

A&M starts work on animal center

By K. Lee Davis
The Battalion

Texas A&M dignitaries shoveled symbolic soil Saturday afternoon to break ground for a new \$522,000 geriatric animal clinic at what may have been the University's first ever indoor groundbreaking ceremony.

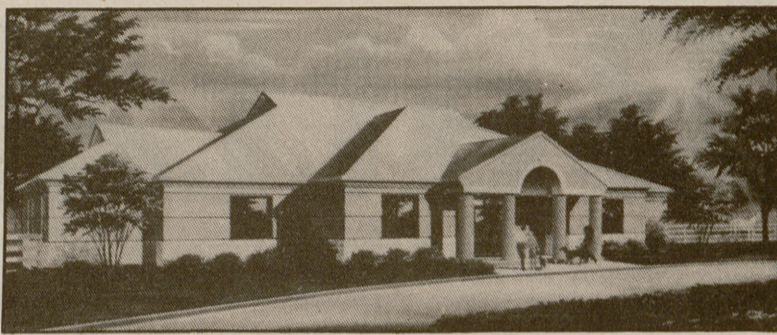
The Madlin Stevenson Companion Animal Geriatric Center will be located west of the Veterinary Medicine Complex on University Drive. Stevenson donated \$2.875 million for a center to provide complete and exceptional life care for animals after their owners die or are incapacitated.

Muddy ground at the construction sight forced the ceremony inside. University Presi-

dent William Mobley, Board of Regents Chairman Ross Margraves, Dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine John Shaddock, and Madlin Stevenson were among those who broke the substitute ground in eight-foot planter boxes inside a lecture hall in the Veterinary Medicine Building.

Animals will be considered on an individual basis for the program, with an endowment to the vet school being one of the requirements, said Dr. Edwin Ellet, director of the center.

A monetary donation in the animal's name pays for care for the rest of the pet's life. Any money left after the animal dies goes to either the College of Veterinary Medicine, or a specific program within the college



The Madlin Stevenson Companion Animal Geriatric Center

named by the donor.

Pets such as dogs, cats, birds and horses will be accepted into the program, Ellet said.

"We are looking for your run-of-the-mill, well-cared-for animal whose owner can no longer care for it," he said.

The privately funded center will also establish a viable "wellness" program for older animals through observation and documentation of aging and the aging process in animals, and also increase geriatric medicine education for veterinary students, fac-

ulty, interns and residents.

The 5,000 square-foot center, to be finished this August, will provide a home-like environment for the animal, with living room space and private sleeping quarters for every animal - without any cages.

The center as currently designed will hold approximately 15 dogs and 20 cats, Shaddock said.

"We don't know if we have enough room for the first year, or the first five years, but we'll find out," he said.

Texans pay price for executions

Taxpayers cover high cost of lengthy court appeals, putting inmates to death

DALLAS (AP) - It costs Texas taxpayers millions of dollars more to execute a criminal than to lock him in prison for life, a newspaper has reported.

A study in Sunday's editions of The Dallas Morning News found that trials and appeals of death row inmates take an average 7.5 years and cost an average \$2.3 million per case in Texas.

To imprison someone in a single cell at the highest security level for 40 years costs about \$750,000.

With 351 condemned men and four women, Texas leads the nation in both death row population and the number of executions - 46 since 1977, which includes five in 1991 and four already this year.

Robert Excell White's case represents the death penalty system at its most costly and inefficient.

He has been convicted twice for a crime committed almost 18 years ago, but his case was extended again in 1988 when he won a new trial because statements he unknowingly made to a psychiatrist were used against him.

It will take the combined efforts of county, state and federal governments - plus about \$4 million in taxpayer dollars - to execute White, The Dallas Morning News reported.

"There's some things that a modern American city and state have got to have," said Dallas lawyer Vincent Perini, chairman of the Texas Bar Association's committee on representation for death row inmates.

"You have to have police and fire and public safety protection. You have to have a criminal justice system," Perini said.

"You do not have to have a death penalty."

Although life without parole might save millions of dollars, it would create a nightmare in the prison system, said House Corrections Committee chairman Allen

Hightower, D-Huntsville.

"From a correctional practice standpoint, if someone needs to go to prison for life, I'm for gassing them," Hightower said.

"The end result is that with a chance or hope of getting out no matter how you behave... there's no reason not to stab a guard and no reason not to kill or rape another inmate."

Hightower said he favors limiting appeals from what he calls the absurd, to enough to save an innocent man.

"Will we ever convict a person in this state that's not guilty? Sure. We've done it before, and we'll do it again," he said.

"But our criminal justice system is the fairest system in the world," Hightower said.

Assistant Attorney General Bob Walt, one of six state lawyers who work to see that the death penalty is carried out, said the problem is the delay tactics defense attorneys use on appeal.

But even with the expense, the death penalty is worth the effort, Walt said.

"We have no shortage of violent characters in this state," he said.

"The death penalty is something Texans want. They think the death penalty is an appropriate punishment."

However, human rights activists disagree with the death penalty.

"It's not a coincidence that the state ranks dead last in the amount of money it allots to social services," said Rick Halperin, board director of Amnesty International USA and professor at Southern Methodist University, Dallas.

"Yet Texas has got 400 people either dead or on death row," Halperin said.

"Millions, millions just wasted trying to get rid of 400 people. It's just sick."

Candidate pays high school students to campaign

WINNIE (AP) - The Chambers County sheriff became upset when his political opponent paid 41 teen-agers to distribute campaign material as a civics project.

But the opponent says Sheriff C.E. "Chuck" Morris is jealous he didn't think of the idea first.

Constable John Wesley King gave the high school seniors a \$300 donation Friday for a year-end, alcohol-free party.

The students at Winnie-Stowell High School were dismissed from class at 9 a.m. Friday to distribute literature for King's campaign, principal Mickey Riggs said. Their absence was excused.

But Morris said the students should have been in school instead of "out running the roads" for a political candidate. He said his office received several complaints from county residents.

"Students should be in school learning," Morris said.

"But here they are tearing up and down the road, at their parents' expense, doing political work," he said.

Students who distributed the campaign literature were volunteers and had their parents' permission to participate in the civics lesson.

"We felt like it was a govern-

ment field trip; we wanted to get them involved in the political process," Riggs said.

"All the candidates in the sheriff's race were extended the opportunity to have the students distribute their fliers."

King disputes Morris' claim that he is "vote-buying" because 90 percent of the students involved aren't old enough to vote.

Sparks fly after Texas chooses lottery manager

AUSTIN (AP) - The fight over a multimillion-dollar contract to operate Texas' lottery is likely to end up in court, a spokesman for the state comptroller says.

The comptroller's office announced Saturday that GTECH Corp. of Rhode Island will get the job, assuming a contract can be negotiated with the company.

The five-year contract is worth an estimated \$200 million.

A deal could be finalized within days, said Greg Hartman, executive assistant to comptroller John Sharp.

But Hartman said he expects a court challenge to the selection of a lottery operator, and allegations to be made about the winner, because that has been the experience in other states when such contracts are awarded.

"It's going to be real nasty this

week... we're just battering down the hatches," he said.

A former California state senator testified that he was bribed by a GTECH lobbyist to oppose a bill the company wanted killed.

GTECH denied the allegation.

Texas' contract will be the largest in the nation because of the way it is structured, with one company serving as an umbrella organization to handle numerous

functions, Hartman said.

The other bidder for the contract is a consortium that included Control Data Corp. of Minnesota and Scientific Games of Georgia.

Security guards at Control Data and Scientific Games said Saturday that officials were not in. George Shipley of Austin, legislative representative for Control Data, declined comment.

The Battalion

USPS 045-360

The Battalion is published daily except Saturday, Sunday, holidays, exam periods, and when school is not in session during fall and spring semesters; publication is Tuesday through Friday during the summer session. Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77840.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Battalion, 230 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843-1111.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publications, a unit of the Department of Journalism. Editorial offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building. The newsroom phone number is 845-3316. Fax: 845-2647.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editorial board or the contributor, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Texas A&M student body, administrators, faculty or the A&M Board of Regents.

Advertising: For campus, local and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 015 Reed McDonald and office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fax: 845-5408.

Subscriptions: Mail subscriptions are \$20 per semester, \$40 per school year and \$50 per full year. To charge by VISA or MasterCard, call 845-2611.

ATTENTION TAMU STUDENTS!!!

Do you need 12 TAMU semester credit hours in political science and history?

Would you like to spend 4 weeks in France visiting historical battle sites and studying the causes, course and aftermath of WWII as well as other subjects relating to war and peace?

How would you like to be awarded a James Earl Rudder Scholarship that will fund your international study experience?

Come find out how you can apply for this unique opportunity by attending an INFORMATIONAL MEETING on: March 10th 2:30-3:30 PM or March 11th 11:00AM-12:00 PM Rm 251 Bizzell Hall West or come by TAMU Study Abroad Programs for information and an application. Application DEADLINE is March 26th!

THE ONLY EASIER WAY TO GET A JOB IS TO WORK FOR YOUR DAD.

\$5.00 Off
Complete Resume Package

Present this coupon at participating Kinko's and receive \$5.00 off the purchase of a Complete Resume Package. Packages vary from location to location. Offer not good in combination with other discounts.

Make a great impression on your future boss (whoever it is) with a complete resume package from Kinko's. Just give us the information and we'll give you a full set of professionally designed, laser typeset resumes, complete with matching envelopes and cover letter sheets—plus you can choose from a wide variety of papers, styles, typefaces and formats.

kinko's
the copy center

Open 24 Hours

509 University Dr. West • 846-8721

©1992, Kinko's Graphics Corporation



IS CURRENTLY UNDERGOING MAJOR RENOVATION

THIS FALL, MSC STUDENT PROGRAMS WILL UNVEIL A MODERN VERSION OF A TIME-HONORED CAMPUS TRADITION.

OUR COMMITTEE WILL CONTINUE TO PROGRAM FILMS FOR CAMPUS EXHIBITION AS WE HAVE IN THE PAST, BUT THAT WILL BE ONLY PART OF A LARGER FILM SOCIETY WHICH WILL HOLD AN ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL, AND MUCH MORE.

OFFICER APPLICATIONS

NOW AVAILABLE

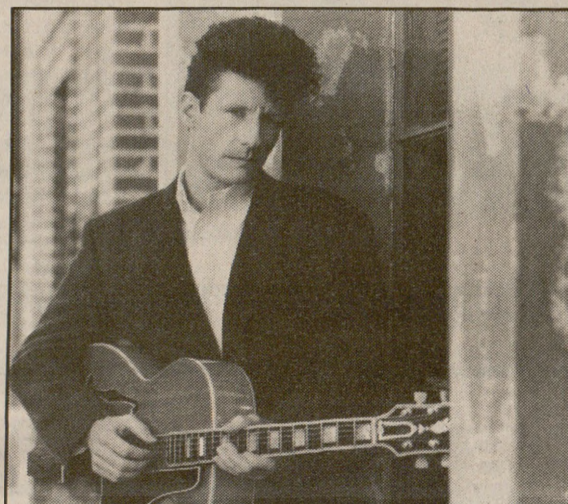
IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF PROGRAMMING, OPERATIONS, FINANCE, EXTERNAL RELATIONS, PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT, AND PRODUCTION.

GET INVOLVED IN THE NATION'S LARGEST STUDENT-RUN FILM PROGRAMMING ORGANIZATION, AND ITS NEWEST FILM SOCIETY. COME BY OUR CUBICLE IN THE STUDENT PROGRAMS OFFICE (ROOM 216 MSC) FOR AN APPLICATION AND MORE INFO, OR CALL PAUL AT 847-1435.

(APPLICATIONS DUE MONDAY MARCH 9 BY 5:00 P.M. FOR FIRST ROUND SELECTION.)

MSC Town Hall Presents

LYLE LOVETT



Monday, March 30
Rudder Auditorium 8pm

Tickets on Sale NOW
Students \$10 Non-students \$14
Rudder Box Office 845-1234
or Foley's at Post Oak Mall
All Seats Reserved