

Medical center to be built on A&M campus in Temple

Scott and White to share \$11 million construction

By Christine Johnson
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M and Scott & White Memorial Hospital are building an \$11 million medical education and research center at Texas A&M's Temple campus.

At its Friday meeting, the A&M System Board of Regents approved \$10,000 to begin planning the construction of the facility at the College of Medicine's clinical campus. The Texas A&M University Education and Research Building will be located adjacent to the Scott & White health care facilities at the clinical campus in Temple.

Texas A&M and Scott & White will share the cost of construction.

Dr. William Mobley, A&M system chancellor, said the center will improve A&M's presence in Temple.

"This further solidifies the

bond between A&M, Scott & White, and the other health care facilities in Temple," he said. "It is a very positive development and an example of good partnership."

Mobley said the facility could also lead to some employment and internship opportunities for A&M students.

Students of the College of Medicine will complete their first two years at A&M and their last two years at the Temple campus.

Dr. Robert Myers, president and CEO of Scott & White Memorial Hospital, said the hospital has been planning this facility for years.

The building will allow more space for students, research and physicians, he said.

"It is a positive step for both of us," he said. "We can gain more working together than singly."

Dr. Elvin Smith, associate vice president for health affairs, said A&M is currently leasing space from the clinics and hospitals on the clinical campus.

"This building will bring A&M much needed visibility in Temple," he said. "Right now there is no University building on that campus and we are only existing in borrowed space."

Smith said two-thirds of the building will be used as research labs for faculty. There will also be a computerized student learning center and an auditorium with a capacity of 300.

The auditorium will be separated into four smaller conference rooms for faculty meetings and equipped with "state of the art" telecommunication systems, he said.

The building would not increase enrollment, he said, be-

Please see Center/Page 7



JD Jacoby / THE BATTALION

Last but not least

After a long night on campus James Talmage, a senior wildlife fishery sciences major, sheds light on the Zachry parking lot when he opens his car door.

KING LOSES BID FOR PUNITIVE DAMAGES

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Rodney King lost his bid for punitive damages from any of the police officers involved in his beating. The jury's verdict Wednesday ended an ordeal that wracked the city for three years.

The panel found that former policemen Stacey Koon and Laurence Powell, who were convicted in the beating, acted with malice, but shouldn't have to pay King.

Punitive damages are intended to deter behavior, not compensate an injured person. The jury earlier ordered the city to pay King \$3.8 million in compensatory damages for the beating.

In a countersuit filed by acquitted officers Theodore Briseno, the panel found that King battered Briseno, but refused to hold King liable for punitive damages.

The verdict came in the jury's 11th day of deliberations in the trial's second phase.

The jury said four other defendants, former Officer Timothy Wind and officers Rolando Solano and Louis Turriaga, did not violate King's rights and did not act with malice.

Those defendants had not been convicted in any other court, while Koon and Powell were found guilty of violating King's federal civil rights last year and are serving 30-month prison sentences.

The courtroom was hushed as the verdicts were announced by U.S. District Judge John Davies. Only Wind was present.

The jury's action was likely the last act in a searing drama that consumed Los Angeles since the March 3, 1991 beating, which was captured on videotape and broadcast around the world.

The outcries against police brutality and the riots that followed the acquittals of

four officers on beating charges in state court toppled a mayor, a police chief and restructured the face of city government.

Asked after the verdict if he thought it was the end of his ordeal, Wind said, "It's the King case. It's never over with. It's made a wreck of our lives, a wreck of the city and of our profession."

King's attorney, John Burrell, said the verdict was surprising.

"It sends the wrong message to police officers, that they may not be held accountable for acts of misconduct if they blame it on the city," he said.

"It appears the jurors concluded enough is enough and the officers had suffered enough," he said.

Deputy City Attorney Don Vincent, who represented two of the officers, said he thought the verdicts were "just for everybody."

Man accused of shooting spokesman has criminal record

RIVERSIDE, Calif. (AP) — The man accused of shooting former Nation of Islam spokesman Khalid Abdul Muhammad shot and killed his own brother in 1975 and was acquitted by a jury that found he acted in self-defense.

James Edward Bess, a defrocked minister from the Nation of Islam, faces six counts of attempted murder in Sunday's attempted assassination of Muhammad.

Four of Muhammad's bodyguards and a bystander also were wounded in the attack in a parking lot after Muhammad's speech at the University of California, Riverside.

A crowd of up to 70 people beat the gunman before police rescued him.

According to decades-old newspaper articles uncovered Tuesday, Bess has an extensive criminal record.

A jury in Fresno acquitted Bess in 1975 in the fatal shooting of his brother, Elvin O. Bess Jr., the Fresno Bee reported at the time. Bess admitted to the shooting, but said he acted in self-defense because he believed his brother was about to shoot him. No gun was found.

In 1965, an all-white jury convicted Bess and another brother, Henry, of felony assault on a man who refused to buy a Muslim newspaper. It wasn't clear from the Bee's article what sentence James Bess received. Henry Bess was sentenced to nine months in jail.

During that trial, according to Bee's article, evidence

was submitted that showed James and Henry Bess were convicted in 1964 of manslaughter and sentenced to 10 years in prison in Caruthersville, Mo., then paroled the same day. The article didn't provide additional details.

Police said Tuesday they were wrapping up their investigation of Muhammad's shooting and are certain the gunman acted alone.

"With this crime, we're not dealing with a whodunit. We know whodunit, and there is no mystery about that," said Hank Rosenfeld, chief of campus police.

"We have a suspect, we have eyewitnesses and we have the guns which can be compellingly tied to the suspect," university spokesman Jack Chappell said.

Three 9mm semiautomatic pistols and a rifle with a scope found near the shooting scene have been linked to Bess, Chappell said.

Muhammad, 46, who was shot in the legs, was in stable condition, spokesman for Riverside Community Hospital said. He had two bodyguards at his bedside and two police officers posted outside his room.

Bess, 49, was in fair condition at an undisclosed hospital, police said.

All others wounded in the shooting were released from hospitals except bodyguard Vernado Puckett, 34, who was in good condition with gunshot wounds to his left shoulder and abdomen.

L.A. crew in blue catch the flu after contract disputes

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A third wave of "blue flu" swept through the ranks of the Police Department today despite the mayor's plea that officers accept mediation to break a contract impasse.

Of the 317 officers and sergeants scheduled for today's early shift, 212 called in sick, said Police Department spokesman Don Cox.

Officers from the Tuesday evening shift were held over for 16-hour double shifts to cover for those out. The department has been on a modified tactical alert because of the sickouts that began Monday.

The Police Protective League, the officers' union, endorsed Mayor Richard Riordan during his election campaign but has criticized him for failing to support a larger pay raise for the nearly 7,700 officers.

Contract talks have been on and off since 1992, and the city has been reluctant to offer officers more money because of budget constraints.

Last week, police rejected a 6 percent raise over two years. Among other things, the union wants retroactive pay raises for the two years that officers have worked without a contract.

Starting pay for a rookie officer is \$33,157, 12 percent less than the amount earned by new deputies with the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department. The city's police pay ranks 78th among law enforcement agencies statewide, the union said.

On Tuesday, 602 of 1,414 lieutenants, sergeants, detectives and patrol officers called in sick for the day shift, Officer Rigo Romero said. On Monday, 226 of 494 officers called in sick for the evening shift.

Discriminatory auto insurance practice under state official scrutiny

AUSTIN (AP) — State officials Wednesday accused portions of the insurance industry of illegal discrimination in the sale of auto insurance policies.

An analysis of underwriting guidelines used by insurance companies shows that many companies price auto coverage based on factors other than driving record, the Office of Public Insurance Counsel said.

"In too many cases, these guidelines create barriers to affordable insurance for whole groups of people for reasons that have nothing to do with their ability to drive," said Amy Johnson, who is leaving the counsel's post.

"These guidelines have the effect of excluding people for the best coverage just because they don't fit the ideal profile, whether or not they have a good driving record," she said.

Jerry Johns, an insurance industry spokesman, denied the allegation.

"Current law in Texas ade-

quately protects the public from the repugnant, illegal and reprehensible practice of unfair discrimination," he said.

The report on auto underwriting guidelines is the first of its kind since the Legislature gave OPIC access to the information.

The report showed that 58 percent of the market considers the nationality of an applicant.

"Canadians are generally exempted from scrutiny, but foreign nationals from Mexico may be denied coverage in the standard market because many underwriting guidelines specifically instruct an agent not to offer this coverage to Mexican nationals," Ms. Johnson said.

"This kind of blatant discrimination is illegal, but it's right there in the underwriting guidelines of 58 percent of the Texas auto insurance market," she said.

Johns responded, "To suggest that insurers discriminate on the basis of national origin is ludicrous."

CONTACT LENSES
ONLY QUALITY NAME BRANDS
(Bausch & Lomb, Ciba, Barnes-Hind-Hydrocurve)

\$118⁰⁰ TOTAL COST...INCLUDES
EYE EXAM, FREE CARE KIT, AND TWO PAIR OF STANDARD FLEXIBLE WEAR SOFT CONTACT LENSES.

SAME DAY DELIVERY ON MOST LENSES.

Call 846-0377 for Appointment

CHARLES C. SCHROEPEL, O.D., P.C.
DOCTOR OF OPTOMETRY

505 University Dr. East, Suite 101
College Station, TX 77840
4 Blocks East of Texas Ave. & University Dr. Intersection

MSC Summer Dinner Theatre Season Tickets

in association with Aggie Players

"Rumors" comedy by Neil Simon
June 23-25 & 30-July 2
Reception Following

"The Pinchpenny Phantom of the Opera" murder mystery musical by Jack Sharkey & Dave Reiser
July 28-30 & August 4-6
Dinner Proceeding

Season Tickets On Sale
Rudder Box Office, 845-1234
\$20 students \$30 Non-students

Adult Language and Situations

Persons with disabilities please call us at 845-1515 to inform us of your special needs. We request notification three (3) working days prior to the event to enable us to assist you to the best of our ability.

THE BATTALION
MARK EVANS, Editor in Chief

WILLIAM HARRISON, Managing editor
ANAS BEN-MUSA, Night News editor
SUSAN OWEN, Night News editor
MICHELE BRINKMANN, City editor

JAY ROBBINS, Opinion editor
STEWART MILNE, Photo editor
MARK SMITH, Sports editor
WILLIAM HARRISON, AggieLife editor

Staff Members
City desk—James Bensen, Amanda Fowle, Jan Higgins, Sara Israwi, Shelle Jenkins, Christine Johnson, Montique Lunsford, Greene Piper, and Nancy Treacy
News desk—Andrea Coleman, Sterling Hayman, Kari Rose and Stacy Stanton
Photographers—Darrin Hill, J.D. Jacoby, Jennie Mayer and John Williams
AggieLife—Trae Travis, Margaret Cloughton, Christi Erwin, Jennifer Gosssett, Jeremy Keddie, Warren Mayberry, Paul Neale and Larry Whittill
Sports writers—Josh Arterbury, Brian Coats and Constance Parten
Opinion desk—Chris Cobb, Josef Elchanaan, George Nasr, Jim Pawliw, Jowski, Frank Stanford and Julia Stavenhagen
Graphic artist—Will Brooks
Cartoonists—Boomer Cardinale, David Deen and José Luis de Juan
Clerks—Jennifer Lambert and Elizabeth Preston
Writing Coach—Timm Doolen

The Battalion (USPS 045-360) is published daily, Monday through Friday during the fall and spring semesters and Monday through Thursday during the summer sessions (except University holidays and exam periods), at Texas A&M University. 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.

News: The Battalion news department is managed by students at Texas A&M University in the Division of Student Publication, a unit of the Department of Journalism. Editorial offices are in 013 Reed McDonald Building. Newsroom phone number is 845-3313. Fax: 845-2647.

Advertising: Publication of advertising does not imply sponsorship or endorsement by The Battalion. For campus, local and national display advertising, call 845-2696. For classified advertising, call 845-0569. Advertising offices are in 013 Reed McDonald and office hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fax: 845-2678.

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.