

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Photo by Shelly Schluter

Sharpshooter

Pool shark and comedian Jack White performed in the MSC lobby Tuesday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. White has performed as a guest on "The Tonight Show," "The Ed Sullivan Show" as well as "Wide World

of Sports." White has also been a performer in the White House. The MSC Recreation Committee asked White to perform at Texas A&M University.

Reagan signs bill to revive budget cuts

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan on Tuesday signed legislation reviving the Gramm-Rudman budget-balancing law and vowed that "the big spenders in Congress will have a fight on their hands."

In a Rose Garden ceremony, Reagan put his signature to a bill that would require \$23 billion in deficit reductions in the fiscal year that begins Thursday and a balanced budget by fiscal 1993. It would cut military and domestic programs across-the-board if its goals are not met.

The president complained bitterly about the legislation, saying Congress was seeking to raise taxes or cut the Pentagon budget to comply with it. He had no choice but to sign it, he said, because it included an urgently needed increase in the national debt limit.

"I will not allow the American people to be blackmailed into higher taxes," Reagan said, repeating his call to trim "pork-barrel spending" that he said was at the root of the deficits.

"The big spenders in Congress will have a fight on their hands," he said, adding that those who expect him to agree to tax hikes or defense cuts were "nuts."

Reagan's harsh words at the ceremony contrasted sharply with his

statements earlier Tuesday before an audience of international financiers critical of the huge U.S. deficit.

There, he praised the bill as "a signal that America is not backing down from its responsibilities."

In a speech to a joint meeting of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, the president called for a cooperative effort among the world's financial powers to help Third World nations solve their debt crisis. But he said he cannot lecture others without dealing first with America's problems.

"It is imperative that the United States consistently reduce its federal deficit spending," Reagan said, taking note of the Gramm-Rudman bill.

"It should be seen as a signal that America is not backing down from its responsibilities," he said. Then he called on Japan and West Germany "to find the political gumption to stimulate their economies without reigniting the fires of inflation."

Reagan's support helped the original Gramm-Rudman bill become law in 1985. At that time, it included the automatic spending cuts later thrown out by the Supreme Court.

The president's enthusiasm for the law has cooled since the Democrats took control of the Senate this year. He said Democrats were trying to use it to force him to accept a tax increase or cuts in military spending.

A&M police consider giving tickets by computer

By Melissa Kennedy
Reporter

The Texas A&M University Police Department is looking at a new system to computerize campus parking-ticket distribution, but budget limitations have pushed consideration of the plan back until at least next year, said Bob Wiatt, director of security and traffic.

The plan, already in use at the University of Texas, Baylor University and Southern Methodist University, would implement the use of computer technol-

ogy in ticket allocation. The officer on patrol is equipped with a hand-held, battery-powered unit weighing from two to five pounds.

When an officer finds an illegally parked car, the description and license number of the car are keyed into the unit. The units are capable of creating a file of license numbers with an excessive number of unpaid tickets. If the keyed license number matches one in the file, a towing message might be programmed to appear.

In other cases, the information is re-

corded on a tape and a copy of the ticket is produced from the hand unit itself, or from an attached unit, and is placed on the windshield. At the end of a shift, the officer transfers the cassette recording of tickets from his hand unit to the main computer at the station.

Wiatt said University Police issues more than 110,000 tickets annually. He said he would like to employ the computer system and that A&M will eventually be using it.

"I think this is the technology of the future," he said.

However, Wiatt believes it is not within UPD's operating budget this year to implement the computer ticket system. He anticipates that conditions next year will be better for such an expenditure and he hopes that the cost of the system will go down.

The cost of a hand unit is about \$2,600, and it would cost more than \$50,000 to equip A&M's police department with the main computer and hand units for all parking-patrol officers.

Because of a stricture on state budget expenditures for capital expenses, the sys-

tem cost would have to come out of the police department's operating budget, Wiatt said.

UPD's operating budget, which exceeds \$2.5 million annually, is generated from parking fines and permit sales. It is used to support University Police personnel salaries, intracampus shuttle-bus operation and maintenance, a van for the handicapped that runs off campus and the night van service to the parking lots west of Wellborn Road.

"The state will not pay for anything to do with parking," Wiatt said.

Voters have until Saturday to register to vote in November general election

By Carolyn Kelbly
Reporter

Texas A&M students and other Brazos County voters have until Saturday to register to vote in November's general election, which will decide 25 state Constitutional amendments and two referenda, including the controversial item that would legalize pari-mutuel betting in Texas.

Brazos County voter registration cards for the Nov. 3 election must be marked by Saturday, and registered voters will also be able to vote at the March 8 "Super Tuesday" presidential primary election.

Voters failing to register by Saturday, however, can still register for the March primary election until Feb. 7.

To register, a voter must be 18 by Nov. 3, a U.S. citizen and a Texas resident. Anyone with a felony conviction is ineligible.

November's general election has the largest number of proposed

amendments to the Texas Constitution in state history. The two referenda are Referendum SB 15, the controversial pari-mutuel horse racing and dog racing issue, and SB 86, which would make the Texas Board of Education members appointed rather than elected.

Rep. Richard Smith, R-Bryan, said the primary election in the spring includes the presidential contenders, congressional candidates and candidates for state and local positions.

"Since the elections occur on Tuesday during the school year, it is very important that students register," Smith said. "And the most convenient way to vote at A&M is to register in Brazos County."

Smith says it is important the registration card be completed correctly before it is mailed or the registration will be invalid.

Kent Martin, Smith's spokesman, says the permanent residence ad-

dress on the card should be the voter's actual address in Bryan-College Station, not a post office box. The Brazos County registrar must know where the voter physically lives to place him in a voting precinct.

Although the telephone number is optional, he says it is very important for the registrar to be able to get in contact with the voter in case there are any registration complications.

Martin says on-campus students can obtain the card tonight from tables set up outside Sbis Dining Hall and the Commons Dining Hall. Registration cards will also be available Thursday afternoon in the main hall of the MSC.

Off-campus students should have received a registration card along with Smith's newsletter through the mail. If they have failed to receive these items, they can call Rep. Smith's Bryan office, Martin says. The newsletter and registration

cards also were made available to the Corps of Cadets through the company commanders.

Students who register will be able to vote near or on the A&M campus.

County Clerk Frank Boriskie said the campus is divided into three voting precincts:

• **Precinct 20** is located in the MSC. The student ballot box serves south side dormitories.

• **Precinct 21** is located at the Hensel Park Apartment Special Building. This location serves married student housing.

• **Precinct 35** is located at the A&M Presbyterian Church at 301 Church Ave. This location serves the north-side dormitories.

Off-campus students will vote in their respective precincts.

For more information about registration and voter eligibility students can call the Brazos County Tax Assessor-Collector's office at 361-4490 or 361-4492.

U.S. escorts tanker as British sweep for Iranian mines

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — U.S. warships on Tuesday escorted a Kuwaiti tanker toward a major Persian Gulf shipping channel where British mine sweepers were searching for explosives believed planted by Iran.

U.S. officials said the Navy would respond strongly if Iran continued "intensified" war activities that they said increased after U.S. helicopters attacked an Iranian minelayer.

"We're not looking at routine operations," said one U.S. source who spoke on condition of anonymity. But he said the Navy's gulf-based resources were already seriously strained.

Iraq said its warplanes attacked a ship off Iran and bombed a weapons and ammunition factory in the suburbs of Tehran, a large power plant near the Iran-Soviet border and an oil pumping station in the south.

Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency said a number of people were killed in the raids and in Iraqi shelling of the southern cities of Khorramshahr and Abadan. It said Iranian artillery shelled the southern Iraqi port city of Basra in retaliation.

The United States began to escort 11 Kuwaiti tankers through the gulf in July to protect them from attack by Iran, which considers Kuwait an ally of Iraq in the 7-year-old Iran-Iraq war. Kuwait insists it is neutral.

On Sept. 21, the Navy attacked and captured the landing craft Iran Ajr and said it was caught in the act of laying mines. Iran said it was not carrying any military cargo and vowed revenge.

Defense Secretary Caspar

Weinberger, back in Washington after a trip to the gulf, said Tuesday that the United States would not hesitate to attack any Iranian vessel sowing mines.

Iran's Foreign Ministry said similar statements by Weinberger on Friday in Bahrain were "hostile and provocative."

Pentagon spokesman Fred Hoffman said the 10th convoy left Kuwait on Monday and was steaming "uneventfully" south through the central gulf. He said the guided-missile frigate USS Hawes was escorting the 46,723-ton tanker Gas Prince.

"Three possible mines were sighted Sunday by the Navy destroyer Kidd and its anti-submarine helicopter about 15 miles north of Dubai," Hoffman said. "But . . . we have no concrete evidence that there are any mines there. So based on present information, reports of extensive new mine fields in the southern Persian Gulf are . . . overdrawn."

But he said tankers in the region were being warned away from the area as a precaution.

A U.S. source who spoke on condition of anonymity said the convoy's trip through the gulf, normally two to three days, could take longer because of the mine threat.

Traffic was being diverted or not moving at all through the area Tuesday as captains heeded warnings issued by the Navy.

The British mine sweepers Brecon, Bicester and Hurworth were searching for explosives and were accompanied by the frigate Andromeda and the Ardebil, a support vessel, witnesses said.

Study questions use of campaign donations

WASHINGTON (AP) — A study of campaign financial records shows contributions to Texas congressmen have gone to pay for such items as baby-sitting fees, a luxury automobile, car telephone and meals at Washington restaurants.

The congressmen, however, defend their use of the funds as outlined in a Harte-Hanks' Washington bureau study of Texas lawmakers' campaign-spending records from 1985 through the first half of this year.

Among other things, the San Antonio-based media company's study shows that:

• Rep. Marvin Leath used campaign contributions to buy a new Lincoln Continental for \$16,818 two years ago.

The luxury car is the Waco Democrat's only vehicle in Washington and he since has spent at least \$2,500 in campaign funds for a car telephone, insurance, repairs, tires and gasoline.

Although he uses the car for personal as well

as work-related purposes, Leath believes it was proper to pay for it with election money since he considers his life in Washington as "political" in essence, Doug Canatsey, his chief aide, said.

• Rep. Steve Bartlett spent \$1,690 in campaign funds for baby sitters in two years.

The Dallas Republican, who has three young children, used election money for baby-sitting fees only when he and his wife were away on overnight or extended campaign trips, Bartlett aide Mary Jane Maddox said.

As for the contributors to the congressmen's funds, a spokesman for a campaign contribution watchdog group said political action committees for large interest groups often are ambivalent about how their money is spent.

Congress Watch director Craig McDonald said, "They are looking for influence, so they

don't care if a congressman buys a Cadillac or pays his attorney. The more enjoyment he gets out of the contribution, the better for the PAC."

But individual contributors and smaller PACs generally don't want campaign contributions to go for personal or quasi-political expenses, McDonald said.

"They would consider that a waste of their money," he said. Congressional ethics committees rarely investigate campaign spending practices, a Common Cause spokesman said.

Marci Frosh of the self-styled citizens' lobby said, "Members can just go on and violate ethics and rules and no one will do anything about it."

Federal law and congressional rules say that campaign funds may be used for any "bonafide campaign or political" expense, but that definition has been broadly interpreted by ethics panels.