

# Amtrak agent videotapes East Texas derailment

**United Press International**  
**SAN ANTONIO** — A vacationing Amtrak ticket agent, who videotaped the scene of a fatal train derailment in east Texas, said Wednesday the tape could not prove charges that onlookers interfered with rescue efforts.

Agent David Garland, who worked for 10 years as a broadcast journalist, said he began taping about five minutes after the Amtrak train derailed Saturday near Marshall, Texas, killing four people and injuring more than 100 others.

"I aimed down toward the end of the train, where the three rear cars were on the ground. I've got about 20 minutes of

tape," said Garland, a passenger in a sleeping car just two cars behind the locomotive.

Charges were made by John Rehor of the National Transportation Safety Board that onlookers interfered with rescue operations, and made it difficult for ambulances to move about.

However, Garland said his tape could not prove or disprove Rehor's charges.

"That's conjecture," Garland said, adding that the tape does show Department of Public Safety troopers "trying to get everybody away from the site. Anytime you have a situation like that, there's rubber-neckers and onlookers."

Garland said he was not sure if a closer review of the tape would reveal interference from the crowd. Copies of the tape were made available to WFAA-TV in Dallas, KXAS-TV in Fort Worth, Amtrak and the NTSB.

Garland, who was returning from a vacation, has 10 years of broadcast journalism experience. He worked for KDFW-TV and KSKY radio in Dallas, and KCLE radio in Cleveland, Texas, before joining Amtrak.

"I always take it (video tape camera) on a trip like that," he said. "Something like that (derailment) doesn't come along very often. It took close to 45 minutes or an hour before the first television crew showed up."

"At first, the scenes were mostly of the equipment, the three cars on the rear of the train. I wanted to get scenes primarily of the train. Some of the stuff was (shot) before the main rescue effort started."

"It was really kind of quite at first. I was just kind of surprised at the calmness of everybody I came in contact with. There was no wild screaming or shouting," Garland said.

He said he tried walking through the train, but got only as far as the lounge car, which was "tipped over a little."

Garland said he was preparing to take a nap when the derailment occurred.



Michael Sanchez, Battalion

## Can't wait: Whoop!

Mike Isermann, a junior building construction major shows Mike Hicks, a junior electrical engineering major, an announcement for Elephant Walk. Elephant Walk is when seniors gather in front of the flag pole near the Academic Building and wander aimless around campus like old elephants about to die. The year, Elephant Walk is scheduled for Nov. 22, beginning at noon.

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## Former senator says Firm improperly got bid

**United Press International**  
**FRANKFORT, Ky.** — A Texas firm was improperly awarded a \$27.5 million contract to implement the state's new automated food stamp system, former Kentucky U.S. Sen.

Marlow Cook charged Wednesday.

Cook made his comments during a meeting of the interim Health and Welfare Committee.

Cook represented Martin Marietta Data Systems of Greenbelt, Md., an unsuccessful bidder for the state contract.

He said Electronic Data Systems Corp. of Dallas failed to include retailers' telephone line costs in its proposal and added the contract improperly allows EDS to retain ownership of the computer software, rather than the state.

Last spring, EDS was awarded the contract over three companies to operate the Kentucky Automated Certification and Issuance System, the first of its kind in the nation, for three years.

Human Resources officials announced Monday that the system's statewide computer issuance network will be implemented by Dec. 1, a delay of one month, after formal

approval was obtained from the U.S. department of Agriculture last week.

Computers in individual food store outlets for identification purposes won't come on line until next fall, however, because of the USDA's delay.

Cook charged that his firm

By accepting the EDS proposal, Cook said the state violated its own bid specifications, which included requests for "firm price bids including all appropriate costs for communication."

That cost, he said, would amount to \$16 million to the cost of the program.

State Social Insurance Commissioner John Cubine agreed that the phone charges were included in the contract, but said the costs would be less than \$2 million.

Cubine said that if telephone lines are not available, those tail stores will not take part in the food stamp program.

"Somebody's going to have to pay," said Rep. Gerta Bendure, Louisville, who chairs the House subcommittee on public welfare.

Cubine denied that there was anything improper about the way the EDS bid was chosen.

"The Commonwealth has done anything outside of our laws or federal laws," he said. "Anything we did was in public light."

**OFF THE CUFF**

BY **BOB DODSON**

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## Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Wednesday:

**THEFTS:**

- A AM/FM cassette player from 427 Kleberg Animal Food Science Center.
- A motorcycle from Aston Hall bike rack.
- A motorcycle from the lot west of G. Rollie White.
- A ceiling tile from the floor of the Physics Building.
- A backpack from Sbisas Dining Hall. The backpack contained a calculator, checkbook, Texas driver's license, Texas A&M I.D. card and Impact card. The owner checked with the bank and discovered that someone had used his Impact card to withdraw \$375.

**ARREST:**

- A student was arrested for driving while intoxicated. He drove his vehicle into a 1975 Chevrolet Caprice, parked on South Bizzell Street, University Police said. The student was taken to Brazos County Jail.

**INDECENT EXPOSURE:**

- A man exposed himself to a woman in Sterling C. Evans Library. The man was arrested by University Police and taken to Brazos County Jail.

**OTHER:**

- A student was ticketed by University Police for driving a 1975 Chevrolet pickup with a fake license plate.

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