

## American smokeout will begin tonight

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## Freshmen names A-K can register today

## College hoop review gives edge to Hoyas

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# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Gandhi calls for elections

United Press International

NEW DELHI, India — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi Wednesday called parliamentary elections for Dec. 24 in an apparent move to marshal sympathy for his slain mother into a mandate to succeed her as leader of the world's largest democracy.

Gandhi announced the elections — legally required to be held by January — only 24 hours after winning the presidency of the ruling Congress-I Party molded by his mother and two days after scattering her ashes over the Himalayas, ending the official mourning period.

"He's striking while the iron is hot," one political analyst said. "He has a wave of sympathy going for him following the assassination of his mother who was identified with India during her 16 years as its leader."

The 40-year-old former pilot was sworn in to succeed his mother, Indira Gandhi, as prime minister hours after she was assassinated Oct. 31 by two bodyguards belonging to the minority Sikh religion.

Indira Gandhi's murder sparked a wave of violence in northern India that left some 1,200 people dead, most of them Sikhs killed by mobs of Hindus seeking to avenge the assassination.

Before her death, Mrs. Gandhi had been expected to call the elections in January to satisfy India's constitution, which demands a ballot before the current five-year term of parliament expires Jan. 20.

The election will be India's eighth since it gained independence from Britain 37 years ago.

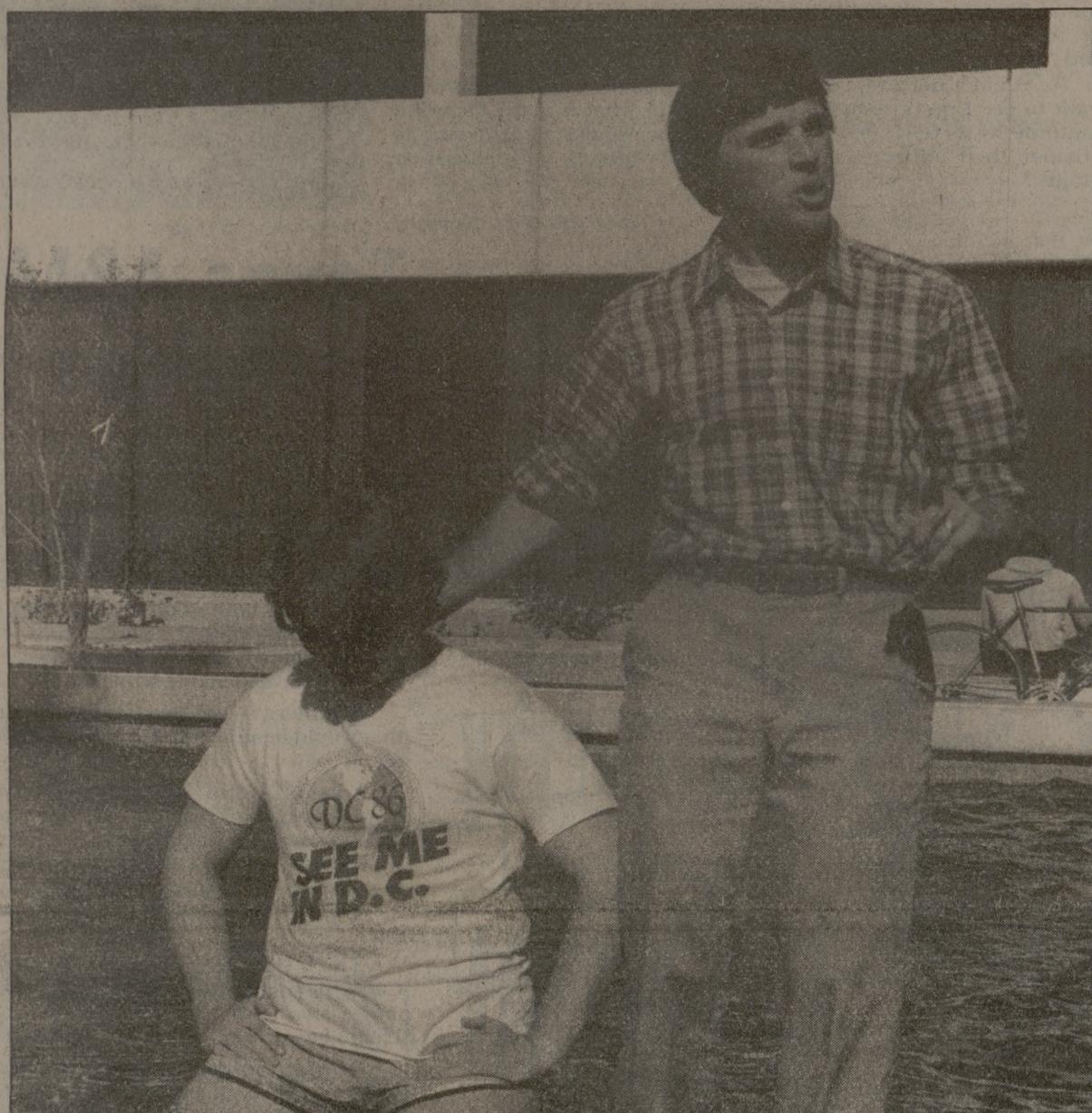
With nearly 380 million citizens eligible to vote in the nation of 720 million, it may take up to a week before all 1,500 tons of paper ballots are counted, officials said. But most results should be known the day after the election.

Chief Election Commissioner Ram Krishna Trivedi said voting would be held in all but two of India's 22 states. It will not take place in the northern states of Punjab and Assam, which are under federal control because of recent unrest.

Gandhi, the youngest prime minister in Indian history, was elected president of the Congress-I Party Monday by a 21-member working committee. He decided to call the elections during subsequent talks with 70 party leaders.

In his first major speech, Gandhi promised Monday to continue his mother's efforts to end India's crushing poverty, improve government and build better ties to both superpowers as part of a foreign policy of non-alignment.

Although Gandhi is considered relatively inexperienced in politics, he is expected to remain prime minister by virtue of his ancestry and because his majority party outshadows the weaker opposition parties.



Fountain baptism

Photo by CATHY RIELY

David Sanderson was baptized in Rudder Fountain Tuesday afternoon by Ron Tewson, the local campus preacher who usually preaches by the Academic Building. Sanderson said the baptism was held on campus "because the ceremony is originally meant

to be a public testimony." According to University regulations, the All Faiths Chapel is the center of on-campus religious activities, and religious worship services must be held in the Chapel and scheduled through the Student Activities Office.

## Committee to study cable options

By KARI FLUEGEL

Staff Writer

On-campus students will not be immune to changes in their cable television service as McCaw Communications continues taking over Community Cablevision and Midwest Video.

McCaw Communications took control of the two local companies Nov. 1.

Next semester as rates increase locally, campus residents also can expect a price increase. However, a committee has been formed by the University to investigate options for on-campus cable service.

Joe DiBacco, regional vice president for McCaw, said that if McCaw

provides the same service to the campus, it must charge the same rates.

Therefore, the Cable TV Improvement Committee is trying to work out an agreement between the University and McCaw to provide on-campus students with a special package at a special rate.

"We're trying to get a good deal for the students," said Ron Sasse, chairman of the committee.

The 13-member Cable TV Improvement Committee is made up of students and representatives from McCaw, students affairs and business services.

"The mixture of people (on the committee) is good," Sasse said. "I

believe we all have the best interests of the student in mind."

The purpose of the committee is to recommend a cable television network plan for the Texas A&M residence halls.

Whatever plan the committee recommends will meet the needs of the majority of the residents, be reasonably priced in proportion to the services provided and be easily administered, Sasse said.

The committee's goal is to have the new plan fully implemented before the dormitories open for the Fall 1985 semester, Sasse said.

"Our role is to put together a recommendation," Sasse said. The recommendation would be subject to

approval by the University and McCaw Communications.

"We need to do something," Sasse said. "The situation needs some kind of clarification."

Several options are being investigated by the committee. One option is to build the cable payment into the dormitory rent structure, Sasse said. With this option, the cable connection, like the telephones, would be ready to use for all residents when they moved into their rooms at the beginning of the semester.

Both Sasse and DiBacco said this option would help reduce theft of service on campus. DiBacco also said the option would be practical technically because the actual system

wouldn't be drastically modified.

Another option is leaving the situation basically as it is now where the student signs up for cable service. Also being considered is providing the basic and giving students the option of purchasing the premium services.

Whatever option the University adopts, Sasse said there will be an agreement between the University and McCaw. In the past there was no such agreement.

The more complex the system eventually adopted is, the more it will cost, Sasse said.

To obtain feedback from stu-

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## Library officials: automation aids service

Editor's Note: This is the last of a three-part series on the Sterling C. Evans Library.

By DONN FRIEDMAN

Staff Writer

A library is often thought of as a building with shelves and stacks of books, but when people do research they are not interested in ornate bindings, leather covers and glossy pages; researchers are interested in the information the books contain.

A fine library should provide more than just books, says Irene Hoadley, director of the Sterling C. Evans Library. It must provide information.

"The future should stress access rather than ownership," Hoadley says. "People shouldn't care if Texas A&M owns a certain resource, only if they can get it to use in a reasonable amount of time."

The best bet in making the Sterling C. Evans Library a high-quality library, a library that can provide excellent research opportunities, depends on two things, Hoadley says.

The first, of course, is improving the collection in both size and scope. The second, a bit more controversial, is increasing automation in the library.

"This library and its staff are doing well in terms of automation and electronic searches," says Dean of Faculties Clint Phillips. "It's not a technologically backward library."

In September 1982, an electronic author-title card catalog was opened, part of an electronic card catalog for which planning began in 1979. The electronic catalog, library officials say, reflects the goals of the library to provide better service to its patrons.

They cite as advantages of an elec-

tronic card catalog:

- easier catalog maintenance, because titles may be added to an electronic card catalog much more quickly than they can be with the paper cards.
- possibility of remote access, so a person could sit at home or office, call the library electronic card catalog and browse through it.

- searching for a book by call number instead of by author or title.
- determining the circulation status of a book immediately.

The library's annual report for 1982-83 said the non-electronic card catalog eventually will be closed. At this time, only the author-title portion of the catalog is available through the electronic card catalog, so only the author-title portion of the card catalog will be closed.

"Closed, not removed," Hoadley says. "It is not our intention to re-

move the existing files. However, no new cards will be added to those files."

This is not a process in which a librarian one midnight will drag the existing card catalog out of the library and toss it onto a bonfire.

"Like most University libraries," she says, "Texas A&M is moving toward eventual full on-line access to its catalog, but this conversion will proceed slowly."

Last spring, after announcement that the author-title card catalog would be closed, Keith Bryant, then dean of liberal arts, sent Hoadley a letter questioning the act. This letter seems to have inspired the formation of an ad-hoc committee of the Library Council to study the changes being made in regard to the card catalog. University President Frank E. Vandiver also asked the Faculty Sen-

ate to investigate the closing of the card catalog.

So, for the moment, this move to automation has been halted.

There are a lot of questions the library should answer before going on with the automation of the card catalog, says Mark Busby, an associate professor of English and a member of the committee.

The committee is creating a survey outlining the advantages and disadvantages of the conversion to an electronic catalog and will request responses to the proposed closing of the card catalog. This survey will be published in the Fortnightly, the Faculty newsletter, and the results eventually will be presented to the Faculty Senate, Busby says.

There are four main questions the committee would like to see an-

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## TCU tickets distributed this week

Due to the Thanksgiving Holidays, Texas A&M student tickets will be distributed for the Texas Christian University football game as follows:

Thursday, Nov. 15, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. GRADUATES AND SENIORS

Friday, Nov. 16, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. JUNIORS

Monday, Nov. 19, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. SOPHOMORES

Tuesday, Nov. 20, 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. FRESHMEN

Wednesday, Nov. 21, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., LATE PICK UP & SALES.