

THE BATTALION

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Commando unit formed by Carter

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Carter ordered formation of a secret Army commando unit to provide the nation's full-time force for combating hijack-

ings and other terrorist acts outside the country, government sources said today. The force has been given the code name "Project Blue Light" for its formative stages. Sources said a nucleus of Green

Berets from the Army's Special Forces have already quietly set up headquarters in a post stockade that has until now been used to house prisoners at Ft. Bragg, N.C. There they are assembling a hand-picked force of unconventional warfare veterans, some of whom took part in the 1970 Son Tay prison camp raid into North Vietnam. The unit is planned to number around 200 men by this summer, the sources said.

Miners claim officials behind recent violence

United Press International
Fists flew in Illinois. Hot words erupted in West Virginia. Retired miners pretended to set up their own picket lines. The proposed new contract between the UMW and the Bituminous Coal Operators Association wins ratification in a weekend.

In Washington, President Carter looked to the priming of federal guns he promised to fire "as early as Monday" should the contract be rejected.

The coal strike was in its 87th day today and with acceptance of the new contract designed to end it hanging on the will of the union's rank and file, UMW officers Wednesday strove to "educate" their members with briefings and a \$40,000 advertising blitz.

Seven Council candidates file

By KAY WALLACE
Seven city council hopefuls met the 5 p.m. filing deadline yesterday for College Station city election.

College Station voters will elect a mayor and three city councilmen April 1. Signatures on the petitions filed must be certified by City Secretary Florence Wiley as those of registered College Station voters before the candidate's name can be placed on the ballot.

Candidates have filed as follows:

- MAYOR -
Lorence Bravenec, incumbent mayor of College Station
Karl A. Crawley, sophomore environmental design major at Texas A&M University
COUNCILMAN, PLACE 2 -
Homer B. Adams, owner of Adams Transfer and Storage Co.
David L. Pugh, assistant professor of urban and regional planning.
COUNCILMAN, PLACE 4 -
Tony Jones, owner of Tony Jones Construction Co.
Patricia B. Boughton, seamstress
COUNCILMAN, PLACE 6 -
James H. Dozier, associate professor of finance

Other pro-ratification forces took a more direct approach.

In Springfield, Ill., four miners who had spoken out against the contract at a union meeting were jumped and beaten as they left — allegedly by the bodyguards of Kenneth Daves, one of the union's chief negotiators.

Ron Joiner, 35, sported a lump over one eye and cuts on his face as he described the assault to reporters.

"I started going to my room," he said. "Then these guys jumped my two buddies — one who has a bad arm. They had him down and were stomping him. I reached in to help him and then I got kicked around pretty good."

With Joiner in the melee were Richard Bartolotti, 30, his brother, Gary, 26, and David Hilton, a local president.

"If we don't approve the contract, they're gonna try and beat us up," said Hilton. "To get me to vote yes they're gonna have to do a lot more than knock my eye out."

Four men — all alleged associates of high-ranking UMW officials — were arrested and charged with battery. They were identified as John Cox, Gerald Hawkins, James Poe and Vellie Bishop.

Daves, at the meeting to sell the contract to the miners, denied he had anything to do with the attack.

"Miners live dangerous lives," he said. "They speak their piece pretty fast. For them to back away from anything — even a fight — is not their way."

Ag students work rodeo in Houston

BY MARTHA HOLLIDA

Where can you get on-the-job training, experience the real world of your profession, meet important people in your field, receive pay for long hours of work, and love every minute of it? No where else but the Houston Livestock Show.

The Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo is here for its 46th year and the 57 Aggies who are working at the show this year continued what has apparently become a tradition.

"Essentially we have been sending A&M students to work since the show had its beginning. The number of students has increased as the show grows larger," said professor emeritus R.C. Potts.

The animal science department sent 43 students to assist in the livestock office. These were primarily juniors and seniors majoring in animal science. There were also students from other areas of agriculture.

These students did such things as work at the judging shows, assist the livestock superintendents, handle the trophies and ribbons events, and provide information.

The agriculture journalism department sent 14 students to Houston to work in the press room. They wrote press releases about the shows, interviewed the owners of the champion and reserve champion animals, provided press representatives with information concerning the shows, and photography work.

The students stayed for different lengths of time depending on the show schedule. They are chosen on the basis of their grades and class work.

The pay is \$2.65 an hour and hours range from 12 to 16 hours a day or more if there is still work to be done.

(See Ags and related stories page 6)



Battalion photo by Paige Beasley

Joe Tolbert, junior Ag-eco major from Houston, seems happy to be surrounded by boots while visiting the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. See Focus page 6 for related stories.

Representatives from student governments hold conference

By LINDA SULLIVAN

More than 100 delegates from 20 Texas colleges and universities are expected to attend the biannual Texas Student Association (TSA) convention on the Texas A&M University campus Mar. 3-5. TSA membership is open to all public and private colleges and universities in Texas which have student governments.

Twenty-two different workshops focusing on the problems of student government will be offered during the three-day convention. Heading the workshops will be students and administrators from the attending schools.

Juniors Joe Beall and Laura Brockman are the student coordinators from Texas A&M for the convention. Serving on the TSA rules committee, both students have been instrumental in planning the convention itinerary.

"Workshops are the main part of the convention this semester," says Beall. "We're concentrating on getting everyone

useful information, and the overall exchange should be very beneficial."

Brockman foresees a "timely and efficient" last semester's convention held at North Texas State University in Denton, Brockman says planning for the March 3 convention began in October. At the close of the Denton convention, delegates unanimously voted Texas A&M as the site of the spring '77 convention. Brockman says several out-of-town speakers for the convention cancelled at the last minute, but this did not present any major difficulties.

Confirmed guest politicians include: John Poerner, candidate for Texas railroad commissioner; Mark White, candidate for attorney general; and Joe Christy, candidate for senate; and Price Daniel Jr.

Beall terms the convention an "exchange convention" because of the scope of the workshop topics. Subjects to be discussed include short-term loan programs, athletic funding, working with adminis-

trators, small college problems and academic fraud. Since Texas A&M is the host school, several workshop leaders are affiliated with the University, such as Dr. Carolyn Adair, director of student activities and Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services.

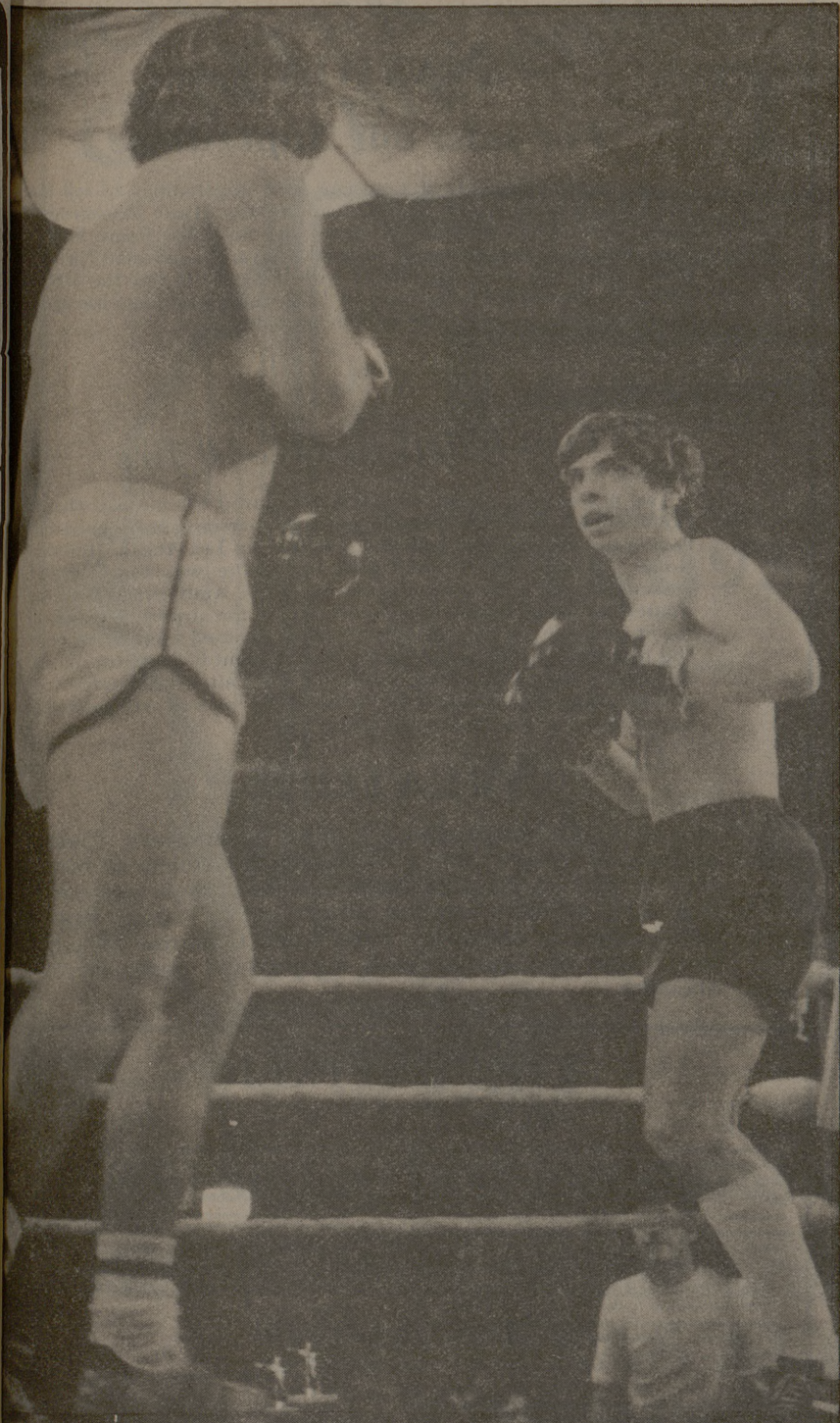
Besides the workshops, a barbecue is scheduled for delegates at 7 p.m. Saturday at the Quonset Huts.

After a general assembly meeting Sunday at 10 a.m., delegates will elect the new TSA executive officers. Traditionally, only the president and vice president are

elected officers, but if a new bill is passed creating the offices of service information director and legislative director, there may be four vacant positions.

Beall is campaigning for the presidency against Robert Rainwater of the University of Texas at El Paso. Beall's platform spotlights working to strengthen communication lines among TSA officers and schools.

If Beall wins Texas A&M would be headquarters for the TSA information, which Brockman says would be a "big asset" to both the school and TSA.



Boxing "Aggie Style"

Aggies packed into the National Guard Armory last night to witness the 2nd annual "Fight Night" sponsored by Sigma Phi Epsilon. Bill Takacs, freshman premed, anticipates the next move from opponent Richard Pfeiffer. Takacs won in a 3-round decision. Fighting continues tonight starting at 7 p.m.

Company makes ado about firing

United Press International
NEW YORK—Companies rarely boast about firing people.

But American Red Ball Co., one of the country's larger national moving firms, has just announced with some fanfare that it fired 23 agent firms in 1977 because of customer complaints.

"This is the first time, I think, that any firm in our industry has made a big deal in public of insisting that agents and affiliated independent contracting van operators live up to a prescribed code of ethics," said J.J. Thorne, Red Ball's marketing vice-president. "But somebody had to make a stand because customer complaints have been rising."

The most common complaints concern overcharging by inflating the weight of the cargo hauled and failing to live up to promised delivery dates. Many of the complaints reached the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Although the dismissed agents accounted for a fair amount of business, Thorne said. "The way we see it, the only one who can lose by an agent's getting the ax is the agent himself. We and our customers gain."

Thorne said Red Ball began to move seriously to get in tune with the consumer movement in 1972 and he believes that is one reason the company has fared well in the years since despite a general downturn in the cargo carrying business.

Thorne said there are many things the

average family can do when it has to make a long distance move in order to head off the kinds of problems that bring about serious complaints.

"It usually pays to let the movers do a lot of the packing, particularly of valuable chinaware, art objects and antiques. Not only will the movers do it better, but if they do it there's no question about who's responsible if something goes wrong," he said.

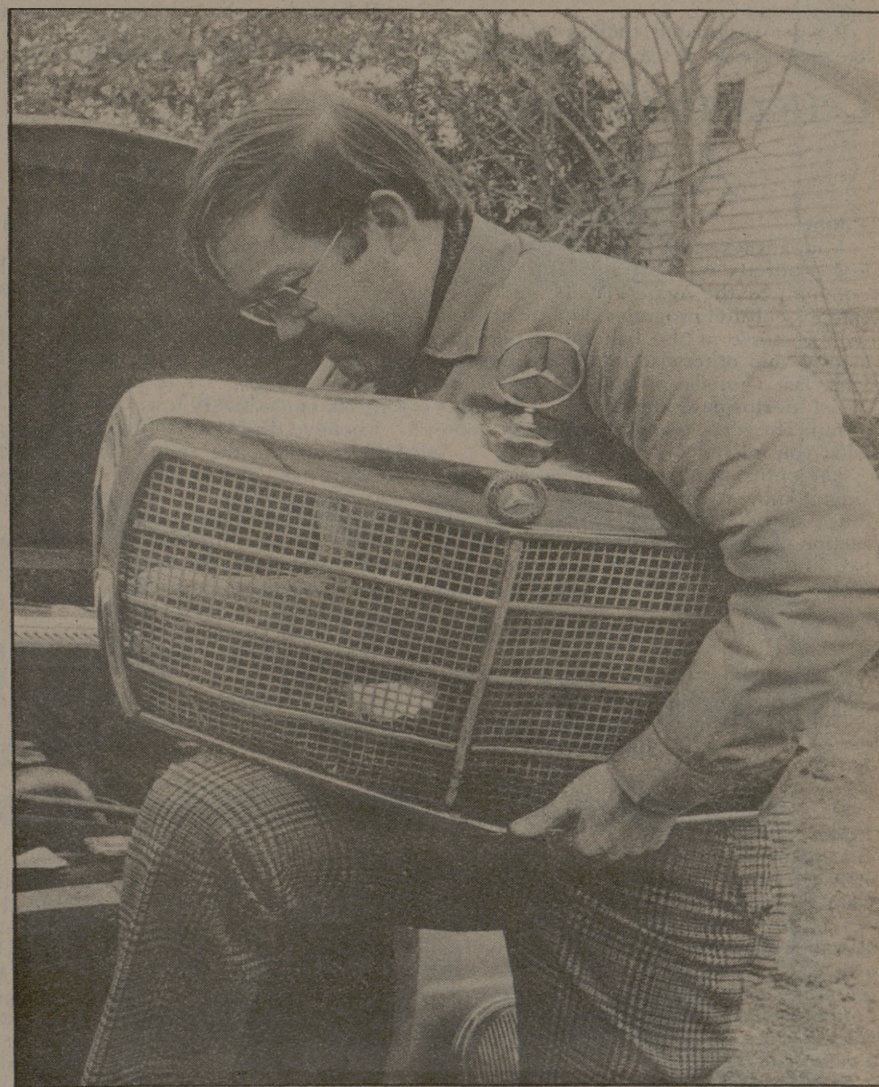
High costs often actually are the fault of the customer through either carelessness or sentiment.

"People insist on moving very heavy pieces of furniture of very questionable value or future usefulness," he said. "Such stuff should be sold off or given to charitable agencies. But amazingly we have people who insist on moving kegs of rusty nails, worn out auto tires or stacks of firewood — then they complain about the extra weight charge on the bill."

Another headache is those who want van lines to move firearms and ammunition. That's against the law, you have to ship them separately by express.

And some people fail to have major electrical appliances disconnected and serviced before the moving van arrives. Refrigerators and freezers should be defrosted and empty.

Moving men also do not like to haul valuable jewelry or houseplants. Both are too big a risk. People should take them with them by plane or car if possible.



Battalion photo by Barbara Richerson

Bent Mercedes Benz

Jim Richerson of 1208 Foster Ave., College Station, joins those who find it cheaper, if not easier, to do their own minor auto repairs. The cost of automobile parts and labor continually increases, and in the Bryan-College Station area, few garages can or will service and repair foreign cars. The easiest way to fix a dented grill seems to be to do it yourself.