

Run-off required in student races

By KAREN WALLACE

Battalion Staff
For the five candidates for student body president it was a close race. For two of them the race isn't over yet. A run-off election will be held between David Alders and Grant Swartzwelder next week.

Alders, a junior agricultural economics major, received 31.3 percent of the votes and Swartzwelder, a junior petroleum engineering major received 27.6 percent.

The elections this year generally went well except for a few minor problems — a low voter turnout and the controversy concerning the eligibility of one of the candidates, said election commissioner Pat Wood.

"The turnout was short of 6,000," Wood said. "It was a lot less than expected."

Approximately 4,500 people had voted at the close of the polls Tuesday

and officials had predicted a similar turnout Wednesday.

Although the results were ready less than two hours after the polls closed, the Judicial Board held the official release while trying to decide whether or not candidate Carla Proctor would be eligible, Wood said.

As of Wednesday night, the Board had yet to decide if Proctor has enough hours to run for class of '85 vice president.

"The computer programs and ballots were out an hour and a half after the polls were closed," Wood said. "I'm mad at the (Judicial) Board for making us wait so long."

Another problem suffered by this year's election was the general lack of candidates for open offices, Wood said.

"I'm not sure if the interest is there anymore," he said.

Each office for the Class of '86 had

only one person running and two living areas had no one running.

A unusual result of this lack of interest was the 700 write-in votes.

"We will check their grades, their living areas and their discipline problems and if they check out, they got the job," Wood said. "I guess they did it to get around paying the \$3 filing fee."

The controversial Referendum 1(b), which will increase the student center fee by \$10 dollars over a three-year period, passed with 68 percent of the vote.

Other results included a run-off election between Tom Urban, who received 23 percent of the vote, and Jim Collins, who received 24 percent of the vote, for vice president of academic affairs.

Elected to the position of 1984-85 senior yell leaders were Randy Cook, Kelly Joseph and Terry Hlavinka.



Photo by PETER ROCHA

Co-Election Commissioner Teddy Dela Cruz reads results from Tuesday and Wednesday's elections to the gathered crowd outside the Pavilion Wednesday night.

Junior yell leaders were Trey Yarbrough and Thomas Buford.

Brett Shine received 55 percent of the vote to become vice president of external affairs and Michael Kelly

received 56 percent to become vice president of finance.

Randy Vickers is the new vice president for rules and regulations with 59 percent of the vote.

Stacey Roberts is the new Off-Campus Aggies President.

Voting was fairly well spread out between the four classes. The majority of voters were freshmen.

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Blowing in the wind

Photo by BILL HUGHES

Vicki Younger, a senior wildlife and fisheries science major from Allen, tries to fill out her ballot for the student government elections Wednesday. Wind gusts of 40 to 50 m.p.h. made the process difficult. See related story page 7.

A&M student to deliver 'Candyman's' final plea

By CHRISTINE MALLON

Battalion Staff

A Texas A&M graduate student who belonged to the same church as death row prisoner "Candyman" Ronald Clark O'Bryan will be in Austin today to deliver a letter from O'Bryan to Gov. Mark White in hopes of a 30-day stay of execution.

David Sefton, Aggie Class of '80 and now completing his masters' in accounting here, said he was 17-years-old in 1974 when O'Bryan was charged with the fatal cyanide-poisoning death of his son.

Sefton knew O'Bryan through Sunday school and social functions at Pasadena's Second Baptist Church.

Sefton said he and O'Bryan worked together at church activities, especially those involving young children.

"Ron loved kids, there's no way he'd kill one — especially his own," he said.

He is convinced an injustice is being done in O'Bryan's case.

Everytime he reads the newspaper, he said, all the facts concerning the insurance policy that O'Bryan supposedly took out immediately before the death of his son are incorrect.

"Ron did not take the policy out days before Timmy's death," he said. "Court testimony shows the policy was originally taken out in 1971 and was frequently updated."

In the letter to White, O'Bryan asks the governor for a minimum 30-day stay to allow him and his attorneys time to prepare a commutation — in his case, a plea for a life sentence instead of death by lethal injection he is scheduled to face Saturday.

In the letter, O'Bryan says a sentence of life imprisonment would "allow me to continue my fight for the truth in the death of my son, my unjust conviction and the destruction of my family unit."

Sefton said he has talked to official

in the governor's office who say nothing more can be done because O'Bryan wants to die.

"He says he's ready to die, not wanting to die — there's a big difference," Sefton said.

Sefton said he believes in the justice system and, he said, he thinks if one person can make an impact, he intends to be that person.

Sefton said he remembers going to Timmy O'Bryan's funeral and hugging the O'Bryans and their five-year-old daughter.

Something very shaky went on before O'Bryan was charged with the murder, he said, the police and detectives put O'Bryan and his wife in separate rooms and tried to convince both of them that the other spouse was guilty of the murder.

The rest is history — after talking to police, Daylene O'Bryan never spoke to her husband again and hasn't seen him since the 1974 trial.

"There's a serious injustice fixin' to be done here," Sefton said.

18 killed, 94 wounded in Beirut fighting

United Press International

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Moslem and Christian militias bombarded residential areas across Beirut Wednesday, killing 18 people and wounding 94 in the worst outbreak of civil war since the collapse of peace talks in Switzerland a week ago.

Two television journalists working for the UPITN television news agency were killed by shells that exploded only a few yards away as they were filming the violence near the Sabra Palestinian refugee camp.

Mortar and rocket fired rained down on streets and buildings, catching many residents by surprise and driving thousands into bomb shelters across the city.

Beirut state radio appealed for blood donations and warned resi-

dents to keep off the streets and in basements and shelters.

Druze Moslem radio said 13 people were killed and 72 wounded in Moslem west Beirut. The American University Hospital in west Beirut said nine dead and 39 wounded were brought to its emergency room.

The Christian Voice of Lebanon radio read the names of 22 people wounded in Christian east Beirut. Three Druze Moslem fighters were killed in fighting in the mountains east of the capital, security sources said.

A spokesman for UPITN identified the two journalists killed as cameraman Hani Tah and soundman Mohammed Temsah, both Lebanese. Three journalists for foreign news organizations have been kil-

led since the latest round of civil strife erupted in August.

Clark Todd, a reporter for a Canadian television network, was killed by shrapnel in September. A fourth, Jeremy Levin, Beirut bureau chief of the Cable News Network in the United States, disappeared earlier this month and has not been found.

It was the worst outbreak of warfare between Lebanon's warring Christian and Moslem factions since peace talks in Lausanne, Switzerland, broke down March 20.

The bombardment raised fears of all-out civil war once the withdrawal of French peace-keeping troops from Beirut is completed Saturday. The militias had agreed not to fight for positions vacated by the French.

The militias, who exchanged intermittent shellfire during the morning across the "Green Line" dividing Christian east from the Moslem west Beirut, intensified the attack for two hours during the afternoon.

The hardest hit areas included Christian Ashrafieh, Hadath and Ain Rummaneh and the Moslem neighborhoods of Mazraa, Sanayeh, Manara and the southern suburbs of the city, security sources said.

A bomb exploded earlier in an empty classroom of the American University of Beirut, not far from where AUB President Malcolm Kerr was assassinated in January. There were neither casualties nor any apparent motive, a university spokesman said.

Heavy fighting was reported in the mountains east of Beirut, where Mos-

lems shelled the Lebanese Army stronghold at Souk el Gharb and the strategically located Christian village of Bikfaya, where President Amin Gemayel has a home.

Druze Moslem radio accused Christian militias of starting the Beirut shelling while the Christian Voice of Lebanon said Shiite Moslems and communists provoked the exchange.

The "Lebanese Forces" militia Tuesday condemned Moslem shelling of Christian neighborhoods and threatened to retaliate in kind.

The flareup provided a hot welcome for 40 French military observers assigned to monitor a Beirut ceasefire once the French peace-keeping force withdrawal is completed Saturday.

The observers arrived in civilian clothes at French military headquar-

ters to await assignment by a ceasefire committee made up of the warring factions, a spokesman said. The ceasefire was negotiated during this month's unsuccessful peace conference in Switzerland.

The 1,250-member French force in Beirut had been reduced by Wednesday to about 800 soldiers, stationed mainly at their headquarters in the Forêt des Pins park along the Green Line.

Sources said the troops would turn over the National Museum crossing between east and west Beirut, the only one still open, to government security forces Thursday. The militias agreed this week not to fight over Green Line territory vacated by the French.

FBI joining FDA investigation of Girl Scout cookie tampering

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The FBI Wednesday joined the Food and Drug Administration in a nationwide investigation of apparent malicious tampering with Girl Scout cookies.

"We're currently investigating about 30 reports of metal objects found in Girl Scout cookies in Colorado, Virginia, Nebraska, Kentucky, Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, New Jersey and Minnesota," FDA spokesman Jim Greene said. "Two of the incidents were discounted as false alarm."

"The FBI has joined the investigation," Greene said. "We have probably several incidents in which someone deliberately injected metal objects into the cookies. We believe the majority of these incidents have been caused by malicious tampering."

Police in several locations where pins, needles and other contaminants were found reported pinholes in the rectangular, double-wrapped cookie

boxes, piercing both the outer and inner wrappings.

An FBI spokesman said his agency has begun an investigation but declined to say whether willful tampering is suspected.

"I can confirm we are looking into the matter to determine if there is a violation of the recently enacted federal law but I cannot give you any details," the FBI spokesman said.

The product tampering law was enacted after Tylenol capsules laced with cyanide killed seven Chicago-area people in 1982.

Anyone convicted of tampering with the cookies would be subject to stiff federal penalties. The maximum federal penalty is life imprisonment and a fine of \$100,000 if death results.

Greene said federal investigators are looking into reports of pins, needles, slivers of glass and bits of metal being discovered in the Girl Scout

cookies. The incidents have left scout officials worried about the future of their annual multimillion-dollar sale.

Many of the vandalized cookies were traced to the Little Brownie Bakery in Louisville, Ky., that manufactures about half of the 100 million boxes of Girl Scout cookies sold annually.

Only two injuries have been reported.

In Chatham, Va., a 15-year-old girl punctured her lip when she bit into a cookie with a pin in it. In McDonough, Ga., a 9-year-old boy was stuck with a needle that went through the edge of his gum and between two teeth. Neither injury was described as serious.

Greene said plants manufacturing cookies in Louisville, Ky., Richmond, Va., and Elizabeth, N.J., were checked but investigators have found no problems. The plants have been using

metal detectors to look for foreign objects in the cookies.

Girl Scouts sell about 100 million boxes of cookies a year at prices ranging around the country from about \$1.50 to \$2.25 per box. The proceeds are divided among the local chapter, regional council and national office. The first tampering was reported

in St. Louis about two weeks ago.

"How many of the incidents are copycat symptoms we just don't know," Greene said. "We're using as many investigators as we need to do the job properly."

In Kentucky, authorities Wednesday issued a "precautionary" alert to consumers to watch out for contaminated Girl Scout cookies. A sewing needle was found Tuesday in a box of the cookies in the Louisville area.

And in Lima, Ohio, Girl Scout officials said a pin was found in a box of cookies distributed in the Kenton area.

In Today's Battalion

Local

- An Aggie has been named Miss Rodeo Texas. See story page 4.
- Gusting winds caused blown over signs and at least one injury on campus yesterday. See story page 7.

State

- Testimony is slated to begin Monday in the Henry Lee Lucas trial. Lucas is charged in the murder of a hitchhiker on I-35 just north of Austin. See story page 3.

National

- A solemn march marked the third anniversary of the Three Mile Island crisis. See story page 5.
- Clara Peller, the "Where's the Beef?" lady was honored by the American Cattle Producer's Association. See story page 10.