

Bike auction to aid 'Mop-Up'

By Mike Davis
Reporter

Big bikes, little bikes, good bikes, bad bikes, clean bikes, old bikes, red bikes, green bikes, bikes, bikes and more bikes. All kinds of bikes will be auctioned off by "Operation: Mop-Up" next to Rudder Fountain today at 11 a.m. "Operation: Mop-Up" is an effort to help reimburse some of the victims of winter's wrath their damaged property by collecting donations. Essentially it is Aggies helping Aggies," Rick Grant, a resident of Hart Hall says. John McMaster, originator of

the project, says their goal is to collect about \$3,000.

"I don't know whether we're going to get it or not, but we hope so," McMaster says. "So far we've collected over \$1,250."

Five dorms — Hart, Haas, Underwood, Leggett and Walton — are involved in the project and each dorm has a representative, he says. The representatives are responsible for collecting student claims, evaluating them and determining whether they deserve reimbursement. The claims will be evaluated based on the extent of damage

and insurance coverage, he says.

Claims will be reviewed by a committee Monday, McMaster says, and the money should be distributed by spring break. Grant, who is charge of the auction for Operation: Mop-Up, says most of the bikes are in pretty good shape.

Out of 75 or 80 bikes to be auctioned, Grant says about 40 of them are in riding condition. The other 30 or 40, he says, are good for extra parts or are a good challenge for the mechanically-minded.

The bicycles were donated to the group by the University Po-

lice to help raise money for the group's cause.

The bicycles were impounded by the police during the past year after being abandoned by their owners.

There is no regulation yet regarding these abandoned bikes, but University Police Director of Security and Traffic Bob Wiatt says by next fall there will be.

"What we are exploring right now is the legality of where bicyclists park their bikes and lock them," Wiatt says.

Many bicyclists lock their bikes to handicap ramps and trees where they are a hindrance, he says.

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Killer denies guilt to electric chair

United Press International

ANGOLA, La. — Bolstered by his family's faith, convicted slayer Johnny Taylor Jr. Wednesday proclaimed his innocence one last time and then calmly went to his death in Louisiana's electric chair. "That's it. Let's go," said the 31-year-old black father of six as he was led to the chair labeled "Gruesome Gertrude." "I found God in Christ," said Taylor, who was sentenced to die for the 1980 stabbing of David Volger, 28, of Kenner, La. made a commitment with me. I'm ready to see this through."

Appeals, the U.S. Supreme Court and Gov. Dave Treen refused to halt or delay the execution.

Wearing blue jeans, a gray sweatshirt and white slippers, Taylor showed no fear as he entered the death chamber. He was not sedated, authorities said. The switch was thrown at 12:09 a.m.

Smoke billowed in the chamber and a brief flash of flame was visible from Taylor's left leg. It appeared four jolts of electricity went through his body in a span of about one minute. He was pronounced dead at 12:16 a.m.

Though he proclaimed his innocence in Volger's death, the

6-foot, 258-pound Taylor said, "I've done a lot of wrong, caused a lot of hurt. I guess this is the price I pay for it."

Eight family members, including his wife Louise, his mother Ruthie Eatmon and stepfather Willie Eatmon, visited Taylor for about five hours Tuesday afternoon. The condemned man spent the evening with his spiritual adviser George Duke and with prison chaplains.

Taylor's children, all under the age of 11, were at home with relatives.

His youngest sister, Gloria Taylor, said his letters from prison were concerned with the welfare of his children — not

his date with the electric chair. She said she believed his claims of innocence.

"He wouldn't tell a lie," she said.

Taylor was the 13th person executed in the United States since 1976 when the Supreme Court lifted its ban on capital punishment, and the second in Louisiana in three months.

Taylor, who did not request a final meal, was surprised that the legal maneuverings that had given some of his death row comrades numerous stays failed to work in his case. His execution came one year and one week after he was jailed at the state penitentiary.

Governor promises more prison help

United Press International

AUSTIN — Gov. Mark White convinced acting state prison Director Dan "Red" McKaskle to rescind a short-lived resignation Wednesday by promising to increase personnel and help McKaskle deal with Texas' sprawling prison system. McKaskle, who was named interim director of the Texas Department of Corrections in October when 11-year prison chief W.J. Estelle resigned, issued a statement early Wednesday saying he would retire from the job in two to three months.

The governor also said McKaskle had expressed concern over a recent consultant's recommendation that prison management be taken out of the hands of a single director and be split into two positions. He said he assured McKaskle "that he is the only person in charge of our prisons."

White, who said McKaskle "would be perfectly acceptable to me" as permanent TDC director, refused to say whether McKaskle had asked to be taken out of the running for the permanent position. A search committee is expected to recommend a permanent director in about three months.

McKaskle, a 21-year TDC veteran who began his career as a guard, reportedly had been considering a lucrative employment offer from private business.

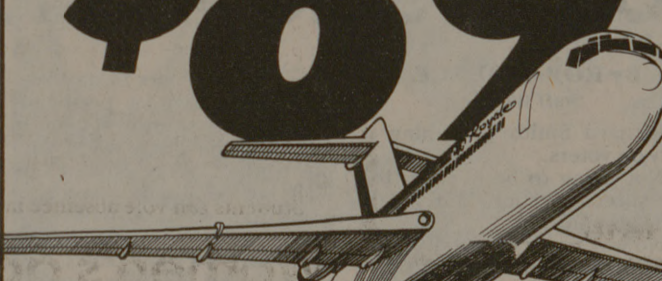
"I have been thinking about retirement for the past year," McKaskle said in a statement announcing his resignation early Wednesday.

The announcement was the latest in a long series of shakeups in TDC, which was involved in a lengthy federal court suit on overcrowding that was settled in 1982.

White said he and the board agreed to McKaskle's request for new personnel, but re-regree in business. The number in 1974 and other or specific duties of the new university employees.

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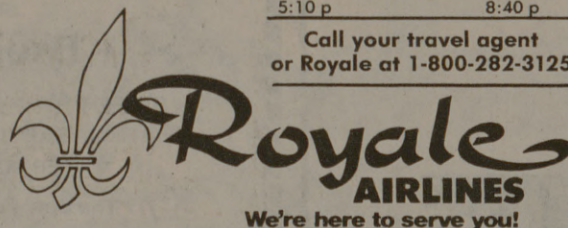
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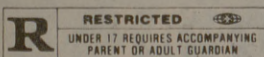
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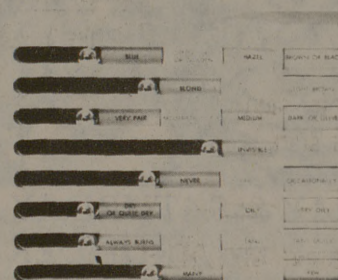
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