

# Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol 78 No. 73 USPS 0453110 18 pages

Wednesday, December 14, 1983

## Last stay denied, killer executed

**United Press International**  
Louisiana electrocuted killer Robert Wayne Williams early Tuesday, just hours after the Supreme Court stayed the execution of a Georgia convict scheduled to die later the day.

Georgia officials prepared to execute a second Georgia Death Row inmate Thursday.

Williams, 31, convicted of murdering a grocery clerk during a robbery, was put to death in the state's electric chair shortly after 1 a.m. CST at the prison in Angola. He had visited family members hours earlier.

Prison officials described him as sad and hopeful but not confident he would be spared.

Williams was electrocuted about an hour after the Supreme Court denied a stay for a stay. He was the 10th inmate and the second black, to be executed since the court lifted its ban of death penalty in 1976.

Just a few hours before Williams was executed, the Supreme Court voted 5-4 to stay a stay of execution for Alpha O'Daniel Stephens. The court delayed Stephens' death date

until the full 11th U.S. circuit Court of Appeals can hear another Georgia death case with a bearing on his.

The American Civil Liberties Union said the prospect of three executions in two days would make the United States look like "one of the world's great executioners."

In the Stephens case, Justice Lewis Powell wrote a 9-page dissent to the ruling and was joined by Chief Justice Warren Burger and Justices William Rehnquist and Sandra Day O'Connor.

Stephens, who was rejected in his bid for a last-minute stay by the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles, had been scheduled for execution at 7 a.m. CST this morning at the state prison.

His attorneys had argued racial discrimination by an all-white jury resulted in his death sentence for abducting and killing a Macon man in 1974.

The U.S. District Court in Baton Rouge rejected Williams' request for a stay and less than two hours later Gov. Dave Treen also refused to stop his execution.

The Board of Pardons and Paroles refused to intervene for John Eldon Smith, clearing the way for him to die Thursday in the state's electric chair.

Both Georgia inmates were under a "death watch" in special cells — near the electric chair — and under constant supervision.

Smith, 53, who said his wife talked him into taking an Italian name and killing a Macon, Ga., couple in 1974 so he could become a "Mafia hit man," is scheduled to be executed Thursday at 7 a.m. CST.

Williams, the divorced father of four, admitted killing 67-year-old security guard Willie Kelly during a 1979 grocery store robbery in Baton Rouge. But he insisted his borrowed sawed-off shotgun went off accidentally because it lacked a firing pin.

"We are now witnessing the resumption of executions on a substantial scale and this country, at the rate at which we are presently going, is going to become one of the world's great executioners," said Henry Schwarzschild, director of the ACLU's campaign against capital punishment.



*Is this your car?* John Makely, Battalion staff  
Officer Bobby Clay of the College Station Police Department inspects this Datsun after it was hit by a runaway trailer Tuesday evening. No one was injured when the car, parked across from Campus Theater along University Drive, was hit.

## Ships shelling Syrians U.S. retaliating fire

**United Press International**  
BEIRUT — U.S. 6th Fleet warships fired their 5-inch guns Tuesday to hit anti-aircraft batteries that fired on American planes flying reconnaissance missions over the Syrian-controlled mountains of Lebanon.

Shortly after the naval barrage, Syrian fighters in the hills opened fire with anti-aircraft guns, some of it falling near the residence of U.S. ambassador Reginald Bartholomew in the Beirut suburb of Marjayoun.

No casualties were reported and reconnaissance planes returned safely to the carrier USS Independence.

The naval barrage came in response to missile and anti-aircraft fire from two U.S. Navy F-14 Tomcat jets and the second time American jets have retaliated for such anti-aircraft fire. American jets hit Syrian

positions in Lebanon Dec. 4, but two U.S. planes were downed by anti-aircraft fire.

State television in the Syrian capital of Damascus said one Syrian military vehicle was hit by the gunfire but did not mention casualties.

The battleship USS New Jersey went on alert to fire its nine mammoth 16-inch guns but did not take part in the naval fire, officials said.

The Pentagon said at least two surface-to-air missiles and a hail of anti-aircraft fire were directed at the F-14s about 7 miles north of Hammama, a village 13 miles east of Beirut.

"The aircraft completed their mission and returned safely to the Independence," the Pentagon said.

The Pentagon said the return fire by the two ships was in keeping with U.S. policy to retaliate for attacks against U.S. reconnaissance planes.

Earlier in the day, a French soldier

was killed by small arms fire while his unit in the French contingent of the multi-national peacekeeping forces was patrolling in Moslem West Beirut. A French spokesman said the troops returned fire.

In Damascus, thousands of residents marched through the streets in a rally protesting the new U.S.-Israeli strategic military cooperation agreement.

A group known as the Islamic Holy War claimed responsibility for the car bomb which blew up the U.S. Embassy in Kuwait in which four people died.

"If they (the Americans) attack us, our Arab people will not confine the conflict to the battlefield (in Lebanon and Syria) but will widen the confrontation front to engulf all Arab territories," the Syrian official said. "We will not surrender to American imperialism."

## Panel wants legal age for drinking set at 21

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — A presidential commission Tuesday recommended a ban on teenage drinking and proposed mandatory license suspensions, plus jail terms, for drunken drivers to stop the slaughter on the nation's highways.

"We must focus on bringing about changes in society's attitude of toleration toward drunkenness and drunk driving," the Presidential Commission on Drunk Driving said in a report.

The panel said states should set the legal drinking age at 21 — erasing a checkerboard of conflicting statutes — and proposed a mandatory 90-day license suspension for the first conviction of drunken driving, plus either two days in jail or 100 hours of community service work.

Subsequent convictions should

mean definite, longer jail terms, it said.

"The law must have some bite if we are to deter drinking and driving," the commission said in a report to President Reagan. "Mandatory jail sentences or directed work and license suspensions should effectively deter driving under the influence."

Reagan, who set up the panel in April 1982, noted 250,000 Americans have been killed during the past 10 years because of drunken driving.

"Drunk driving is a national menace, a national tragedy and a national disgrace," he said in a statement at a White House ceremony receiving the panel's recommendation.

John Volpe, former transportation secretary and head of the special panel, said, "If we hope to reduce the number of alcohol-related highway tragedies, we must make it socially un-

acceptable to drive after drinking, which is one of our major objectives."

Reagan, as he awarded Volpe the Presidential Citizen's Medal, said, "Every accident we prevent will keep all Americans from suffering and give our nation a merrier Christmas."

"Drunk driving isn't a bad habit to be excused. It's a crime and it should be stopped," Reagan said.

In a key decision, the commission concluded the states — not the federal government — must be responsible for setting a uniform drinking age. Nineteen states already have set 21 as a minimum drinking age for all alcoholic beverages and 26 states prohibit selling hard liquor to those under 21.

"States should immediately adopt 21 years as the minimum legal purchasing and public possession age for alcoholic beverages," the report said.

## People get peace prize, police harass Walesa

**United Press International**  
WARSAW — Lech Walesa marked his second anniversary of martial law Tuesday by donating his Nobel Peace Prize to the Polish people. Police harassed Walesa, his wife and a priest and detained them as they drove home from the ceremony.

The Rev. Henryk Jankowski, a close friend of the Walesas, said he, Walesa and Walesa's wife were body-searched and along with the couple's

son detained for two hours as police repeatedly stopped them for identity checks.

"They wanted to humiliate us," Jankowski said.

Walesa, the former Solidarity union leader, was held in an internment camp for 11 months following the Dec. 13, 1981, martial law crackdown. He marked the anniversary Tuesday in a solemn ceremony at the 14th century Jasna Gora monastery in Czes-

tochowa.

The monastery is the site of the Icon of the Black Madonna — Poland's holiest Catholic shrine.

Walesa, who won this year's Nobel Peace Prize for his role in founding Solidarity, the Communist bloc's first independent trade union, dedicated his award to the "whole nation" in a prayer service before the altar of the icon.

See POLAND page 13

## A&M scientist named as U.S. delegate



Dr. Lynn Hansen

**by Michelle Powe**  
**Battalion Staff**  
A member of Texas A&M's faculty has been selected to represent the United States in a multi-national conference in Stockholm, Sweden beginning in January.

Dr. Lynn Hansen, an associate research scientist with the Center for Strategic Technology, has been named the deputy head for the American delegation in Stockholm, under James Goodby. Goodby is a former American ambassador to Finland and the former number two man of the START negotiations.

The United States, Canada and every European nation except Albania will participate in the Conference on Confidence — and Security — Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe.

Hansen says the January conference will be the only negotiation going on because the Soviets have indefinitely suspended arms talks by either walking out of or refusing to set resumption dates for all other negotiations.

Hansen says the conference will deal only with confidence and security building measures, some of

which suggest that countries notify each other about military maneuvers involving more than 25,000 soldiers and invite each other to observe such military maneuvers.

The results of the conference will be evaluated in a follow-up meeting in Vienna in 1986. If approved, a second conference will deal with disarmament in Europe.

"Most of the European nations are enthusiastic, if not optimistic, about having another negotiating forum in which East can talk to West," Hansen said. "Stockholm will be the only one where all of Europe talks."

But, Hansen said, because the Soviets will come into the conference having suffered a political defeat over the deployment of American missiles in Europe, they will want "to do some very radical kinds of things to neutralize the defeat they've suffered."

He said the Soviets will make proposals which on the surface will be appealing to Western European publics, and will propose measures they have proposed in the past.

Hansen said the Soviets will probably promise to never be the first to use nuclear weapons and will prom-

ise to never use nuclear weapons against countries which do not have nuclear weapons on their territory. They also will propose a non-aggression treaty between East and West, he said.

By proposing measures favorable to Western Europeans, Hansen said, the Soviets will try to "drive and separate the United States from Western Europe. And they will try to turn the nuclear defeat, in terms of the deployment of missiles, into a further wedge to drive between the U.S. and its allies."

Hansen said that by refusing to name a date to resume arms talks with the United States the Soviets hope "to put pressure upon the United States through the allies to continue negotiations — on Soviet terms."

"They've said already that they would not go back to the negotiations in Geneva until we return to the situation that existed before the deployment of missiles," Hansen said. "It will never end up that way. The United States will not withdraw any missiles it has put in Europe."

See STOCKHOLM page 13

### In today's Battalion:

- U.S. Rep. Phil Gramm visits Bryan/College Station and discusses the economy with residents. See story page 3.
- If you live in a dorm, you need to check out by 6 p.m. Friday. If you're staying, you need to contact the Housing Office. See story page 3.
- Shuttle buses will run on a limited schedule Thursday and Friday. See story page 3.
- Child abuse often goes unnoticed or unreported, even in Bryan/College Station. See story page 12.
- An aviation panel says the crew of the Soviet-downed Korean Air Lines jet was blameless. See story page 13.
- A&M faculty and staff offer tips on holiday plants, turkeys, gifts for the elderly and driving home after parties. See page 14.

### Battalion schedule

Today is the final edition of The Battalion for the fall semester. The paper will be published Jan. 11, the first day of delayed registration and drop/adds. Daily publication resumes Jan. 16, the first class day for the spring semester 1984.

The Battalion staff wishes you a safe trip home, a merry Christmas and happy, healthy New Year.