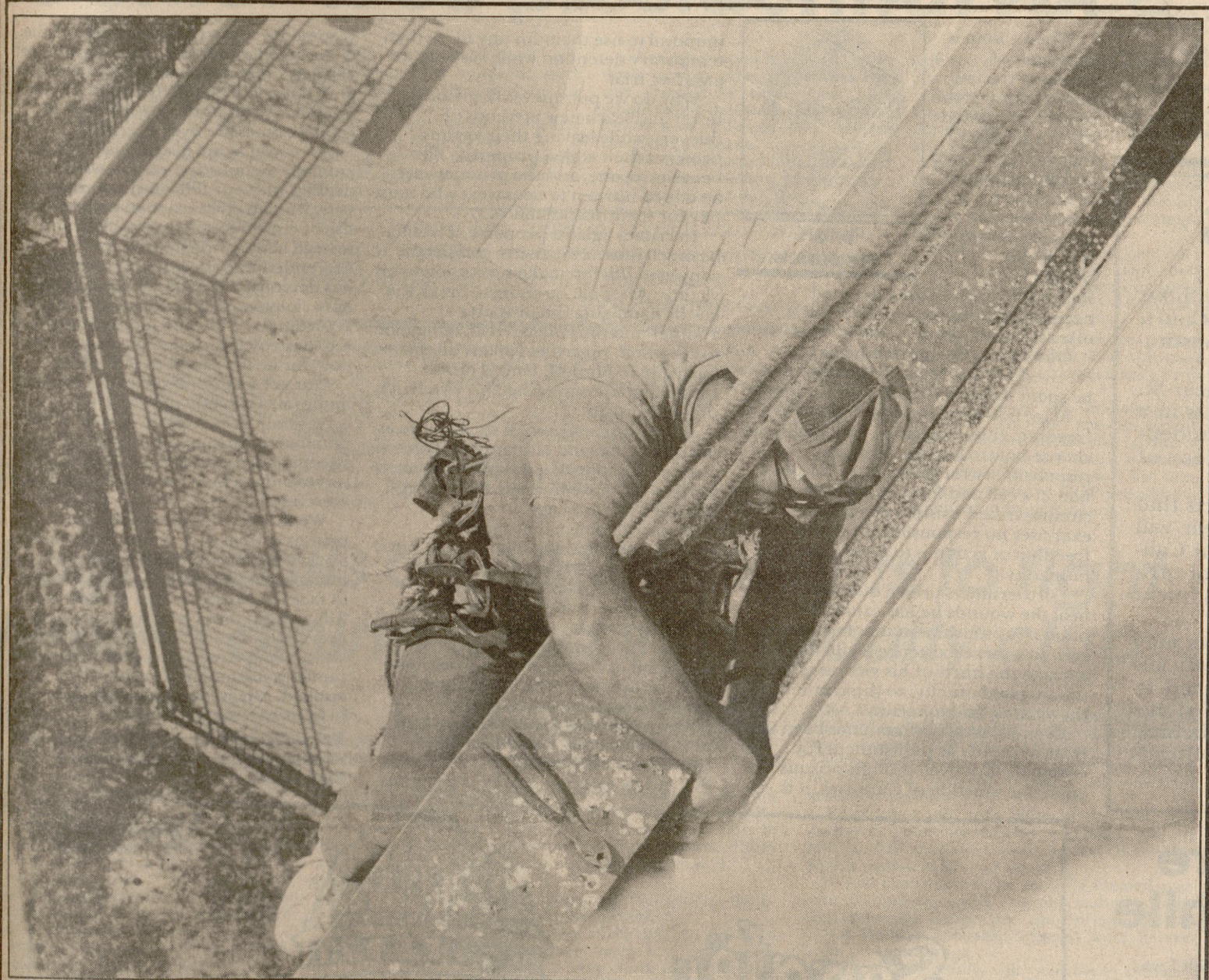


# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Hanging around

Sam Harris of Houston replaces lights in the Kyle Field sign Monday. Co-worker Jim McCafferty, also of Houston, explained that the lights

burn out when pigeons roost on them at the moment they are turned on. At \$30 per foot of neon, the birds can run up quite a bill.

Photo by Sam Myers

## Amtrak wreck in Iowa ends with 115 hurt

RUSSELL, Iowa (AP) — Amtrak's California Zephyr slammed into a railroad crane laying new track Monday, knocking both locomotives and 11 cars of the passenger train off the tracks and injuring at least 115 people, officials said.

"Everything was going smoothly and all of the sudden I heard the screeching of the brakes and everyone went flying," passenger Mildred Faddis of Oakland, Calif. said. "There was debris everywhere. It was terrible."

Amtrak spokesman Debbie Marciniak said the railroad's 16-car No. 6 train was headed east toward Chicago shortly after 11:30 a.m. when it hit a crane being used by Burlington Northern, which operates the tracks across southern Iowa.

A preliminary investigation determined that a work crew moved the crane and another car onto the railroad siding to allow the Amtrak train to pass, but an improperly aligned switch put the train on the siding, causing the collision, a spokesman for Burlington Northern said.

At least 112 people were taken to the Lucas County Memorial Hospi-

tal in nearby Chariton, hospital spokesman Barbara Riggs said, while three of the most seriously hurt, including two railroad workers, were flown by helicopter to hospitals in Des Moines.

She said at least nine of the injured would be hospitalized overnight, but that most of the injured suffered bumps, bruises or broken bones.

Marciniak said Amtrak's records showed 248 passengers and 22 crew members were on the train, but she said that number would not include passengers who failed to show or who bought tickets at the last minute.

Amtrak operates on Burlington Northern tracks across southern Iowa.

Burlington Northern had a derrick and crew in the Russell area, but spokesman Yvette Brown said she could not confirm the company's equipment was involved.

She said a Burlington Northern employee in charge of the crew was injured, but said she had no details.

Amtrak dispatched six buses to take the passengers to their destinations.

## Group: Legalizing drugs will put end to prison crowding

AUSTIN (AP) — The Libertarian Party, urging Texans to vote against proposals that would pay for new prisons, said Monday the best way to reduce prison crowding is to legalize drugs.

Current drug laws have forced higher prices for street drugs, often requiring drug users to turn to crime to support their expensive habit, said Gary Johnson, the Libertarians' Texas secretary.

"The war on drugs is over," he said at a Capitol news conference. "Drugs won."

The Libertarians oppose Proposition 8, which would authorize \$500 million in bonds for projects such as prisons, and Proposition 18, which would create property tax districts for local jails. Both are on the Nov. 3 ballot.

The amendments are supported by state leaders who say additional prison space is sorely needed for compliance with a federal court order concerning Texas prisons. But Johnson said the answer is fewer crimes.

"Instead of building more prisons, Texas should stop locking up peaceful citizens for harmless activities," Johnson said. "The first step to solve prison overcrowding is to le-

galize victimless crimes, especially drug possession."

He said the continued incarceration of drug-law violators means criminals who pose a greater threat to society are released from prison.

Johnson said legalization of drugs probably would not cause a great increase in drug use. Personal use of drugs should not be a government concern unless the drug use forces people to rob or steal to get drug money, he said.

Property crimes would drop significantly if drugs were legalized, Johnson predicted.

"Drug abuse should be treated like alcoholism," he said. "The law should deal with reckless behavior like driving while intoxicated, but not mere possession or moderate use of recreational drugs. Possession of marijuana, cocaine, LSD or heroin should be as legal as possession of a six-pack of beer."

The anti-drug laws have been as unsuccessful as the ban on alcohol, Johnson added.

"A rerun of the 1920's Prohibition overburdens our courts, jails and prisons," he said. "Many criminals who commit property crimes and violent crimes are not caught, tried or punished."

## Bush officially announces quest for presidency to Houston crowd

HOUSTON (AP) — Vice President George Bush officially began a "last hurrah" quest for the presidency Monday, trying to become the first man in over 150 years to win the White House while serving in the No. 2 job.

Returning to his hometown to formally kick off his second campaign for the Republican nomination, Bush told hundreds of cheering sup-

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porters that the key issue in 1988 will be who should follow Reagan in the Oval Office.

"For seven years now, I have been with a president, and I have seen what crosses that big desk," Bush said. "And who should sit at that desk? I am that man."

Bush, surrounded by his wife, Barbara, and other members of his family, said, "I mean to run hard, to stand on the issues. I mean to win."

In a 20-minute speech, Bush walked a fine line between praising Reagan as "a great president" and suggesting ways he would part company with his boss.

"The president asked for and received my candor," Bush said. "He never asked for, but received, my loyalty. But now it is my responsibility to turn to the American people and share with them my hopes and intentions, and I wish to lead."

During the speech, which touched on an array of domestic and foreign policy issues, Bush embraced Reagan's stand against any general or significant tax increases, vowing that "I am not going to raise your taxes."

But he offered a slight variation on a frequent Reagan theme of recent weeks — the president's call for an "economic bill of rights." Bush said the U.S. tax code is "cloaked in deliberate ambiguity" and advocated a "taxpayer's bill of rights."

He indicated a shared philosophy with Reagan on the need for "a prudent skepticism" in deal-

ings with the Soviets and said the Reagan doctrine of encouraging struggles for democracy "must thunder on." That, Bush said, includes Nicaragua as well as Afghanistan and Africa.

Without citing any names, Bush blasted those who engage in "influence-peddling in Washington" and said Americans must "leave the tired old baggage of bigotry behind us."

Bush joined New York Rep. Jack Kemp, former Delaware Gov. Pete du Pont, former television evangelist Pat Robertson and former Secretary of State Alexander M. Haig Jr. as officially declared candidates. Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole of Kansas is expected to announce his candidacy next month.

Bush campaign organizers set up an ambitious schedule of public appearances and national television interviews to accompany the vice president's announcement.

## Firm sells phony passports for protection from terrorism

HOUSTON (AP) — A Houston company is selling fake passports to Americans traveling abroad who hope to avoid being singled out as U.S. citizens during terrorist attacks.

The passports, which apparently are not illegal and use fictitious countries, sell for \$135 and come complete with fake entry and exit stamps and other notations.

For \$95, military personnel can buy the same artificial passport to use as a subterfuge since they often travel with only their military identification cards.

Donna Walker, whose firm International Documents Services makes the passports, said she got the idea after Iranians took 52 Americans hostage at the U.S. Embassy in 1979. But she didn't act until more Americans were singled out by terrorists through their passports or military cards.

She said the attacks made her realize that Americans needed a way to "hide" from terrorists even when they could not run from them.

The artificial passports sometimes will purport to represent a nation under an old name that has since been changed for political reasons.

The passport comes with two additional pieces of documentation, such as a library card or an identifi-



Graphic by Susan C. Akin

cation card supposedly for the interior of the non-existent country.

Walker said she first consulted federal officials about making the documents.

"They said they didn't think I could do it, but didn't say I couldn't do it," she said. "All the printers I talked to were scared to death to print the passports because they thought it was illegal."

"I finally found a printer who would do the work. Now, some of my best customers are federal officials."

## Members of Communist Party explain ideas about socialism

By Kimberly House  
Reporter

"We want to take real people and put them in Congress, people like truck drivers, steel workers and factory workers," members of Communist Party USA told students Monday night in Rudder Tower.

The Atheists, Agnostics and Free Thinkers Society sponsored a one-hour forum to allow these members of the party to present and discuss some of the goals and beliefs of Communism.

Al Rodriguez, Class of '74, has been a member of the party for 10 years and is now a member of the Texas District Executive Committee. Rodriguez said Communist ideas go back as far as the American Revolution.

"Thomas Payne and Samuel Adams fought for Communist ideas when no one even knew much about the party," Rodriguez said. "The ideas make the Communist Party, and history is moving it our way."



Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

Al Rodriguez, left, and John Carter call for questions from the people attending a forum on Communist Party beliefs and ideas.

"The socialist system will come to the U.S. because capitalism will not be able to solve the social problems of poverty, unemployment, etc. It doesn't offer solutions to the problem of itself."

John Carter, also a member of the party for 10 years, has been chairman of two Communist clubs in Los Angeles and one in Houston. He was also in Young Communist Youths for one year.

Carter pointed out the main goals for Communism:

- An end to the threat of nuclear war.
- Guaranteed jobs for all.
- The elimination of bigotry, prejudice, anti-Semitism and racism.
- Opportunities for all and an end to discrimination.
- Equality for women.
- Decent place to live at affordable rents for all people.
- A secure life for the elderly and handicapped people.
- A system that guarantees free medical care, child care and education for all.
- A U.S. Congress that is truly of, by and for the working people.

Carter said the Communists have the strongest party in the world for gaining peace and ending exploitation.

"We want to throw out the gamblers and parasites in Congress," Carter said about the millionaires and billionaires in power. "Their money comes out of other people's pockets."