



staff photo by Irene Mees

Another Fightin' Texas Aggie line

The line looks long at these polls behind the academic building. The polls will be open again today until 6 p.m. Elections are for class officers,

student government, and yell leaders. Students can vote at Sbis, the Memorial Student Center, the Academic and Agency building and the Quadrangle.

'Kidnapped' woman abandons children

United Press International
MEMPHIS — A Texas woman claims a man described as a mail order minister and his wife kidnapped her and forced her to abandon her four children at a Memphis fast food restaurant, police say.

Diane Hamlin, 29, of Huntsville, was found across the state line in Chattanooga Monday where she was staying at a Salvation Army shelter. She was charged with abandoning her children, ages 6 to 2, at a McDonald's restaurant in Memphis Thursday.

Mrs. Hamlin first told police she left the children behind because she couldn't care for them anymore, said Chattanooga police detective John Brown. "They moved into the Salvation Army because they didn't have any place else to stay," Brown said. "They had been living in a car for several days."

Mrs. Hamlin later changed her story and accused her traveling companions of abducting her.

The companions — convicted sex offender Robert Yeary, 42, and his wife, Carolyn Yeary, 30 — also were arrested at the shelter and charged with abandon-

ment. The Yearys' 7-year-old girl was turned over to juvenile authorities.

"She (Hamlin) says she was coerced to go with them," police spokeswoman Helen Cooper said. "Their relationship went from friendly to not so friendly."

Mrs. Hamlin also told police the Yearys forced her to have sexual relations with them and Yeary stabbed her in the rib cage with a kitchen knife, Cooper said.

Police described Yeary as a mail order ordained minister. Police said Yeary was convicted in 1976 in Indiana of theft, assault, rape and sodomy.

Memphis police were to arrive in Chattanooga Tuesday to investigate Mrs. Hamlin's allegations.

Meanwhile, officials said Hamlin apparently told the children their father, Donald Ray Hamlin, had been killed a month ago by the police. Hamlin was in jail in Knoxville on an embezzlement charge when he learned his children were in the custody of the Juvenile Court in Memphis. Hamlin was released on \$2,000 bond, with the help of his attorney, Richard Loffman, and went to Memphis Sunday for a one-hour visit with his three sons and daughter.

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Texans tell of Cuban ordeal

United Press International
HOUSTON — A Texas couple said they endured 148 days of mental torture, poor diet and being interrogated as spies

by a congressman helped them from Cuban prisons. Berni Hofstadter, 29, and his wife, Gina Strickland, 22, both of Brownsville, stepped off a plane at Hobby Airport Monday and dropped to their knees and wept.

"I love America," Strickland cried, throwing her hands in the air. Hofstadter, wearing an orange baseball cap and sunglasses, embraced waiting relatives and proclaimed the day the happiest in his life.

The couple was flown home by U.S. Rep. Mickey Leland, D-Texas, who credited his close work with Cuban President Fidel Castro for the couple's release.

The couple said they had been imprisoned in Cuba since 1978 in a plane developed in the electrical problems and tried them to make an emergency landing in a wet, marshy field late at night on Nov. Hofstadter said high winds blew them off their course from Cayman Islands to Florida. The pair said they reported to

authorities and were immediately questioned as spies and accused of being members of the CIA.

"It was very hard to communicate to them we were not CIA agents. We were never told if or when we would be released," Hofstadter said.

He said the couple was forced to choose between signing confessions charging them with spying or drug smuggling.

"He had an alternative — to either admit to being a CIA agent and get 20 or 30 years in prison or admit to being a drug trafficker and be released in four or five days. Unless we signed either of the two, we would be held in solitary confinement," Hofstadter said.

He and Strickland said they spent 43 days in solitary confinement before agreeing to sign the written statements. Both denied the charges.

After signing the confessions, they were taken to separate prisons. He was housed in an 8-foot by 16-foot cell with five other American men. She was put in a cell with three women from Florida.

Hofstadter said they were fed beans, rice and bread and were forced to use the bathroom through a hole in the floor.

"I prayed a lot and cried a lot and took a lot of pills," Strickland said. "They gave me lots of tranquilizers."

Both said they were hospitalized for a week prior to their departure. Strickland said she was given an intravenous injection for two days to alleviate headaches, but Hofstadter said he felt fine.

Hofstadter said he doubted he would ever be released.

"You can't believe anything until it happens because Cuba is a land of manana (Spanish for tomorrow)."

Leland, who arranged the couple's release after a two-hour meeting with Castro, praised Cuban authorities for their cooperation.



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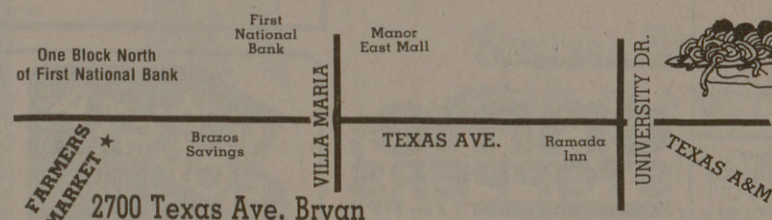
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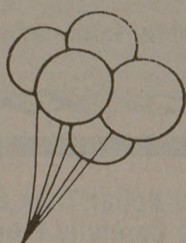
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HOLY WEEK AND EASTER

TONIGHT, 6 P.M., A Passover Seder will be observed. Since a meal is involved, we ask you to call ahead if you plan to attend. It is not too late to make reservations.

TONIGHT, 10 P.M. Holy Week Candlelight Communion Service.

THURSDAY, 9 P.M. Maundy Thursday Communion including an optional Service of Footwashing and concluding with the Stripping of the Altar.

FRIDAY, 9 P.M., Tenebrae Service (A Service of Daring Remembering the Death of our Lord)

EASTER, 4 A.M., The Easter Vigil Service is the completion of the Maundy Thursday and Good Friday observances. Easter Vigil is an ancient service of anticipating and celebrating the return of light from darkness, the raising of life from the grave in the resurrection of our Lord.

EASTER, 6:30 A.M., an Easter Breakfast will be served following the Easter Vigil.

EASTER, 9:15 and 10:45 A.M., Easter Worship with Holy Communion.

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