

845-33  
Tuesday, April 10, 1990

## Activists call for jury probe into shooting

HOUSTON (AP) — Ministers, community leaders and black activists are calling for a second grand jury probe into the shooting death of a black security guard by a Houston police officer.

The group also urged residents Sunday to work peacefully against the rehiring of police Officer Scott Tschirhart.

About 350 people jammed Justice of the Peace Al Green's courtroom for a two-hour meeting Sunday afternoon over the shooting of 24-year-old Byron Gillum.

A Harris County grand jury last week declined to indict Tschirhart, who is white, in the Nov. 15 fatal shooting of Gillum, who is black. The grand jury's decision sparked outrage in the black community.

"There has been a perception of injustice and this community is not going to rest until it believes justice has been rendered," Green, who also is president of the Houston NAACP chapter, said.

Attorney Gene Locke said in a Sunday meeting that Gillum had been shot eight times — including four times in the back as he ran from his car — after he was stopped for a traffic violation.

Residents were urged to fill City Council chambers Wednesday morning and ask that Tschirhart, 27, not be rehired. Tschirhart has appealed his firing to an arbitrator.

Sunday's speakers also urged residents to sign a petition, to be circulated in churches during the next two weeks, asking for a second grand jury to hear the case and for Texas Attorney General Jim Mattox and the U.S. attorney's office in Houston to review it.

According to prosecutors, Locke said, Tschirhart told the grand jury he saw a pistol between the two front seats and that Gillum moved toward it when ordered out of the car. Tschirhart said he fired, thinking Gillum had the weapon, which was found in the car afterwards, Locke said.

## Equipment taken from local construction site; police look for suspects

Thieves stole about \$10,000 worth of tools and equipment from the construction site of the College Station Junior High School on Rock Prairie Road, according to a Crime Stoppers report.

On Friday, Feb. 16, three trailers belonging to contractors at the construction site were the targets of thieves, the report says.

The suspects pried open the doors to the on-site offices of Pyramid Mechanical Services Company and BFW Contractors sometime during the night.

Once inside the trailers, the thieves stole tools and equipment including a Milwaukee T puller drill and bits (serial number 0045918973), two Makita battery-operated screw guns, Canon PC 25 copier, TA Royal typewriter, Motorola two-way portable radio and an LB2 laser level.

The thieves were unsuccessful in their attempt to enter a third trailer owned by Harville Electric.

Detectives report the LB2 laser level later was recovered from the Brazos River near the Highway



60 bridge by a fisherman. Detectives believe that more than one person was involved with the theft and that the thieves will attempt to sell or trade the items in the local area.

This week the College Station Police Department and Crime Stoppers need your help in identifying the person(s) responsible for this burglary. If you have information that could be helpful, call Crime Stoppers at 775-TIPS. When you call, Crime Stoppers will assign you a coded number to protect your identity.

If your call leads to an arrest and grand jury indictment, Crime Stoppers will pay you up to \$1,000 in cash. Crime Stoppers also pays cash for information on any felony crime or the location of a wanted fugitive.

## Students take flying kites to new heights

By ANDY KEHOE  
Of The Battalion Staff

For the 35 members of the Texas A&M Kite Flyers, kite flying is not a simple child's hobby. It is a serious sport.

The team participated in the fourth annual Texas Gulf Coast Stunt Kite Challenge last weekend in Galveston. The competition at R.A. Apffel Park on Galveston's East Beach brought kite flyers from all across the country. With its winds, Galveston is considered to be one of the best stunt-kite flying spots in the country.

An A&M four-member team placed third in the Team Precision category. Precision is based on technical flying, including elaborate loop patterns and figure-eights.

Dan Schmidt, Class of '89, placed first in the Novice Individual Precision category, while Greg Hernandez took fourth.

A new world record was also set in Galveston when a train of 38 four-foot tall diamond kites were flown in tandem.

The competition included Top of the Line and the Chicago Flyers, the top two national teams. Last year, the Galveston competition brought teams from California, Michigan, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and West Germany.

A&M Kite Flyers was formed last fall by a group of students who spent their free time flying kites.

"I didn't know what I'd be getting into at first, but I really enjoy it," Tamara Joyce, vice president of the club, said. "It's very relaxing."

A&M and Oklahoma State University are the only two colleges to have such clubs.

Joyce, who owns close to 30 kites, said that while kite flying is a sport for anyone, some may find the competitions difficult.

"It's pretty easy to pick up, but getting good enough to compete is hard," she said. "That takes a lot of practice."

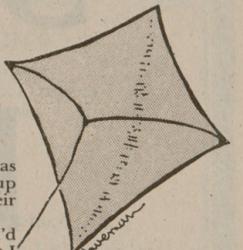
Joyce said that many of today's kites are not at all like the cheap, dime-store paper kites that people flew as kids. Rather, they can get very involved and expensive. The stunt kites, which are used for stunt and team flying, are made of high-performance equipment that can be costly. Joyce said a high-performance stunt kite can run a person from \$200 to \$300.

Joyce said kite flying is not only a hobby, but also a true sport.

"It's probably the fastest growing sport right now," she said. "It's not something to take lightly. You can get a really good workout from it."

The A&M Kite Flyers meets every other Wednesday in Rudder Tower. They will meet Wednesday at 8:30 p.m. in 507 Rudder. Depending on the winds, the group also flies kites every Tuesday at the polo fields.

Anyone interested may join. Practice kites are available for those wanting to learn.



## Texas town discovers significance of one vote

COVINGTON (AP) — Anyone who's ever wondered what their one vote could mean in an election can now use this town as a guide.

Residents voted 51-50 on Saturday to allow the sales of packaged beer and wine in an election that drew more ballots than any in the town's history. Only three registered voters did not participate.

"There's one person in that 51 who was actually the person that carried it," Mayor Jim Clinkscales said.

But he added that all 51 who voted in favor of taking the town "wet" could truthfully brag that their vote was the deciding factor.

"I know one of those who didn't vote. And it wouldn't be too hard to narrow it down to find out the others. I've never seen an election this close."

— Jim Clinkscales,  
Covington mayor

And those three who did not vote are bound to be badgered a bit by voters from the losing side, Clinkscales said.

"I know one of those who didn't vote," Clinkscales said. "And it wouldn't be too hard to narrow it down to find out the others. I've

never seen an election this close."

It was a harrowing experience for Covington's election judge, Willeta McCall.

"I'm a nervous wreck," she said afterward. "This is the first wet-dry election we have ever had in the city of Covington. We counted the ballots several times to make sure our count was right."

Opposition to beer and wine sales at the town's two grocery stores came primarily from members of the town's three churches — the First Methodist Church, First Baptist Church and the Church of Christ.

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# ROD ANDERSON

For Judge  
Brazos County Court-at-Law No. 2

**DEDICATED.**

ROD ANDERSON has served as:

- Chief Prosecutor in the Brazos County Attorney's office from 1986 to present.
- Assistant City Attorney and Municipal Court Prosecutor with the City of Bryan 1982-1986.
- A licensed Peace Officer since 1987
- An instructor and lecturer to police officers and citizen groups in the areas of DWI laws, family violence laws, mental health laws and juvenile laws.

**EXPERIENCED**

ROD ANDERSON has:

- Served the people of Brazos County practicing extensively in the two County Courts-at-Law as Chief Prosecutor
- Reviewed, prepared and filed over 3,000 criminal cases in the two County Courts-at-Law.
- Prosecuted drunken drivers and other criminals who are a threat to the safety and welfare of the citizens of Brazos County.
- Served as head of the Family Violence Unit, representing hundreds of innocent victims of family violence in our community.
- Handled civil cases, including family law, contracts, real estate and condemnation, probate and mental health.

*"As a prosecutor and peace officer I have dealt first hand with the problems of drugs in our neighborhoods, alcohol on our streets and violence in our homes. I have seen our system of justice work, and I have seen it fail. As judge, I would make certain that the rights of the victim and the public are protected, not just the rights of the criminals."*

## Experience Is The Difference

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