

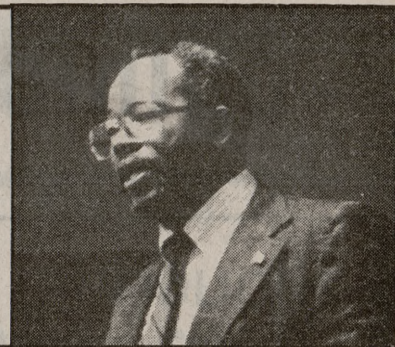
'Annie' has no hard knocks

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Ex-Panther changes ways

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Brooks nation's first to die by injection

United Press International
HUNTSVILLE — Charlie Brooks, convicted of murdering a bound-and-gagged auto mechanic six years ago, was executed with a lethal dose of drugs early today, making him the first inmate in the nation to die by injection.

Brooks, 40, the sixth man — and first black — to be executed since the U.S. Supreme Court ended its moratorium on capital punishment in 1977, was given a lethal drug injection at 12:09 a.m. today and was declared dead seven minutes later.

One witness said the death was very peaceful. Another witness said Brooks briefly gasped for air and then fell silent.

Brooks' last words were "I love you," spoken to his girlfriend as he was wheeled, strapped to a hospital gurney, into the red brick death chamber that until 1964 held the state's electric chair.

American Civil Liberties Union attorneys Monday made seven desperate appeals up to the final minutes of Brooks' life.

A bid before the U.S. Supreme Court to stay the execution failed a

few hours before midnight when the justices voted 6-3 not to intervene. Texas Gov. William Clements could have stopped the death sentence, but left his office early Monday evening — having refused a last ditch appeal.

Lawyers also made pleas to the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans and other pleas to the Texas Courts of Criminal Appeals, the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles and U.S. District Judge David O. Belew in Fort Worth.

The final rejection came from the 5th circuit court at 11:55 p.m. By then Brooks already was in the death chamber.

Doctors pierced his arm with a needle attached to a tube that led into another room where an unknown executioner waited. A neutral saline solution began running through the tube at 11:30 p.m. At 12:09 a.m. sodium thiopental was injected into the tube.

Experts said the sodium thiopental numbed the pain center of the brain and stopped involuntary breathing.

Correction officials said other drugs — pavulon to relax the prisoner's muscles and potassium chloride

to cause cardiac arrest — were on hand as backup, but could not immediately say whether or not they were used.

"He was nervous as if he was waiting to feel a change," said Dick Reavis, a Texas Monthly magazine reporter who also was one of the official witnesses. "He looked up and he yawned. It was a long deep yawn. After that he wheezed, maybe 15 seconds. I would say that by the time he finished the yawn he was gone."

Brooks had said he did not want to die although as a recently converted Moslem he believed in capital punishment.

Brooks was the first of 172 Texas death row inmates to be executed. He was the first person executed in Texas in 18 years.

On Dec. 14, 1976, Brooks and accomplice Woody Loudres, who also is black, abducted 26-year-old Fort Worth auto mechanic David Gregory. The victim was taken to a hotel where he was bound, gagged and shot in the head.

Loudres pleaded guilty to a lesser charge and is serving a 40-year prison sentence.



Staff photo by Irene Mees

Rudolph finds the MSC

Knowing about unpredictable Texas weather, the reindeers of squadron K-2 dressed appropriately — in long-johns. Santa was pulled in a sleigh for an

unannounced visit to the Memorial Student Center after the Christmas tree lighting. K-2 sang to the audience after the Singing Cadets finished their Christmas program.

Five captured Texas prisoners face extradition, felony charges

United Press International
MCKINNEY — Five Collin County prisoners who sawed their way out of jail only to be captured after a few hours freedom, faced felony escape charges and extradition to Texas from jails in Kansas and Louisiana.

Two of the escaped inmates, one of whom was being held in a McKinney murder, were captured Sunday in Monroe, La., following a stop for a routine traffic violation.

Authorities in McKinney late Monday said extradition proceedings would be initiated for all five escapees.

Johnny Bazan, 24, the murder suspect, and Mitchell Triche, 22, were arrested in Monroe without incident

after an officer stopped a van for an improper turn.

Both men were being held on fugitive warrants out of Collin County.

All five suspects escaped from the Collin County jail early Friday by sawing through bars on a cell window.

"After they broke out here, they stole a van and drove to Dallas, where they split up. The three of them stole an old Cadillac and drove to Kansas. They stole some plates in Wichita (Wichita Falls, Texas). The other two headed for Louisiana in the van," Terry Box, Collin County chief deputy said Monday.

The three other inmates were arrested Saturday after the stolen

Cadillac crashed and rolled following a chase by a Kansas trooper.

Nicholas Joseph Rahaley, 39, of Texarkana; Brett Channing Malone, 21, of Dallas, and Joe Nathan Thomas, 25, of Dallas, were being held in Hays, Kan., following their arrest in nearby Gorham, Kan.

"We have officers in Kansas and will be sending someone to Monroe," Box said. "I'll probably be (Tuesday) afternoon before we get them back to Texas."

Monroe authorities said Bazan and Triche gave them false names.

Police Maj. Don Hill said the men identified themselves as Inex Ayala Bazan of McKinney and Wayne Johnson of Monroe.

"I don't know how to explain the differences in names, but the people apparently were trying to give false names and addresses," Hill said. "I think they were trying to see if they could buy out of it."

Kansas Highway Patrolman Larry Smith, whose foot was run over during the pursuit of three of the prisoners in western Kansas, said he wanted all three charged with aggravated assault of a law enforcement officer and eluding an officer.

Bazan was charged with driving without a license in Louisiana and Box said additional charges would probably be filed against the five, including auto theft.



Staff photo by John Ryan

Let the music in

Texas A&M University President Frank E. Vandiver opens his door to hear the beautiful music of the Residence Hall Association carolers Wednesday night.

Service commemorates Pearl Harbor bombing

United Press International
HONOLULU — Forty-one years ago today, a precision three-wave attack by Japanese torpedo planes and dive bombers laid the U.S. Pacific Fleet in ruins in less than two hours and plunged the United States into World War II.

The anniversary of the bombing of Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, was to be commemorated today by the blowing of a shipyard whistle, a moment of silence, a gunfire volley and a Hawaiian Air National Guard "fly-over" above the recently restored USS Arizona memorial.

Private services were to be held aboard the Arizona Memorial to honor the men killed in the surprise attack.

Joseph K. Taussig Jr., deputy assistant secretary of the Navy, who was severely wounded on the USS Nevada during the attack, was to give the keynote address at the ceremony.

Taussig was seriously injured while manning an anti-aircraft battle sta-

tion. He refused medical evacuation and took control of all the ship's batteries.

The scheduled ceremony also included floral wreath presentations by various military, patriotic and civic organizations.

Beneath the memorial, in the sunken hull of the Arizona, the bodies of 1,178 men remain entombed. For many years the count was one less, but an urn containing the ashes of a former crewman, who asked to be buried with his former shipmates, was lowered into the hull last year.

In less than two hours that Sunday morning 41 years ago, the United States' Pacific Fleet was shattered.

Japanese planes sank or damaged 18 of the 96 ships in the harbor. The three destroyed include the memorialized Arizona, the Utah, which was being used as a target ship and remains where it sank, and the Oklahoma, which was raised and sunk again off Honolulu to clear the harbor.

by Kelley Smith
Battalion Reporter

Draft registration at Texas A&M University is about the same as the national percentage, but a telephone poll shows that the compliance rate would drop if registration wasn't mandatory.

Of 100 Texas A&M freshman men surveyed, 97 said they have registered with the Selective Service. The national average is 96 percent.

Since the Justice Department started prosecuting draft dodgers, the national registration rate has increased, but it still is down about 2 percent from past registration eras.

"Compliance increased drastically after each major prosecution," said Col. Ronald Andreen, senior operations officer with the Selective Service in Chicago. For each highly publicized prosecution, the national rate rose about 1 percent, he said.

The first prosecution for failure to register was in June 1982. Since then, more than a hundred men have been indicted nationwide, but only six have been convicted.

"We are not out to prosecute anybody — we just want to see them comply with the law," Andreen said. "Convictions are not our goal."

Although the absence of an actual draft may be one reason for the decrease in compliance, many men don't register because they don't know about registration require-

ments, Andreen said.

"We are continually trying to notify people through the media of the requirement," he said.

Most media efforts are made in larger cities where compliance is a little lower than the national average. The lower registration rate in large cities results from higher unemployment levels, he said. In addition, the higher concentration of minorities in larger cities may not be aware of requirements because of language barriers, he said.

Texas A&M students who have not registered gave different reasons for not complying. One 19-year-old said the post office was out of forms when he went to register and he just has not been back. Another said he does not support a registration system and has not decided whether he will register.

The freshmen surveyed were selected systematically from the 1982-83 Campus Directory. One freshman male was selected from each of 100 pages of the student directory.

When the students were asked if they still would have registered if registration wasn't mandatory, the compliance rate dropped more than 20 percent. Only 75 percent said they would have registered, 24 percent said they would not have registered and 1 percent was undecided.

The main reason for not register-

ing cited by the 24 percent was that they did not want to be drafted. Others who opposed registration said the decision to serve in the armed forces should be an individual's choice. Others said they were against war and anything related to it.

Many of the students who said they would not register if the draft was not mandatory did agree, however, that some registration system was needed in case of emergency. Of the students surveyed, 91 percent said they supported the registration system and felt it is necessary.

Social Security records and Internal Revenue Service records are searched to find men who have not registered. Sometimes, however, finding the draft evaders is not too difficult, Andreen said.

"Some people wrote in to us saying they refused to register," he said. "Some were reported by friends, neighbors and family."

In one case, a federal judge dismissed charges against David Wayne, 21, of California, who refused to register. The judge ruled that the presidential order reinstating registration was invalid, but the decision will be appealed.

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No Silver Taps

Silver Taps will not be held tonight because no Texas A&M students have died since the last ceremony.

Silver Taps is held the first Tuesday night of each month, unless no student deaths are reported to the Student Affairs Office. The ceremony honors currently enrolled students who have died.

Editor renamed

Diana Sultenfuss has been nominated as editor of The Battalion for the spring semester.

The Student Publications Board made the selection at their Dec. 3 meeting. The nomination must be confirmed by the vice president for academic affairs.

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forecast

Today's Forecast: Clear skies through today. High of about 65, with tonight's low in the 40s. Cool front coming in Wednesday, possibility of a few showers. High Wednesday in the upper 50s.