

Inside

At Ease

Health and fitness



Raise your hand if you're sure

Marcus Chaloupka, senior stage manager of the University Center Complex, directs the lighting onto "The Hand That Was Not Called," an 18th

century work by Thomas Beach. The painting is part of the exhibit "Aspects of British Painting: 1500-1800" which opens today in the MSC.

Photo by Jay Janner

Testimony continues in dismissal hearing

By Stephen Masters
Senior Staff Writer

The Academic Freedom, Tenure and Responsibility Committee met for a third day of hearings Wednesday to discuss the contested dismissal of a tenured Texas A&M professor.

Dr. Katharine Richards, an assistant professor in the department of modern languages, was notified that she would be removed from payroll in May 1986 by Luis Costa, Modern Languages Department head, in a letter dated Dec. 16, 1985. Richards protested the action and is still on the University's budgeted payroll because of continuing appeals within the school.

The school is attempting to prove one or more of four accusations among "professional incompetence, continuing or repeated substantial neglect of professional responsibilities, moral turpitude adversely affecting the performance of duties or to the meeting of responsibilities to the institution, or to students or associates, and mental or physical disablement of a continuing nature adversely affecting to a material and substantial degree the performance of duties or the meeting of responsibilities to the institution, or to stu-

dents or associates." Richards and her legal counsel, Gaines West of West, Adams, Webb & Allbritton, have said the school has listed no actual incidents of any of the accusations and have filed a civil suit with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission claiming the school is discriminating against her on the basis of her handicap, sex and age. Richards is 48 and has had poliomyelitis since she was 10.

She joined the A&M faculty in 1970 and received tenure in 1976. She was elected to the Faculty Senate and its Research Committee in Spring 1988.

The Academic Freedom, Tenure and Responsibility Committee normally follows basic court procedure, but some changes have been made to accommodate witness' schedules.

The prosecution normally calls all of its witnesses prior to defense witnesses, but this has not been the case since the proceedings will last longer than the originally scheduled three days. Committee members do all questioning of the witnesses, but legal counsel for each party can submit questions to be asked by the panel.

Witnesses Tuesday said Richards gave few explanations in class, stu-

dents had problems understanding her and was absent-minded in class. Video depositions from some of Richards' former students are expected to corroborate these complaints.

Costa said one student complained Richards tended to call on a select number of students and ignore the rest of the class. Another former student testified that she had no trouble in Richards' Spanish 205 class, but was advised to retake the course with a different instructor after failing to keep up on the first day of Spanish 206.

Wednesday's testimony included two phone-in witnesses — Dr. Adelaide Martinez, a former tenured associate professor in the department of modern languages at A&M who now works for the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and John Pindexter, a May 1986 A&M graduate now working for the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas. Both spoke to the committee via conference call.

Martinez, who worked for A&M for six years through May 1987, testified that she had no way of knowing how Richards' former students

See Trial, page 13

Cooke Cablevision properties for sale; Report says price could top \$1.5 billion

By Sharon Maberry
Staff Writer

Cooke Cablevision, the cable television company servicing Bryan-College Station, is up for sale.

"I don't know the reasons why Mr. (Jack Kent) Cooke is selling his properties," Tom Rose, manager of the Cooke cable's Bryan-College Station office, said. "He bought them from McCaw Cablevision about two years ago."

"As far as I know, Mr. Cooke, himself, is not giving any comment except that it is for sale." Cooke could not be reached for comment.

Rose says the sale should not affect present subscribers.

John Southard, southern region general manager for Cooke Cablevision in Knoxville, Tennessee, agrees that the sale should not affect subscribers.

"I can't imagine it having any effect on the subscribers," Southard said. "Mr. Cooke ran a very good company. I can't imagine anyone wanting to change that."

The sale will not be finalized before the end of January or February, Southard said.

"It all depends on who the buyer is, and negotiations during the process," he said.

"There are no prospective buyers now. The sale book will be out this week sometime for the brokers (to give information to buyers)."

"It will be a bidding process. People will be making offers. We will know more on that line 45 days from now."

A spokesman for Drexel Burnham Lambert, the firm handling the sale, said the firm is not free to disclose any information concerning the sale. However, an article in the Aug. 29 issue of Broadcasting magazine reported that the sale price could "easily exceed \$1.5 billion."

Cooke Cablevision has properties in 17 states: Alaska, Arizona, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, New Mexico, New York, Ohio, Oregon, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Washington and Wyoming, Southard said.

Cooke Cablevision operates three cable systems in Texas — Bryan-College Station, Paris and Victoria.

Broadcasting magazine reported that Cooke's cable systems had close to 700,000 subscribers.

Rose was not able to provide the number of Cooke Cablevision subscribers in Bryan-College Station.

UPD arrests 2 for burglarizing cars on campus

By Jeff Pollard
Staff Writer

University Police officers arrested a student and a former student Tuesday night in connection with nine automobile burglaries occurring late Tuesday morning and early Tuesday afternoon.

Sherry Ann Eckhardt, 19, and Charles Anthony Cabico, 22, were arrested after undercover police officers observed the pair breaking into a car in the parking lot behind the Commons, Bob Wiatt, University Police Department director, said.

Eckhardt, a sophomore business major, and Cabico, class of 1985, were picked up by undercover officers Tuesday.

Wiatt said the officers observed the couple "acting suspiciously" around one of the cars parked in parking annex 56.

"They did not even know we were watching them," Wiatt said. "The problem was that we could not see exactly what they were doing."

Wiatt said that the couple went from there to the Commons lot

where they were seen standing around two other cars.

"The officers saw the man step in the Commons lot, walk over to a car and then walk back to his vehicle," Wiatt said. "As he was doing this a second time, the officer in lot 56 reported that the window of the first car had been smashed out."

At the time of the arrest, officers found two radar detectors that had been reported stolen earlier in the day. A search of Eckhardt's apartment turned up four more radar detectors.

Wiatt said the UPD and the College Station Police Department are considering filing additional charges against the men.

"We have to check with the District Attorney's office to find out how many charges they want filed," Wiatt said. "Rather than file nine separate charges, they may want us to file only one or two and lump them all together."

As of 4 p.m. Wednesday, the men were being held in the Brazos County Jail.

Official: B-CS needs absentee voting

By Susan B. Erb
Reporter

GOP Party Chairman Rodger Lewis plans to ask the Brazos County Commissioners' Court next week to reconsider its decision to designate the Brazos Center as Brazos County's only absentee voting site.

In the past, absentee voters in Brazos County have voted at the county courthouse in downtown Bryan. At Tuesday's commissioners' court meeting, Lewis asked the commissioners to set up additional ab-

sentee sites on the Texas A&M campus and at Post Oak Mall.

"What we want to do is put the boxes where the people are," Lewis said. "The sheer fact that half of the county is on the A&M campus every day is enough to justify the placement of a site on campus, and the second highest traffic area in Brazos County is Post Oak Mall."

Lewis' Democratic counterpart, Ron Gay, said that he is not opposed to the placement of an absentee voting site on the A&M campus, but that it would not be accessible to Bra-

zos County residents because of parking problems.

To set up enough sites to counterbalance a campus site, he said, would be expensive — about \$3,000 per site.

Democrats suggested the Brazos Center, he said, because it is centrally located, easily found and has adequate parking.

The decision will be submitted to the U.S. Justice Department's elections division, who must approve changes in absentee polling sites.

Additional sites still can be added once a decision is made.

Absentee voting, first established for voters unable to be in their precinct on election day, now is available to anyone.

In an effort to boost lagging voter turnout, the Texas Legislature in its last session extended the absentee voting period from one week to two.

Absentee voters may cast their ballots Monday through Friday Oct. 19 to Nov. 4, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Brazos Center, pending Justice Department approval.

Mobley speaks at first Student Senate meeting

By Jeff Pollard
Staff Writer

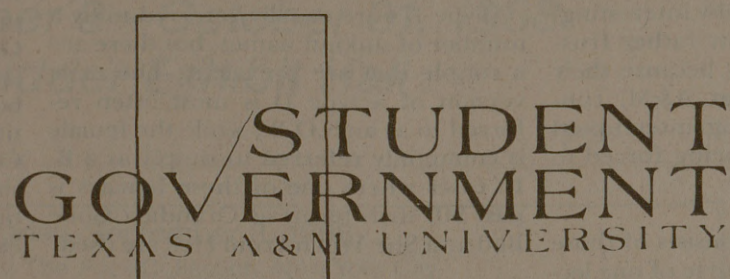
The Fall 1988 Student Senate met for the first time this semester Wednesday night. While the meeting was mainly devoted to organizational duties, it was highlighted by a "State of the University" speech from Texas A&M President William Mobley.

In his first speech before the Student Senate since taking over the President's office Aug. 1, Mobley said he was impressed by A&M's tradition of student involvement and great heritage in developing student leaders.

"Compared to other schools, we continue to produce a disproportionate number of leaders in all fields," Mobley said. "I want to continue to support and nurture that long standing commitment to student leadership."

Mobley pointed out the great amount of cooperation between students and faculty over the finals scheduling issue and expressed his hope for that kind of working relationship between the students and his office.

"There will be many times when I will come to you and ask you for your opinions," Mobley said, "and I will always welcome them. My door is open to your suggestions." Mobley took the chance to outline



plans to eliminate several issues of student concern.

In response to several student complaints about the lack of space and too much noise in Sterling C. Evans Library, Mobley said that his office has identified four possible sites to open up for individual and group study. He said the MSC dining area, Sbis Dining Hall, Pie Are Square and the Pavilion were chosen for their large spaces and movable tables.

"The variety of choices for study in the evening," Mobley said, "should help to maintain quiet and order in the Library."

On the issue of campus security, Mobley said they are conducting a study of campus to find out where more lights need to be put up. He said that plans are already underway to put up lights and emergency tele-

phone boxes along the jogging trail near the President's house and in all parking lots. Plans are also being made for bike trails on campus.

"The bike trails may eliminate a few parking spaces," Mobley said, "but it will make it safer for bikers and pedestrians who have to sometimes dodge them."

Mobley pointed out that many of these problems are the result of becoming an increasingly large and complex university. A&M is the seventh largest university in the United States, he said, and ranks in the top 10 in a variety of indicators. With a new legislative session starting in February, Mobley said that it will be difficult schools to get the support they need.

"We need to convince them that education is one of the most impor-

tant investments the state can make," Mobley said. "If we are to continue to grow we are going to need the help of the state legislature."

After Mobley's speech, the senate unanimously passed a bill expressing their approval of the new finals schedule and a bill setting the schedule for Freshman Elections.

Freshmen wanting to run for the

four class officer positions (president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer) and the 10 freshmen senate positions can file between Sept. 19 and Sept. 23. A mandatory informational meeting for all candidates will be held on Sept. 27. Campaigning will begin on Sept. 28 and end on Oct. 4. Elections will be held on Oct. 5 in the MSC flag room, the

Kleberg Building, Evans Library and Sbis Dining Hall and run-off elections, if needed, will be held on Oct. 10.

During committee reports, Jody Manier, Chairman of External Affairs, announced that her committee would be registering students to vote Oct. 4, 5 and 6 in the Commons and the MSC.

Mobley presents finals schedule

By Jeff Pollard
Staff Writer

The latest edition of the long-debated and much-revised semester finals schedule was introduced to the Student Senate on Wednesday night by President William H. Mobley.

The new schedule, which faculty, student and Administration officials have haggled over for more than a year, will go into effect at the end of the Fall 1988 semester.

According to the new schedule, finals will start on the Monday of last week of the semester. The last final will be given on Friday morning and Commencement will be held on Friday afternoon and Saturday morning. Commissioning, Final Review and Boot Dance will be held Saturday afternoon and evening.

"The new schedule means that the campus will still be populated at the time of graduation ceremonies," Mobley said. "It also means that all of the ceremonies associated with graduation will still be accommodated."

The new plan has three other major points:

• Finals for graduating seniors will be administered

with other student finals. This means that faculty members will have to write only one set of final exams.

• Dead week, which Mobley said was never really "dead" anyway, will be eliminated. Instead, the Thursday and Friday before finals week are designated as "Reading Days" during which no classes will be held.

• Graduating seniors will receive unsealed, unofficial diplomas when they walk across the stage. After their grades have been verified and all requirements are completed, a seal will be provided to affix to the diploma, thereby making it official.

The new schedule is the result of efforts on the part of a joint Faculty Senate/Student Senate finals committee and the President's committee on student finals. Mobley said he was astonished by the amount of cooperation between faculty and students and wants it to continue.

"I had my own opinion from the the sideline," Mobley said. "When I suggested my option, I found out it would probably take three weeks to get through finals. That quick dose of reality showed me how difficult the situation really was."