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Jackson pushes for offer of VP job

WASHINGTON (AP) — Michael Dukakis and George Bush are starting to get serious about choosing running mates, with Dukakis facing an increasingly insistent Jesse Jackson who says he has earned an offer of the job.

Dukakis quickly rejected that notion on Wednesday.

"I don't think anyone is due an offer. But there are a great many people that are going to be considered and he'll be one of them," the Massachusetts governor said.

Dukakis locked up the Democratic presidential nomination in Tuesday's final primaries, setting up his fall matchup with Bush, who has had the GOP nomination in hand since late April.

Clinching the nomination freed Dukakis to finally admit he is thinking about a running mate, while Bush has been holding private talks on the matter for several weeks. For both, picking a vice presidential nominee is the next step in building what they hope will be an Electoral College majority in November.

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The vice president, trailing in the polls, has made it clear he will be happy to let Dukakis go first, an option granted him by the calendar.

Dukakis must make his choice in time for it to be ratified by the Democratic National Convention in Atlanta in July. The No. 2 spot on the GOP ticket does not have to be filled until almost a month later, when the Republicans gather in New Orleans.

In the past week, Jackson has marched firmly to the front of the line of Democratic politicians asking for consideration for a spot on the ticket. On Wednesday, he went further, contending that his second-place finish in the Democratic race means he deserves to actually be offered the No. 2 spot.

"Consideration does mean an offer; it does not mean just in passing," Jackson said.

Jackson adviser Ann Lewis put it this way: "It is essential that any short list begin with Jackson. And it

is essential that the decision be made with him — not just communicated to him after it is made."

There is substantial resistance in the party to Jackson.

"Jesse on the ticket would destroy it," said veteran New York activist and labor lawyer Charles Torche. "There are still a lot of black haters out there."

Dukakis is getting a lot of advice to pick a Southerner to help him in that region or to choose a moderate senator such as John Glenn of Ohio.

"With the proper running mate, the South will be for Dukakis," said Arkansas Democratic Party executive director Kip Blakely. "What he needs is a Southern senator."

In addition to Glenn, other possible vice presidential choices include Sens. Albert Gore Jr. of Tennessee, Bill Bradley of New Jersey, Bob Graham of Florida, Lloyd Bensten of Texas, Sam Nunn of Georgia and Dale Bumpers of Arkansas.

Jackson retorted to those who are pushing Southern senators, laying out his primary record in the region.

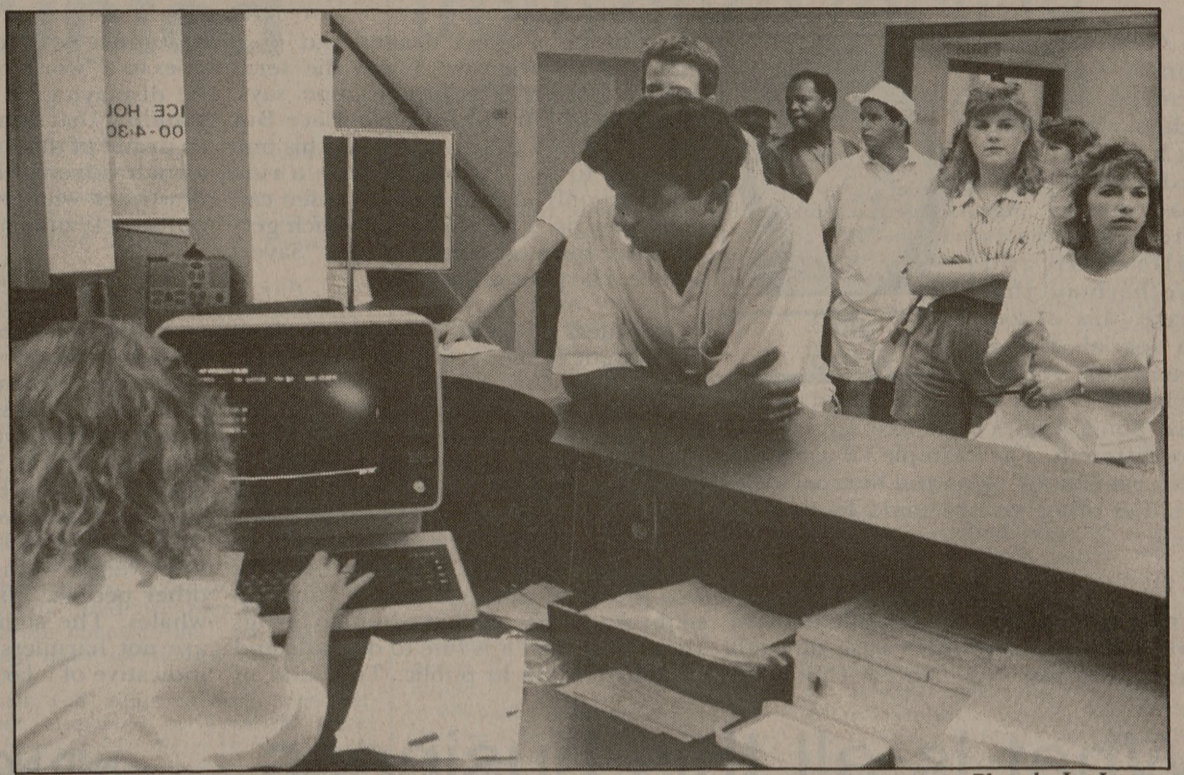


Photo by Jay Janner

Students wait in the UPD office to get their summer parking permits. A&M is forming a new department to handle parking, ticket payments and vehicle registration on campus.

New department may aid A&M parking problems

By Alan Sembera
Staff Writer

Getting a parking permit and paying parking fines may be easier in the fall because of the formation of new Department of Parking and Transit.

Mary Miller, the newly-appointed assistant vice president for finance and operations, is overseeing the formation of the department.

Department officials are considering opening a window in the Pavilion for paying parking fines and putting out drop boxes for parking-fine payments, Miller said.

She said the department also will try to make it easier for students and staff by allowing vehicle registration by mail.

"We're hoping that with fall registration, we'll have a much more simplified, convenient customer-oriented (vehicle) registration process," she said.

Also next fall, some students,

faculty and staff will get the chance to participate in a "hang tag" experiment instead of using parking stickers, Miller said.

"These will be parking permits that you hang from your rear-view mirror rather than fix to your windshield," she said. "That allows you flexibility to use any car."

The department should be created within the month, Miller said, and a director will be chosen by then. The final details will be ironed out after the director is appointed, she said.

The search for a building for the new department is continuing, she added.

The parking administration part of the department will issue permits, collect fines, set parking regulations and manage parking facilities, she said.

Bob Wiatt, director of security and campus police, said the University Police Department will continue to collect fines and issue

permits until the new department is set up.

When it finally does move, Wiatt said, the administrative staff for parking will move out of the University Police Station. The move will not affect the operation of the police department, he added.

Miller said Maj. Linda Lively, administrative director at the police department, will become the proposed department's parking administration director.

Enforcement of parking regulations will still be up to the University Police Department, Miller said.

The traffic engineering part of the department will develop traffic flow plans for the campus, Miller said.

It also will participate in long-range planning for parking and street development, she said.

These operations are being combined to prevent problems that might be caused by a lack of coordination during space and traffic planning, she said.

Officials stop convoy bound for Nicaragua

LAREDO (AP) — A political roadblock stopped the Veterans Peace Convoy to Nicaragua from crossing the Rio Grande on Wednesday after federal officials informed the group that 37 vehicles carrying food and medical supplies would violate restrictions on trade with the Central American nation.

About 100 members of the convoy that started from four U.S. cities on May 21 said they would stay put in this border city until the U.S. government allows the caravan to cross the border.

The group had camped in Laredo Tuesday night and planned to cross the border Wednesday morning with some 40 tons of supplies. Federal officials, though, informed them that the supplies could cross, but the vehicles could not.

U.S. Customs officials said they were instructed by the Foreign Assets Control of the Treasury Department to enforce trade control regulations at the border.

The restrictions prohibit the unlicensed export of goods from the United States to Nicaragua, but do not prohibit "donated articles such as food, clothing and medicine, intended to be used to relieve human suffering."

Treasury officials contend that taking trucks to Nicaragua would violate the trade embargo, and told the convoy it would have to post bonds totaling the value of all of the vehicles.

Black workers end longest, largest strike

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Blacks ended their longest and largest general strike Wednesday, with anti-apartheid activists calling it a victory over restrictions imposed by South Africa's white authorities.

Employers estimated the three-day protest, involving more than 2 million workers and students, cost the economy \$250 million.

At least 10 people were killed, 38 wounded or injured and 36 arrested, and many commuter buses and trains were attacked.

Black labor federations, supported by prominent clergymen, organized the protest to express opposition to restrictions put on anti-apartheid groups Feb. 24 and proposed legislation that would limit the rights of unions to strike.

"The stayaway is an indication of the determination of the people to oppose the apartheid government," said the Rev. Frank Chikane, general secretary of the South African Council of Churches. "It means the February restrictions have not suppressed the spirit of resistance."

Security forces maintained a relatively low profile during the protest and government officials made virtually no public statements about it,

but employers threatened to reduce work forces and move toward mechanization if political strikes continue.

Black miners virtually ignored the strike and kept the most lucrative industry operating almost normally despite support for the protest by the National Union of Mineworkers leadership. Mining produces 80 percent of South Africa's export earnings.

An editorial in *Business Day*, the leading financial newspaper, said the reluctance of miners "to play the political games of their leaders may be the first sign of dawning awareness that they, too, have a great deal to lose."

Bobby Godsell, chairman of a committee representing major employer associations, said there still was a chance management and black workers could negotiate an agreement on the labor bill, but declared, "It didn't require a three-day stayaway to get to where we are. It isn't a sensible way of seeking an alliance with employers. It will leave a legacy of hardened attitudes."

The Congress of South African Trade Unions, the largest black labor federation, asked employers to join an independent inquiry into the effects of the labor bill.

Reagan wins trade bill fight

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate handed President Reagan a victory on the trade issue Wednesday, narrowly sustaining his veto and refusing to enact a 1,000-page trade bill into law over his objections.

On the 61-37 vote, 10 Republicans abandoned the White House and supported the override, while just two Democrats voted to sustain Rea-

gan's second veto of a major trade bill in three years.

"This controversy with the president is not about trade, it is not even about economics. It is about politics," Sen. Pete V. Domenici, R-N.M., declared just before the Senate acted.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, a cosponsor, said, however, "They'll be rejoicing in Japan, they'll be popping champagne corks in Germany" as a result of the action.

The override move fell five votes short of the two-thirds majority needed to override Reagan's veto.

Senate Majority Leader Robert C. Byrd, D-W.Va., voted against the measure in a parliamentary move that would allow him to bring the bill back again. He said he hoped constituents would pressure their senators to revive the measure before Congress adjourns for the fall election campaign.

Senate action was accompanied by renewed calls for a more moderate version of the bill, minus provisions opposed by Reagan, that could be signed into law before congressional adjournment.

There also were pointed reminders from both Republican and Democratic lawmakers that Reagan's supporters on the issue could come under political attack for opposing the bill, with its provision to require notice to employees of plant closings and large-scale layoffs.

"We may lose the battle, but we've won the war on this issue," Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., said. "This is no longer an issue between the Congress and the White House. It is now a presidential campaign issue. Governor (Michael) Dukakis stands by working men and women who deserve notice of plant closings."

Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., conceded there were no assurances that a revised bill could win approval this year. He said it "can be done if the leaders in the Senate and the leaders in the House will

agree with the administration and then agree to no more amendments."

But Byrd has been warning that any fresh bill would be peppered with amendments in the Senate and easily could become so bogged down that finishing work on the measure would become impossible.

Dole told the Senate the bill should get a more critical look because "it fails the truth in advertising test."

Far from being devoted to opening global markets for American goods, Dole said, the measure represents "a grabbag of provisions of questionable merit." He cited measures to allow in duty-free ethanol and aid major banks stuck with billions of dollars in Third World debt.

Reagan vetoed the measure May 24, focusing his criticism on the plant-closings provision, which would require companies with 100 employees or more to provide them with 60-day notice of closings and large-scale layoffs. Reagan said it would rob managers of the flexibility needed to keep their businesses in peak economic health.

Reagan also was critical of an array of other provisions, including what he described as overly stringent restrictions on Alaskan oil exports.

But the House quickly overrode his veto, 308-113. That left it up to the Senate whether to enact the bill over the president's veto.

The bill would overhaul procedures under which the government imposes import curbs to assist U.S. industries and retaliate against international trade violations.

It also would boost by \$1 billion payments to grain companies to export U.S. crops and furnish both farmers and the advertising industry with additional subsidies to stimulate overseas sales of American agricultural commodities.

The windfall profits tax on oil companies would be repealed under the measure.

Dow to pay for library brick repairs

By Loyd Brumfield
Senior Staff Writer

An agreement reached between Texas A&M and Dow Chemical Co. will leave Dow footing the repair bill for the faulty brickwork on the Sterling C. Evans Library, the vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction said Tuesday.

Gen. Wesley Peel said A&M reached the agreement with Dow last week after a long series of negotiations on how to begin repairs.

Work is scheduled to begin June 20.

A section of brickwork fell from the library last August. The University maintains that Sarabond, a chemical produced by Dow, caused the steel supports on the overhanging section of the library to expand and the brickwork to fall.

Dow, however, has disputed that claim but will pay for the repairs nevertheless as part of their settlement with A&M.

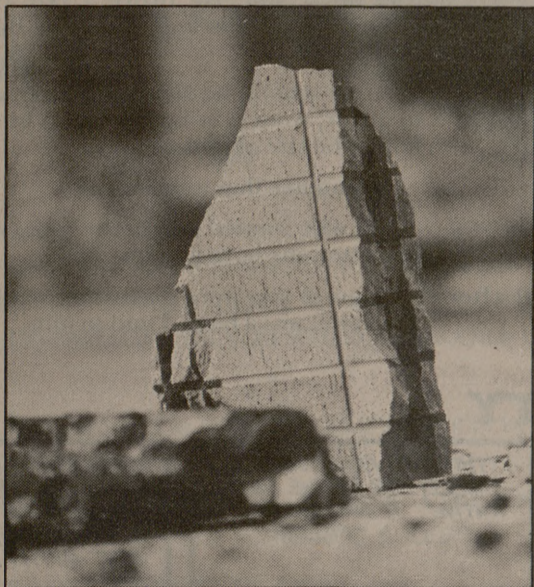
"There never has been any concession by Dow that Sarabond was the cause of the accident. That has always been the University's contention," said Guy Relford, attorney for Dow. "We're just happy that we've reached an agreement."

He said the specific provisions of the settlement are confidential.

"We decided it was best to come to a settlement just so we could avoid litigation," Relford said. "Just because of the sheer cost of it, it's always preferable to avoid litigation."

Relford wouldn't discuss problems in the settlement, but he said his company did what it thought was best in handling the situation.

"They made a demand, then we made counter-offers and finally we compromised and made concessions," Relford said.



Battalion file photo

A large section of bricks fell from the Sterling C. Evans Library August 10, 1987.

"We're basically very happy with the arrangement," he said. "The University has been very responsive and we hope the settlement suits both parties."

Dow will work in conjunction with the Continental Masonry Company of Oklahoma City.

Peel said repair costs should fall between \$750,000 and \$1 million.

"That's what we came up with last semester and the final figure still seems to be falling somewhere in that area," he said.

A&M has been negotiating with Dow since last semester, and Peel said much of the delay was caused by technical problems.

"It was a long series of negotiations, and a lot of it had to do with the breakdown of job responsibilities," he said. "It was a matter of who was going to do what, which bricks would be removed and when, and so forth."

"There were an awful lot of technical matters to be resolved," like deciding which plan was the most feasible, Peel said.

"Everyone has been very responsive and we're happy with the plan," he said.

Peel said the repairs will be completed during the fall semester.

"I've been told that it should take 150 working days to complete the project," he said.

The library, which has been partially enclosed by a fence since last semester, will continue to be sectioned off for the duration of the repairs.

"There will still be a protected entranceway to protect students and paneling will still be up around the library because if people wander around there, they'll get knots on their heads," he said.

No other buildings on campus use Sarabond in their construction, Peel said.

"Continental Masonry has worked a lot with Sarabond, so it's not like a first-time experience for them," he said. "We expect the work will go smoothly."