

# Official charged in petition fraud

HOUSTON (AP) — A notary public faces a misdemeanor charge in connection with the filing of allegedly fraudulent signatures on petitions to qualify Republican presidential candidates for the March 8 Texas primary.

Sylvester Neely, 39, is charged with official misconduct for allegedly failing to properly notarize petitions for Sen. Bob Dole and Alexander Haig, authorities said. He is the first charged in connection with the alleged fraudulent petitions.

Neely failed to take sworn oaths from campaign workers that the petition signatures were valid, Harris County Assistant District Attorney Casey O'Brien said Monday.

There is evidence of fraudulent signatures on the petitions, but there is no evidence Neely was aware signatures had been forged, O'Brien said.

Neely surrendered to the Harris County Sheriff's Department and posted a \$500 bond. The charge is a

Class A misdemeanor punishable by up to a year in jail and a \$2,000 fine.

O'Brien said Neely accepted more than \$300 in return for notarizing election petitions at 35 cents a page during early December. The signature collectors were not present as required when the petitions were notarized, the prosecutor said.

Several thousand signatures were not notarized, he said. Neely was charged with failing to take an oath for one page because of practicality.

# Leading candidates try to take New Hampshire

Associated Press

Republican Sen. Bob Dole and Democratic Rep. Richard Gephardt blew into New Hampshire on Tuesday, two Midwesterners angling to turn their first-place Iowa caucus finishes to advantage in next week's lead-off presidential primary elections.

Vice President George Bush, the national front-runner humbled by a third-place finish, redoubled his campaign efforts and requisitioned one of Dole's campaign themes. "I'm one of you," he told New Hampshire voters.

But Pat Robertson, Iowa's surprise Republican runner-up, said the vice president's "myth of invincibility" was gone. Another rival forecast Bush's swift political demise, despite the vice president's lead in New Hampshire polls.

Unlike Dole, Gephardt notched only a narrow win in Iowa. He immediately declared himself the "clear underdog" in the state and pronounced Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis the Democrat to beat.

## View of caucus impact varies

AUSTIN (AP) — The impact of Iowa's presidential precinct caucuses was called everything from deeply significant to utterly meaningless in Texas, depending on which campaign was viewing the results Tuesday.

Aides to Sen. Al Gore, D-Tenn., who didn't contest Iowa and received less than 1 percent of those votes, said Iowa didn't matter because their candidate is concentrating on the March 8 Southern "Super

Even so, he said, "I'm gonna do fine."

Sen. Paul Simon, runner-up among the Democrats in Iowa, also pegged Dukakis the man to beat, and said, "The important thing is who comes in second."

Dukakis predicted he would carry the state next Tuesday but neither

he nor his aides wanted to predict a margin. "I think after New Hampshire the field will be narrower and we will be the front-runner," he said in an interview.

He added, "I think it's going to be more aggressive, only because the field now is going to begin to narrow."

Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, who finished a close third in Iowa and was favored to win next week's New Hampshire primary, said his Iowa showing proved he can wage a national campaign.

"If I can get out of New Hampshire in good shape, and I fully expect to, I think we're going to do well in the South and be on our way to the nomination," Dukakis said. "I think the South is wide open."

# Soviets broadcast meeting urging ratification for treaty

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet television brought glasnost to the seat of Soviet power Tuesday when it broadcast live a session of the Supreme Soviet with officials urging ratification of the treaty banning intermediate-range nuclear missiles.

In an unprecedented move, state TV ran two hours of the session held in the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, the nominal parliament.

Speaking under the gold ham-

mer-and-sickle seal of the Soviet state, top officials called for the treaty's ratification, but questioned the trustworthiness of the United States.

Kremlin No. 2 man Yegor K. Ligachev, Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze and Defense Minister Dmitri T. Yazov all backed the document in their speeches to the Foreign Relations Commission of the Supreme Soviet.

Yazov promised the public that no country would ever gain military superiority over the Soviet Union.

"We prepared it profoundly and comprehensively," he said of the treaty. "Each word and each figure in it were most thoroughly studied and checked."

The commission must make a recommendation to the Presidium, which has the final decision on ratification.



Photo by Chuck Squatriglia

## Lay it on me

Kevin Scroggins repaints the street curbs that line Joe Routh Street Tuesday. Scroggins works on the

sign crew of the A&M Grounds Maintenance Department.

# Noriega portrayed as force behind criminal operations

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former associate portrayed Panamanian strongman Manuel Antonio Noriega on Tuesday as the driving force behind a "gigantic machine" that generated hundreds of millions of dollars through drug trafficking, money laundering, gunrunning and other criminal enterprises.

Jose I. Blandon, a former Panamanian intelligence official fired by General Noriega as his country's counsel general in New York, said also Cuban President Fidel Castro once personally intervened in a dispute between Noriega and the Medellin drug cartel in Colombia.

One cocaine shipment by an alleged Noriega associate involved an

apparent connection to the U.S.-backed Contra rebels in Nicaragua, Blandon told a Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee.

Blandon also testified that Noriega worked closely with the CIA and regularly received classified reports on the political leanings and personal lives of U.S. senators and congressional staff members.

The CIA reports, along with others prepared by the National Security Council staff, included information on the activities of Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C., a leading Noriega critic, and on Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., Blandon said.

Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., heading the congressional investigation,

said such reports would be "reprehensible" and that if the testimony proves correct, those responsible should be fired.

Efforts to reach CIA officials for comment were not immediately successful.

Kerry said key U.S. agencies, including the Drug Enforcement Administration and the State Department, were until recently either "duped" by Noriega or blinded to the nature of his enterprises by their interest in Panama's strategic importance as the site of the Panama Canal.

Blandon described a network of people and allegedly used by Noriega to profit from drug operations.

# A&M athletes enjoy extras

Players get some types of favoritism

Athletics at A&M

Part two of a four-part series

By Tracy Staton  
 Senior Staff Writer

Autograph-seekers mob football players after the Super Bowl. Children start trading baseball cards when they are old enough to memorize batting averages. And people read the sports section of the newspaper before they read the front page.

In this sports-oriented society, it's not surprising that student athletes receive special treatment. And no amount of declaration that "athletes are just like everyone else" can belie the fact that they are treated differently.

Just how much differently athletes are treated is a popular subject for speculation. Myths and rumors about the athletes' lifestyle circulate regularly.

It's not a rumor, however, that student athletes don't have to meet the same admission criteria as other applicants to be accepted to Texas A&M.

Proposition 48, a National Collegiate Athletic Association bylaw, requires prospective scholarship ath-



Photo by Jay Janner

Athletes enjoy a chicken fried steak lunch Tuesday at Cain hall.

letes to have a 2.0 grade point ratio in high school with a core curriculum of three years of English, two years of mathematics, two years of social science and two years of natural or physical science, including one lab science. The athlete also must score 700 on the Scholastic Aptitude Test or 15 on the American College Test to be admitted to college.

But if the athlete meets the GPR requirement and does not make the required score on either test, he is a "partial qualifier" and can be admitted on scholarship but cannot play sports for one academic year.

Dr. Bill Lay, A&M's director of admissions, says A&M follows the NCAA's admission policy.

"We have followed NCAA regulations for scholarship athletes for many years," Lay says. "The University president a number of years ago decided to follow these NCAA regulations."

Non-scholarship athletes are admitted according to the requirements for all other students, he says.

These requirements have changed considerably since the enrollment

See Athletes, page 8

# Judges' campaigns get \$50,000 from Pennzoil's lawyer

AUSTIN (AP) — Two Texas Supreme Court justices got \$50,000 in campaign contributions from the lead attorney for Pennzoil Co. in its lawsuit against Texaco Inc., two months after the court upheld a multibillion-dollar verdict favoring Pennzoil, records show.

Houston attorney Joe Jamail on Jan. 6 gave \$25,000 each to justices Ted Robertson and William Kilgarlin, candidates in the Democratic primary, according to contribution reports filed Monday.

Jamail's donations were among several the justices received from attorneys.

A jury ordered Texaco to pay Pennzoil \$10.53 billion after deciding the oil giant wrongly interfered in Pennzoil's planned merger with Getty Oil Co. The 1st Court of Appeals reduced the amount by \$2 billion, but interest on the award continued to accrue, bringing the total over \$10 billion.

The Supreme Court upheld the decision, but a \$3 billion settlement was later reached.

Including the January contributions, Jamail and his family have

contributed \$288,000 to sitting Supreme Court justices since 1980.

Court members have been criticized for accepting large donations from lawyers who practice before them.

Robertson and Kilgarlin were in a court conference Tuesday and did not immediately return telephone calls from the Associated Press.

"Both of these people have decided that money does not affect their decisions, and that's been quite clear in an analysis of their record," Richard Jensen, political consultant for Kilgarlin and Robertson, said.

Both justices accepted \$15,000 from the Houston law firm of Hardy, Milutin and Johns and \$2,500 from Russell McMains of Corpus Christi, who represented Texaco.

Kilgarlin and Robertson got \$5,000 and \$10,000, respectively, from the political action committee of the Houston law firm of Vinson & Elkins, which also represented Pennzoil. Each also received \$5,000 from another Pennzoil lawyer, W.J. Kronzer of Houston.

# A&M student dies in crash near Buffalo

John Nino Yaccino, a Texas A&M junior from Houston, died Tuesday morning after a head-on collision that occurred at 9:15 a.m. about three miles north of Marquez.

Yaccino, 21, was driving south on U.S. Highway 79 when his 1986 Suzuki Samurai veered across the center stripe of the highway and struck the left front tire of a Kenworth truck driven by Jerry A. Kile, 26, of Tunkhannock, Pa.

Yaccino was pronounced dead at the scene at 10 a.m. by Judge Dorothy Farmer. Kile was promptly taken to Leon Memorial Hospital in Buffalo, where he was treated and later released.

Yaccino was a physical education major. Among other activities he was involved in at A&M, he was a manager of the football team. He was also a member of the Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity.

The funeral will be held Friday in Houston.

Yaccino's sister, Maria, is an A&M sophomore.