

Thursday, December 6, 1990

The Battalion

1943 A&M film available on video

By MELINDA COX
Of The Battalion Staff

Need the perfect Christmas gift for that special Texas A&M student or parent? Thanks to a former A&M student, that gift is available — the home video of the 1943 classic film about A&M.

"We've Never Been Licked," a Universal Pictures film about the Corps of Cadets and the A&M campus, is available on home video, thanks to the work of Tom Wisdom, Class of '60.

Wisdom, executive vice president of VCA Teletronics in Houston, said he obtained the home video rights to "We've Never Been Licked" to give something back to A&M.

Previously, the film, starring Rich-

ard Quine and featuring a brief appearance by Robert Mitchum, could be seen only on KAMU-TV and during showings sponsored by the MSC Travel Committee.

"I received many, many requests for the film from graduate students, alumni, parents and students," Wisdom said.

Wanting to give something back to the University, Wisdom said he contributed \$6,000 to start the project.

He said he encountered several problems, however, when he first tried to acquire the rights to the film.

"I learned the rights had been sold to KingWorld Productions and that they were not interested in selling the rights to the film," Wisdom said.

Wisdom, however, did not give up his fight to obtain the film's rights.

Through further research, Wisdom learned KingWorld Productions had only broadcast and theatrical rights to the film, and not home video distribution rights.

"Leo Gutman had acquired the film in the mid-70s," Wisdom said. "He said if written permission could be obtained from KingWorld, he would clear the way for the videotape distribution."

Wisdom then received a letter from KingWorld saying the company had no objection to the release of the film on video cassette.

Then late last year, Wisdom contacted Porter Garner III, the field director for the Association of Former Students, to get further support for the release of the film.

"As field director, I work with A&M clubs from all over the world, and there was a definite interest in

the film," Garner said.

"Some of the money from the sales of the video will help build the new Sam Houston Corps Visitor Center," Wisdom said. "The center will provide a museum atmosphere, a souvenir shop and a lounge for students and visitors. The money will also go to Ross Scholarships and to help old classmates."

"Several thousand videos have already been sold, and we're receiving orders in excess of 100 a day," Wisdom said.

Video tape copies can be purchased at local bookstores or by calling 1-800-822-1105 and asking for operator 1960.

The "limited edition" is \$17.50 and the "presentation edition," which includes reprints of eight lobby cards and other printed material about the film, is \$30.

Committee established to investigate sex policy

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas mental health commissioner has appointed a four-person team to investigate allegations that officials at the Lubbock State School condoned sexual activity among mentally retarded residents.

Commissioner Denny Jones issued written instructions to the special team to review the way the Lubbock institution investigates sexual activity between residents and the recent pregnancies of several retarded women.

Officials of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation acknowledged that the agency has no statewide policy on whether sexual activity among residents of the 13 state schools for retarded people is proper.

Each state school has a separate policy, officials said. The Lubbock State School policy instructs workers to intervene and interrupt any sexual activity between retarded residents, said MHMR attorney Cathy Campbell.

Jones' decision Tuesday to dispatch the review team came one day after new allegations about

improper sexual activity at Lubbock State School were filed in federal court in Dallas.

U.S. District Judge Barefoot Sanders received a sworn statement from a former Lubbock State School worker who said sex between residents is commonplace and condoned by the institution.

The Austin American-Statesman also reported that the Lubbock State School failed to report to police in 1989 the pregnancies of two retarded residents who gave birth after having sex with other residents. The attorney for one of the women said her client is so severely retarded that she cannot give consent to sex and does not realize she had a baby.

Jones told the investigative team to "review the perceptions and attitudes of staff who work at the Lubbock State School regarding client sexual activity, to determine whether staff condoned improper sexual activity and whether staff assisted clients in receiving proper guidance, counseling and protection of their rights."

Bryan officer fatally shot with own gun

By MIKE LUMAN
Of The Battalion Staff

An 18-year veteran of the Bryan Police Department died at 8 a.m. Wednesday at St. Joseph Hospital of a gunshot wound from his revolver, Bryan Police Sgt. Mark Ricketson said.

Sgt. Doug Coburn, 38, was shot in the chest at 5:54 a.m. while in his home on Georgia Street.

Ricketson said Coburn apparently was alone in the room when the shooting occurred.

Coburn's gun has been sent to Austin for fingerprint tests while the Bryan Police Department continues to investigate the incident, Ricketson said.

"We're all saddened by it, and we're kind of perplexed at this point," he said. "After the investigation is complete, we'll be able to say whether it was accidental or otherwise."

Funeral services will be at 10 a.m. Saturday at Faith United Church of Christ, 2402 S. College Ave.

Lucas receives stay of execution

Convicted killer plans to solve series of murders

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — An elated Henry Lee Lucas said Wednesday a court order that blocked his execution earlier this week means he now will have more time to prove he didn't commit a series of murders, including one in Texas for which he received the death penalty.

Lucas, 54, faced lethal injection early Monday for the 1979 slaying of a woman whose body was found near the Central Texas town of Georgetown. The Texas Court of Criminal Appeals late last week gave him an indefinite stay.

"I jumped up and down," Lucas said of his reaction after hearing of the court ruling. "I had my first good night of sleep in a long time."

Lucas once claimed he killed nearly 600 people in 26 states but later recanted his confessions for all but one slaying, that of his mother in Michigan in 1960.

The Monday execution date, his first, was for the slaying of an unidentified woman known only as "Orange Socks," for the lone item of clothing she was wearing when her body was found.

"Now I can start working on those different cases, who done it and stuff. That's going to take a lot of writing and envelopes and stamps."

— Henry Lee Lucas, Received stay of execution

Besides the death sentence, Lucas has six life prison terms, two 75-year sentences and a 60-year term for other Texas convictions. He also is wanted in Florida on three first-degree murder charges for slayings in 1980 and 1981.

"Now I can start working on those different cases, who done it and stuff," Lucas said in his first interview since receiving the stay. "That's going to take a lot of writing and envelopes and stamps. My whole goal is to clear these cases up and get the people to open them up."

He said fellow inmates had congratulated him and yelled their support from their cells.

"They hollered from one end of the block to the other," he said, grinning. "They all seemed to know I'd get a stay and told me not to worry, but I still worried."

"I know how hard some people are pressing against me. I don't know if they actually believe the lies or if they are using something else. I don't know."

The appeals court said it would consider a claim by Lucas' attorneys that the jury in the Orange Socks trial should have been able to consider mitigating circumstances before sentencing Lucas to death.

The one-eyed drifter who worked as a roofer is a native of Montgomery County, Va., and contends he was in Florida when Orange Socks was slain.

Lucas said he now would be moved from a segregation cell to a regular death row cell and expected to be allowed back in a work program for condemned inmates, who make pants for prison guards.

Jordan selected for governor's special counsel

AUSTIN (AP) — Former Texas congresswoman Barbara Jordan has agreed to serve as special counsel to the governor, Ann Richards said Wednesday.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the Democratic governor-elect said she planned to announce Jordan's appointment in the next few days.

"Barbara Jordan is recognized throughout the country as one of the most important voices in ethics and government that one could possibly have," Richards said.

Jordan in recent years has taught at the Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas.

Symphonic Band free concert today

Texas A&M's Symphonic Band gives its annual Christmas concert at 12:30 p.m. today in the MSC Flagroom. The concert is free. The 83-member band will perform "Silent Night," "Merry Christmas," "Jingle Bells" and other pieces such as Dvorak's "New World Symphony."

BATTIPS

Anyone with story suggestions can call BATTIPS. The Battalion's phone line designed to improve communication between the newspaper and its readers.

The BATTIPS number is 845-3315.

Ideas can include news stories, feature ideas and personality profiles of interesting people.

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LANCE PAVLAS of the TEXAS A&M AGGIES

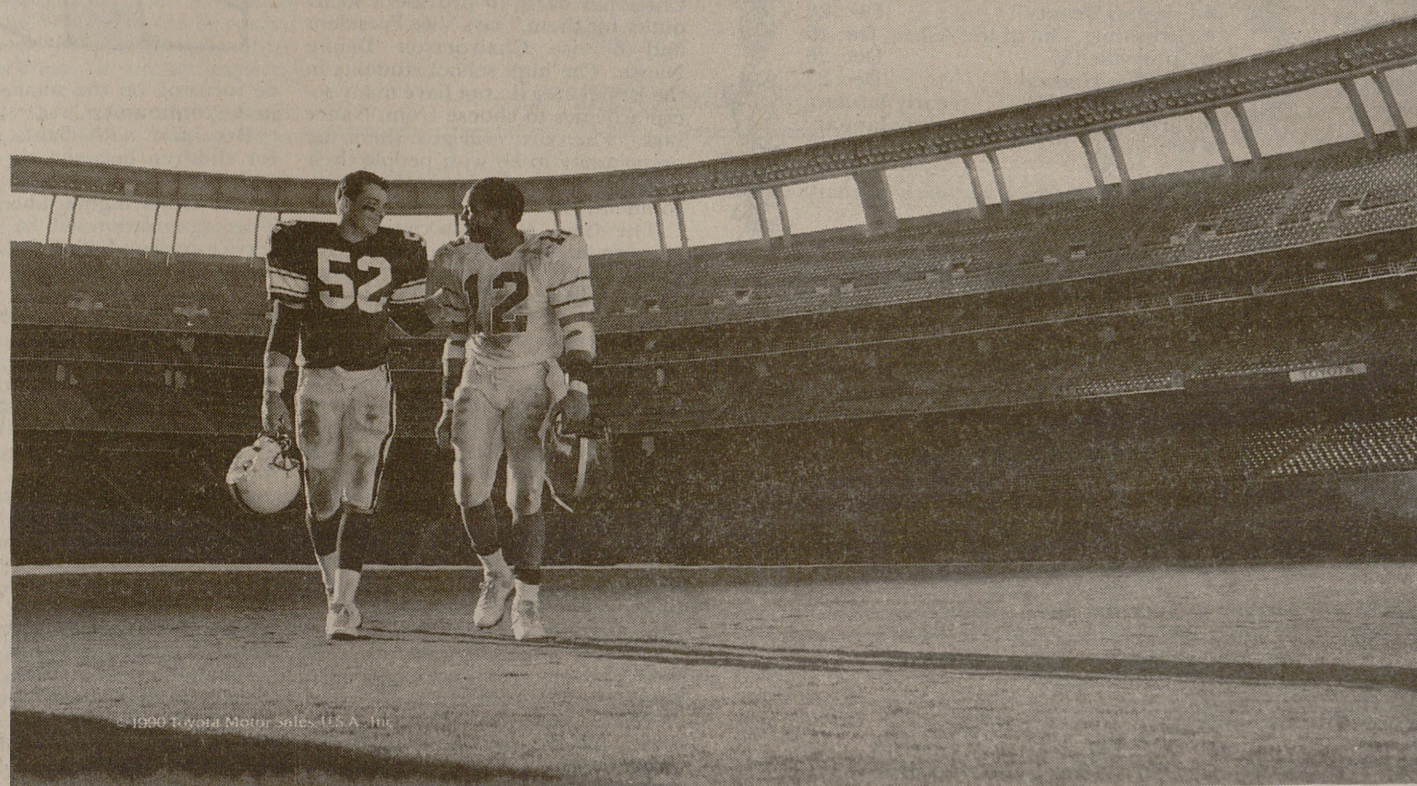
Toyota honors senior Lance Pavlas, quarterback of the Texas A&M Aggies, as a recipient of the Toyota Leadership Award for demonstrating outstanding leadership in the fields of academics, athletics, and community service.

Lance Pavlas will receive the Toyota Leadership Plaque, and Texas A&M University will receive a \$1,000

contribution to its general scholarship fund.

The example Lance Pavlas has set is an inspiration to us all. And as a leader in its own field, Toyota recognizes the discipline and unrelenting effort it takes to excel. So next time you watch a college football game, look a little closer. There's a lot more talent on the field than you realize.

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