

Texas A&M
The Battalion

Vol. 87 No. 81 USPS 045360 16 Pages

College Station, Texas

Tuesday, January 26, 1988

2 committees begin search for president

By Richard Williams
Senior Staff Writer

The search is officially on to find a replacement for outgoing Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver. During Monday's Texas A&M Board of Regents meeting Chairman David Eller appointed the members of two committees that will search for A&M's next president.

Eller appointed himself, Board Vice Chairman Joe H. Reynolds, regents Douglas R. DeCluit, William A. McKenzie, John Mobley and Chancellor Perry L. Adkisson to the presidential search committee. The entire Board is welcome to attend and provide their input at all presidential search committee meetings, Eller said.

A small committee was necessary, Eller said, because it is easier for a smaller group to meet and because expediency is important at this time.

A second committee called the search advisory committee also was named by Eller at the regents meeting. Appointed to this second committee were Vandiver, Adkisson, Dr. Daniel Fallon, Dean of the College of Liberal Arts; Dr. Edward A. Hiler, head of the Agricultural Engineering department; Dr. Don Helligriegel, professor of management; Dr. C. Richard Shumway, Speaker of the faculty senate; Dr. Williams J. Merrell, president Texas A&M at Galveston; Mason Hogan, A&M student body president; Joe Clayton, president of the association of former students. Hiler will serve as chairman of the advisory committee, Eller said. Bill C. Presnal, executive secretary to the Board, will serve as secretary to the search advisory committee.

Eller said the search advisory committee "will review the applications and nominations of the prospects and identify those it believes to

be qualified to serve as president of Texas A&M University."

After this step is taken the entire list of names and the committee evaluations will be given to Adkisson, Eller said. The chancellor will then give the presidential search committee of the Board "the recommendations of the search advisory committee and his official recommendation as may be deemed appropriate," he said.

The presidential search committee will then forward their selection to the entire Board, Eller said.

Vandiver said his definition of requirements for the next president are that he must have, "the wisdom of Solomon, the patience of Job and the stomach of a goat."

The next president of A&M doesn't necessarily have to be an A&M graduate; instead, Vandiver said a more important requirement is that they meet "the internal and external requirements for the job."

During the meeting Vandiver served notice to the Board that he does not intend "to fulfill the role of lameduck" because "lameducks have a way of getting run around, and shot to pieces and otherwise eaten up. I don't intend to be in that role. I'm going to be president right up until the day I step out. I just wanted to serve notice to everybody on that."

Vandiver, who will step down on Sept. 1 to become director of the Mosher Institute of Defense Studies, said he would like to remain at A&M for around another five years.

During the meeting the regents also adopted a resolution that created the position of Distinguished university Professor and appointed him to serve as the first holder of the John H. and Sara H. Lindsey Endowed Chair in Liberal Arts. The regents also conferred the title of President Emeritus to Vandiver upon his retirement from A&M.



Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

Lt. Humphreys of College Station Fire Dept. 1 surveys fire damage in Dorm 12.

Lamp shorts out, causing blaze that destroys part of dorm room

By Sam B. Myers
Reporter

A fire damaged a room in newly-renovated Dorm 12 Monday evening while residents were returning from dinner, acting Capt. Fred Rapczyk of the College Station Fire Department said.

University Police Chief Elmer Schneider said students had controlled the blaze with dry-chemical fire extinguishers and water

by the time the fire department arrived at 7:14 p.m.

The apparent cause of the fire was a desk lamp that shorted out and ignited other articles on the desk, Rapczyk said. The fire engulfed the desk, destroying it and damaging the corner of the room, he said.

Rapczyk said the room suffered moderate smoke and chemical damage.

The dorm's electrical system was eliminated as a possible cause

because it was checked before cadets were allowed to move in, Sergeant Major Larry Kirkland of the Corps Housing Department said.

Brian Hornberg, a senior engineering technology major of Company G-2, and Chris Rollins, a senior building construction major of Company S-2, were the first to open the door and try to extinguish the fire.

Hornberg said he opened the door using a passkey.

The room's residents said all of their exposed belongings were either ruined or heavily damaged. David Baron, a civil engineering major, and Neill Connelly, a biochemistry major, said the only things unaffected by the fire were the belongings in the dresser drawers.

Baron and Connelly, both freshmen in Company E-2, had just moved into the newly renovated dorm along with three other outfits.

Officials suspect test caused drop of reading scores

WASHINGTON (AP) — A government-backed testing agency delayed release of 1986 reading-exam results because scores among 9- and 17-year-olds dropped sharply, and embarrassed officials suspect testing procedures, not students' reading abilities, may have slumped.

The drop was in the reading portion of the National Assessment of Educational Progress, an exam given to 70,000 students ages 9, 13 and 17 selected to represent their entire age group. Scores for 13-year-olds did not fall.

The assessment, calling itself "the nation's report card," is run under a \$4 million-a-year federal contract by

Educational Testing Service of Lawrence Township, N.J.

"We have, it's embarrassing to say, a real mystery here. We haven't come up with any ideas that solve the problem," Archie E. Lapointe, executive director of the testing program, said Monday in a telephone interview from ETS headquarters.

"If we were to accept that data, it would look as though kids have lost a year or more's performance . . . from 1984," Lapointe said. "It's such a sharp loss that had it occurred, just about every teacher of those youngsters in the country would have perceived (it)."

Chester E. Finn Jr., the Education Department's assistant secretary for educational research and improvement, said: "It's a combination of a disappointment and a mystery. . . . It's either a glitch in the NAEP instrument or a glitch in American reading."

The reviewers at ETS considered — but discounted — a wide range of possibilities that could have skewed the results, including the fact that some youngsters took the exam on Jan. 28, 1986, the day the Challenger space shuttle blew up.

"There was some minor drop of 9-year-olds that afternoon, but nothing that would explain the significance of what we found," Lapointe said.

Operation goes well for Goswick

The director of Texas A&M's A.P. Beutel Health Center was in stable condition late Monday night after undergoing bypass surgery in St. Joseph Hospital, according to the hospital's assistant director of nursing.

Dr. Claude B. Goswick Jr. was taken to St. Joseph Hospital Wednesday after he suffered a dizzy spell at the University health center. Subsequent tests revealed Goswick's previous problems with hard arteries made open-heart surgery necessary.

Dr. Gordon Mitchell, a Bryan cardiologist and Class of '77, said Goswick would be recovering from the surgery for between six weeks and two months.

While Goswick is recovering, Dr. John M. Moore, a physician at the health center, will serve as director of the facility.

People support police department after vagrant shoots Dallas officer

See related story, Page 8

DALLAS (AP) — Hundreds of people rallied to support the beleaguered police department on Monday as authorities said they would try to prosecute bystanders who yelled "Shoot him, shoot him" before a vagrant killed a police officer.

"It's good to see this support in the community for a change. Most of the time we only see the negative side," said officer Thomas Cicio, observing the crowd of about 400 who marched from the John F. Kennedy Memorial to City Hall and back.

Some carried signs reading "God Bless Our Men and Women in Blue" and "Police Are People, Too."

The shooting of the white officer by the black vagrant Saturday has heightened a growing tension between the mostly white department and the city's minority community, whose leaders have criticized the department for several police shootings of blacks.

Meanwhile, police Capt. John Holt said officers were trying to identify the two to 10 onlookers who, according to witnesses, yelled "Shoot him, shoot him," encouraging the vagrant to shoot officer John Chase after he took Chase's revolver. If any are identified, murder

Disparities in opportunities hinder minorities

DALLAS (AP) — A landmark report on racial separation outlines disparities in education, housing and employment opportunities between whites and minorities in Dallas.

"It spells out specifically what the needs are," said Dallas Mayor Annette Strauss. "It was done by responsible people and will not simply be put on a shelf to gather dust."

The report comes at a time when relations between police and minority leaders are strained, most recently over the weekend shooting of

a white policeman by a black homeless man.

The Dallas Alliance, a 12-year-old organization, commissioned the \$500,000 report called "The State of the Community: Implications for Inter-group Relations."

The report concludes that poverty, crime, unemployment, a lack of decent and affordable housing and student dropout rates are keeping many blacks and Hispanics from moving into the economic mainstream.

Among the key findings:

- The percentage of black families living below poverty level is almost five times that of whites, and the percentage of Hispanics below poverty level is almost 3.5 times that of Anglos.

- Blacks and Hispanics are "significantly more likely to live in deficient housing" than whites.

- Minority children, who make up the majority of Dallas school students, suffer from a "devastatingly high" dropout rate.

charges could be brought against them, Holt said.

"We're going to have to delve into that further," he said. "Just because we can identify someone doesn't mean we can come up with a name and a picture."

Holt said police have statements from 45 people in the area when the shooting occurred, but that they don't have names of those who goaded the suspect.

"The officer was saying, 'Don't shoot me. I'll help you whatever way I can.' But the guy shot him in the head," said one witness, Melitha

Johnson, who was interviewed at the scene.

Said Holt, "Members of the crowd encouraged him (the suspect) to run away, and then he returned to officer Chase's body and fired twice more into officer Chase's face at point-blank range."

The vagrant, who later was killed by police, had a history of mental problems.

Police officials do not believe the shooting was racially motivated, though Holt said most of the onlookers were black. The vagrant had a lengthy criminal record dating to 1978, including an assault on a po-

lice officer last August, Holt said.

Chase had stopped a man driving a car that police computers said was owned by someone with an outstanding warrant, Holt said. The driver turned out not to be the person wanted on the warrant.

Holt said the driver told investigators Chase was polite and didn't mistreat him, and that when the vagrant arrived he told the driver to leave. The driver complied and did not see the shooting.

The vagrant, Carl Dudley Williams, 34, began arguing with Chase, police spokesman Vicki Hawkins said.

Reagan's speech full of goals for final months

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan said Monday night in his final State of the Union message that the United States was "strong, prosperous, at peace," and he asked Congress to help make his last year in office "the best of eight."

"I don't buy the idea that this is the last year of anything," Reagan said.

The president said he has a full

agenda for his final months in power: keeping the economy strong, maintaining peace, attacking social problems, particularly in education, and promoting the spread of democracy worldwide.

Without specifying a figure, Reagan urged Congress to approve more aid for the Contra rebels in Nicaragua. He also called on the Senate to ratify the recently signed

agreement with the Soviet Union to abolish intermediate-range nuclear weapons.

A senior administration official, briefing reporters at the White House on condition of anonymity, said the aid request would be "under \$50 million," with about 10 percent of the figure earmarked for "lethal" military aid and the rest for non-lethal aid.

Reversing course from last year, Reagan called for increased spending for education and the war against drugs.

He claimed for his administration "an untold success story" — an increase in the number of young people who are willing to turn away from drugs. He praised his wife, Nancy, for that development: "She has helped so many of our young

people to say 'no' to drugs. Nancy, much credit belongs to you, and I want to express to you your husband's pride and your country's thanks."

In a separate legislative message transmitted to Congress, he requested \$1.5 billion — roughly a 50 percent increase — to fight the deadly AIDS virus.