

THE BATTALION

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Take the money and run?

A Dallas bank put \$75,000 in a man's account — by accident — and now they won't take it back. See page 9 for details.
SCONA 24 begins today, with 180 student delegates from the United States, Canada and Mexico. The first speech is this afternoon at

3:30 in Rudder Auditorium. Former New York Sen. James Buckley will speak. See page 5.

Energy is in the news in a big way once again. President Carter may try to talk Mexico out of some of its oil. See page 8



Valentine vases

Marihelen Kamp, right, Floriculture Club adviser, and member Valerie Starr, a junior from Austin, are preparing bud vases at the Commons Front Desk to be delivered today. The Floriculture Club

was selling the flowers to help finance a field trip to Mexico, where members will study the florist industry there.

Battalion photo by Liz Newlin

U.S. Embassy stormed by Iranian guerrillas

United Press International
TEHRAN, Iran — Left-wing guerrillas today captured the U.S. Embassy in a gunfight with Marines, wounded two of them, and took Ambassador William Sullivan and at least 70 other Americans hostage for several hours before releasing them, the State Department said in Washington.

Officials in the department's Iran working group said they still had no direct communications with the embassy itself, but they had two confirmed reports from "other sources" in Iran that said the Americans had been released, apparently unharmed.

The embassy was being guarded by only 19 green-uniformed Marines when hundreds of heavily armed guerrillas stormed the building.

The officials confirmed that two Marine guards were wounded in the attack, one of them suffering a slight head wound, when left-wing guerrillas stormed and seized the embassy compound.

The names of the wounded Americans were not immediately known.

The officials said that the embassy itself is still apparently in the hands of the guerrillas.

The 70 Americans inside the compound, including Sullivan, surrendered in order to prevent further bloodshed, spokesmen said. Sources said embassy officials apparently had time to destroy sensitive and secret documents before the compound was overrun.

After the embassy fell in a two-hour gunbattle, the Americans were led into the courtyard with hoods over their heads, said UPI Photographer Tom Karges, who slipped inside the embassy with the marauding guerrillas.

The heavily armed gunmen quickly overran the compound and Sullivan's personal quarters after seizing the embassy, as thousands of Iranians looked on.

The officials said that the Americans were taken into "protective custody" but then released by the guerrillas.

They were repeatedly kicked and hit by the guerrillas, Karges said.

Sullivan was the last to emerge from the

bullet-scarred building and the jubilant guerrillas brandished knives and guns in the face of the dapper silver-haired diplomat.

The guerrillas appeared to strike the ambassador several times but he was not seriously hurt.

During the attack, which began about 10 a.m. (1:30 a.m. EST), the two Marines were wounded and two of the attackers were killed.

Sullivan then ordered the embassy's surrender to the guerrillas to prevent further bloodshed.

Many carried Molotov cocktails and said they wanted to burn down the embassy to "purge" Iran of Americans and U.S. influence.

An American military adviser, who identified himself only as Colonel Schaefer,

told Karges: "There was heavy firing. We returned the fire and then called on the Khomeini forces for help as we had been told to do."

Representatives of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini rushed to the embassy and interceded with the guerrillas on behalf of the Americans.

"When the Khomeini forces finally came, the embassy forces finally put down their weapons and came out with their hands on their heads."

Embassy officials said the attack apparently was launched by rabid left-wingers who want all Americans and American influence ousted from Iran. The firing stopped after the two-hour battle and negotiations on the fate of the Americans were under way between the attackers and Khomeini's emissaries.

Boston doubtful; ticket refunds set

The Boston concert that was canceled Sunday will probably not be rescheduled, Brooks Herring, chairman of Town Hall, said Tuesday.

"If we can book it we will," Herring said. "But at this time our chances of rescheduling the concert are not too good."

Boston had to cancel its Sunday appearance in G. Rollie White Coliseum because of the illness of guitarist Tom Scholz.

If the show can't be rescheduled, ticket refunds will begin 9 a.m. Monday in the Memorial Student Center Box Office in the Rudder Tower.

Town Hall sent Boston's personal management a telegram Tuesday listing possible make-up dates. James Reynolds, associate director of the MSC, said that about 10 dates were listed in the telegram. G. Rollie White is used for many activities, Reynolds said, and "We're just about out of dates."

Reynolds said that in his talks with Premiere Inc., they told him that Boston had no dates open between now and summer. Reynolds said, though, that he thought Boston felt "an obligation to do anything they can to reschedule the date."

Reynolds said that Town Hall is even willing to book for next fall. If an agreement is reached after the ticket refund date of Feb. 19, tickets for the new concert would be reprinted and sold all over again.

Concerning the money Town Hall already spent on preparing for the concert, Reynolds said that he didn't know if Town Hall would recover the money or not. Town Hall spent several thousand dollars for an additional electrical generator and a larger stage to accommodate the concert.

Colony wants 55 mph repeal

United Press International
DUSTIN — A state representative, saying he is tired of being blackmailed by the federal government, announced today he will push for repeal of the 55 mph speed limit in Texas.

"I'm sick and tired of this blackmail by the federal government," said Rep. Fred D. Athens, about the threat of loss of federal highway funds if the speed limit is raised. Head is sponsoring a bill to lower the limit to 70 mph.

Head said he sees the speed limit law as a state's rights issue and that the time is ripe for a confrontation between the state and the federal government which has threatened to withhold highway aid from states not abiding by the 55 mph speed

we do need to go ahead and have the confrontation and get it over with."

Head said data on the effectiveness of the 55 mph limit in reducing the number of highway fatalities and conserving fuel was inconclusive. He quoted from a study by Charles J. Keese, professor at the Texas Transportation Institute at Texas A&M

Please see related story, page 11.

University, that says traffic death rates are rising again, after an initial drop when the speed limit was imposed in 1974. Keese also said there is evidence that other less restrictive measures, like proper tire pressure, would save as much fuel as the 55 mph limit.

Head disputed published polls that say most Americans favor the current speed limit. He said people might say they like

the lower limit, but they do not act that way on the highways.

"I don't believe this is true among people who drive automobiles," Head said. He added that the poll was either taken among non-drivers or those answering "fudged a little."

Head said highway patrolmen want to see the limit raised so they can spend more time on more important problems and cease constant surveillance of motorists. He read portions of a letter from a Lubbock area Department of Public Safety commander, C.W. Bell, who said he believed it was impossible to attain 100 percent compliance with the 55 mph regulation. Bell said it would take 1,400 more patrolmen, or twice the current staff, to attain reasonable compliance with the law. Head said this would cost the state an additional \$42 million.

Faculty, students agree: plus, minus grades have little effect

By MARK HANCOCK
Battalion reporter

Proposal to allow the use of pluses and minuses in grade reporting is awaiting approval at the University of Texas. The idea has passed the University Council and awaits approval by the university's president, chancellor, and Board of Regents.

Texas A&M University students and faculty have mixed emotions about the proposal, but generally feel it would have little effect on the grading system.

Louis Van Pelt, director of the placement office at Texas A&M, says business and industry weigh a student's value not so much on his grade average, but also on a comparison with students from other institutions.

"My first reaction is that while corporations are concerned with GPR (grade point average), they can judge students only in relation to other students at the university. Grade inflation and differences in grading systems cause businesses to do more

homework on each institution," Van Pelt said.

He said the grading differences account for the reason why low GPRs from one institution may be valued more by a business than high GPRs from an institution where grade inflation is obviously present.

Laura Tuma of The Daily Texan, UT's student newspaper, said the UT students' reaction concerning the proposal was one of uninterest.

"The school seems to be trying to find a solution without a problem," Tuma said. She said the proposal has been an interesting issue and controversial, but students haven't been that dissatisfied with the present system.

"It started off being discussed in an academic committee and then just kept getting more and more attention," she said.

Dr. Haskell M. Monroe, Texas A&M's associate vice president for academic affairs, said he knew of no such proposals at Texas A&M.

"Pluses and minuses could make grades

tougher to compute," Monroe said. "There isn't any relationship between what UT does and what we do. We do things our way and they do things their way."

Many UT faculty members complained about the problem of more "borderlines" caused by more grades. Many Texas A&M professors agree that an expanded system might burden them with unnecessary computations.

Dr. Robert Shutes, head of the education curriculum and instruction department at Texas A&M, said he would favor the addition of pluses and minuses to increase grade precision. But added that "the computation of the exact points to be received by the students might be too much a problem" when compared to the negligible effect a change might have.

C.D. Holland, department head of chemical engineering, said that while students might prefer having the pluses and minuses on their course grades, "The easiest and most equitable way I know is to simply turn in a numerical grade, and that's it."

Love messages take all forms

Valentine ads fill London papers

United Press International
LONDON — Cryptic, clever, clandestine and crazy sweethearts by the hundreds sent their love in Valentines today through London's classified ads.

Topsy — Roget's Thesaurus 889Vb. Will we 461Vb tonight?

A.B. — Beat me with your rhythm stick. Praline grinder — double quick."

Foodley and Stinker got one. So did Popskirk, Little Popsicle Toes, Big Fat Rabbit, Piggy Pogy Pooh, Joppa's Pops, Boogles, Crud and Crackerdog.

Not to mention Maggot and Bedrats.

And as Daddy said to Foxy: "At 2.50 pounds (\$5) a line, I must love you."

For love or want of it, hundreds of sweethearts filled pages of today's morning newspapers with Valentine's Day verse in the type — a Fleet Street tradition that gives everyone the day's best laugh and

worst eye-strain. The Daily Mail had so many it alphabetized them and warned: "No queries can be entertained regarding the content or the origin of these messages."

Some were technical:

"D.M.S. — data management software has taken on a whole new meaning since I met you."

There were poets:

"It is my admiration for your knees that makes me want to join my soul with thine."

"Something wonderful has started since my hair was centrally parted."

"Roses are Red, Violets are Blue. It's about time I got something from you."

Promises:

"Smokie, it may take longer with only three cylinders but I'll get there in the end — Bess."

"Len — some day your Prince will come."

And even proposals:

"Angela — the football season is almost over and although we will not be in clover, shall we get wed, so I can get you to share our homestead?"

Dozens settled for a simple "Happy Valentine's Day Margaret, Love Paul."

T.N.T. was sure to know that the one with the message "Hope your effervescence never thubthid." was meant for him (or her).

But the one from Brown Eyes that said "We will always have our memories" must have gladdened many a heart.

At least one sender warded off potential humiliation:

"Hi toots. (I hope this isn't read out on the radio as an example of a silly valentine.) Billy."



Fire damages Biological Sciences Building

A fire in the Biological Sciences Building early Tuesday morning caused damages to a laboratory estimated at \$30,000. The fire was reported to the University Police at 12:31 a.m. Jay Dippel, an administrative assistant in the biology department,

said most of the damage was caused by smoke. The damage estimate was for equipment only and did not include clean-up costs or laboratory repairs, he said. The cause of the fire has not been determined.

Battalion photo by Keith Taylor