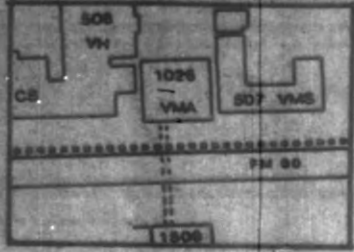


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Veterinary school renamed  
to gain new image, prestige

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Four A&M spikers named  
All-Southwest Conference

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# Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 82 No. 70 USPS 075360 12 pages

College Station, Texas

Tuesday, December 10, 1985

## A&M officials: Errors in newspaper charges

By TRAVIS TINGLE  
Sports Editor

The Texas A&M Athletic Department issued a news release Monday which said the *Dallas Times Herald's* investigative series on possible violations of NCAA rules in the Aggie football program contained "numerous errors" and that the sources used had "axes to grind and could be receptive to the paper's quest to 'get A&M.'"

Jackie Sherrill, A&M's athletic director and head football coach, had planned a news conference today at 1:30 p.m. to give what a news release called "one all-encompassing media

response" to the allegations of the *Times Herald*.

But late Monday evening *The Battalion* received word from Lane Stephenson, director of A&M's Office of Public Information, that the news conference had been canceled. Stephenson brought *The Battalion* a typed statement from A&M Athletic Department officials which read:

"We have reconsidered and decided to refrain from dignifying, by further discussion, the allegations of the *Dallas Times Herald*. Looking back over comments contained in the story that we released earlier today (Monday's media release), we have concluded that nothing more

needs to be said publicly and that continuation of a verbal battle with any segment of the media is counterproductive.

"We will now address all of our energies in this matter to presenting the facts to the National Collegiate Athletic Association and the Southwest Conference."

Monday's news release quoted Sherrill as saying, "Numerous errors have been found throughout the five *Times Herald* stories published Saturday through Monday, and several of the errors were quite significant. In delving into the voluminous material we have found not only unquestionable errors, but also in-

stances of various shades of the truth.

The *Times Herald*, in a copyright series of articles, reported more than 40 former A&M football players as saying they received large amounts of cash, special car deals, weekly allowances, performance payments, signing incentives and bonuses from A&M coaches and boosters.

All the *Times Herald's* allegations accuse A&M of NCAA rule violations.

University officials responded to the newspaper's use of sources in this way:

"All of the former A&M football players who alleged that they re-

ceived money — other than for some instances of selling tickets — were dismissed from the team for various reasons or left under clouded conditions ..."

A&M officials attributed that observation to Arno W. Krebs Jr., a Houston attorney representing the University's legal interests. They said Krebs conducted interviews and did investigative work as a result of the paper's allegations.

Larry Tarleton, acting editor of the *Times Herald* told the Associated Press the newspaper stands behind the integrity of its stories and

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Jackie Sherrill

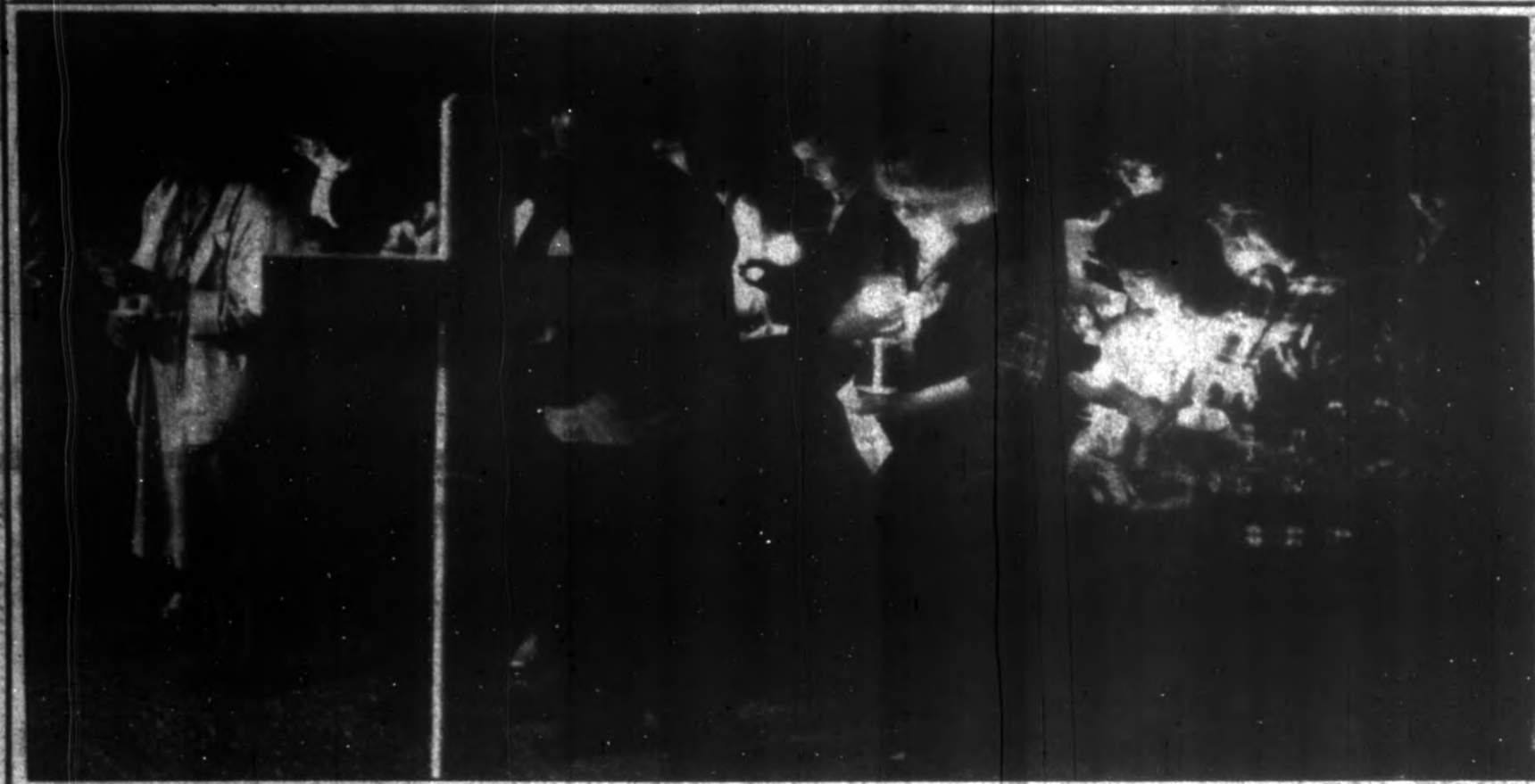


Photo by JON P. KARP

### Candlelight Vigil

Members of MADD and other Bryan-College Station area residents congregate at the College Station Community center to participate in

a candle lighting ceremony. The vigil was held to remember the innocent victims of intoxicated drivers.

### Civil hearing to reconvene today

## Judge unsure about Texaco case

Associated Press

HOUSTON — A state district judge reconvenes a hearing today to decide whether Texaco Inc. should pay a \$10.53 billion jury award for interfering in a merger between Pennzoil Co. and Getty Oil Co.

Visiting Judge Solomon Casseb Jr., after hearing two days of arguments last week, delayed an immediate decision on whether to uphold, set aside or reduce the largest civil damage award in U.S. history.

Asked if he would return to court today with a decision, Casseb re-

sponded, "I have no way of knowing what I'll do."

A jury recommended last month that Texaco pay \$7.53 billion in actual damages — the amount Pennzoil claims it suffered by losing access to 1 billion barrels of Getty Oil reserves — and another \$3 billion as

punishment for illegally enticing Getty to break its previous merger agreement with Pennzoil.

Texaco purchased Getty last year for \$10.1 billion, the second-largest merger in U.S. corporate history behind Chevron Corp.'s \$13.3 billion purchase of Gulf Corp.

## OPEC to combat outside efforts, prices may drop

Associated Press

GENEVA — OPEC vowed Monday to fight Britain and other independent oil producers for a "fair share" of world oil sales, opening the way for freer competition that analysts said will mean lower prices.

The 13 ministers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries stopped short of formally abandoning their 4-year-old strategy of trying to keep prices high by allowing their production to fall.

But sources said they had reached an understanding that, with prices likely to fall anyway, their best alternative was to use price competition to stop the costly decline in their share of world oil sales.

The sources, who spoke on condition they not be identified, said the ministers were unwilling to openly declare a final break with their current policy because they feared it would accelerate a drop in prices.

The meeting's outcome, after three days of talks, triggered a "great panic" in the oil markets in early trading, said Paul McDonald, senior oil analyst at the London office of the U.S. investment firm Shearson Lehman Brothers Inc.

The price on the open market for North Sea Brent crude slumped by 95 cents a barrel to \$26 shortly after the OPEC meeting broke up, he said. It then stabilized as OPEC ministers made comments to reporters that indicated they would try to avoid a price war.

On the New York Mercantile Exchange, futures prices nosedived. Contracts for January delivery opened trading at \$27.75 a barrel,

down a dollar from Friday's close. The price rebounded briefly, then slipped to \$27.57 in early afternoon.

"I am not intending to declare a price war," said Arturo Hernandez Grisanti, the oil minister of Venezuela and newly elected chairman of OPEC.

He also said, however, that a big drop in prices was possible and that a new OPEC committee would study the implications of tougher price competition between OPEC and independent producers.

Pressed to say what he considered OPEC's fair share of the world market, Grisanti said it should be between OPEC's widely flouted production ceiling of 16 million barrels a day and its current actual output, estimated to be about 18 million barrels daily.

The official declaration issued at the close of OPEC's meeting made no specific mention of either the production ceiling, which was set in October 1984, or the group's official base price of \$28 a barrel.

When asked if these agreements remained in force, Grisanti said only, "The conference reaffirmed all its previous resolutions."

The OPEC joint statement, citing "the persistently declining trend of OPEC production," said the ministers had decided to "secure and defend for OPEC a fair share in the world oil market consistent with the necessary income for member countries' development."

## Students empty classes with empty bomb threats

By BRIAN PEARSON  
Senior Staff Writer

For some Texas A&M students, the telephone is becoming a popular weapon used to fight those ugly and unpleasant academic tasks such as tests, speeches, presentations.

Some may feel this is a worthwhile crusade, but others, such as the University Police, say they are not pleased with the efforts because the students are calling and emptying classrooms by making bomb threats.

Bob Wiatt, director of security and traffic at A&M, said the students make the bomb threats to manipulate scheduled classroom activities.

"They (students) figure this is a good way to give them a little breathing room," Wiatt said.

There have been seven bomb threats during the fall semester. Six of these have occurred within the last month. There were six threats between September and December of 1984.

Wiatt said the number of bomb threat incidents recently has jumped because more students see how the threats affect class schedules.

He added that the number of threats usually increases at the end of every semester.

Wiatt said that although no bombs have exploded or been found in the buildings where the threats are made, University Police must take each threat seriously.

"We treat every bomb threat as real," Wiatt said. "We still have to send officers over to clear and search the building."

Wiatt said the procedure for searching the building is costly to the department and ties up four or five officers.

Besides the wasted time and effort spent searching for imaginary bombs, the threats also cause problems by interrupting exams, experiments and other activities going on inside the building.

"It's very disruptive and that's why if we catch someone, we're going to throw the book at him," Wiatt said.

## AIDS

Experts: Virus paranoia unfounded most times

By SCOTT SUTHERLAND  
Staff Writer

A New York City woman recently wrote to Ann Landers saying that her husband was about to retire and they were going to move to another state. She wasn't frightened of the crowded city and its high crime rate, she was frightened of AIDS.

The woman wanted Landers to publish the list of states and the number of AIDS cases in each one. It was clear that she didn't want any advice.

"And please don't tell me not to get hysterical," She wrote. "Just print the information."

But despite what people may have heard about AIDS, the disease cannot be contracted easily, says Chuck Fowless, a spokesman for the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta. Researchers there have discovered no evidence proving AIDS can be spread through tears, saliva or casual contact as some have claimed, Fowless says.

Christy Reed, epidemiologist with the Texas Health Department, says early reports about AIDS left people guessing and scared.

"When this thing first hit, the me-

dia wasn't telling people how AIDS is spread," Reed said. "People began conjuring up these ideas that AIDS was a respiratory-transmitted disease. They had images of whole towns being wiped out."

Marco Roberts, president of Gay Student Services at Texas A&M, says although gays stand a higher risk of infection, heterosexuals are at risk too.

Dr. Henry Masur from the National Institute of Health agrees with Roberts.

"People have to be aware of the fact that any single sexual encounter could result in the transmission of AIDS," Masur said in an interview in *Modern Science Magazine*.

Because of that, Roberts says he is encouraging relationships with a single partner for his group.

Roberts also is concerned that politicians will use the AIDS issue to curry favor with voters. He cites Houston mayoral candidate Louie Welch's platform as a prime example.

Welch wanted a city ordinance prohibiting seropositives, people who have been tested and found to have been in contact with the AIDS antibody, from working in health-

food-related services. And he called for a registration system to keep track of seropositives.

Roberts says, "There is not one shred of evidence that says AIDS can enter the body by any other means than through the blood stream. Physical contact has not been established as a mode of transmission."

Meanwhile insurance companies also are cracking down on seropositives. Roberts says some insurance companies are dropping policy holders that have tested positive on the HTLV-III test, the test which identifies AIDS antibodies in the bloodstream.

"Most of those people will never even get sick," Roberts says.

In fact, 15 percent of those who test positive on the HTLV-III test may develop AIDS themselves and 25 percent of them will suffer some effects of AIDS, according to *Modern Medicine Magazine*.

Other means also have been taken up in attempt to curb the activity of seropositives.

School districts have begun barring AIDS victims from the classroom.

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## Students admit link to threat

University Police identified Monday three additional suspects connected with a Friday bomb threat in Bolton Hall, a spokesman for the department said.

Bob Wiatt, director of security and traffic at Texas A&M, said three students admitted to asking James Andrew Drapela to make the bomb threat so a Friday political science test would be canceled.

After University Police were given a description of a man by a witness who had seen the alleged bomb threat caller, Drapela was identified and arrested by officers as he was evacuating the class.

Wiatt said Drapela told police five other classmates had urged him to make the call.

He said the two others connected with the case will be identified by Wednesday.

Wiatt said all suspects in the case will be referred to the Department of Student Affairs for further action.

Drapela was charged with terrorist threat Friday. Terroristic threat is a Class A Misdemeanor carrying a maximum penalty of one year in prison, a \$2,000 fine or both.