators opposing the tuition hike, and to encourage other students to do the same.

Johnson seemed pleased at the organizational progress made. As the Fall 1980 senate term began, he said, no speaker pro tem had been elected, no recording secretary appointed, and "eight or 10" senate seats were still vacant.

Johnson said the speaker of the senate, who generally runs the meetings, and the speaker pro tem will be elected at the first regular senate meeting May 6.

Cutting of students' social security benefits foreseen

By CINDY GEE

Battalion Staff

Students who plan to finance their college education on Social Security checks will probably find themselves without funds in the future.

Just when that future arrives will depend upon whether a Reagan administration recommendation or a Democratic counterproposal passes Congress. Both proposals would bring the program to an end; the difference is when.

Bill Kelley, staff director for the House Social Security subcommittee in Washington, said in a telephone interview the benefits to students of dead, disabled or retired parents will probably be ended in the near future.

The Reagan Administration has recommended that no more students be added to the program after this year. It has also recommended that benefits to students currently on the program be cut out gradually at a rate of 25 percent each year until the student doesn't receive anything.

However the Social Security subcommittee,

which is chaired by Rep. J. J. Pickle, D-Texas, is working on a less drastic proposal. Kelley said the subcommittee's proposal, still being drafted, is for the program to end after students who are currently juniors in high school finish college.

Also, Kelley said, the subcommittee's proposal would not cut the benefits to students currently on the program. Instead the subcommittee has recommended freezing the benefits by ending automatic cost-of-living increases, he said.

Currently, students receive Social Security checks during summer months if they can prove they'll be going back to school in the fall. However, Kelley said, the subcommittee recommends payments be cut off during the summer unless the student is enrolled in summer school full time.

"This is nothing new," Kelley said. "The Carter and Ford administrations also recommended phasing student benefits out. The rationale is that students can get assistance from other available loan and grant programs."

"However that argument is a little invalid if

those programs are also cut. But, we don't have jurisdiction over the other programs."

Kelley said there is a good chance the bill will be passed this year.

"The decisions are based on very hard, practical matters," he said. "We're concerned about financing the Social Security system. Taking this one step is not enough to get the system out of jeopardy."

United Press International reported earlier this month that the administration feels the benefits are unfair since, in effect, 18- to 22-year-old workers who pay Social Security taxes are financing the college costs of people their own age who are going to school.

But, Kelley said, that is not the main argument.

"If you have to make cuts, where do you want to make them?"

Kelley said that phasing out the student Social Security benefits will amount to about a \$2 billion savings by 1985. The savings will increase in the years after that, he said.

Pickle has introduced a bill to Congress that embodies all of the decisions of the Social Security subcommittee, Kelley said.

He said among those decisions are: — Phasing out the minimum Social Security benefits. This program currently entitles any person on the roll with a low or sporadic income to receive no less than \$122 a month.

— Lowering the cut-off age from 18 to 16 for children whose parents receive money for their support. Now checks are cut off when a child turns 18, unless he attends college.

Several Texas A&M University students who receive Social Security checks said they would be upset if their checks were cut, but they agreed that if cuts had to be made in the system, they'd rather the cuts started with them.

One sophomore who receives \$199 a month because her mother retired disabled after 28 years with a company said: "I feel like it's what my mother earned. But if they're going to cut it out, I'd just as soon it start with me than some old

person. I'd find some means of going to school."

Another student whose father died when she was a senior in high school said it would be very difficult for her to go to school without Social Security checks.

"After my father died, I didn't know how I'd be able to go to school," she said. "I feel like it's more fair for me to receive the checks than someone whose parents are retired."

And another student who receives \$320 a month from Social Security and \$340 a month from the Veteran's Administration because his father died while flying in a Navy air show said:

"My Dad paid quite a price for those checks. I'd be very upset if they cut them. My mother should not have to work two jobs to put her kids through school, she's suffered enough. But if it (the Social Security program) is in that bad of shape, they need to give the checks to people who really need them. If I had to cut someone out, it would be the students."

Janet Cooke admits fraud of story

Pulitzer Prize taken from writer

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A tragic tale of an 8-year-old ghetto kid hooked on heroin has turned into the real-life tragedy of a "talented and promising" young reporter who faked the story and won journalism's highest award.

Executives of The Washington Post disclosed Wednesday Janet Cooke, 26, who won the 1980 Pulitzer Prize for feature writing this week, admitted under several hours of intense questioning she fabricated details of "Jimmy's World," the account of a child addict living in Washington's slums she wrote for the paper last fall.

The Pulitzer Prize board, informed of the hoax by the Post, withdrew the \$1,000 prize from Cooke and awarded it to Teresa Carpenter of the Village Voice newspaper in New York.

"Janet Cooke is a talented writer," said Post publisher Donald Graham at a hastily called news conference. "That's part of the tragedy. She didn't have to do this."

The Post printed the news today of its fallen reporter on its front page across three columns just above the fold, and carried a lengthy editorial that began, "We apologize."

"The article was a serious serious misrepresentation which I deeply regret," said Cooke in a statement published by the Post. "I apologize to my newspaper, my profession, the Pulitzer board and all seekers of the truth."

The Post said editors first learned "irregularities might exist" Tuesday when questions turned up about Cooke's autobiographical submission to the Pulitzer board. Editors "began a series of intensive interviews" with Cooke upon receiving these reports, the Post reported.

"At first she insisted her Pulitzer autobiography was accurate. Slowly, one item at a time, she confessed to the untruths of the autobiography. These confessions prompted the editors to question the validity of the story for which she had been awarded the Pulit-

zer," the Post reported.

The newspaper said Cooke was confronted at a meeting that lasted several hours. "Finally, early Wednesday morning, she confessed Jimmy did not exist, that he was a composite of several young drug users," the Post said.

Benjamin Bradlee, executive editor of the newspaper, then wired the Pulitzer Prize Foundation Cooke was declining the prize, the most coveted in American journalism, and resigning from the newspaper.

Bradlee described the woman as "particularly talented and promising." "She was an extremely good writer and a good reporter," Bradley told UPI. "She was bright, cheerful, intelligent, an involved person."

Bradlee said, "It devastated me." A spokesman for Columbia University, which administers the prizes, said it was the first time in their 65-year history a winning story turned out to be a fake.

The "Jimmy's World" story, original-

ly run last Sept. 28 and reprinted this week after the prize announcement, was an account of a child, his former prostitute mother and her "live-in lover" who sold drugs for a living and dispensed it every day to the boy, "sending the fourth grader into a hypnotic nod."

The story caused a major flap within the District of Columbia government. The Police Department and social agencies scrambled to find "Jimmy." Police spokesman Gary Hankins said the search involved "hundreds of personnel and thousands of man-hours over three weeks." He said "virtually every male child of that age range in southeast Washington" was examined for needle marks.

But Cooke refused to identify the boy and her editors backed her up.

D.C. Mayor Marion Barry Jr., informed by Bradlee of the hoax, said, "At the time of the story, I was very firm in my conviction that Ms. Cooke's article was part myth, part reality ... composites of real situations and persons."

Former FBI officials granted full pardons

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan felt so strongly about the convictions of former top-level FBI officials W. Mark Felt and Edward S. Miller he granted them full pardons before they asked for them.

Reagan granted a full pardon Wednesday to Felt, the FBI's former No. 2 official, and Miller, head of its intelligence section, who were convicted of approving illegal break-ins in a search for active Weathermen in the early 1970s.

"Four years ago, thousands of draft evaders and others who violated the Selective Service laws were unconditionally pardoned by my predecessor," Reagan said in a statement.

"America was generous to those who refused to serve their country in the Vietnam War. We can be no less generous to two men who acted on high principle to bring an end to the terrorism that was threatening our nation."

Defense lawyers said the presi-

dent acted without a formal request from the two men.

White House sources said the Felt and Miller case was "something the president felt strongly about," even before his election.

Reagan's chief counselor, Edward Meese, contacted Miller's lawyer on Jan. 30, 10 days after the inauguration to talk about a pardon, said Miller's lawyer, Thomas Kennelly.

Felt and Miller were convicted last November of conspiring to violate the civil rights of friends and relatives of the Weather Underground by permitting agents to break into their houses in a hunt for fugitive radicals. They were fined a total of \$8,500 following their trial that included testimony by five former attorneys general and Richard Nixon.

And both men, who have lived with an investigation for five years, said they were following procedures then and would follow whatever procedures are in effect now for surreptitious entries or "black bag jobs."