

Friday, March 10, 1989

The Battalion

Eastern strike affects Aggies on spring break

By Ashley A. Bailey
STAFF WRITER

Not only does spring break offer Texas A&M students a chance to unwind and party, it also gives out-of-state students enough time to make the long journey home and back.

Such is the case for Missy Silkwood, a senior wildlife major from Boston, who had planned on flying home today on Eastern Airlines.

"I called Eastern Sunday when I found out that they were on strike, and they said that they wouldn't know if my flight was cancelled until Thursday," Silkwood said. "So I was just supposed to wait to find out whether I was going to be able to go home or not. It was aggravating."

Silkwood didn't just wait. She immediately called other airlines to try to get on another flight.

"I was lucky because the first airline I called was American Airlines, and they said that they would honor Eastern's tickets at the same price but on a standby basis," she said.

"American has been great, but I'm sure that other airlines are doing the same. Now all I have to do is take a bus to Houston, go to Intercontinental airport and wait until there's a seat for me. Fun."

Ricki Holliman, a travel agent at The Travel Company in College Station, said that people could avoid this sort of problem by having some back-up plans.

"We've issued tickets on other carriers as a backup," Holliman said. "And they are returnable for a refund if not used. Most airlines are honoring Eastern's tickets if they fly the particular market of the ticket, but it is my understanding that Eastern is also giving full refunds."

Professor applauds growth of music courses at A&M

By Sherri Roberts
STAFF WRITER

Werner Rose, an A&M professor of philosophy and humanities, hopes that a performing arts center, along with an expansion of the music courses and faculty at A&M will become a reality within the next five years.

Since Rose joined A&M's faculty in Fall 1988 as a coordinator of music, the number of music classes at A&M has increased from two to the five. Two additional music classes will be added in Fall 1989.

The music classes, which are offered by the philosophy and humanities department, will include courses such as Music 285, Ensemble/Orchestra; Stringed Instruments; Music 489, Chamber Music; and Music 285, Ensemble/Orchestra; Piano Studies.

While 200 and 300 level music courses fill up quickly during registration, fewer students are attracted to the 400 level courses, Rose said. Many of the 400 level classes have no prerequisites.

Rose said he would like to develop the academic music program within the College of Liberal Arts rather than create a professional music program that is geared for those who want to perform professionally.

"We have no design to become a school of music," he said. "We want to provide the opportunity for students at A&M to learn and become better acquainted with music as an art — its rich history and meaning in life."

The creation of a music department at A&M will depend on the how quickly faculty can be added to teach music courses and the availability of facilities, Rose said. These facilities would include rehearsal halls, record libraries and practice rooms with pianos.

Senate confirms nominees for horse racing commission

AUSTIN (AP) — The Senate on Thursday confirmed six members of the Texas Racing Commission, after a vote had been held up for a week while Sen. Carl Parker checked various allegations against the commission.

Parker, D-Port Arthur, joined colleagues Thursday in confirming the nominees, 28-0.

"I had some serious problems with the speed at which racing has been brought to Texas," Parker told the Senate. "I also had reason to look into the execution of some contracts that appeared to not have been strictly enforced with the letter of the law."

He said there also had been allegations that the commission had violated open meetings and open records laws, and he had some questions about "what we meant when we refer to racing facilities of the first class."

"I was concerned that in an effort to have high-quality racing at all levels that it would be mistaken for an elitist move where only jockey-club-type facilities for the ultrarich would be created," he said.

Parker said after spending considerable time looking into the matter, "I am persuaded at this point that if errors were made with state contracts, they were not intentional, deliberate violations of the law" but were merely technical violations in good faith.

He said he was also persuaded that the commission would move "with deliberate speed" in getting racing started. "I am assured that we will have at least Class 2 racing in Texas by this summer."

Class 2 tracks are restricted to 44 days of pari-mutuel horse racing a year.

If Texas is going to have racing, we ought to start reaping benefits from it for the state," Parker said.

"And I'm assured that that will begin to happen this summer and money will start to flow in the state till at that time."

Parker also said if the Senate should reject the nominees, "that would only further delay racing in Texas."

Slow-speed pursuit ends when vehicle hits truck

FORT WORTH (AP) — A chase that never exceeded 20 mph ended in death for a 25-year-old Kilgore man when his car collided head-on with an 18-wheeler early Thursday morning, police said.

The victim, Eddie Lynn Spencer, was being pursued through Southwest Tarrant County by police attempting to stop him for a traffic violation when his car slammed into a semi-trailer truck at 2:52 a.m.

"Radar clocked him at 18 mph," said a police spokesman who declined to identify himself.

Forest Hill police officer Clint Turner began following Spencer's vehicle after he noticed it moving erratically in an eastbound lane of Interstate 20 near the Anglin Drive exit, police said.

Turner told investigators he watched the vehicle stop at an exit, then continue on I-20.

While following the car, Turner saw it stop two more times. It never exceeded 20 mph, the officer said.

The officer then attempted to pull over the car, but it kept going and began weaving across other lanes,

Chronicle: Clements gave state contracts to campaign backers

HOUSTON (AP) — Lucrative state contracts have gone to several Republican lawyers and consultants with strong ties to Gov. Bill Clements' successful 1986 election campaign, the *Houston Chronicle* reported Thursday.

In a copyright story, the *Chronicle* said the award of most of the contracts was done under the state bidding process, but also coincided with Clements' takeover of several state boards and agencies through the appointments process.

But Reggie Bashur, Clements' press secretary, said there was no favoritism or bias in the contracts in question and that the governor had no personal involvement.

The Houston accounting firm of Deloitte Haskins & Sells, which had no state business during Democratic Gov. Mark White's last fiscal year in office, has received \$686,201 in state business since Clements took office, according to records obtained from the Texas comptroller's office.

Of that, \$186,996 came directly from the governor's office or agencies under the control of Clements' appointees, the *Chronicle* said.

A senior partner in the accounting firm is Robert J. Cruikshank, who contributed \$43,605 to Clements' 1986 campaign and hosted a Houston fund-raiser that netted \$2.4 million toward retiring Clements' campaign debt.

In addition, Clements recently named Cruikshank to the University of Texas board of regents.

During the past two years, the Dallas-based law firm of Johnson & Swanson has received \$284,380 from the Texas Department of Corrections and the governor's office.

The law firm's Dan Matheson — who worked as finance director on Clements' 1986 campaign and was named to serve on the Texas State University board of regents last month by Clements — negotiated the contracts.

Matheson said his connection to Clements played no role in his firm winning the contract. He also noted that all legal consulting contracts have to be approved by Attorney General Jim Mattox, a Democrat.

Correction

Debe Schafer, a lecturer in the health and physical education department, was incorrectly identified as Dr. Schafer and as a professor in an article Thursday. *The Battalion* regrets the error.



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