

The Battalion



WEATHER

FORECAST for THURSDAY:
Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers in the afternoon.
HIGH: 90s LOW: 70s

University Tower concessions permit revoked

Private hall fights for right to solicit fall residents

By Richard Tijerina

STAFF WRITER

The Texas A&M Department of Student Affairs interrupted University Tower's plans to solicit Texas A&M students on campus when they revoked the tower's concessions permit June 13.

Officials from the University Tower received a letter last week saying they could not solicit students in the area between the Memorial Student Center and Rudder Tower because it was unfair to other off-campus organizations that are not allowed to solicit on campus. The tower is scheduled to open on the corner of Texas Avenue and University Drive in Fall 1989 as a private, co-educational dormitory.

The tower, formerly the University Inn, is now owned by Wallerstein Property Management, the same company that owns the tower dormitory Dobie Center at the University of Texas. A Wallerstein employee who asked not to be identified said the A&M tower had gone through all the necessary University procedures to obtain a legal permit. He said Off-Campus Aggies was the tower's sponsor when it gained the concessions permit.

The letter received by tower officials stated two reasons why the permit, which was to run through the months of June and July, was revoked.

"Due to available space and time, an equal opportunity cannot be provided to all off-campus living units," the letter stated. "This being the case, it is inappropriate for the Off-Campus Aggies to selectively provide an unfair competitive advantage to the University Tower."

The letter also said it was against the University Concessions Policy to solicit goods on campus unless they represent a distinct advantage or convenience to the students, and should not otherwise be available on campus or in the immediate vicinity of the campus.

However, the Wallerstein source said in his opinion, the decision was made because the University considered the hotel a threat.

"It smacks of arbitrariness," he said. "It's arbitrary because they think we're in direct competition with them, since they think we're going to take away from their student housing services."

"I think we all know the dorms at A&M always are full. There's always a waiting list and there always will be. We're really not competing with them. They don't have enough beds to take care of demand."

Ron Sasse, director of Student Affairs, said he believed the University Tower officials under-

"I don't really understand why (the permit was revoked) because they let people like the *Houston Chronicle* come in . . . University Tower is an alternative to on-campus housing, and we offer services the University can't."

— Wallerstein Property Management employee

stood the reasons why their permit was revoked when he personally delivered the letter to them last week and explained the situation.

"The kinds of things they wanted to do, we couldn't provide an opportunity for all off-campus agencies to do the same kind of thing," Sasse said. "I think that was pretty well outlined to them last week."

Curtis Rick, president of Off-Campus Aggies, said he thought the permit was revoked because the University didn't want things to get out of hand.

"The University was afraid that if they started allowing off-campus units to come in every day, then the entire MSC would be filled with organizations sponsoring off-campus housing complexes," Rick said. "The University said, 'No, we need to stop this now before it gets big.' They weren't meaning to single out University Tower." However, the source from Wallerstein said its

presence on campus was no different than those of other businesses that set up tables outside the MSC.

"I don't really understand why (the permit was revoked) because they let people like the *Houston Chronicle* come in, Cooke Cablevision and so on," he said. "University Tower is an alternative to on-campus housing, and we offer services the University can't."

"It looks like an arbitrary decision and it makes no sense. It looks silly. The student body is better off having these options."

University Tower officials had set up a table outside the MSC for two days — June 11 and June 13 — before the permit was revoked.

"If Doux Chene Apartments or Treehouse Apartments wanted to come on campus, which of course they would if in fact the University Tower was allowed to do that, there isn't any reason to accommodate all those agencies in that kind of way," Sasse said. "We couldn't be consistent with everyone."

Sasse said Student Affairs in the letter invited University Tower to set up a booth during the Off-Campus Housing Fair in Spring 1990.

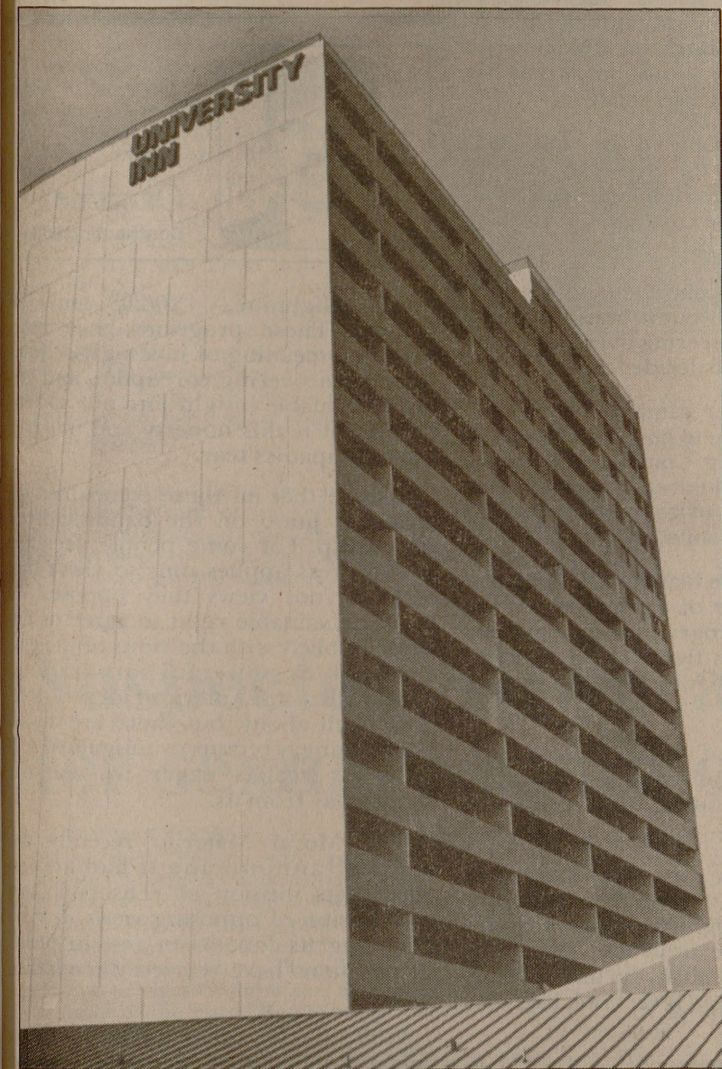
However, Jamie Sandel, leasing agent for University Tower, said although the invitation would help the hotel in the future, the decision to cancel the permit hurts them now.

"They are telling us we can have a booth in the Spring Off-Campus Housing Fair — which is great — it'll help us out then. But it doesn't help us now," she said. "When we were on campus (soliciting), it did nothing but help us out."

Off-campus units should be allowed to solicit on campus if they want to, Sandel said.

"They were comparing us to the fact that if other apartment complexes were allowed to come up, there was no way they could give everybody the time and space," she said. "To me though, it's a first come, first served basis."

The 17-story, 304-room hotel will house about 700 students. Sandel said the University Tower would finish its renovations to prepare the hotel for housing students by August 20, the proposed move-in date.



Battalion File Photo

University Tower

Official recants earlier charge that Williams didn't vote in '86

FROM STAFF & WIRE REPORTS

MIDLAND, Texas (AP) — A second check of records Thursday revealed 1990 Republican gubernatorial hopeful Clayton Williams, Class of '54, did vote in the 1986 primary and general elections, a local election official said.

Betty Calvert, Midland County elections administrator, told the *Dallas Morning News* Wednesday that Williams was registered there but did not vote in the last governor's race.

But on Thursday, as she checked into the matter further, she found documents indicating the Midland oilman and his wife, Modesta, voted in both elections.

"I made a error," Calvert said late Thursday. "I wish the mistake hadn't been made."

Calvert explained she based her discussion with the *News* on a check of poll lists, which voters must sign before they receive a ballot.

As she fielded other calls from reporters Thursday, she noticed an "R" designation on the poll list with the Williams' names from the May 1986 Republican primary.

"An 'R' indicates a returned (registration) certificate. A thought passed my mind that they had come to vote without the judge signing them in," Calvert said. On a

hunch, she checked to see if the couple had changed their address at the polling place. She found an affidavit signed by Williams and the poll judge indicating a change of mailing address.

"Logic tells me he was at polling place and the judge had him sign an affidavit of residency and then the judge failed to add his name to the (poll) list and have him sign," Calvert said.

"I don't think the judge would have him sign the affidavit if his intent was not to allow him to vote. And I don't think Mr. Williams would have been there if it wasn't to vote."

Calvert discovered a second mix-up in the records of the general election.

Precincts were restructured in Midland County a short time before the general election and Williams and his wife were assigned a new polling place.

Williams had disputed the claim he didn't vote.

"I don't believe it. Modesta (his wife) and I always vote," he said. "I was the one who asked Tom Loeffler (a 1986 GOP gubernatorial candidate) to run for governor and I supported Bill Clements in the general election."

"I'm an Aggie and I'm not perfect. Maybe I didn't vote, but I always vote and I'd be very surprised if I didn't vote that year," Williams said.

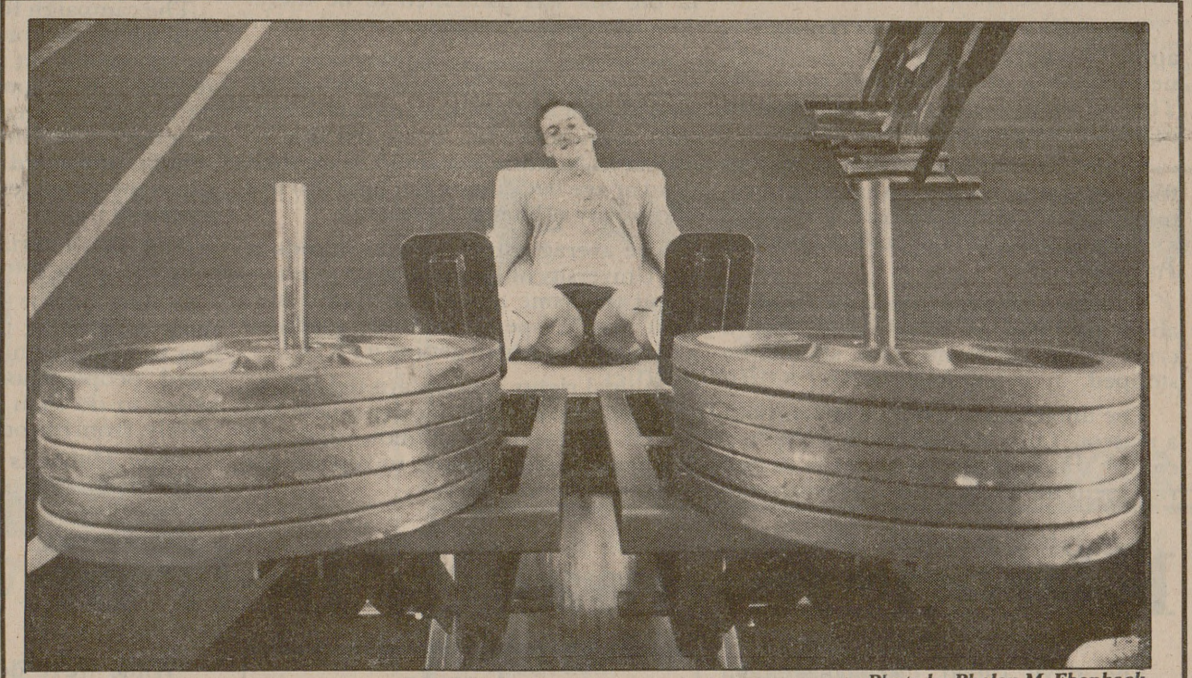


Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

No pain. . .

Kirk Taylor, a junior physical education major from Fort Worth, lifts 650 pounds on the leg

press Thursday afternoon in the Netum Steed Laboratory, where he is a lab assistant.

Court approves seizure of defendants' money

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court, in a ruling expected to bolster the fight against drug dealers and mobsters, said Thursday the government may seize money and property that criminal defendants intend to use to pay their lawyers.

Ruling 5-4 in a pair of cases from Virginia and New York, the justices said the rights to due process and a lawyer's help are not violated when the direct or indirect proceeds of allegedly illicit activities are confiscated.

As it sped toward the expected end of its 1988-89 term next week, the court also:

- Narrowed a century-old federal law by giving cities important new protection against big-money damage awards when they are accused of violating people's civil rights.

In the latest in a string of setbacks for civil rights activists, the court said an 1866 law may be used to sue a city only if it can be proved the alleged civil rights violation was part of an official municipal policy.

The court ruled against a former Dallas high school football coach who said he lost his job because he is white.

- Ruled 6-3 in a free-speech case from New York City that communities may impose regulations aimed at keeping down the

volume at rock concerts.

- Upheld a \$200,000 libel award against Harte-Hanks Communications, but the decision did not appear to weaken significantly the news media's protections against such lawsuits.

At issue in both legal-fee cases were forfeiture provisions of key federal crime-fighting laws, the Continuing Criminal Enterprise Act and the Racketeer Influenced Corrupt Organizations law.

Thursday's rulings also left states free to enact or enforce similar laws.

Justice Byron R. White, writing for the court, compared profits from drug sales to money stolen from a bank.

A robbery suspect, White said, has no constitutional right "to use funds he has stolen from a bank to retain an attorney to defend him if he is apprehended."

White applied a similar principle to drug-trafficking profits.

"A defendant has no right to spend another person's money for services rendered by an attorney, even if those funds are the only way that defendant will be able to retain the attorney of his choice," he said.

White rejected arguments that the right to an attorney deserves more protection than any other constitutional right.

Seven more Chinese protesters executed

BEIJING (AP) — China executed seven more people Thursday for attacking soldiers who crushed the pro-democracy movement, and it charged 13 others with spying for Taiwan and helping the student protesters.

The executions continued despite mounting international condemnation of the government's crackdown on internal dissent.

The seven put to death by the state had been convicted of burning military vehicles when the army marched into Beijing on June 3-4 and drove thousands of demonstrators out of Tiananmen Square.

A poster board outside the Beijing high court was filled with small arrest notices, and those involving the condemned said they ranged in age from 18 to 33. There was a large red check, indicating execution, on each of the notices with the word "proclaimed." Soldiers later removed the notices from the board.

So far, 27 people have been put to death: the seven in Beijing, and on Wednesday three in Shanghai and 17 in Jinan.

The Shanghai residents were condemned of leading an angry mob that burned a train on June 6 after it smashed through a barricade set up by protesters, killing six people.

The 17 in the northeastern city of Jinan were among 45 people convicted at a public rally of 10,000 of "seriously endangering public order." A local reporter said they were common criminals not associated with the student movement, but a radio broadcast said they had taken

House backs Bush's response to abuse in China

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State James A. Baker III appealed to Congress on Thursday to back the measured response of the Bush administration to abuses of human rights in China, and the House responded with a unanimous show of support.

But Senate Democratic leader George J. Mitchell of Maine called for a more forceful renunciation of the executions being carried out despite an appeal by President Bush to Chinese leaders to show clemency.

Mitchell, in a floor speech, said he understood "the delicate situation in which the president finds himself." And, the majority leader said, "I support the stated desire to maintain, if possible, some relationship with the Chinese government."

But, Mitchell said, "I ask — I urge — the president to condemn these acts personally and in the strongest possible terms, to give voice to the feelings of the overwhelming majority of the American people."

Bush, meanwhile, told a luncheon in New York City "we're all very concerned" about developments in China. Later, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater defended the president.

"We feel the administration has spoken out loudly,

strongly and without reservation on this issue," Fitzwater said. "We've spoken out forcefully, more than any other country in the world. Our words speak for themselves. There's no need to repeat different words every day of the week."

Asked specifically to react to the latest wave of executions, Fitzwater said, "There's a great sense of sadness and disappointment that world opinion has not had an influence on the actions of the Chinese."

Twenty-seven people reportedly have been executed in China. Thousands have been arrested as authorities extend their crackdown on advocates of a more liberal communist system.

Baker, testifying before the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said the United States was first among the countries around the world to respond to the assault on students June 3-4 in Tiananmen Square.

"What we have done is to take carefully targeted actions without being inflammatory in our rhetoric and preserving options for the future," he said.

That approach, Baker said, "doesn't necessarily extend to others."

part in disturbances in Shandong province.

Jinan, like many other Chinese cities, was rocked by demonstrations and riots after the military crackdown ended seven weeks of protests in Beijing.

Police since have arrested more than 1,600 nationwide for participating in what the government calls the "counterrevolutionary rebellion."

Many nations, including the United States, appealed to China for

clemency for the condemned, and denounced the executions when the government carried them out.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Li Jinhua said Thursday it was "unwise and futile" for other countries to try to dictate how China should handle its domestic turmoil.

China hopes to maintain relations with the United States, but "we firmly oppose the American government interfering in China's internal affairs and exerting pressure on China," Li said at a weekly press briefing.

The Bush administration has cut off military sales and top-level contacts to protest China's suppression of the pro-democracy movement.

In announcing the arrests of the 13 people charged with spying for Taiwan, national television news showed secretly filmed scenes of the accused mixing with demonstrators and joining in chants during rallies in Tiananmen Square. It also showed secret codes and invisible ink allegedly used by the men, all Chinese citizens.