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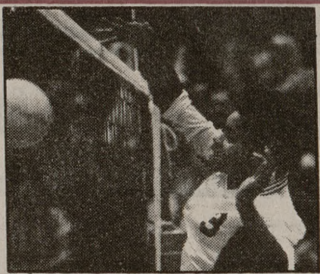
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## Ag volleyball team gets NCAA Tournament bid

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## A&M student finds work in The Jackie Sherrill Show

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# Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol 81 No. USPS 0453110 12 pages

College Station, Texas

Tuesday, December 3, 1985

## \$9 million is stolen from bank in France

Associated Press

COLOMBES, France — An armed gang of about 10 men kidnapped two Brinks employees from their homes, forced them to open the company's headquarters Monday and looted an estimated \$9.4 million from safes and strong boxes, police said.

It was one of the largest thefts in France in the last decade, police said. Gang members, armed with rifles and handguns, broke into the employees' homes, tied up members of their families and took the employees to Brinks headquarters in this northwest Paris suburb, police reported.

Some gunmen remained with the families during the robbery and police said the robbers communicated with each other by radio and also monitored police calls. After the robbery was completed, the employees and their families were released.

Investigators speculated that the first employee seized may not have been able to open the Brinks office door, so the robbers kidnapped a second employee.

Police said gang members overpowered two guards and two employees at the Brinks headquarters when they entered the office early in the morning.

The robbers opened strong boxes and safes and took cash and checks which police estimated had a value of 72 million francs, the equivalent of \$9.4 million.

When four other security guards arrived for work at about 5 a.m. they were held at gunpoint while gang members finished looting the office.

The gang escaped before dawn in a stolen van, leaving the guards, the employees and their families unharmed.

Neither police nor officials of Brinks would provide further details. A Brinks spokesman did say, however, that it was only the second robbery of the firm in the last six years.

The largest recent theft in France was on Oct. 27 when armed men stole an estimated \$13 million worth of paintings from the Marmoitain Museum in Paris.

But because the paintings, several of them by Monet, were so well known, it was considered unlikely that the thieves would obtain anything like their real market value if they tried to sell the art works.



Cotton Crazy

Photo by HIEN DUNG

Texas A&M former students (left to right) Laura McClellan, Charlie Tyler, Phil Tyler, Kathy Smith and Ronny Harris caught the cotton bug. The alumni purchased Cotton Bowl T-shirts this weekend.

## Ver returned to office after acquittal

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand E. Marcos reinstated Fabian E. Ver as armed forces chief Monday, hours after a court declared the general, 24 other soldiers and a civilian innocent of murder in the murder of opposition leader Benigno Aquino.

In their 90-page decision, the three civilian judges accepted a version Marcos gave a day after Aquino was killed Aug. 21, 1983, while stepping off a commercial airliner that brought him home from voluntary exile in the United States — that the assassin was Rolando Galman.

Galman, a purported communist, was immediately killed by soldiers after Aquino was shot.

Ver, an old friend and confidant of the president, was on leave of absence pending the court verdict.

Marcos was preparing to sign a law setting a special presidential election for Feb. 7 that may be a contest between him and Aquino's widow, Corason. Aquino called a news conference for today, and supporters expect her to accept the opposition's nomination.

The president's foes had predicted the acquittal, but there had been rumors some defendants might be found guilty of negligence, a minor offense.

Aquino said the verdict did not matter because Marcos was her "No. 1 suspect" in the death of her husband, who was Marcos' main political foe.

Opposition leader Salvador Laurel called the acquittal "madness." Roman Catholic Cardinal Jaime L. Sin, the nation's most prominent religious leader, said the verdict "could push our country to the brink of violence and despair."

With its finding, the court rejected a year of investigation by a fact-finding board, which concluded that the killing was a military conspiracy.

Small but noisy demonstrations against the verdict occurred outside the courtroom and in a street leading to the presidential palace. Marcos said in a statement that he hoped

See Phillipine's, page 12

## Cotton Bowl tickets not for sale yet

Student tickets to the 1986 Cotton Bowl have not been made available, according to an A&M sports information official.

As of Monday afternoon, no date had been set for the beginning of ticket distribution, but Assistant Sports Information Director Alan Cannon expects A&M student tickets to be on sale at G. Rollie White Coliseum within a week.

Cannon said Cotton Bowl officials are in the process of sending A&M about 8,000 student tickets for the Jan. 1 showdown between the Southwest Conference Champion Aggies (9-2) and the Auburn Tigers (8-3) of the Southeastern Conference.

Although the method of ticket distribution has yet to be decided, Cannon said that students must have their football coupon books if the lottery/seniority system used during the regular season is used again for Cotton Bowl ticket sales.

Cannon said the sports information department will relay any further developments on the availability of Cotton Bowl tickets to *The Battalion* as soon as possible.

## Israel: Apology ends U.S. relations threat

Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Monday that his government's apology to Washington ended the threat to relations caused by the arrest of a U.S. Navy analyst accused of spying for Israel.

Peres told visiting American Jewish leaders in a closed meeting that he coordinated the apology in advance with Secretary of State George P. Shultz during a lengthy telephone conversation Sunday morning, Israeli officials said.

They said the prime minister re-

ported that he and Shultz "reached complete agreement and understanding" about the case of Jonathan J. Pollard, 31, a civilian U.S. Navy counter-intelligence expert arrested Nov. 21 and charged with selling secret documents to Israel.

Pollard's wife, Anne Henderson-Pollard, 25, was arrested the day after he was accused of unauthorized possession of national defense documents.

"The matter was entirely cleared up," Peres was quoted as saying by Richard Cohen, a spokesman for the

80-member Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, which is on a fact-finding tour of Israel.

Uri Savir, spokesman for Peres, quoted the prime minister as telling the breakfast meeting that "in the last 24 hours we have clarified many misunderstandings between us."

Cohen said Peres called the espionage case "a test of the strength of relations with the United States which we have passed."

Peres told reporters after the meeting that the Pollard case was an

isolated incident of "limited and passing importance" to U.S.-Israel relations.

Israel radio said the government may let U.S. Justice Department officials question three Israelis suspected of involvement, including Rafael Fytan, who has been identified in U.S. news reports as chief of a clandestine intelligence unit that employed Pollard.

Fytan is a former anti-terrorism adviser to two prime ministers and

See Apology, page 12

## Recognition

### Gay student groups no longer rare on Texas campuses

By FRANK SMITH

Staff Writer

At Texas A&M it took nine years for a gay student organization's request for University recognition to be granted. But officially recognized gay groups at other Texas campuses are no longer the rarity they were when Gay Student Services first filed for recognition by A&M in 1976.

Some groups receive little or no criticism from students, while other groups are harassed. At least one organization was dissolved because of campus pressure.

The adviser of a gay student group at Rice University says students seem to have accepted the organization. Chandler Davidson, a professor of sociology at Rice, says the Gay/Lesbian Student Group gained university recognition five or six years ago without much opposition.

GLSG was approved by the university after meeting the school's criteria for recognition: It got an official sponsor (Davidson) and it was approved by the student assembly.

Davidson says the group was nervous at first about meeting on campus, but he says no real problems ever surfaced.

"There was some fear initially that some people were going to raise hell about it," Davidson says. "But to my knowledge no one ever did."

Davidson, who says he is not gay, says he thinks the organization has been well received.

"My perception is that after the initial year or two it came to be accepted as another Rice group," he says. "I don't mean to suggest there is no anti-gay sentiment here."

"Some students have come in and talked about problems they've been facing. But I think the presence of the organization on campus has added a lot to the acceptance of gays here at Rice."

The leader of a gay student group at Texas Tech University says that the group hasn't received much response from other members of the student body lately.

"I hate to admit it, but I don't get much feedback from students," says Robert Obenour, president of Texas Tech's Student Services for Lesbians/Gays and Friends. "Most of the reason for that, I think, is because this issue is kind of a burnt-out issue. Most of those who wanted their say on the issue had it last semester and before."

The Texas Tech group applied for university recognition in July 1984, but recognition was denied. They appealed to the vice president of student affairs a month later and filed a lawsuit against the university in December of that year, Obenour says. In April — shortly after the U.S. Supreme Court upheld a lower court's ruling that A&M could not deny recognition to organizations because of sexual preference — Texas Tech granted recognition to SSLGF.

However, SSLGF is continuing to pursue its lawsuit against Tech — just in case the university ever tries to revoke the group's status as an official campus organization, Obenour says.

Obenour says the lawsuit seeks: BU An order declaring Tech's denial of recognition to SSLGF unconstitutional.

BU An order saying Tech must register SSLGF as an official campus organization.

BU Punitive damages from Tech. Other expenses such as court costs and attorney fees also are being sought.

As for the group's acceptance by others at Tech, Obenour says the decline in the amount of vocal opposition to the group doesn't necessarily indicate that any attitudes have changed.

"If the opposition got quiet, I think that means that they've just gotten interested in something else," Obenour says. "I've talked to some of them and I know I certainly haven't changed any of their minds."

At the University of Texas at Austin, a gay student organization has had official recognition from the university since the mid '70s.

Alex Bernal, president of UT's Gay and Lesbian Student Association, says that the group operates as both a social and educational organization.

See Gay, page 11

## High court will decide Social Security status

Associated Press

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The Supreme Court, in a case that could affect the financial integrity of Social Security, agreed Monday to decide whether state and local governments may withdraw their employees from the pension system.

The Justices will review a ruling that invalidated a 1983 law in which Congress sought to project Social Security's future by barring states and local governments from pulling out.

Reagan administration lawyers, in urging reversal, said the ruling by a federal judge in California last May could drain Social Security of more than \$3 billion by 1990.

The court is expected to announce its decision by July.

In other matters Monday, the court:

bu Let stand former Marine Robert R. Barwood's dishonorable discharge and forfeiture of pay for aiding the enemy with a prisoner of war in Vietnam for 14 years.

bu Agreed to decide in a Colorado case whether people who write defamatory letters of recommendation may be sued in courts outside their home states.

bu Rejected a challenge to the federal government's choice of Texas as one possible site for the nation's first burial ground of highly radioactive wastes. Sites in Deaf Smith County, Texas, Nevada and Washington have

been designated as the three possibilities.

bu Said it will decide in a case entwined with Civil War devastation whether public school students in 23 Mississippi counties are being short-changed in spending on education.

bu Set aside the death sentence of Ohio inmate Billy Roberts and convicted Georgia murderer William Boyd Tucker, telling lower courts to re-consider whether jurors in both cases were misled when told about their role in deciding whether the men actually would die.

In the Social Security case, the justices must weigh Congress' power against the autonomy of the states. State and local governments have been allowed to enroll their employees in Social Security since 1950, and local government workers in all 50 states are enrolled today.

As of 1983, some 9.4 million of an estimated 13.2 million state and local government employees participated in Social Security. Only five states (Alaska, Maine, Massachusetts, Nevada and Ohio) do not have their own employees enrolled in Social Security.

Under the 1950 amendment to the Social Security Act, each state was authorized to withdraw its employees on two years' notice, and also could do so on behalf of the local governments within that state.

From 1950 to 1966, however, only

See High court, page 12