

Campus normal after blackout

by Robert McGlohon
Battalion Staff
Nycrophobes rejoice. The Texas A&M Physical Plant is back in business, a plant official says. "We're safe — safe as we can be at the moment," William E. Holland, associate director for utilities, said Tuesday.

That margin of safety is due to around-the-clock efforts of physical plant employees and the Brazos Electrical Power Cooperative, Holland said, adding that it was rather frantic the few days after the blackout.

The blackout, which occurred Thursday at 1:40 p.m., resulted from a problem with the boiler connected to the University's biggest source of electrical power, a 15,000 kilowatt gas turbine, and with the expansion joint connecting the boiler to the turbine, Holland said.

The failed boiler and expansion joint caused a campus-wide interruption of electrical and telephone service Thursday afternoon, but service is partially restored by Thursday night.

Additional blackouts were avoided by shutting off services to unused buildings and cutting back on air conditioning for parts of campus, Holland said. Full power was not restored, however, until 6 p.m. Monday.

The gas turbine was repaired and tested but will be down for another three weeks while the boiler is being repaired. The west campus is now powered by a transformer hastily supplied by the Brazos Electrical Power Cooperative.

Because the gas turbine could be used, if inefficiently, without the boiler, Texas A&M now has back up electrical capacity that it didn't have before the blackout, Holland said,

which makes another blackout unlikely.

In three weeks, when the boiler is completely repaired and the gas turbine can be operated efficiently, Texas A&M will be safer than ever, Holland said.

"We'll be in better shape than we were before the blackout," he said. The University's electricity wasn't restored easily.

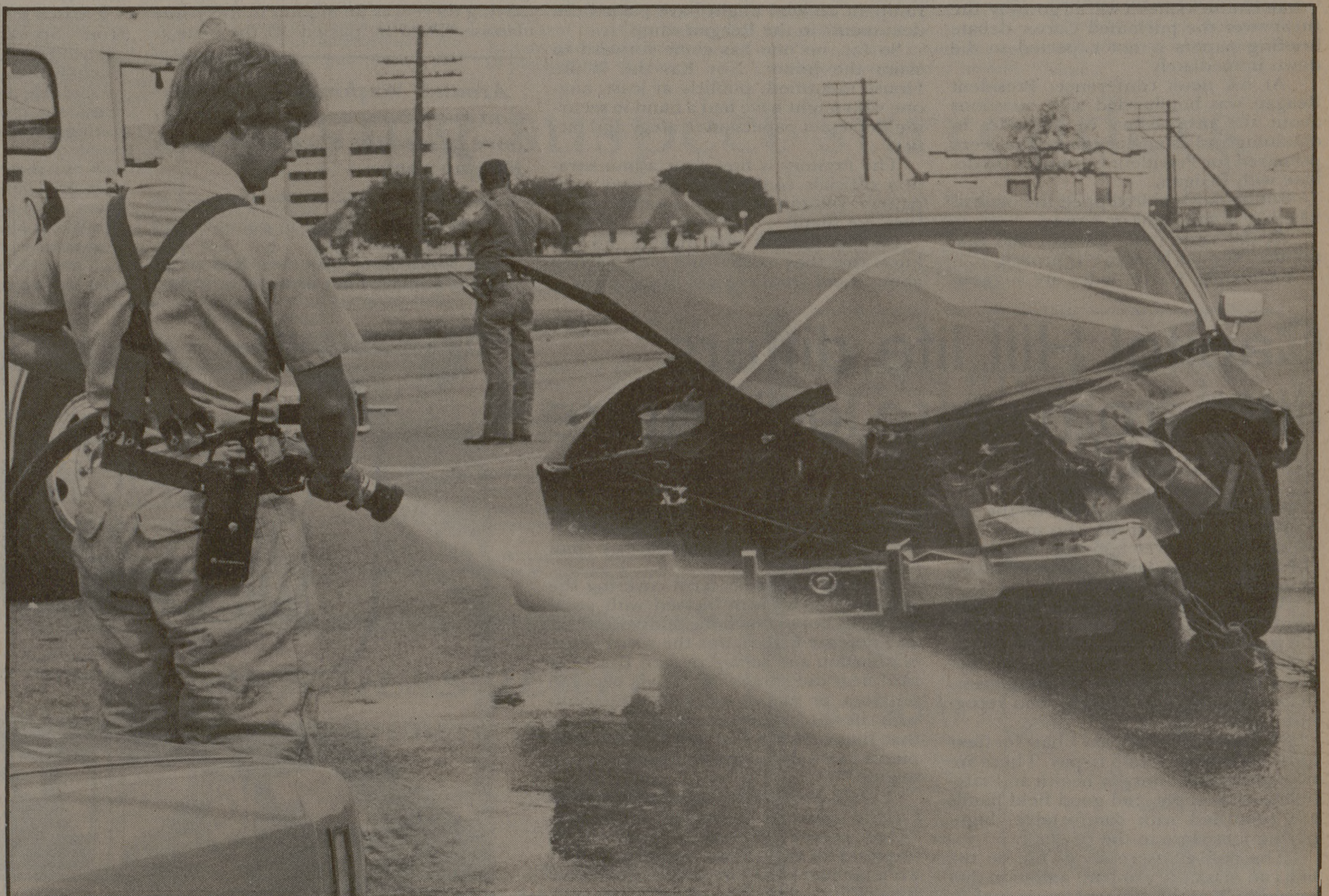
Holland said that as soon as the blackout occurred, physical plant workers were put on round-the-clock shifts to restore the failed equipment, and Brazos Electrical Power Cooperative was asked to supply a mobile electrical substation to pick up part of the load.

The mobile substation was installed and operating by Saturday afternoon, which brought the University to full power. But, Holland said, mobile substations are susceptible to damage in transit and are not as safe as their more permanent cousins, and the one supplied failed at 3:30 Sunday morning.

The University again had to limp along on less than full power until 6 p.m. Monday, when a permanent substation, again supplied by Brazos Electrical Power Cooperative, was installed and operating. The delay was due to the fact that a crane had to be brought in from Dallas to move the 69 kilovolt substation.

Two hours after the new substation was working, the turbine was fixed and tested. It was shut down again, however, for safety reasons. It's dangerous to work on the boiler while the turbine is going, Holland said, because of the extremely high temperature at which the turbine operates.

"It would fry a man to a crisp if a mistake were made," Holland said.



Another Wellborn wreck

staff photo by Eric Evan Lee

A College Station fireman washes antifreeze off the roadway following a two-car collision Tuesday morning at the intersection of Wellborn Road and Joe Rout Street. The traffic lights at the intersection were not

working at the time of the accident. The Cadillac attempted to cross the intersection and was struck by a truck. The driver of the Cadillac was issued a ticket.

CSISD to seek counsel for Ferguson hearing

by Robert McGlohon
Battalion Staff
The College Station Independent School Board voted Tuesday night to seek counsel for an upcoming hearing concerning the suspension of A&M Consolidated High School football coach Hal Ferguson.

The vote followed a special closed meeting in which the Ferguson case was discussed with CSISD attorney Ron G. Henslee. The motion was made by board secretary Joe W. Tem-

pleton, seconded by board member John C. Reagor and approved 7-0.

Board president Bruce W. Robeck said after the meeting that the move to hire outside counsel was a "procedural thing," and that he needed someone to advise him during the "quasi-judicial" hearing in which he will act as administrative law judge.

"I need to have someone to sit next to me and advise me who is familiar with administrative law," Robeck said. Ferguson was suspended from his

coaching position June 20 after the board learned of a bank account set up in Ferguson's name at Western National Bank of Bryan. Robeck said after that meeting that the account violates state law, as well as CSISD policy, because it was not located at the district's designated bank, Unitedbank of College Station.

Ferguson opened the Western National Bank account in December using more than \$300 of his own money. The account, Ferguson said,

was used to buy supplies for concession stands at A&M Consolidated basketball games and for personal travel expenses. Receipts from the concession stands were later deposited into the account.

Ferguson said no district money went toward his personal use.

After Tuesday's meeting, Robeck said no new developments in the case had occurred.

Ferguson has hired an attorney to

argue his appeal of the suspension before the board. District counsel Henslee will argue the administration's case and the board will sit in judgment.

Henslee said after the meeting that he had advised the board to hire outside counsel because of the nature of his role in the case.

"I can't very well present this case and advise them too," Henslee said. "I have advised the board to seek coun-

sel to advise them while I present the administration's case."

Robeck said that the outside counsel will be hired in an advisory role only. Whoever is hired probably will have nothing to do with the case until the actual hearing, he said.

The hearing, which Ferguson has requested be open to the public, has not been set yet, but Robeck said it would probably be sometime in August.

Decision of tax exemptions for banks may cost Texas cities, counties millions

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A Supreme Court decision that gives banks exemption from state and local taxes on federal securities holdings will mean millions of dollars in pay backs and lost revenue, said city and county officials across Texas.

Justice Harry Blackmun, writing for the court in Tuesday's 6-2 ruling, said Congress intended that banks be exempt from nearly "all states taxes" on savings bonds, Treasury bills and other federal securities in a measure enacted in 1959.

City and school officials in Dallas and Houston and Dallas and Harris

counties each said the ruling required them to repay more than \$10 million to banks.

Jim Robinson of the state Property Tax Board in Austin said his office expected to receive a copy of the decision today and would determine how much money is involved across the state.

"A lot will depend on what can be taxed and retroactivity," Robinson said. "It's obviously going to involve several millions of dollars."

Linus Wright, superintendent of the Dallas Independent School District, said although the DISD had built up a \$20 million fund in anti-

icipation of the decision, he did not want to use those monies because that would reduce the district's collateral.

"It's imperative that we not deplete the fund balance and maybe pay this out of (future) revenues," said Wright, who also predicted the financial bind may affect teacher payraises in Texas.

There was speculation that pressure might be placed on Gov. Mark White to call a special session to set up a new method of taxing banks.

Brian Lidje, an attorney for the Dallas banks that challenged the law, said he did not believe the amounts involved represented such a large

percentage of a city's or county's tax revenues.

"While these dollar amounts sound large, they really aren't," Lidje said. "They make up only a small part of the budget."

The governmental bodies, which will have until January to repay taxes improperly collected in the past three years, were expected to move to raise property taxes to make up the difference.

In addition to Texas, Georgia, Pennsylvania and Montana have similar laws that may be voided by the court's ruling.



staff photo by Barry Papke

Out with the old

Patricia Mauck, a grounds maintenance worker, removes dead flowers Tuesday and prunes excess foliage from red cannons located behind the Military Sciences Building. The flowers were relieved from the summer heat and humidity Tuesday by rain that showered the area early in the day. Mauck has been a University employee for four months.

Death row inmate's fate depends on Supreme Court ruling today

United Press International
PARCHMAN, Miss. — If the Supreme Court issues its long-awaited death penalty ruling today, Jimmy Lee Gray could still die in the gas chamber at Parchman prison before midnight.

The condemned child-killer's fate was left in the hands of the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals after Chief Justice Warren Burger Tuesday denied Mississippi's request to lift the appeals court's stay of execution. The New Orleans court, in granting the stay Saturday, said it wanted to await guidelines on death sentence appeals expected this week when the Supreme Court rules in the case of Thomas Barefoot, a man condemned to die in Texas.

However, the appeals court also said it wanted rebuttal from the state to Gray's contention that Mississippi's

gas chamber constituted cruel and unusual punishment.

An assistant Mississippi attorney general was in New Orleans today prepared to ask the 5th Circuit to dissolve its stay after a ruling comes down in the Barefoot case.

Gray, 34, a slender former computer operator, was sentenced to die in 1976 for the sexual assault, kidnapping and murder of Deressa Jean Scales, 3, of Pascagoula. The child was killed by holding her head in a ditch until she died from swallowing mud. At the time, Gray was on parole from an Arizona prison in the 1968 killing of his 16-year-old lover.

Tuesday's ruling brought a bitter response from Mississippi Attorney General Bill Allain, as well as from the father of the dead child.

"They (the defense) are talking now about how you can execute, if the

gas chamber is inhumane," said Allain. "That is a brand new issue. It has not been raised in the seven years we have been in court in this case."

"People begin to lose confidence in the justice system for a court to continue to Mickey Mouse around with a case that's been around for seven years. For them to continue to allow Jimmy Gray to raise issues at the last minute, when are you going to have finality?"

Richard A. Scales of Dallas, the dead girl's father, said after Burger's ruling that "There is no justice."

If the execution cannot be carried out by midnight tonight, authorities in Mississippi must return to the Mississippi Supreme Court for a new execution date, which Allain said could take several weeks and open the door "for all kinds of future delays."

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forecast

Partly cloudy skies today with a high of 93. Northeasterly winds near 10 mph. Mostly clear tonight with a low near 73. Partly sunny Thursday with a high of 92.