

A&M gets gift of coal
Village of Hope appreciates help

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Ag cagers at home
TCU comes calling Saturday night

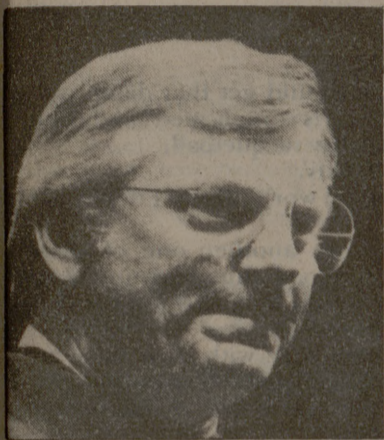
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The Texas A&M Battalion

Vol. 80 No. 97 USPS 045360 12 pages

College Station, Texas

Friday, February 15, 1985



Gov. Mark White

White denies accusation he 'sells seats'

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Gov. Mark White, already under fire from some Democratic senators over appointments to key boards and commissions, angrily denied Thursday that political contributors get any special consideration.

"None," White said when asked what part campaign contributions play in appointments.

Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan, this week complained White first led him to believe a candidate Caperton favored for the Texas A&M Board

of Regents would be appointed, then passed him over.

During his weekly news conference, White, a Democrat, said he never misled Caperton and was "very dismayed" by a speech in which Caperton told White he could find someone else to push his favored legislation.

At that point, White was asked whether political contributions had any impact on his decisions. Then reporter Carole Kneeland of Dallas' WFAA-TV, asked:

"What about the accusation that you sell seats..."

White interrupted, demanding, "Who said that? Who's ever said that?"

"Some reporters in my shop in Dallas," Kneeland replied.

"Well they're damn wrong," White said. "They're absolutely wrong. I don't know what contributions any of those people gave me."

Earlier Thursday, the Senate voted 28-0 to confirm three White

nominees as University of Texas system regents.

The three were Austin lawyer Shannon Ratliff, who has been treasurer of White's 1982 gubernatorial campaign committee; Houston oil company executive Jack Blanton and oilman W.F. Roden of Midland.

On Monday, Caperton, whose Senate district includes A&M, charged that White and his staff misled the lawmaker into believing Caperton's former law partner, Don Mauro of Bryan, would be one of

those the governor named an A&M regent.

When Mauro wasn't appointed, Caperton said, "Not only did this governor choose to ignore my advice, but I had no input or consultation with regard to the two appointees who ultimately were named."

Criticism also came from Sens. Chet Edwards, D-Duncanville, and Gonzalo Barrientos, D-Austin.

The governor said he has sought to be "very careful to make top-quality appointments."

TDC overcrowding not bad, but still there, attorney says

Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE — An attorney for the Texas Department of Corrections said prison overcrowding is no longer "that dramatic," but an attorney for the inmates said TDC has had plenty of time to correct the problem.

A report outlining overcrowding was prepared by special master Vincent Nathan, who was appointed by U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice to monitor prison reforms.

Justice, who ordered the massive changes, has told prison officials to provide at least 40 square feet of living space for each of the state's 37,000 inmates.

William Bennett Turner, an attorney representing the inmates, said there "should not have been any violations" of Justice's order.

However, according to Nathan's report, 88 inmates living in the Goree Unit in Huntsville had only 29 square feet of space for each inmate. Some units had 57 square feet of space, but were considered overcrowded because they require more space to make them habitable.

A dormitory at the Ellis Unit in Huntsville had 96 inmates, one above the capacity level.

Steve Martin, chief attorney for the prison system, said Nathan found 26 dormitories in seven

prison units "exceeded the TDC maximum capacity," but some facilities had more than the required 40-square-foot space.

"Given the number of dorms and the number of inmates, there were not that many non-compliance instances," Martin said. "And those are not dramatic instances of non-compliance. Just a few beds over the number."

Martin said the instances of overcrowding "may also be a case of poor reporting by us or temporary instances of having one or two inmates too many."

'Big KKYS' raises over \$10,000; more than 2,400 participate

By DAINAH BULLARD
Staff Writer

It was Midnight Yell Practice at Kyle Field last night, complete with a band, Reveille V, Aggie yells and lots of kissing. But the "practice" started at 9:50 p.m., the band was Four Hams on Rye, and the kissing was for the Muscular Dystrophy Association.

More than 2,400 people paid \$5 each to participate in "The Big KKYS," an MDA fund raising project sponsored by KKYS Radio.

Texas A&M University Student Government, Resident Hall Association and Corps of Cadets Squadrons 5, 6, 14 and 17.

When the gates opened at 8:30 p.m., the line stretched from the north end of Kyle Field to Joe Rout Boulevard and snaked around the Aggie Club, a nearby parking lot, C. Rollie White Coliseum and East Kyle. One hour and fifteen minutes later, the "line" had formed a heart shape 56 yards wide on Kyle Field.

The goal of the Kyle Field kissers

was to beat the 1981 record for kissing set by Oregon State University in 1981 when 1,100 couples kissed for three minutes.

Vaughn Bryant, head of the Department of Anthropology, advised the crowd on the art of kissing before the three-minute count began. Bryant told participants how to position their mouths, what to do with their tongues and how to avoid back-

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Photo by MELINDA PETO

Stop and Smell the Flowers

Carmen Estrella prepares a display of carnations by Rudder Fountain early Thursday morning. Many organizations sold carnations for Valentine's Day to raise money.

Schools working to alleviate parking problems

By TRENT LEOPOLD
Staff Writer



Photo by WAYNE L. GRABEIN

Some students choose to gamble, parking illegally, rather than search for spots elsewhere as campus lots fill.

Officials in charge of parking at Southwest Conference schools agree parking problems exist, and are working on solutions to help alleviate those problems.

Bob Wiatt, director of traffic and security at Texas A&M, says parking has improved and that money from traffic and parking tickets is being put in a reserve fund for further improvements. The money is used for parking lots, signs, busses and other traffic-related maintenance.

"The new intra-campus bus routes have helped ease the parking situation," Wiatt says. "We bought 12 extra busses last summer and started four new routes from outlying parking areas into the main campus area."

Wiatt says a new parking lot near the Meat Science and Technology Center will be completed this summer at a cost of \$750,000. The lot will contain 718 parking spaces.

Wiatt says although the average cost of parking here is higher than any other school in the Southwest Conference, the price is realistic.

"If you want something, you have to pay for it," he says. "You can get cheaper parking in remote areas. If you want to be conveniently parked it is a luxury item."

The 10-terminal computer system at A&M also has helped campus police keep track of students and faculty who have an excessive number of tickets.

"Our computer system has helped our enforcement and increased rev-

"If you want something, you have to pay for it. You can get cheaper parking in remote areas. If you want to be conveniently parked it is a luxury item." — Bob Wiatt, director of traffic and security at A&M

enue," he says, "at the same time we have been able to increase our revenue without handing out an increasing number of tickets."

Bob Sulligan, traffic and parking coordinator at Texas Tech University, says Texas Tech officials recently concluded a study addressing areas they feel have parking needs. An additional 430 parking spaces will be built this summer.

"Our biggest problem is near one resident hall where a lot of people want to park," he says. "Females living in Horn, Knapp, Doak and Weeks dorms now have 345 parking spaces, and several students who want permits to park there are on a waiting list."

A new lot to be built this summer will provide 100 new parking spaces for students in those dorms, Sulligan says. Also, 330 spaces in three commuter lots will be built this summer.

Sulligan says a new computer system recently installed at the campus police station communicates with a computer in the registrar's office and helps police handle vehicle information more efficiently.

"When a student gets a ticket and doesn't pay it within 20 days, the computer automatically sends a message to the registrar's office," he says. "The registrar's office then

blocks the student from registering."

The computer system also makes it easier for faculty to renew their parking permits — allowing them to mail money for the their permit to the station rather than standing in line, he says.

"Generally, the computer will help us tremendously in cutting down on the number of tickets police officers have to handle and the number of man-hours spent processing those tickets," he says. "We haven't had any flaws in the system yet and we think it is working so well. We plan to install three more terminals to extend its use."

Revenue from traffic and parking tickets at Texas Tech has increased by \$32,000 since the system was installed, Sulligan says.

Beck Benez, the assistant dean of students at Texas Christian University, says no immediate solutions currently are being proposed for the parking situation there.

"Our biggest problem is that the parking is so far from the main campus area," he says. "It isn't that there is a lack of spaces, but just a lack of spaces close to the campus."

Benez says he thinks if a shuttle bus ran from the parking area to the main campus it might help alleviate some of the problems, but no plans

currently are underway for such a system.

Rice and Baylor University officials also feel their biggest problems are with the distance people have to walk to get to their on-campus destinations.

E.B. Myre, director of the Department of Public Safety at Baylor, and Mary Voswinkel, chief of the Rice University Police, both agree that enough parking spaces exist at the two schools. But, they say students don't like to walk the two blocks from their parking space to the campus.

Joel Romo, of the University of Houston campus police, says if more people would car pool then the parking situation would ease.

"We have a lot of people here that do car pool, but more people are needing to do the same thing," Romo says. "If four people ride in the same cars instead of four separate cars that would mean traffic on campus would decrease by about one-fourth."

Romo also feels the towing situation at UH can be improved.

"We have a lot of people who complain because they get their cars towed to a holding lot several miles from here," he says. "Wheel locks would solve that problem."

Southern Methodist University Police Lt. Richard Abshire says efforts now are being made to provide handicapped students and faculty with adequate spaces, and to keep those spaces open.

"Right now the SMU police are

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