

Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 83 No. 14 USPS 045360 16 pages

College Station, Texas

Friday, September 18, 1987

Biden defends acts from law school past

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Joseph Biden admitted Thursday that he committed plagiarism in law school 23 years ago but dismissed the furor over his failure to attribute the words of others in his speeches as "much ado about nothing."

At a Capitol Hill news conference, the Delaware Democrat and presidential hopeful released law school records that disclosed his plagiarism at Syracuse University in 1965 and said, "I did not intentionally move to mislead anybody."

"I did something very stupid 23 years ago," Biden said. "Little did I know I would be standing before the whole world acknowledging the fact I did not know how to write a legal memorandum and the mistake is costing me as much as it is costing me."

Biden also admitted a series of errors in not attributing quotes correctly in several campaign speeches this year. But Biden said fellow presidential hopeful Jesse Jackson called to say he also uses phrases Biden has been accused of lifting.

Saying all candidates use "certain generic quotes" from past leaders, he charged that the controversy is meaningless.

And Biden declared he will fight on for the Democratic nomination for the presidency.

"I want to tell them all," he said. "I'm in this race to stay. I'm in this race to win. And here I come."

Biden repeatedly suggested that the sources of the stories about his speeches and law school record came from his opponents, although he said he could not identify any one campaign, Republican or Democratic, as the source.

"He is absolutely, totally credible," Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., said. ". . . He is a very strong, honest man. I hope he doesn't recuse himself."

Sen. Paul Simon, D-Ill., another presidential candidate, said, "Joe has been doing an outstanding job in these hearings, and doing so under great pressure. I have complete confidence in Joe Biden's integrity and ability."

Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., added, "I think it's always a good idea to attribute quotes, but I don't think he deserves capital punishment for running a red light."

The furor surrounding Biden marks the second time in the 1988 Democratic presidential campaign that questions have been raised about the character and integrity of a candidate. Former Colorado Sen. Gary Hart was driven from the race in May after a controversy over his relationship with a Miami model and his explanations of it.

Biden detailed how he lifted five pages from a law review article for a brief he wrote in a legal methods class. He did not quote or footnote the material, an omission noted by a classmate who critiqued his paper.

When he was confronted by the law school dean, Biden admitted his actions and asked for a chance to explain them to the faculty. He wrote a two-page letter on his mistake and asked the faculty for a chance to recoup.

Bork frustrated by 'attacks' of key senators in hearings

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Robert H. Bork, complaining of unfair attacks by critics, bristled yesterday over an accusation he favors unbridled presidential power and complained that his record is being misrepresented.

Bork, in his third day of questioning by the Senate Judiciary Committee and facing a fourth day today, engaged in a tense exchange with Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., over his views on presidential authority and expressed frustration about a news report describing his denial that he is a racist.

Meanwhile, two senators who are key swing votes on the committee expressed fresh reservations.

"Where's the predictability in Judge Bork?" Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., asked. "What troubles me is the very significant pronounced shifts" Bork has made in a 25-year career as lawyer, scholar and federal appeals-court judge, Specter said.

He added that Bork's testimony before the committee raised doubts about the nominee's assertion that his judicial philosophy rests on interpreting the intent of the Constitution's framers.

Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., also considered undecided, praised Bork for forthrightness. But DeConcini, during a break in the hearings, said in response to

a reporter's question, "I understand his explanation today but I can't say I'm more satisfied."

During questioning by the committee, Bork expressed frustration over a news report, suggesting it made him sound defensive by failing to point out his comment on not being a racist was merely an answer to a direct question from a senator.

"All of a sudden I'm denying something I wasn't accused of," Bork said.

He was, however, again accused of softening some of his views to win the Senate's approval — a phenomenon Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., called "confirmation conversion."

Bork said he had stuck to "a number of positions that are controversial." And in other areas, he said, he was not changing his original views but rather accepting Supreme Court decisions as "settled law."

Bork, a former Yale University law professor, also said some liberal groups that have analyzed his record have done sloppy research.

Prompted by a supporter on the committee, Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, Bork directly challenged one organization's published report that he almost always votes for the government and big business, and against individuals.



Where's the party?

Joshua Moore, 2, shows his opinion of the balloon launch that celebrated the "Bells Across America" show sponsored Thursday by the political science

honor society, Pi Sigma Alpha. The launch was held at Albritton Tower and consisted of 200 balloons brightly colored in red, white and blue.

Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

Police save woman from severe torture of four-day captivity

McDADE (AP) — A woman was in an Austin hospital Thursday after being so severely tortured during four days of captivity that she wasn't able to speak or move after her rescue, authorities say.

The 25-year-old woman was unable to tell officers what happened, said Bastrop County sheriff's spokesman Jay Beggs.

However, from marks on her hands and feet, it was apparent she had been tied with electrical wiring, Beggs said.

Officers "couldn't touch her right away for her moaning," Beggs said. The woman was in serious condition with a head injury, a broken left arm and wrist and bruises.

Authorities said that during the captivity, the woman was driven around in a car trunk and tied to a chair in her two-story home's attic. Blood-stained wire and bloody clothes were found in a trash can outside the farmhouse, Beggs said.

Two people were arrested at the farmhouse Wednesday and two others were arrested later at a Bastrop residence in connection with the abduction.

Pamela Hanson, 31, who shared the house with the victim; and Kenneth Kutalek, 30, of Smithville were arrested during the raid at the farmhouse two miles northeast of McDade. Brian Hopson, 22, and Craig Walker, 18, were arrested in Bastrop.

Legislature asks Texas colleges to use suspension in drug cases

By Janet Goode
Staff Writer

In a push for harsher drug-free policies at Texas state-funded colleges and universities, the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System has been prompted by the Texas Legislature to draw up guidelines for an automatic suspension penalty.

The Legislature adopted a resolution in May urging all state colleges to suspend on-campus drug users.

The resolution specifies that any student caught with an illegal drug on campus should be suspended, but the length of the suspension is left to school officials.

Texas A&M's current handbook of rules and regulations prohibits the use, sale or distribution of illegal substances, but doesn't specify terms of punishment.

Punishment for people caught with illegal substances on campus is instituted by two entities at Texas A&M.

Bob Wiatt, director of security and traffic at A&M, said if the police find illegal drugs in the possession of a student on campus, criminal charges are filed. These cases, he said, are automatically referred to the Student Affairs Office.

Wiatt said a student affairs officer usually follows the student's trial to see what happens through the justice system.

If the student is found guilty, the judicial affairs officer may punish the student further by taking disciplinary actions, such as probation or suspension from the University, he said.

Dr. Brent Paterson, judicial affairs officer at A&M, said when an individual is referred to him, punishment is determined on a case-by-case basis through a hearing.

Paterson said the University will follow this "normal disciplinary ac-

tion" until new guidelines are established.

"If it's a person's first offense and only a small amount of narcotics is found in their possession, this would fall under "personal use" and would typically result in "conduct probation," Paterson said.

Someone on conduct probation, he said, is "not in good standing with the University."

A student on conduct probation can't hold office at the University, represent A&M at any official function or athletic competition or apply for a scholarship, he said.

Students involved in the distribution or sale of controlled substances, Paterson said, could be suspended for a period determined by the seriousness of the case.

Dr. John J. Koldus, vice president for student services at A&M, said deciding on new guidelines is a real "gray area." The Coordinating Board is working with a mandated suspension rule, but wants to preserve fairness on the part of the students, he said.

"We feel like we should be no different in our actions than the judicial system of our country — that one is entitled to a hearing," he said.

Wiatt said there have only been three criminal charges filed for illegal drug possession during the last school year.

"What doesn't show up in statistics," Wiatt said, "is when we tow a car and we have to do an inventory search of the contents."

"In those searches, we frequently find narcotics. The problem is we can't file criminal charges because the law says a person must "possess" the drugs."

"When we tow such a car, there is no one around. When we contact the owner, he invariably states 'I don't know who put that in my car. It must belong to the person who drove my car last, of whose name I can't remember.'"

"We can't charge or arrest the car. This is when we give matters to student affairs and let them take whatever action is necessary."

"We feel that student affairs should know that the student's car had a controlled substance in it."

"In this case, the officer would probably call the student in to the office and emphasize that his actions are not to be tolerated."

Wiatt said it is difficult to monitor drug abuse on campus.

"We have 10,000 students to monitor, which is done mostly through the residence hall advisers," he said. "They are supposed to report incidents to us. What they report is that residents do not indulge in drug abuse — at least not in the dormitory area where they can be detected."

"A lot of them (drug users), if they are going to do it, will go somewhere like the golf course at night to smoke a joint."

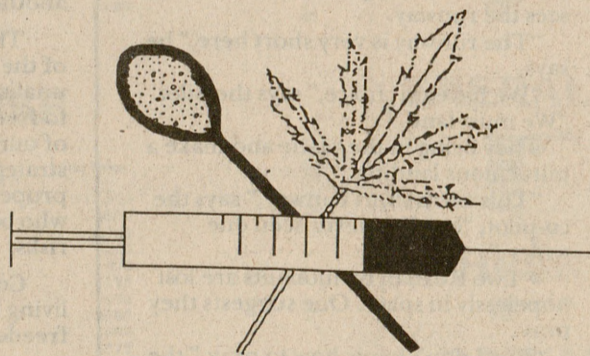
Paterson agrees with Wiatt that a lot of kids who use drugs may decide to live off campus to avoid any possible conflict with the University.

Wiatt says A&M's real drug problem is that, "We've only arrested three people."

To inform students of any changes or additions to the handbook, the resolution asks the presidents of state universities to send letters to students outlining their decisions no later than the end of the 1987 fall semester.

Koldus said President Frank E. Vandiver is waiting until the Coordinating Board's October meeting to send the letter. When a letter is sent, he said, it may be in the form of an advertisement, since this would be the least expensive option and would reach the most people.

Ron Brown, director of student affairs at the University of Texas at Austin, said its president's ad is going to run in the *Daily Texan* in a few days, mandating an automatic one-year suspension for the offense.



Graphic by Susan C. Akin

Philadelphia throws party to celebrate Constitution

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — The birthplace of the Constitution threw a button-popping party Thursday to celebrate the 200th birthday of a

Burger likened the Constitution to a bridle that harnesses a horse. "The government could pull but not push the people," said Burger, head of the federal commission celebrating the bicentennial. "It marked the beginning of the end of the idea of the divine right of kings."

The city's \$6 million bash featured a parade, picnic, pageantry and seven barges of fireworks to honor the day when the Constitution was signed by 39 of its 55 designers.

Speaking in front of Independence Hall, Reagan called the signing of the world's first constitution an event "that would profoundly and forever alter not just these United States but the world."

See related story, Page 11

document President Reagan hailed as "the triumph of human freedom." Former U.S. Chief Justice Warren Burger, who turned 80 Thursday, led an international bell-ringing ceremony at 4 p.m., the precise time the 4,453-word Constitution was signed after four steamy months of hot debate two centuries ago.

Throughout the land and military installations around the world, other bells great and small chimed in.

document President Reagan hailed as "the triumph of human freedom." Former U.S. Chief Justice Warren Burger, who turned 80 Thursday, led an international bell-ringing ceremony at 4 p.m., the precise time the 4,453-word Constitution was signed after four steamy months of hot debate two centuries ago.

Throughout the land and military installations around the world, other bells great and small chimed in.

Blood, Sweat, Tears and

College Expenses

But we just go by what we get from the College Scholarship Service office.

My parents pay for some expenses, like my books, but I pay for the rest myself," he said.

Mark Lang, a senior economics major, said he gets money from all sorts of places. "I had a hometown

document President Reagan hailed as "the triumph of human freedom." Former U.S. Chief Justice Warren Burger, who turned 80 Thursday, led an international bell-ringing ceremony at 4 p.m., the precise time the 4,453-word Constitution was signed after four steamy months of hot debate two centuries ago.

Throughout the land and military installations around the world, other bells great and small chimed in.