

# THE BATTALION

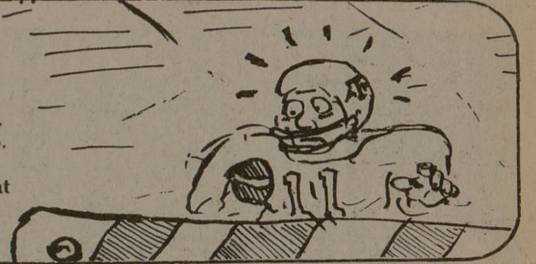
Vol. 71 No. 112  
8 Pages

Tuesday, March 7, 1978  
College Station, Texas

News Dept. 845-2611  
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Battalion photo by Teresa Roach

Aggie mascot Reveille IV joins some of her friends in the Singing Cadets. Many of the members say they like it when she comes to practice, because she has more volume than anyone in the group.

## A female singing cadet? Not exactly

By LYNN BLANCO

The Singing Cadets, a 55-member male singing group at Texas A&M University has finally allowed females to join.  
Well, not exactly. But Aggie mascot Reveille IV does come to Singing Cadet practice, and she sometimes raises her voice in song.  
"She is a soprano and is definitely a change," says Barry Moak, publicity manager for the Singing Cadets.  
"She's got more volume than anyone in the group."  
Reveille made her debut with the group last semester when Brad Moon, a sophomore from Corps Unit E-2, brought her to an open rehearsal.  
"It was weird," he says. "I didn't keep her on a leash and she ran to all the people who were watching us sing." He says that later, when the drummer started playing, "Rev" joined in with the singers.  
Jeff Gruetzmacher has the distinction of being the Corps' only mascot corporal.  
Gruetzmacher says he isn't sure if Reveille had any real talent, but notes that she started howling and carrying on when they (the Singing Cadets) started to sing. "But Reveille's activities aren't restricted to Corps life. There are 10 cadets in the Singing Cadets and that's enough reason for her to attend practice."  
His job in E-2 is taking care of Reveille, and Gruetzmacher said his unit will be selecting someone to take his place next year. That person will have to take Reveille home for the summer, and should probably have a lot of yard space.  
Freshmen in E-2 are candidates for the job of mascot corporal.  
Many of the singers say they like it when Reveille comes to practice. Moon said the only problem is that the dog becomes overly friendly and Moon is afraid she may be picked up by a stranger.  
The men's voices range from first tenor to bass, and once in awhile they are accompanied by Reveille "singing" soprano.

## UT student government not abolished, officer says

By PAIGE BEASLEY  
Battalion Staff

Student government at the University of Texas (UT) has not been abolished, despite results of a student opinion poll taken last week during the elections of student government officers.

The option on the ballot favoring abolishment won by a 2,644 to 2,458 margin. The option was to abolish the student association providing that a referendum will be held when a new constitution is devised, said Judy Spalding, president of the UT student association.

However, this is not binding because the vote for abolition must be approved by the Board of Regents, Spalding said. Yet the association, as representatives of the student body, must present the proposal to the Board.

Students were given four other non-binding options on the ballot. The first option which said the student association would remain the same received 635 votes. The second, which proposed that a new constitution prepared by the Student Association Restructuring Committee (SARC) be enacted had 343 votes. A constitutional commission was called for by the third option, to revise the association's structure while remaining essentially the same (1,035 votes.). The fourth option was, which had 444 votes, "none of the above."

The design of the ballot makes it difficult to decide what students were thinking when they voted, Spalding said. The "none of the above" option was probably interpreted as meaning to the abolishment of student government altogether, but basically it didn't express any student feelings, she said.

Marc Luzzatto, vice president of the student association, said the original student position requested that articles two through five be deleted from the constitution.

Articles two through five are the "meat" of the constitution," Luzzatto said. The judicial, legislative and executive branches are included in these articles, but the Constitution is still there; the preamble, membership article and others.

"The intention was to restructure the organization, not abolish it," he said. "Abolish is a bad word for delete."

Luzzatto partley blames the organization's lack of credibility on its leadership. "Her (the president) ineptitude has led to this in a large part," he said. "She has served for a year and done absolutely nothing. All she has done is accept her paycheck."

Luzzatto said the president's salary is \$3,500 per year.

Luzzatto also blamed the UT campus paper, The Daily Texan, for misleading publicity. According to a front page article, he said, Spalding was quoted as saying that everyone associated with the student association was a "political hack and resume padder."

"This is ironic coming from someone who hasn't done anything all year," he said.

Spalding said the president is given too many responsibilities to do a satisfactory job. The president must attend countless meetings and assemblies, and speak for the students everywhere to champion their rights, she said. But, Spalding said,

when she tries to allocate responsibilities the senate becomes suspicious.

The existing structure, created in 1973, has outgrown the times, she said.

Another problem she cited was that main projects of the association are service oriented. Students, she said, favor a student-advocate position as well as academically-oriented programs.

The abolition movement began about three weeks before the election, Luzzatto said. About 40 people wanting to abolish student government spent hundreds of dollars to promote the movement. "Abolitionists," he said, distributed leaflets and talked to many of the student organizations and made a strong lobbying effort. They even hung a banner six floors long from the Texas tower. He added that the student association didn't campaign against abolition, yet only lost by 186 votes. Luzzatto and Spalding agreed that most of the abolitionists were students who had run for an office of the student association and who lost, and were looking for a way back in. Some were "people who had been burned by the student government," Spalding said.

Luzzatto said that the Constructive Alternative Movement (CAM), co-founded in part by Eric Samuelson, wants to revise the structure and create a nine-member board.

Samuelson, he added, wants to form a new system in which all presidential candidates could win. Samuelson was fairly confident who would lose the office, and wanted to find some way into student government, Luzzatto said.

Others, such as David Haug, founder of the Coalition to Retire Aspiring Politicos, have claimed that student government has lost its monetary control to the Board of Regents, and that the association no longer has power, Luzzatto said.

The UT student association has never had complete control, Luzzatto said. Funding for student organizations was made through student government until about 1975.

All monies from student service fees were put on the student government budget, he said. Now funds are more efficiently allocated to the departments and organizations, and each operates on their own budget.

However, Haug claimed that now student government has no financial control over the organizations. "It was all on the same sheet of paper, but it still went to the different organizations," Luzzatto said.

Student government operates on their own budget of about \$45,000 now, most of which goes for salaries and miscellaneous expenses, he said. The president, vice president, secretaries, two administrative aides, financial director and accounting clerk are all paid. Salaries are for student who wouldn't be able to run for an office without a part-time job.

"We never had autonomous control over the fees, the Board of Regents has always had control," he said. "All we have is advisory power, and this is the most we've ever had."

New officers will come into office on April 3, but the Board of Regents will not meet until April 7. During the time lapse, the association will be at a standstill, with no spending or actions.

Until the Board of Regents takes action, the Student Association will act on the existing structure.

## Carter issues order, miners may not obey

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The formal process designed to end the 92-day coal strike was under way today and a federal court order to miners to return to work is expected before week's end. But there was no assurance the miners will obey.

A special three-member presidential board required by the Taft-Hartley Act to investigate the strike situation began its work Monday night after being sworn in by Labor Secretary Ray Marshall.

A hearing was set for Wednesday with union, industry and public officials invited by Chairman John N. Gentry to testify. The board will report back to President Carter, who then could ask Attorney General Griffin Bell to seek a court restraining order against the strike.

"The coal strike is three months old," Carter said in announcing the action Monday. "The country cannot afford to wait any longer."

But Carter's decision to invoke Taft-Hartley — the fourth time it has been used against coal miners — was quickly rejected by many in the coalfields, who had voted down a proposed settlement by a 2 to 1 margin Sunday.

"We hate to go against the president of

the United States, but this is our way of life," said Joe Hoskins, president of a UMW local in Ohio. "They will not go back to work. There is just no way, bud."

And George Zavao of Homer City, Pa., said the miners might go back under a government seizure, but not Taft-Hartley. "I'm willing to stay out another 90 if necessary," he said.

Carter's announcement won quick support from congressional leaders.

Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd, the son of a miner, said: "I would only say it is the duty of us all to support the president."

Senate Republican leader Howard Baker said, "I intend to support the president to the extent that it's possible."

Carter's use of the Taft-Hartley Act was coupled with a White House threat of punishment for rank and file union leaders who defy a court order and a suggestion to coal operators they give returning miners the higher wage scale that was included in the rejected contract.

The Bituminous Coal Operators Association responded by recommending its members reopen their mines, but under conditions of the 1974 contract.

The BCOA executive board said, how-

ever, retroactive wage boosts should be given to miners who work if a new agreement is ratified before the 80-day "cooling off" period ends.

The BCOA board also called on the government and union "to establish a new bargaining team that enjoys the confidence of the membership and that can assure BCOA negotiators and the nation that any new contract recommended by that team will be acceptable to the membership."

The union's bargaining activity has been hampered by internal squabbling, including efforts by some rank-and-file members to recall UMW President Arnold Miller.

## MSC Council approves new chairmen

The Memorial Student Center Council approved new committee chairmen and constitutional revisions during their regular meeting Monday.

Revisions include changing the number of Directorate student representatives on the Council from two to three, and adding student representatives from several Texas A&M University organizations.

Representatives from the four class councils, the Residence Hall Association, the Off Campus Students Association and the Corps of Cadets will be added to the Council.

The 20 students selected as chairmen will assume duties after the April 8 MSC awards banquet.

Chairmen are: Gina Casas, Aggie Cinema; Rhonda Reger, Arts; Blake Macan, Camera; Rebecca Matthews, Cepheid Variable; Susan Greer, Crafts and Arts; Enoch Garcia, CAMAC; Katie Blute, Free University; Jennifer Brock, Hospitality; Wayne Helton, Outdoor Recreation; Jane McGregor, Political Forum; Patrice Jones, Opera and Performing Arts Society; Daryl Taraba, SCONA; Doug Spear, Radio.

Also, Jerry Ruhland, Recreation; Brooks Herring, Town Hall; Corey Gaskill, Travel; Ron Robertson, Videotape; David Bruner, Basement; Eric Banks, Black Awareness; and Steve Horn, Great Issues.

"Many qualified candidates applied this year," said Sharon Taulman, chairman of the nominating committee. "There were a large number of applicants."

She said that new chairmen will be working with the outgoing committee leaders to train for their positions.

In other action, the council considered applications for the position of vice president for finance, said Taulman.

Marc Young, selected for the office at the last council meeting, resigned shortly afterward and two other students, Elizabeth Hartman and Jeff Mason, have since applied.

The nominating committee delayed their recommendation and nominations will remain open until March 23.

The council also approved a budget extension of \$275 for the Committee for Awareness of Mexican American Cultures (CAMAC). Two speakers were approved for Political Forum presentations: Edmund Fawcett, writer for the Economist Magazine, and Arthur Avnon, vice consulate for Israel in Houston.

A report from the All-Night Fair showed a net income of \$2,030 and estimated expenditures of \$2,388. Approximately \$1,750 will remain in the account to fund next year's fair. Fifty-nine recognized student organizations participated.

## School Board hires local architect for field house

By MICHELLE BURROWES

Emmett Trant & Associates, a local architectural firm, was hired by the A&M Consolidated School Board Monday to design

detailed drawings of the field house, so that bids may be accepted for the construction.

The board had hired Simmons Associates to draw up estimated costs, but dismissed the firm when agreements could not be reached on the costs.

The Safety City Committee got bad news when the board failed to decide where the project would be located.

Board trustees could not agree with the Safety City Committee on a site for the mini-city designed to teach children traffic safety. At the Feb. 20 board meeting the committee suggested the area on Jersey Street next to the special services building as a location for the project. Trustee William Fitch suggested that another site on Timber Lane be used.

The Timber Lane site would be more appropriate because the street traffic would not create safety problems for the children getting to and from the mini-city, Fitch said.

Sue Keeley, representing the Safety City Committee, said the site is located in a more remote area, and would be more vulnerable to vandalism. Also, the site is 125 feet by 142 feet, which is smaller than the 150 feet by 150 feet project that has been planned.

The Safety City Committee will meet informally with the district's Building Committee to discuss these sites. The board had granted the land for the project Feb. 20, and the College Station City Council donated \$15,000 Feb. 22 for the creation of Safety City. The project will

proceed when the board agrees on a site.

The board postponed action on a liability insurance policy for board members. ANCO Insurance representative M.L. Cashion explained the policy available to school districts. The policy would cover claims against board members resulting from school curriculum, misdirection of funds, dress code rules, dismissals, and student or teacher strikes. It would not cover bodily injury or property damage incurred by board members. The estimated cost is \$960.

The board decided to postpone action on the policy until questions regarding legal wording could be answered. It is unclear whether the use of tax money to insure board members would be legal if an individual member were sued instead of the entire board.

Also, if a suit were filed against the board, the insurance company attorneys would have the freedom to compromise the claim. The board wants the right to continue the suit despite what the attorneys might decide to do.

Cashion also discussed insurance policies for school buses. The district had high vehicle losses during the last two years, he said, and will have a difficult time finding companies willing to insure them.

In other action, the board approved the 1978-79 school calendar. As a result of a change in the required number of school days made by the Texas Legislature, school session will be ten days shorter next year.



## Mixing with freshmen can cause punishment

United Press International

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — Twelve Air Force Academy upperclassmen have been ordered to walk punishment tours and receive demerits since September for fraternizing with freshmen cadets of both sexes, an academy spokesman said Monday.

Male cadets in the senior, junior and sophomore classes are permitted to socialize amongst themselves and date the 119 women in the sophomore class, but are not allowed to fraternize with the freshmen cadets, including 115 females.

"It's part of the professional training to limit the degree of familiarization among officers and soldiers of lower ranks," said the spokesman.

Disciplinary action for violation of the fraternization code can vary from eight demerits and four punishments to 50 de-

merits and 30 punishments, plus loss of privileges.

Academy spokesman Will Ketterson said all the upperclassmen who were punished during the fall semester by the Commandant's Disciplinary Board admitted breaking the rules. The offenses were reported by other cadets.

The lower class cadets involved in the fraternization incidents also received demerits and punishment tours, he said. No breakdown was available on how many of the offenses involved female freshmen cadets.

Upperclassmen may only converse with plebes, or freshmen, during mealtimes and are prohibited from walking, driving or taking a snack break with the lower class cadets.

Only the 1,158 males in the freshman class are permitted to date females in that class, according to AFA rules.

## Fugitive hippo's babysitters cost Irvine \$1,200 a day

United Press International

IRVINE, Calif. — Bubbles the fugitive hippopotamus is in her element — a rain-soaked, mud-logged pond in the hills, watched over by babysitters costing about \$1,200 a day.

The rains have delayed plans to catch Bubbles," said Jo Schetter, spokeswoman for Lion Country Safari, a wild animal reserve where the two-ton hippo lived until her third escape Feb. 19.

She said it is costing the park about \$1,200 a day to keep rangers posted by the pond around the clock, but not for long.

"We have a plan to catch Bubbles," park Vice President Jerry Kobrin said Sunday. "I know the plan, you know the plan, but Bubbles doesn't know the plan."

The plan, which will be implemented once the rain stops, is simple enough. Park rangers will hit Bubbles with a tranquilizer dart and catch her in large airline cargo nets.

Until then, Kobrin said, "we have a full complement of rangers there in the event she decides she might want to take a stroll."