



Happy feet

staff photo by Bill Schulz

Miss Texas A&M Scholarship Pageant contestant Moira Rankin, a junior studying animal science, tap dances Wednesday for an audience in the Memorial Student Center during a talent preview for Friday's pageant.

Blood bank keeps campus contract

by Kathy Wiesepape

Battalion Reporter
The Wadley Blood Bank will continue its monopoly of campus blood drives at Texas A&M despite protests from the Brazos County Red Cross, student representatives decided during a meeting Wednesday.
Representatives from Wadley Blood Bank and Red Cross met with representatives from Student Government and two service organizations, Alpha Phi Omega and Omega Chi Alpha, to evaluate the campus blood drive program. Those three groups have contracted with Wadley since 1959 to hold three blood drives a year on campus.
But Red Cross protested that it also should be able to solicit blood donations on campus.
Chris Lang, Brazos County Red Cross chairman, said the group wants to hold campus blood drives because local hospitals use blood from the central Texas Red Cross supply in fact. When Texas A&M students and faculty are in hospitals here and need blood, they deplete the Red Cross supply.

Wadley Blood Bank is affiliated with the American Association of Blood Banks. Blood donated by Aggies through campus blood drives goes to the central blood supply in Dallas.

According to the Wadley Blood Bank system, all Texas A&M students and faculty are members of the Aggie Blood Club. For each blood unit donated by an Aggie, a credit is added to the blood club account. When an Aggie needs blood, the accumulated credits are exchanged for blood from the Wadley Blood Bank.

Blood from the Wadley Blood Bank is shipped to hospitals nationwide, but is not used in Brazos County hospitals because they are not affiliated with the American Association of Blood Banks.

Lang said the Red Cross holds 12 community blood drives and 12 blood drives for organizations each year to replenish the county blood supply. But the Red Cross needs an additional 175 units of blood per month, Lang said, and a campus blood drive would

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Student Senate approves student service fee increase

by Kelley Smith

Battalion Staff
Student senators approved a recommendation to raise the 1983-84 student service fee from \$43.50 to \$51.50 at their meeting Wednesday night. They also approved budget recommendations made by the departments that receive funds from those fees.

The Student Government Finance Committee recommended the changes, which were approved unanimously.

Blaine Edwards, vice president for finance, said the \$8 increase is justified.

"We're getting by cheap," Edwards said. "It's going to take eight bucks to give us the services we want."

Edwards compared the student service fee at Texas A&M to that of other Texas public universities. Texas Tech has a \$58 fee and the University of Texas has a \$60 fee.

Texas A&M's fee is lower than other schools because operations are run efficiently, Edwards said.

Fees are being increased because of increases in utility costs, the end of President Frank E. Vandiver's hiring freeze, mandated state wage increases

EPA firings will not quiet scandal, congressman says

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The White House says the ouster of two more top Environmental Protection Agency officials will give the agency a "fresh start," but a congressman warns "sacrificial lambs" will not quiet the EPA scandal.

Administration officials disclosed the firings of EPA Inspector General Matthew Novick, whose office has been enmeshed in controversy, and Assistant Administrator John Horton, who is under FBI investigation.

They said President Reagan was involved in the decision.

The dismissals brought to seven the number of EPA officials fired since the agency's troubles bubbled forth Feb. 4 with the announcement of the resignation of Rita Lavelle, former chief of the agency's toxic wastes cleanup unit.

Three days later, it was disclosed President Reagan fired Lavelle when

she refused orders to quit her post.

Horton, confirming Wednesday that he was asked to resign, said he agreed because "the White House is trying to get things back under control so the agency can get back to work."

But Rep. Elliott Levitas, D-Ga., head of the House subcommittee that first brought a contempt of Congress citation against Anne Burford (formerly Anne Gorsuch) last fall when she failed to turn over files on toxic waste cases, said the scandal is still unfolding.

Levitas said if fresh allegations that Burford allowed a close legal adviser to participate in meetings affecting his private industry clients prove correct, she should also resign.

To suggestions the administration is trying to control damage by firing some vulnerable officials, Levitas said:

"As far as sacrificial lambs are con-

cerned, they're wasting their time. Congress has got to complete an investigation that has already been launched, because the American people are entitled to no less."

He cautioned, however, that the investigation should be carried out responsibly with "no rush to judgment."
Rep. James Scheuer, D-N.Y., chairman of another of six congressional panels investigating EPA, said there are rumors Burford "will be looking for new employment opportunities in the near future."

Horton said he and Novick were asked to resign by Helene Von Damm, director of White House personnel. One source said Novick was advised of his fate on Sunday when he attended the wedding of Burford, the former Anne Gorsuch.

Novick, who could not be reached for comment, was the first Reagan-appointed inspector general to be fired.

A White House official said Bur-

ford, who was in Arizona giving a speech Wednesday, was "fully consulted" about the changes, which he said were made as "part of an effort to strengthen the middle level management at EPA, particularly in Superfund (for toxic waste cleanup), and were intended to give a fresh start" to the agency's managerial team.

"This will be helping Anne by giving her stronger managerial personnel," the source said.

An administration official said the Horton and Novick were released "without prejudice," emphasizing there was "no determination of wrongdoing" and they could be invited to join the administration again "in some other capacity."

Scheuer charged that Novick was dismissed as EPA's chief internal watchdog because of his recent efforts to clean up the agency, an allegation a White House official disputed as "outrageous."

Plan to rescue Social Security passes first test

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The \$165 billion Social Security rescue package passed its first congressional test Wednesday on a party-line vote, indicating the plan may undergo some changes before it wins crucial bipartisan support.

The panel adhered closely to a national commission's recommendations to raise money through the end of the decade but added some of its own ideas to deal with the system's long-term deficit, including curbing benefits of future retirees and raising payroll taxes. Both proposals would take effect early next century.

The Democrat-led House Social Security subcommittee repeatedly rejected attempts by the panel's Republicans to raise the retirement age as a means of reducing the system's long-term costs. That prompted the GOP members to vote against the entire package.

The subcommittee also approved a "fail-safe" mechanism that allows Social Security to dip into general Treasury funds in emergencies.

"This is just the first step in a long process," subcommittee chairman J.J. Pickle, D-Texas, said after the vote. "I believe the public will feel we have advanced the bill and it will relieve their fears and anxiety."

Pickle said he is not concerned about the party-line vote, saying, "I do not think this is any indication that it will not be a bipartisan package. There should be." But, he said that he expects some changes when the Ways and Means Committee acts on the bill next week.

Rep. Willis Gradison of Ohio, one of four Republicans to vote against,

said, "Something is going to be done about the retirement age, however reluctant the majority is to talk about it today."

Several of the subcommittee's Democrats, including Pickle, personally favor raising the retirement age. But Rep. Richard Gephardt, D-Mo., said they felt compelled to design a long-term deficit strategy that was "saleable" to mainstream Democrats who vehemently oppose raising the retirement age.

The bulk of the package, which reflects last month's recommendation by the National Commission on Social Security Reform, would raise payroll taxes, delay this year's cost-of-living hike six months and tax benefits of higher-income pensioners for the first time.

It also would force new federal workers — and the president and members of Congress — to join Social Security next year.

Congressional leaders hope to send a bill to Reagan by Easter but have reiterated the need for bipartisan support.

After rejecting several conservative amendments to raise the 65-year retirement age or cut benefits in other ways, the subcommittee agreed on a long-range change that depends on curbing payment checks and raising taxes next century.

It includes a 5 percent cut in the benefit formula for new retirees in 2008, so the average worker will get back 40 percent of his last paycheck instead of 42 percent, and a payroll tax hike of 0.24 percent each for employers and employees beginning in 2015, raising the tax to 7.89 percent.



staff photo by Eric Evan Lee

New world record

Holding his trophy, Monty Morris has a reason to smile. The freshman pre-vet major set a new record Wednesday in the 18-year-old division for the Guinness Book of World Records by bench pressing 470 pounds.

Airline company cited in price-fixing suit

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The Justice Department filed a civil antitrust suit Wednesday against American Airlines Inc. and its president, Robert L. Crandall, charging the airline executive unlawfully attempted to fix prices with Braniff Airways in 1982.

The government's suit said Braniff, which filed for bankruptcy in May, rejected the alleged attempt.

Braniff spokeswoman Barbara Potter said Braniff officials had decided not to make any public comment on the lawsuit.

She said the lawsuit also would have nothing to do with the proposed agreement Braniff has signed with the California-based Pacific Southwest Airlines under which PSA plans

to lease some 30 idled jets of Braniff and rehire about 1,500 of its employees.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court in Dallas, charged that Crandall proposed in a telephone conversation with Braniff president Howard Putnam that the airline raise its prices by 20 percent.

Crandall assured Putnam that if Braniff raised its fares, American would follow with higher rates.

The government filed its suit as a result of the conversation between Crandall and Putnam on grounds that Crandall and American unlawfully attempted to acquire joint and collusive monopoly power between American and Braniff in a number of city-pair markets served by the Dallas-Fort Worth airport hub.

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forecast

Mostly clear skies today and a high of 71. The winds will be light and from the south. Clear skies for tonight with the low near 45. For Friday, mostly clear skies and a little cooler with a high of 64.

almanac

United Press International
Today is Thursday, Feb. 24, the 55th day of 1983 with 310 to follow.
American Painter Winslow Homer was born on this date in 1836 and John Phillip Holland, inventor of the submarine, in 1842.
On this date in history:
In 1920, a group of Germans organized the National Socialist Party, forerunner of the Nazi Party that later would be led by Adolf Hitler.