



staff photo by Octavio Garcia

Solid state

At Texas A&M the words "solid state" are not just one of those things that you see printed on TV sets or transistor radios. Texas A&M conducts intensive research with Texas Instruments on new types of material for use in transistors of different types,

along with the design of better and more reliable integrated circuits. Mark Weichold, a staff member of the Solid State Department, works in Zachry Engineering Center at the viewing end of the lab's electron microscope.

Lawyer says topic drugs, not murder

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — Charles Harrelson, accused of killing federal judge John Wood, was sleeping in his Dallas apartment some 300 miles away at the time Wood was shot in the back, Harrelson's attorney said Thursday.

Harrelson, however, had arranged earlier to "rip-off" El Paso gambler Jimmy Chagra in a phony drug deal, his lawyer said in opening arguments.

Wood, who was trying a case involving Chagra, was killed outside his San Antonio apartment on May 29, 1979. Harrelson, his wife Jo Ann, and Chagra's wife Elizabeth are charged with conspiring to kill Wood. Harrelson is also charged with murder.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Ray Jahn said in his statement the government could show Harrelson and Chagra met in Las Vegas to arrange the slaying of Wood. But attorney Tom Sharpe said all contacts between Chagra and Harrelson concerned the drug deal.

"Jimmy was a sucker for a scam. He had been set up before," Sharpe told the jury. "(Harrelson) intended to take the money and run. It had nothing to do with killing the judge."

Jahn said Harrelson offered his services as a contract killer to Jimmy Chagra to avenge the 1978 murder of Jimmy's brother, Lee, who was killed in a robbery at his law office.

Mrs. Chagra is accused of delivering Harrelson's payoff for killing the judge to his stepdaughter in Las Vegas. But again, Sharpe said, the money

was for a drug deal that Harrelson never intended to pull off.

Jahn said Harrelson stalked Wood in San Antonio for days before the judge was shot in the back as he was leaving for work — the first federal judge killed in this century.

"He (Harrelson) boasted that it was a clean shot. But just as he shot, the judge bent over," Jahn said.

The government plans to play wiretap tape recordings to show the defendants discussed the judge's murder for months afterwards.



Drunk drivers face probation

United Press International
AUSTIN — The state Department of Highways and Public Transportation Thursday announced a pilot program to develop specialized caseload probation for chronic drunken driver offenders.

Spokesman Terry Pence said the program will be conducted in four Texas cities that have not been selected.

Case workers will have small caseloads in the program and will work exclusively with people convicted of driving while intoxicated, he said.

Jerry Johns, an insurance industry official, said the Texas Legislature should raise the state's legal drinking age from 19 to 21 to try and reduce drunken driving.

Johns, president of South-

western Insurance Information Service, said alcohol abuse among Texas teenagers is a more serious problem than drug abuse.

"In excess of 44 percent of all nighttime alcohol-related fatalities are caused by the 16 to 24 old age group, yet they only represent 22 percent of the total licensed driver population in this country," he said.

Johns said many of the accidents could be prevented if the sale of alcoholic beverages was restricted to people 21 and older.

"State residents should take a strong position on this issue which every year results in the needless death and crippling injuries to thousands of our young people," he said.

Bethe to open lecture series

by Beverly Hamilton

Battalion Staff
Hans Bethe, Nobel laureate and professor of physics at Cornell University, will deliver the inaugural address in the Texas A&M University E.L. Miller Lecture Series on public policy at 8 p.m. today in Rudder Theater entitled "Energy Independence is Possible."

The lectureship, established in 1981 by Cooper Industries, a Houston-based manufacturing firm, is designed to bring international authorities in public policy to speak at Texas A&M.

Bethe was selected the first Miller lecturer soon after the series was created and was scheduled to speak last fall, but his appearance was postponed due to illness. The lectureship was

established with a \$150,000 grant in honor of Cooper Industries' chairman of the board, E.L. Miller.

Bethe's post doctoral studies were conducted under physicists in Europe including Enrico Fermi in Rome, Niels Bohr in Copenhagen and Ernest Rutherford in Cambridge. He earned the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1967 for his discovery of the carbon cycle. He also earned the 1961 Fermi Prize for his work on general theory of nuclear reactions.

Bethe delivered technical presentations Tuesday and Wednesday on supernova explosions and a talk Thursday on the global problem of energy at Texas A&M.



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