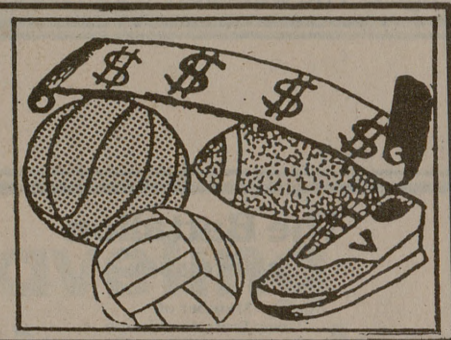


Should athletes receive monthly allowances?



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Kidnappers said to be negotiating with Israel

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Moslem kidnappers were reported trying to strike a deal with Israel on Tuesday that would free 400 Arab prisoners in exchange for three Americans and an Indian held in Beirut and a captured Israeli airman.

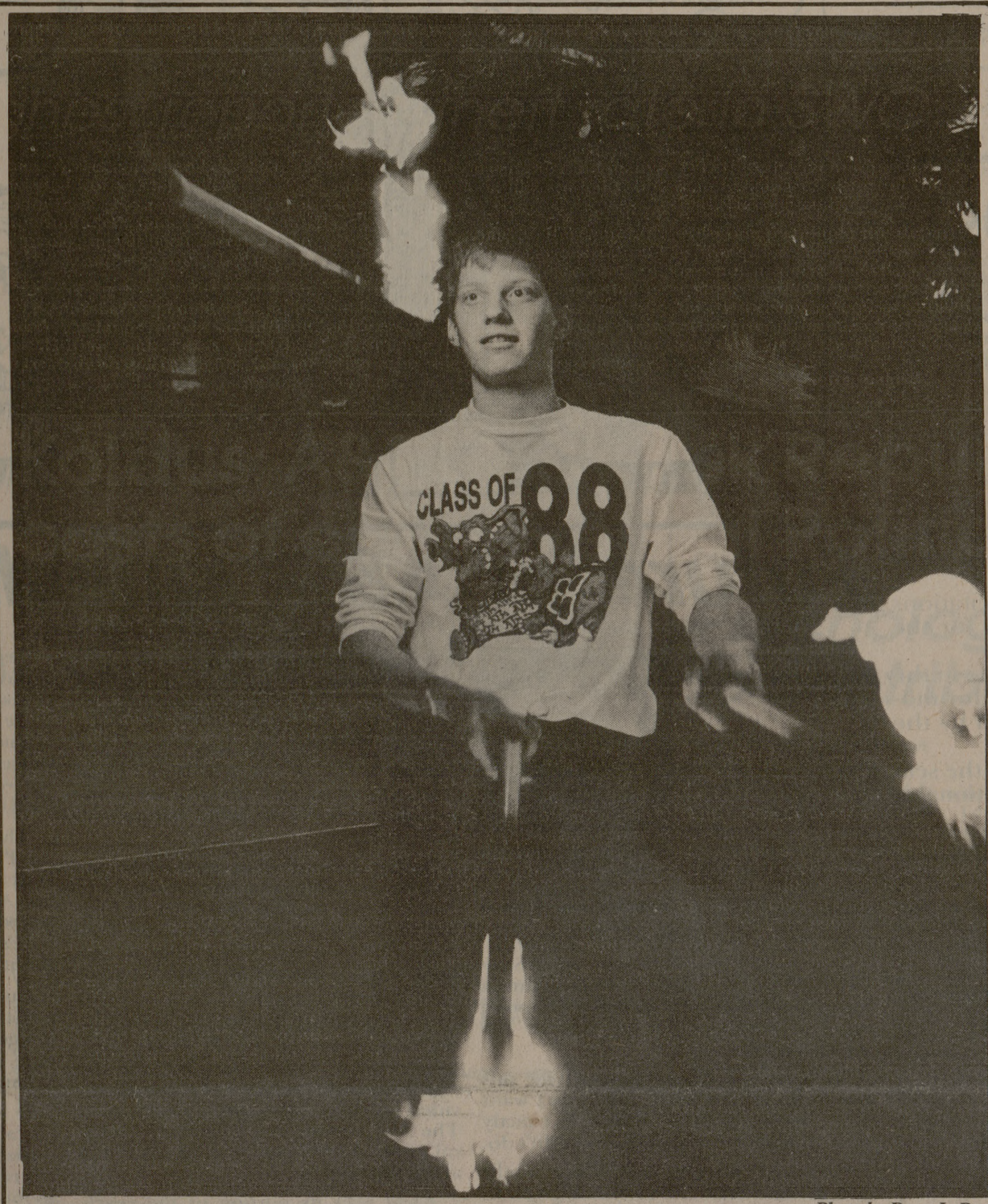
The Christian-run Voice of Lebanon and the Moslem-run Voice of the Nation radio stations quoted "reports from Washington and other capitals" as saying the captors might be working through the Red Cross for an exchange.

In Geneva, the International Committee of the Red Cross denied involvement in any negotiations.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir of Israel said his government would be willing to consider a direct request for negotiations, but added that no such request has been made.

Israeli officials say Washington has not asked Israel to meet demands by the kidnap group, the Islamic Jihad for the Liberation of Palestine, to release 400 prisoners in exchange for the lives of the four educators it holds.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters in Washington, "Our terrorism policy remains the same, and I reiterate once again that we will not ransom hostages, nor will we encourage other countries to do so."



Need A Light?

Pete McDonald, a senior electrical engineering major, gets in a little practice for the MSC Variety Show by juggling flaming torches. McDonald performs his act while riding a unicycle. Photo by Doug LaRue

Probe reveals McFarlane tried to kill himself

WASHINGTON (AP) — An investigation concluded that former presidential adviser Robert C. McFarlane attempted suicide, a police source said Tuesday, while authorities said officially only that there was no evidence of foul play in McFarlane's Valium overdose.

"There's not going to be any ruling that it was an attempted suicide," said Harry Geehreg, spokesman for the Montgomery County Police in suburban Maryland. "We are satisfied that there was no crime and there's no further legal action to be taken."

But a source close to the investigation, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the police had determined McFarlane's ingestion of 25 to 30 tablets of Valium, a tranquilizer, was an attempt to take his own life.

The source also confirmed that police learned that McFarlane, President Reagan's former national security adviser, had written a note that his wife Jonda carried to the hospital. However, police did not know the contents of the note, the source said.

Geehreg said he knew nothing of the note, and McFarlane's attorney Peter Morgan declined comment on the matter.

The 49-year-old McFarlane, who associates said recently has been in severe pain with a back ailment, was rushed to the hospital Monday

morning, shortly before he was to testify before the presidential commission set up to investigate the National Security Council's role in the Iran arms-sale crisis.

He was listed in good condition Tuesday at Bethesda Naval Hospital in suburban Maryland and was visited by his wife, hospital spokesman Lt. Russ Sanford said. He said McFarlane was not receiving telephone calls.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Reagan had not tried to contact his former aide, but that the president and first lady Nancy Reagan planned to telephone Mrs. McFarlane. He said Reagan likely would call McFarlane "when it is appropriate."

Fitzwater said the White House "had no inside information or medical information" to comment on the reported suicide attempt.

Mrs. McFarlane, meanwhile, issued a terse statement saying, "Bob and the children and I appreciate enormously the great love and support that we are getting from friends and strangers alike."

McFarlane, who stands alone in his public insistence that Reagan gave prior approval to sending arms to Iran, was to testify behind closed doors Monday before the three-member presidential commission headed by former Sen. John Tower of Texas, said the panel's spokesman, Herbert E. Hetu.

Texas officials: Prisons face another closure

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — The Texas prison system reopened Tuesday after the inmate population sank below a state-mandated limit, but officials warned that new arrivals this week could force another closure.

About 393 new inmates had been accepted by mid-afternoon as the system received convicts for the first time in six days, said David Nunnelee, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Corrections.

At the same time, about 125 prisoners were released, the Nunnelee said.

But too many new admissions could push the population pass the 95-percent ceiling once again, officials said.

The Texas prison system, the nation's second-largest behind California, closed last Wednesday for the

second time in a month because the population had surpassed the 95-percent mark.

The capacity is mandated by a state law passed after a federal judge ordered the state to reduce prison overcrowding.

As of midnight Monday, the inmate population totaled 38,158, or 94.47 percent of capacity. That number was 215 inmates short of the 95-percent cap.

Prison doors will remain open today because Monday's figures were below the limit, Nunnelee said. Tuesday's population figures will not be available until this afternoon.

Monday's count of prisoners — taken at midnight Friday — showed the system at 94.80 percent of capacity, or 81 inmates under the limit, Sarah Dunn, a prison spokesman, said.

A&M has highest reported theft rate in SWC

By Doug Driskell
Reporter

A reported 834 thefts in the 1985-86 school year gave Texas A&M another record — the highest number of thefts in the Southwest Conference, said Bob Wiatt, director of security and traffic for A&M.

"The biggest criminal offense that we have here at A&M, and that A&M leads all other universities and colleges in the state of Texas in, is misdemeanor thefts," Wiatt said.

(thieves) are staff members such as custodial workers and such."

However, Texas A&M Custodial Superintendent James E. Jones said, "There has never been anyone taken off the custodial account because of theft."

The number of thieves on campus makes catching them a difficult task, Horner said. Texas A&M has more than 35,000 students, but on any given day there are more than

65,000 people on campus, and many of the thieves look like students, he said.

The inaccessibility to the center of campus by patrol cars also is a problem, Horner said. The center of campus has a large mall area that is inaccessible to patrol cars, and for officers to catch the thieves, they must leave their patrol cars. By that time, the thieves have gotten away, he says.

Different techniques are constantly being used to foil the criminals, Horner said.

In one technique the department is using, he said, electronic sensors are put in decoy backpacks around campus and when the backpack is taken, the sensor sends a signal to an officer monitoring a receiver, who can then arrest the thief.

See Thefts, page 12

Koldus: A&M may ask Republican party to pay costs of controversial Political Forum program

By Amy Couvillon
Staff Writer

Texas A&M may consider asking the Texas Republican party to pay for a Nov. 3 MSC Political Forum program that has been called a one-sided political rally, said Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services.

The program, "A Panorama of Republican Perspectives on the State of Texas," was held the day before gubernatorial elections last fall. Speakers at the program were then-gubernatorial candidate Bill Clements, Vice President George Bush, Sen. Phil Gramm and Rep. Joe Barton.

Former Gov. Mark White and other Democrats were invited several times to speak at the program, but declined, said Ann Levy, chairman of the Political Forum Committee.

Despite urging from Dr. Chester Dunning, who initiated complaints about the program with the help of the Faculty Senate, Koldus said he does not intend to approach the Republican party with a formal request. Instead, he will try to talk informally to someone in the party.

Dunning, an associate professor of history, has voiced complaints since last fall, saying the

students on the Political Forum Committee were manipulated, and that the program was inappropriately partisan and should be paid for — as a political rally — by the Republican party.

Koldus shared some of Dunning's concerns, but felt the matter was not especially urgent.

"Some of the things were inappropriate," Koldus said. "I think the intent was appropriate, at the beginning, but I think that it went off in some different directions that maybe it shouldn't have."

Levy said Political Forum does not want the Republican party to pay for the program, which she said cost about \$1,300.

"It was our program; we put it on," she said. "The Democrats didn't even let us know for sure that they were not coming until the week before the program, so there wasn't much we could do."

"You have to understand the goals of our committee. We are a nonpartisan committee, but we present partisan programs. . . . I see no reason to say no to (the Republicans) just because the other side said no."

Jim Reynolds, MSC student programs director, agreed.

"We issue the invitations and hope that everyone will accept," Reynolds said. "We work really

hard to get everyone to accept, because that's an important part of the responsibility for the Political Forum. But for whatever reason, (former) Gov. White decided not to come."

"There was consideration that this would raise eyebrows in other political camps, but . . . we can't make our decisions on the basis of who doesn't want to come."

Dunning said faculty advising for Political Forum should be increased. There was no faculty adviser for the committee last semester, only staff advisers.

"I have spoken to former faculty advisers who assured me that if an adviser had been in place, no such program would have been allowed," he said. "It makes sense to go back to strong faculty advising."

He has recommended that three faculty advisers be installed on a staggered-term basis, "as a way to maintain continuity in advisement and a balance of political perspectives among the faculty representatives as well."

Reynolds agreed that balance in advisement is important, but said that the faculty advisers do not play a decision-making role.

"The faculty members serve as a source of input to MSC committees," Reynolds said, "but they



Joe Barton, left, George Bush, Bill Clements and Phil Gramm.

Wiatt said dorm-room thefts mainly occur because students will not lock their rooms.

"This (theft) is due to the fact that people on this campus do not believe it is part of the planet Earth," Wiatt said.

"They do not take care of their property; they think that everything is 'Alice in Wonderland'; they are totally naive in being responsible."

Sgt. Roy Horner of the University Police Department said items stolen include books, backpacks, purses, jewelry and bicycles.

"The motto of A&M is 'Aggies do not lie, cheat or steal' and the students honestly believe that that is how the campus is supposed to be," Horner said. "Unfortunately, most of the people on campus are not Aggies. So, the students make it easier for the thief to come in and steal their property."

Books are the most common property stolen, he said, but police have found that many of the people stealing books are not students, but former students.

While at A&M, they discovered how easy it is to steal students' property, he said.

Students leave their books on a library table, get up and walk around only to come back to find their belongings have been stolen by an "ex-student," Horner explained.

The thief then will post a notice around campus advertising the stolen property for half the original price, he said.

Most of the dorm thieves are students and A&M employees, Wiatt said.

Horner agrees. "A lot of people

don't — as I think has been alleged — have any real authority or responsibility other than the sharing of information, and perhaps their persuasive abilities."

Dunning and the Faculty Senate's executive committee met with Koldus to discuss how to prevent these kinds of conflicts.

"At this point, all we have done is to make some recommendations," Dunning said, "and my sense of it is that the vice presi-

dent shares our perspective and our concern, and wants to do something about it."

Reynolds said that if Koldus were to formally approach the Republican party about the program, it would be unusual.

"It was an MSC Political Forum program," he said, "and if there was going to be any effort made to ask them to pay for it, that effort should come out of the Political Forum Committee."