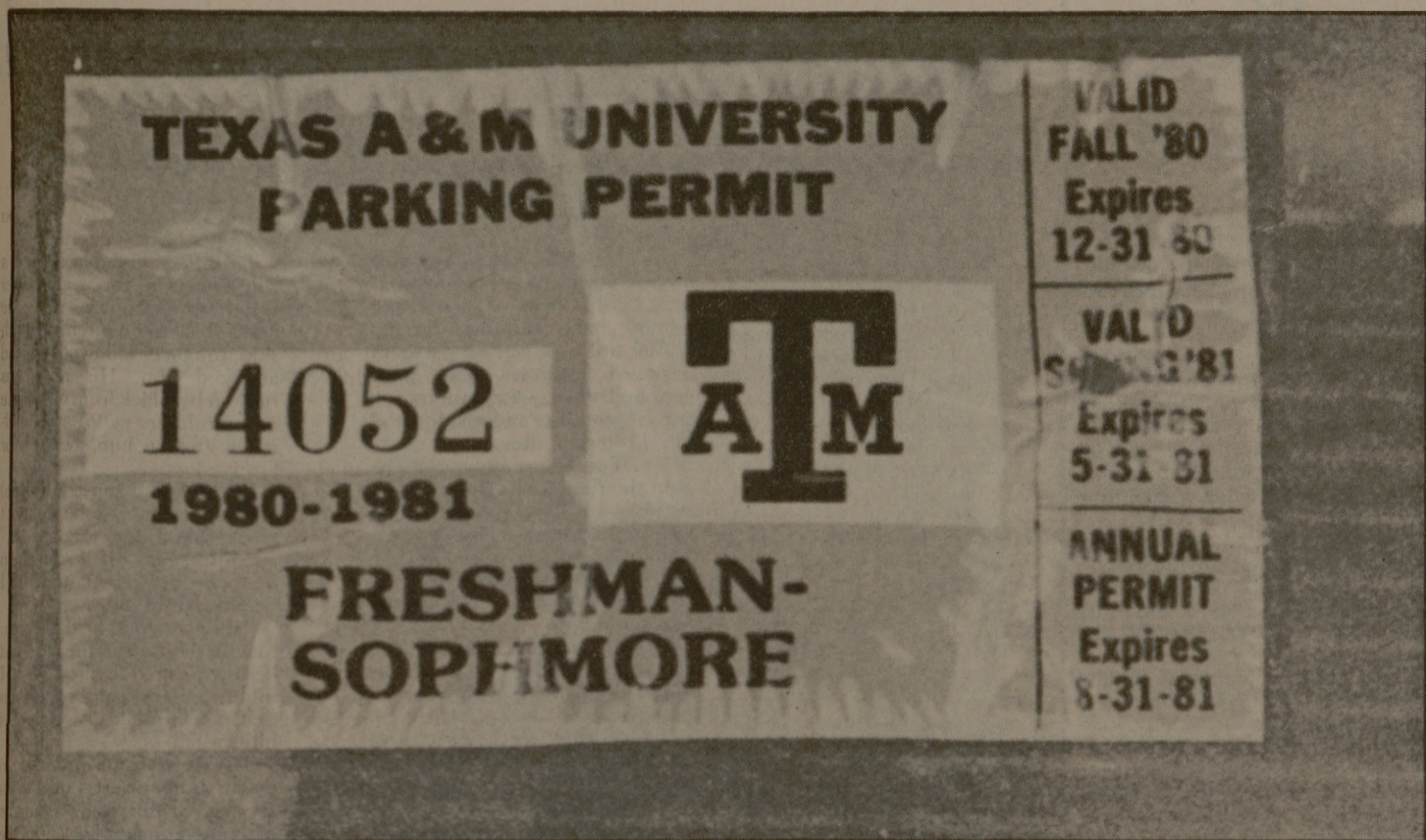


State



Misspelling permitted

Staff photo by Greg Gammon

Col. Tom Parsons, director of security and traffic for Texas A&M University, said the misspelling of the word "sophomore" on all 4,412 green parking permits

issued was "just one of those things that slipped by us." Only one person noticed the misspelling or at least pointed it out to him, Parsons said.

Former narcotics agent admits lying in testimony

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — A former undercover agent whose testimony helped convict a Tyler man for assaulting her partner now admits she did not know who the assailant was, the Dallas Morning News reported Thursday.

The Morning News reported former narcotics agent Kimberly Ramsey Matthews told federal authorities she did not know who shot her partner, Benjamin Creig Matthews.

The two agents married after their 1978-79 narcotics investigation ended.

Mrs. Matthews earlier had testified Kenneth Bora had shot her partner. Bora, sentenced to 20 years in prison for the shooting, was released from jail in August after federal authorities were told he had been framed by Matthews in another case.

The Morning News reported that as part of a plea bargain arrangement, the Matthewses will not be prosecuted for other criminal offenses based on their undercover work. The judge in the case, however, is not bound by

the agreement, the paper said. The source also told the Morning News Matthews firebombed Kim Ramsey's car so they could collect the insurance and that Tyler police officials had planned to discredit one of the paper's reporters by planting cocaine in his car,

then informing Dallas police. The reporter, Howard Swindle, had written several articles critical of the way Matthews and Ramsey carried out their undercover probe, which led to 121 indictments. The plan was never carried out.

Army investigates veteran's arrest

**United Press International**  
LAREDO — Fort Sam Houston authorities are investigating the case of a decorated Vietnam veteran who was arrested by military police and held on erroneous desertion charges.

Maj. Thomas Estes arrived in Laredo Wednesday to begin investigation of the Sept. 26 arrest of Roque Vela, who was spirited to Fort Sill, Okla., and spent four days in jails before being cleared of desertion charges in what the Army later described as "a computer error."

Maj. Estes told the Laredo News he had been sent by Col. Alvin Hill, commanding officer at Fort Sam Houston, to "look into the facts and circumstances about the military police who came down and apprehended Mr. Vela."

Estes declined to discuss details of the investigation.

Vela said he had been called by Fort Sam Houston officials Tuesday and was asked if he would

grant Estes an interview.

"He told me that he wanted to speak with other witnesses as well," Vela said Wednesday. "Evidently they (the Army) are trying to get both sides of the story."

Vela said Estes was investigating "the part the Fort Sam Houston MPs played in the incident; what they did or did not do correctly."

Vela, decorated for service in one of Vietnam's most vicious battle zones and honorably discharged in 1968, was arrested by military authorities while attending a birthday party.

Officers, brandishing a warrant for his arrest, took Vela into custody despite his protests and assurances he could provide proof of his honorable discharge.

Vela was detained for four days, including a night's stay in the Webb County jail before he was transferred to the Bexar County jail in San Antonio and then to Fort Sill.

It was later discovered Vela's personal file in the Pentagon had not been kept up to date and his field file was burned in a 1973 fire at a records center in St. Louis.

Vela said he was told Friday by a member of GOP Sen. John Tower's staff that the Army was implementing changes in its file system.

"As for me, I don't think things will ever be the same again," Vela said. "Of course, I'm back to my business and family routine, but this kind of thing puts me in the spotlight."

Vela, awarded the Army Com-

mendation Medal for valor in Vietnam and the Purple Heart, said he had received calls and letters of support from across the country.

"Those are the good things," he

said. "On the other hand, this did do harm to my credibility as it was put in question and I also lost quite a bit of money during that time."

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