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Squirrel trips power circuit, causes campus blackout

By Drew Leder
Staff Writer

Electrical power in all Texas A&M campus buildings east of Wellborn Road temporarily went out Friday when a squirrel tripped and shorted out a circuit.

Joe Estill, director of the A&M Physical Plant, said the power failure occurred at 9:10 a.m. when the squirrel found its way into a power plant substation near the Bell Building (formerly the USDA building) and stepped on two wires to cause the short. Power in one building was restored 45 minutes later and all power was back on shortly after noon, he said.

Some classes and scheduled tests were cancelled as a result of darkened classrooms.

Estill said a breaker at the A&M main power plant should have provided power for most campus buildings after the short but failed to do so. Had the breaker operated, he said, the loss of power would have been restricted to only a few facilities on campus, such as Kyle Field and the tennis courts. Estill said he didn't know why the breaker failed to work.

Power outages frequently occur on campus, Estill said, but the magnitude of the failure Friday is unusual.

"Usually only five or six buildings are affected," he said. Estill said most power failures affect the campus buildings west of Wellborn Road because power lines there are above ground, whereas the lines on the east side are below ground and buildings there are not frequently affected.

This also isn't the season when most power failures occur at A&M, he said, because the major cause of failures, the local animals, usually aren't too restless in the fall.

"It usually happens in the spring when animals get active," Estill said.

Squirrels and snakes are often the culprits that cause the lights to go out, he said.



Dr. Comer O. Patterson teaches his Biology 113 class in front of the University archives while

waiting for the electricity that was temporarily off to come back on Friday.

Photo by Sam Myers

Book claims Casey knew of fund diversion

WASHINGTON (AP) — The late CIA Director William J. Casey turned to the Saudi Arabian government for money and help when it became clear that his effort to create a secret anti-terrorist force was not going to work, according to excerpts published Sunday of a forthcoming book by Bob Woodward.

Woodward also provides details of what he says was Casey's deathbed confession of his knowledge of the diversion of Iran arms profits to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

The book came under attack Sunday from all sides — from Casey's widow, Sophia, from the Saudi government and from Sheik Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, leader of the

militant Hezbollah faction in Lebanon, whom the book alleged had accepted a \$2 million payoff to stop attacks against Americans.

Woodward said, "He was dying. It was not the Casey I knew physically. And so I got one question, and . . . that question was: 'You knew about the diversion, didn't you?' . . . And he nodded. . . . And I said 'Why?' And he said, 'I believed.'"

Asked what Casey "believed," Woodward answered, "That we can change the world. That we can reshape it. That we can support the Contras, and we can do what he used to call 'these things' — covert action."

Judge to order disclosure of A&M football probe results

From Staff and Wire Reports

An Austin state district judge said he will order Texas A&M University to release information from its in-house investigation into possible football recruiting violations.

Judge Peter Lowry, in a letter sent to the Fort Worth Star-Telegram and A&M attorneys Friday, said he would order the school to release details of an inquiry into employment of former star quarterback Kevin Murray by alumnus Rodney Lee Dockery. Murray was unavailable for comment.

The Star-Telegram filed suit against University President Frank Vandiver in January, arguing that reports about the investigation must be released under the Texas Open Records Act. But the University said the reports are protected by privacy laws.

Later, the Dallas Times Herald and several other news organizations also filed demands for the records under the open records law.

The National Collegiate Athletic Association also has fought release of the records. But it is not a formal party in the case.

David Berst, NCAA enforcement director, told The Battalion he was concerned about the impact of the ruling in getting information in future investigations.

"Generally those things adversely

affect our ability to get information," he said.

Berst said in an interview with the Associated Press that if the facts the NCAA gathers can be released at an earlier stage people will be less willing to help the NCAA.

Micheal Blackman, executive editor of the Star-Telegram, said the newspaper was pleased with the ruling.

"Obviously we're delighted," Blackman said. "Our position all along has been that it's a public institution and the investigations are subject to the Open Records Act."

The newspaper, in its arguments, cited a 1986 Texas court decision that noted there is "a nationwide scandal engulfing intercollegiate recruiting practices" and that "the public has a legitimate, indeed compelling, interest in that."

The University in April released a heavily edited version of its in-house report, missing half its pages and lacking almost all mention of alleged recruiting violations.

Published reports said Dockery allegedly paid Murray at least \$3,500 between January 1983 and January 1984 for cleaning printing presses.

The Star-Telegram reported that two former employees of Dockery told the NCAA Murray never did the work for which he was paid — a violation of NCAA rules.

A&M committee tries to close salary gender gap

By Cindy Milton
Staff Writer

National Census Bureau figures show that U.S. women still earn less per dollar than their male counterparts, but the struggle for equal pay continues, and Texas A&M's Faculty Senate Committee on the Status of Women is working to close the salary gap and stop any gender-based pay discrimination at A&M.

Gender-based pay inequity Part one of a two-part series

A July article from the Chronicle of Higher Education said that the male-female wage gap definitely exists on the national level, but it is less evident in the academic world.

"Colleges and universities . . . are actually ahead of the nation's businesses in adjusting to the pay gap," the article said.

The Census Bureau study shows that, overall, women earn 70 cents for each dollar men earn, while figures released by the American Association of University Professors show that women faculty members receive 88 cents for every dollar made by their male colleagues.

Last spring the Committee on the Status of Women presented a report to the A&M Faculty Senate that shows an approximate 10 percent disparity between the usual salaries drawn of male and female faculty members at A&M.

According to an April 1987 Battalion article, the Faculty Senate debated for more than two hours before approving a version

of the resolution that recommended that the University "remedy (salary) inequity by setting aside sufficient funds to correct salary discrimination."

The resolution recommended that immediate raises be granted to women found to be victims of salary discrimination and that annual salary studies be conducted by the Committee on the Status of Women to ensure that no salary discrimination occurs.

Dr. Walter Buenger, chairman of the committee, said he is convinced there is gender-based wage inequity at A&M, but that it's not as obvious as it once was.

"The discrimination is no longer built in," he said.

Now, male and female faculty members on an equal level start with the same salaries, Buenger said, and any disparity proba-

bly occurs in the process of career advancement.

Buenger said the committee will look at the University's hiring and retention practices as a solution to this problem. Identifying discrimination, he said, can be the hardest part of the job.

The committee checks for discrimination by using a statistical technique called multiple regression analysis, which takes factors besides gender into account.

The technique looks at the salary of an individual faculty member in light of factors such as experience, rank, highest degree attained, ethnicity, age and college and department within the University. It then compares the result to other faculty members with similar professional backgrounds.

Buenger said the regression analysis is time consuming but is a useful tool in explaining and identifying salary differences.

The committee will present results to the Senate in the spring. If the results do not prompt the Senate to take further action in closing the salary gap, he said, the committee will go through the process again until the gap is closed.

Although Buenger said he and the committee have high hopes that the salary inequity will decrease, he also said permanent changes will take time to evolve.

"We can't afford to waste the brain power and talent of women," Buenger said. "I hope that we can make everyone more aware of this problem."

Former student invokes A&M spirit to get money for liver transplant

By Janet Goode
Staff Writer

In keeping with the age-old Texas A&M tradition of "Aggies helping Aggies," John Stone, Class of '84, is calling on the spirit of Aggieland to come through for him.

"John's in a life-or-death situation — either he gets a lot of money and gets an operation, or he will cease to exist," said Porter S. Garner III, field director for A&M's Association of Former Students.

Stone, 25, was born with Alpha-1-Anti-Trypsin Deficiency and now needs a \$250,000 liver transplant.

The deficiency keeps Stone's body from stabilizing the actions of his critical digestive enzymes.

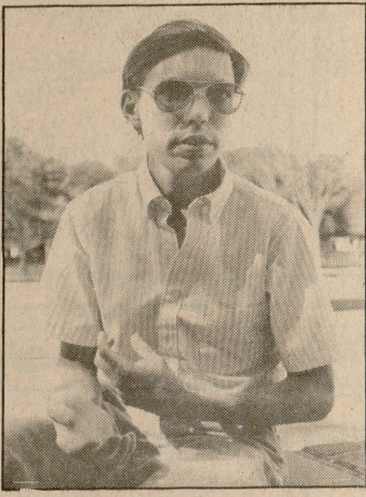
"Basically, I'm digesting my liver," Stone said.

Stone said the liver then tries to repair itself by creating scar tissue, which creates circulation problems.

All the blood in the body passes through the liver before it goes to the heart, he said. Scar tissue blocks the blood's path, he said, which causes swelling of veins in the legs and organs to the point of bleeding.

Dr. Ted Rea, a gastroenterologist at St. Joseph Hospital, said Stone needs a transplant as soon as possible because he could bleed to death at any time.

Stone said the cost to even get on



John Stone Photo by Jay Janner

his operation; none of it includes administrative fees, he said.

Garner has written a personal letter to all A&M club presidents asking for their support.

"That was the most trying letter I ever had to write," he said. "Asking the support of another individual — specifically an Aggie."

"This isn't the type of situation where John can pass or fail and say, 'Golly gee, I tried my best.'"

Porter said although Stone was hesitant to ask for money, he told Stone there's nothing to be embarrassed about.

"He needs a liver — that's the bottom line," Porter said. "There's no doubt he's going to have trouble raising that kind of money."

"He needs our help — I mean the assistance of every Texas Aggie. If each one of the A&M clubs donated \$100 each, that would only be about \$25,000. If each of his classmates contributes \$5, that would only be \$20,000."

When Stone was a freshman at A&M, the first symptom of his liver enzyme deficiency appeared. He went to A.P. Beutler Health Center in April 1981 because he said he knew something wasn't quite right. He was diagnosed as having diabetes, but the center also found some enzyme deficiencies in his blood.

"If people have these types of deficiencies, about 90 percent of them will have pulmonary problems such as emphysema," Stone said. "About 10 percent develop liver problems. And the diabetes that I have is due to my liver dysfunction."

Stone dropped out of school the next semester for further tests at hospitals in Dallas and Houston. Finally, in December, Stone was diagnosed as having anti-trypsin — a genetic disease he had unknowingly battled his entire life.

Stone said for the next five or six years, he really didn't have any physical problems besides his diabetes. He even was an active member in the Corps of Cadets' Company C-2.

Stone graduated with his class, majoring in biology and now is a second-year medical student at UTMB at Galveston.

Stone returned to A&M Nov. 14 to visit his girlfriend and had massive esophageal hemorrhaging — five veins spontaneously swelled and ruptured and filled his esophagus with blood, which then spilled into his stomach cavity.

"I was completely unaware that that could happen," Stone said. "I was told something could happen, but I didn't know what."

To stop the swelling and control

the bleeding, Stone said, doctors inject a substance — via his throat — into his veins.

But the disease has progressed to the point where his blood isn't clotting normally, so the injections aren't helping, he said.

"They (doctors) want me to have the transplant because they are afraid that I will bleed again," Stone said. "And they are afraid that if I start bleeding, they won't be able to stop it."

That is the criterion for a liver transplant, he said.

Rea said Stone is an excellent candidate for a transplant recipient.

"The exciting thing about John's case is that he is young and relatively physically fit," Rea said.

If Stone has the operation and makes it through the first couple of months, Rea said, he would have an 80 percent chance to live during the next five years. After that, he said, Stone has the chance to live a perfectly normal, happy life.

"But without the operation, his chances of dying within the next year are 70 percent," he said.

When asked what he fears most, though, Stone answers matter-of-factly, "What I'm worried about right now is the money."

But Stone says he is hopeful A&M students will help him.

One such student is coming through for him in the only way he can — by spending all his time and efforts in coordinating the fund drive for Stone.

Scott Donahue, a one-time paramedic and now a prechiropractic student, said he became friends with Stone through their mutual interest in medicine.

Donahue describes Stone as quiet and courageous.

"He's staring it (the disease) in the face, as either he has surgery or he dies," he said. "I don't know how he does it. Most people would be going to pieces right now."

Stone said once he gets on the waiting list, the average wait for a liver donor is only three to four weeks.

Once Stone gets on the list, he will have a beeper and be on constant call. He will have to live in the Dallas area, near the Baylor University Medical Center, where he will be scheduled for surgery the minute a suitable liver is found.

"The waiting is the worst part," Stone said. "Once I get that beeper, then I will be nervous."

There will be a table set up in the MSC this week to accept donations for Stone.