



Photo by MIKE SANCHEZ

### Bonfire gifts

Debi Hendry, a junior elementary education major from Vidor, decorates a tin can which contains gifts for her bonfire buddy. Throughout construction of bonfire, individuals exchange gifts in hopes of motivating the workers.

## Man convicted in pickax case

United Press International

HOUSTON — A jury that deliberated 4½ hours over two days convicted a 38-year-old man Tuesday of capital murder in the 1983 slaying of a woman killed by repeated blows from a large pickax.

Daniel G. Garrett was found guilty of the June 13, 1983, slaying of Deborah Ruth Davis Thornton, 26, who was killed at a northwest Houston apartment along with Jerry Lynn Dean, 26. Both suffered more than 20 stab and puncture wounds.

It was the second conviction in the slayings. Garrett's girlfriend, Karla Faye Tucker, earlier was convicted in Dean's slaying and sentenced to death. Jurors will return today to decide whether to sentence Garrett to death by injection or life in prison.

Garrett's attorneys had claimed he was manipulated by Tucker, and that she was to blame for the killings.

Garrett and Tucker, high on drugs and armed with a shotgun, went to Dean's apartment to steal his motorcycle and were fully prepared to kill him, Assistant District Attorney Rusty Hardin told jurors.

Tucker testified Garrett began hitting Dean with a hammer, then left the room. Dean's gurgling noises disturbed her, Tucker said, so she grabbed a pickax and slammed it into Dean's back four times. Garrett then struck Dean with the ax, she said.

Tucker then noticed someone in the bedroom hiding under sheets. "I grabbed the pickax and I hit the body twice up in the shoulders," she said.

"Danny then came into the room, grabbed the pickax and shoved me back. I left the room."

When she returned to the room, Garrett then struck the woman with the ax, Tucker said.

## Mattox: State to start suing heavy trucks

United Press International

AUSTIN — Truckers who carry unlawfully heavy loads will be sued by the state in an effort to save an estimated \$261 million in damage to Texas highways over the next 20 years, highway officials and Attorney General Jim Mattox said Tuesday.

The State Department of Highways and Public Transportation is financing a \$960,000 program aimed at cracking down on overloaded trucks.

The Department of Public Safety will receive \$800,000 to buy portable scales for weighing trucks at unannounced stops on the highways while Mattox's office will get \$160,000 to administer a stepped-up program to prosecute violators.

Mattox said his office would file suits against repeat violators, some of whom have piled up as many as 1,000 tickets for overloading, to seek payment for actual damages to highways and to shut down the businesses of truckers who refuse to stop overloading their vehicles.

He said he also would ask the Legislature to increase the penalties because the current fines, which range from \$50 to \$200, are too low to deter violators.

"Many operators regard this (fines) as simply a cost of doing business," Mattox said at a news conference. "Our intention is to file lawsuits against these individuals seeking injunctive relief and damages for the highways they are destroying."

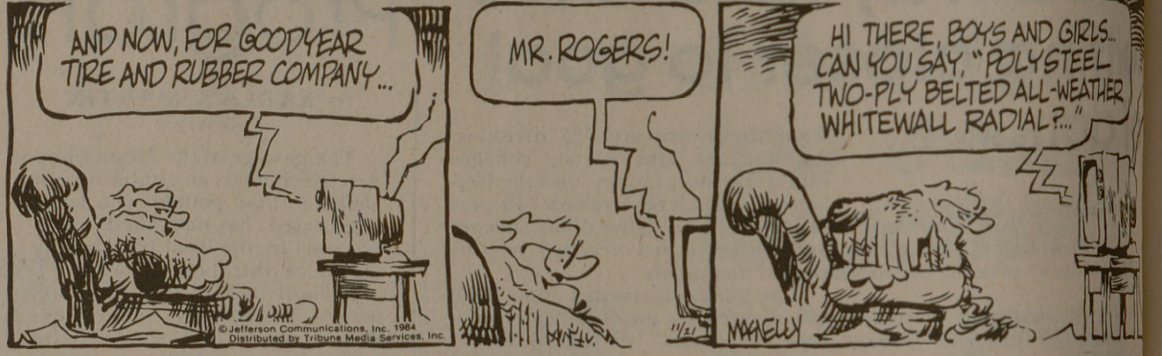
Mattox said the first lawsuit would be filed Monday and would seek about \$1 million in damages, but he refused to say who the suit would be filed against.

There were 58,000 tickets issued for overloaded trucks last year. Mattox said all types of businesses violated the law, but added there was a particular problem with gravel haulers.

Robert C. Lanier, chairman of the State Highway Commission, said he expected the stepped-up enforcement program would pay for itself quickly.

"We would expect to see more savings to the taxpayers in terms of penalties and saving wear and tear on the system," Lanier said.

## SHOE



by Jeff MacNelly

## Poles' defection largest recently

United Press International

HAMBURG, West Germany — In the largest mass defection in recent memory, as many as 192 Polish tourists jumped a Polish cruise ship during a three-day layover in Hamburg, West German officials said Tuesday.

The 15,000-ton Stefan Batory left the northern German port for Rotterdam late Monday without 192 of its 608 passengers. By midday Tuesday, about 100 had sought asylum in West Germany, a city spokesman said.

Manfred Sorg, director of population registry, said the rest probably

went to visit relatives or countrymen in other parts of West Germany and would apply to stay there.

Sorg said the latest group of defectors cited "political motives" ranging from dissatisfaction with the Polish economic and political system to political persecution.

In 1974, 60 passengers from the Stefan Batory defected in Hamburg. Voyages of its sister ship, the Rogalin, to the Baltic port of Luebeck-Travemuende are also a popular escape route for disenfranchised Poles.

Requests for political asylum from

Poles "have as a rule been turned down in the past," said Lorenz, although West Germany never expels East bloc refugees to return to their country.

Provisions are routinely made to allow them to emigrate to other Western nations or to stay in West Germany without a permanent residency permit. Quarters were made available to the new group.

Hamburg alone has received 100 asylum requests from Poles so far this year, with most refugees coming from ships calling at the harbor.

## Publicity in Port case may prevent fair trial

United Press International

HOUSTON — A judge pored over more than 100 newspaper articles Tuesday in an attempt to determine if news accounts of a mail carrier's slaying were so extensive they would prevent the teenage suspect from receiving a fair trial.

Defense attorneys claim television, newspaper and radio reports of the killing have been so numerous that they could not find 12 impartial people to hear the trial of David Port, 17. They have asked District Judge I.D. McMaster to move the trial outside the Houston area.

The attorneys submitted to McMaster 120 newspaper articles concerning the June 7 slaying of Debora Sue Schatz, 23, and Port's arrest. They also asked McMaster to consider news accounts of the jailing of Port's parents for refusing to testify.

McMaster studied each article individually, and said he would do the

same with scripts of radio stories and television videotapes concerning the Port case.

McMaster also refused to close to the press and public a hearing on statements Port gave police. But he postponed the hearing until a jury is seated in the teenager's trial.

"In order to avoid poisoning potential jurors before selection, it will be my intention at that time to sequester the jury so that hearing will be full and open," McMaster said.

"I'm intent on giving your client as fair a trial as possible."

Port, who sat quietly during the hearing, remained free on \$20,000 bond. But his stepmother remained jailed for refusing to testify to the grand jury that indicted the teenager. Port's father, Bernard, also had been jailed but was released Nov. 9 after answering the grand jury's questions.

## Mary Lou's visit to A&M postponed

Mary Lou Retton, Olympic gold medalist, and her coach Bela Karolyi have postponed their visit to Bryan. They were originally scheduled to come to Bryan for a clinic and exhibition on Sunday, Nov. 26 at the Aerofit Club. It has been tentatively postponed to Sunday, Dec. 16.

Dawn Suehs, manager of Aerofit, said the problem is that Retton has a contract with McDonald's restaurant which supersedes all other engagements.

"We didn't know that when they originally agreed to come here," Suehs said. "But... Bela Karolyi said they still definitely want to come here."

Suehs said all tickets previously purchased for the exhibition clinic will be honored on the new date. Also, refunds will be given for those who already have tickets but are unable to attend, she said.

# Off Campus Connection

The Off Campus Connection is sponsored each month by Loupot's Bookstore at Northgate as a service to Texas A&M students. Stories and artwork are provided by the staff of the Off Campus Center.

### REPAIRS - THE "OUCHLESS" WAY

Are getting repairs done around your apartment just as painful to you as pulling teeth? Because problems occasionally arise in all types of property, the tenant must be aware of the correct procedures for getting repairs made. There are a few guidelines for insuring that the job is done in a reasonable amount of time with the desired results.

- 1) Before you begin, read your lease. The lease will define who is responsible for maintenance and repairs. Although the owner will usually make necessary repairs, this is not always the case. Therefore, be sure to read this section of your lease in order to determine how to initiate the repair process.
- 2) As stated in most leases, repairs are handled by submitting a written request for repairs to your manager or owner. This request must be written by the tenant and signed, dated, and accepted by the manager. Work orders will not substitute for a repair request. In addition, be sure to make a duplicate copy which can be kept for your own files once the manager has signed it.
- 3) If for some reason the manager refuses to sign the repair request, you can send it by certified mail. The cost is approximately \$2.00, and it insures that the manager receives the notice. Keep the returned receipt in case future verification is necessary.
- 4) After making certain the manager has received the notice, you must allow a reasonable amount of time for the repair to be made. The allotted time will depend on the severity of the problem. For example, a faulty door lock would necessitate repair sooner than a leaky faucet. Also, repairs requested during move-in times and holidays will require a longer amount of time. In most instances a period of five to seven working days is sufficient for maintenance personnel to do the job.
- 5) If the manager receives the request but no apparent effort has been made to remedy the problem, a second written notice should be sent. Again have the manager sign and date both copies, and keep one for yourself.
- 6) If the situation progresses to this stage and no repairs have been made, arrange an appointment with the Students' Legal Advisors. Because you cannot force the management to make repairs, your only alternative may be to move. Before moving out, you will want to become aware of your legal rights and responsibilities. You cannot withhold rent in an effort to force repairs. Texas law states that a tenant loses all rights if rent is withheld.

Now that you are familiar with the procedure for requesting repairs, we hope that the process will be an "ouchless" one. Sample "repair request" forms are available in the Off Campus Center. We encourage you to come by our office any time you have a question about repairs. The OCC is located in Puryear Hall across from the YMCA Building. Stop by or give us a call at 845-1741.



### GOTCHA COVERED

If a fire breaks out in your apartment complex and your belongings are damaged or destroyed, the apartment owner is not responsible unless the owner is negligent. If your rental property is burglarized, the owner is not obligated to replace anything that was lost. Your belongings as a tenant are not protected from theft, fire, or water damage under the owner's insurance. Each year numerous A&M students lose personal possessions because the items were not insured.

Because your belongings are not protected from theft or fire under the owner's insurance, it is wise to consider renter's insurance. Even though you are living away from home, there is a possibility that you may still be covered by your parents' homeowner's policy. However, before making any assumptions, carefully read the conditions outlined in their policy.

If you find that you need to purchase renter's insurance in order to protect your personal property, you should purchase a Tenant's Insurance Policy. Such a policy is usually inexpensive compared to the protection it provides. Coverage includes items such as furniture, appliances, stereo equipment, television sets, clothing, and other personal items. Hopefully you will never have to file an insurance claim, but it is always better to be safe than sorry. The minimum cost of renters' insurance is a wise investment in the event of fire or burglary. For more information, contact the Off Campus Center in Puryear Hall.

### ROOMMATE SESSIONS

If you are presently looking for a roommate, the Off Campus Center will offer Roommate Sessions on the following dates in December: 3-7, and 10-11 at 2:00 p.m. in 402 Rudder. For further information, contact the Off Campus Center in Puryear Hall at 845-1741.

### MEAT SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL SCIENCE HUNTING AND THANKSGIVING SEASON

Whole Cured and Smoked Hams (15-20 lbs.)	\$1.98 per lb.
Beef Jerky (half pound bags)	\$6.99 per bag
Smoked Beef and Pork Sausage	\$2.49 per lb.
Summer Sausage	\$2.99 per lb.
Salami	\$2.99 per lb.
Cheddar Cheese	\$3.00 per lb.
Jalapeno Cheese	\$3.10 per lb.
Lean Ground Beef	\$1.19 per lb.

(2 lb. plastic chub packages)  
\* Limited supply on all items.

The Meat Science and Technology Center is located on West Campus next to the Kleberg Center (phone: 845-5651). Other beef, pork, lamb, sausage and TAMU Creamery products are available. Prices effective through November 30, 1984. We are open for business Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.



## NEW DINING HOURS

Dine at the  
**MSC Cafeteria**

Open Each Day Mon thru Sat  
6:30 AM to 7:00 PM  
Sunday  
7:00 AM to 7:00 PM

## TOWER

open  
Mon. Thru Fri.  
11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.