

# THE BATTALION

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## Russian rainbow

The colorful Russian Kafkaz Dance Ensemble delighted a crowd of Aggies in Rudder Auditorium Thursday night.

See page 5.



## 'Gig 'em Aggies!'

Corps Commander Bob Kamensky "gig's 'em" as the Corps of Cadets passes in review Thursday afternoon for the SCONA 24 delegates. Texas A&M

University President Jarvis Miller and Col. James Woodall look on. SCONA is the Student Conference on National Affairs. Battalion photo by Colin Crombie

# Scolding causes a friendlier Carter

**United Press International**  
MEXICO CITY — President Carter, publicly rebuked by his host, tried to get U.S.-Mexican relations back on a friendly basis Thursday as he sat down with President Jose Lopez Portillo to discuss the controversial topics of illegal migrant Mexican workers and natural gas purchases.

Carter met with Lopez Portillo for the scheduled three-hour session at Los Pinos, Mexico's presidential palace. On Wednesday, they held a more formal world review at the historic National Palace shortly after Carter's arrival.

American officials said they hoped a scolding delivered by Lopez Portillo to Carter at a luncheon Wednesday at the Foreign Ministry was not indicative of how the entire, three-day visit would go.

Lopez Portillo lectured Carter about neighborly relations and — without mentioning it specifically — U.S. rejection two years ago of an agreed-upon deal for the purchase of Mexican natural gas.

There was no official reaction to Lopez Portillo's remarks, but the newspaper Excelsior said Carter, during a wreath-laying ceremony, told its reporter the speech was "impressive for its profundity and its content obliges one to reflect."

After the talks, Carter will fly by helicopter to the village of Ixtlilco El Grande where he will mingle with farmers, lunch on some local specialties and stroll around the "zocalo" or village square.

In an obvious reference to the Carter administration's cancellation of a deal to sell Mexican gas to the United States two years ago, Lopez Portillo said in a toast: "Among permanent, not casual neighbors, surprise moves and sudden deceit or abuse are poisonous fruits that sooner or later will have an adverse effect."

He also admonished Carter for the sudden interest Americans have displayed in Mexico's newly discovered vast oil and gas reserves.

"Mexico has thus suddenly found itself the center of American attention — attention that is a surprising mixture of interest, disdain and fear, much like the recurring vague fears you yourselves inspire in certain areas of our national subconscious," he said.

"A certain amount of that is, I suppose, permissible in the nature of things for home consumption, given the history of the relationship," said an American official, "but one would hope that they don't get carried away with this. We do have some serious matters to negotiate over the next few years and it (the rancor) doesn't serve anyone's cause."

The official also said that "having high-ranking Mexican officials call high-ranking American officials liars certainly doesn't help things. Whether it detracts remains to be seen."

Mexican Foreign Minister Santiago Roel called Energy Secretary James Schlesinger "a liar" in the aftermath of Schlesinger's rejection of the gas agreement on the ground the price of \$2.60 per thousand cubic feet was too high.

Carter and Lopez Portillo concentrated on global issues during their first round of talks. Thursday, Carter hoped "to get the air cleared from recriminations and to lay the groundwork for getting back together and talking about" future sales of oil and gas to the United States.

A stand-off also is apparent on the question of the migration of hundreds of thousands of Mexicans annually to the United States.

"We have some basic differences of view on some issues that are important," the official said. "None of these issues are

going to be settled here or at anytime in the near future."

Carter's welcome to Mexico City was low-key, polite and lacking in the warmth that marked previous visits of American presidents in the past.

Only once did the Mexican leader toss a bouquet to Carter, saying "we see in you a leader who has sought to revive the moral foundations of the political institutions of the United States. With great personal integrity, you have sought to replace provisional arrangements with lasting agreements."

## Florida snow courtesy of NY Boy Scouts

**United Press International**  
BUFFALO, N.Y. — Buffalo has a gift for Florida — 20 tons of snow.

The Boy Scouts, with an assist from the Rich Products Corp., a Buffalo-based frozen food firm, will load the snow aboard a refrigerated tractor-trailer truck bound for Clearwater, Fla.

The snow is scheduled to arrive in Florida Saturday, in time for a quick Sunshine State snow sculpture show. Part of the fun will be a contest in which residents guess how long the snow will last in Clearwater's 75-degree weather.

In return, Buffalo will receive a truckload of Florida oranges to be distributed to hospitals, nursing homes and orphanages.

# Former treasury official blasts government agencies

By PEGGY McCULLEN  
Battalion Reporter

Government regulations are like barnacles on the ship of state, slowing it down and costing the American taxpayers billions of dollars each year, a former assistant secretary for economic policy of the U.S. Treasury said Thursday at Texas A&M University.

Dr. Murray L. Weidenbaum, a former business and government economist, said regulations are needlessly increasing the cost of products, which is passed on to consumers.

He estimated that the average 1978 model car includes \$666 of added safety features which are required by federal

Weidenbaum spoke to an audience of about 250 in Rudder Theater during the second day of the twenty-fourth Student Conference on National Affairs. Delegates from 65 colleges and universities representing the United States, Canada and Mexico are attending SCONA 24.

Former corporate economist of the Boeing Co. criticized the regulatory agencies for their lack of effectiveness.

He said they examine only one side of the company and set regulations without



Dr. Murray L. Weidenbaum, former assistant secretary of the Treasury for economic policy.

further research to the economic impact of such regulations.

U.S. Steel is working under 5,000 regulations from 27 agencies, he said.

The taxpayers paid more than \$4.8 million to operate these agencies in 1978. Additional costs are passed on to the consumer from these regulatory statutes, he added.

Weidenbaum stressed reforming such agencies, not eliminating them.

"Government regulation has become a major growth industry," he said. He listed three ways to reform agencies:

— Requiring a benefit-cost test to be applied before any regulation is passed by Congress. This test would measure the economic impact a regulation would have on industry and people.

— Creating a sunset law which would examine existing agencies and discard those outdated.

— Finding alternatives to regulation. For example, when regulation of airlines decreased, commercial airline ticket prices decreased too.

Weidenbaum said that there is a definite link between a strong business sector and great personal freedom in a country.

"Economic freedom is inseparable from political freedom," he said. "We should foster one as we preserve the other."

# Voting procedures, officers set for Hassle-free, OSA merger

By LEIGH MCLEROY  
Battalion Reporter

Representatives of Hassle-Free and the Off-Campus Student Association hashed out mechanics ranging from voting procedures to official titles in a Thursday night meeting to help the two organizations with their planned merger.

Hassle-Free and OSA both serve as links between Texas A&M University and more than 20,000 students who live off campus. A merger of the groups was suggested when it became evident that many of their objectives were the same.

In their second meeting, members of the two groups tried to organize the struc-

ture of the combined unit, which they hope will feature the strong points of both organizations.

Moderator Jamie Hemphill, a graduate assistant in student affairs, said OSA is best known as a University voice to those living off campus, while Hassle-Free is recognized as a tenant-landlord related group.

Hemphill was assigned the job of assisting the two organizations in their merger because as a recent transfer from Texas Tech University, she has little previous knowledge of either.

Hemphill said Thursday's meeting "was a lot more relaxed. Last week everyone was pulling more for their own group."

The representatives agreed on a slate of executive officers, including a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer to be elected by plurality, and a set of standing committees with chairmen to be elected by a two-thirds majority.

Although members in attendance agreed when the meeting was over that they had accomplished a lot, there are still some major issues that remain unsettled.

One of the issues is what the new organization will be called. Hemphill said she thought the name would be "a sticky part" of the negotiations.

The merger should be complete in four to five weeks.

# State Department plans evacuation of 4,000 Americans from Iran Saturday

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — The State Department Thursday announced plans for a mass evacuation of more than 4,000 Americans from Iran beginning Saturday. The evacuation would involve civilian airliners and possibly U.S. military planes and helicopters. State Department spokesman Hodding Carter III said the Iranian government has agreed the United States that it is prepared to cooperate with the evacuation, and is assisting in arrangements.

He also said CH53 Jolly Green Giant helicopters and six silver and white C130

U.S. officials estimate there are between 7,000 and 8,000 Americans left in Iran. Carter said the plan is to evacuate all but the most essential Americans, leaving only 2,500 to 3,000 in the country.

Air Force transport planes will be flown to Incirlik air base in Turkey where they will be on hand in case they are needed. "This is the situation as of right now and

the situation will be clearly developing over the next few days," said Carter.

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The Americans will be assembled in the compound of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and those who are outside of the Tehran area will have to make their way to the capital by their own transportation.

Pentagon sources said earlier Thursday it was not known how many flights a day the Iranian government may allow.

# Automation to replace personal touch of library door checkers

By KURT ABRAHAM  
Battalion Reporter

Some familiar faces will be missing when the new addition to Texas A&M University's Sterling C. Evans Library opens in May.

The men who check students' books as they leave the library stand to lose their jobs when the library expands at the end of the spring semester.

"We will switch over to an automated system of checking books

when the new section opens," explained Dr. Irene Hoadley, director of libraries for Texas A&M. "The system will read little electronic strips that are placed in the books. If a student fails to have the strip sensitized at the checkout counter before leaving the library, the system will ring a bell and lock the doors."

The changeover will affect five men who have been working part-time by the doors. Most of them are

retired from other jobs and some, like Al Witcher and Phil Blackburn, have worked at the library for the last ten years.

"Even though it will send us home, I think the new system is a worthwhile investment," said Witcher. "Although it lacks the personal touch we give the students now, the automation will enable the library to be much more thorough in checking books than we can be."

Blackburn said he thinks both he and the students will miss the personal contact the present arrangement allows.

"Over the years, I've had the chance to make friends with students not only from this country but from all over the world," he said. "Although many of them have graduated and gone on to other things, they still correspond with me, especially those from South and Central America."

Witcher, like Blackburn, is philosophical about leaving the library job.

"I've enjoyed it a lot, being with the young folks and talking to them. But there comes a time when a person has to quit and I think it's my time to quit," he said.

For Witcher, quitting means the end of an 11 year stint. He started working at the doors of the present library when it opened in 1968.

"I was hired in June of that year and started checking books the following month when the section opened," Witcher said. "Through the years I've seen a lot of changes at A&M, but one thing that has always stayed the same is the great attitude the students have."

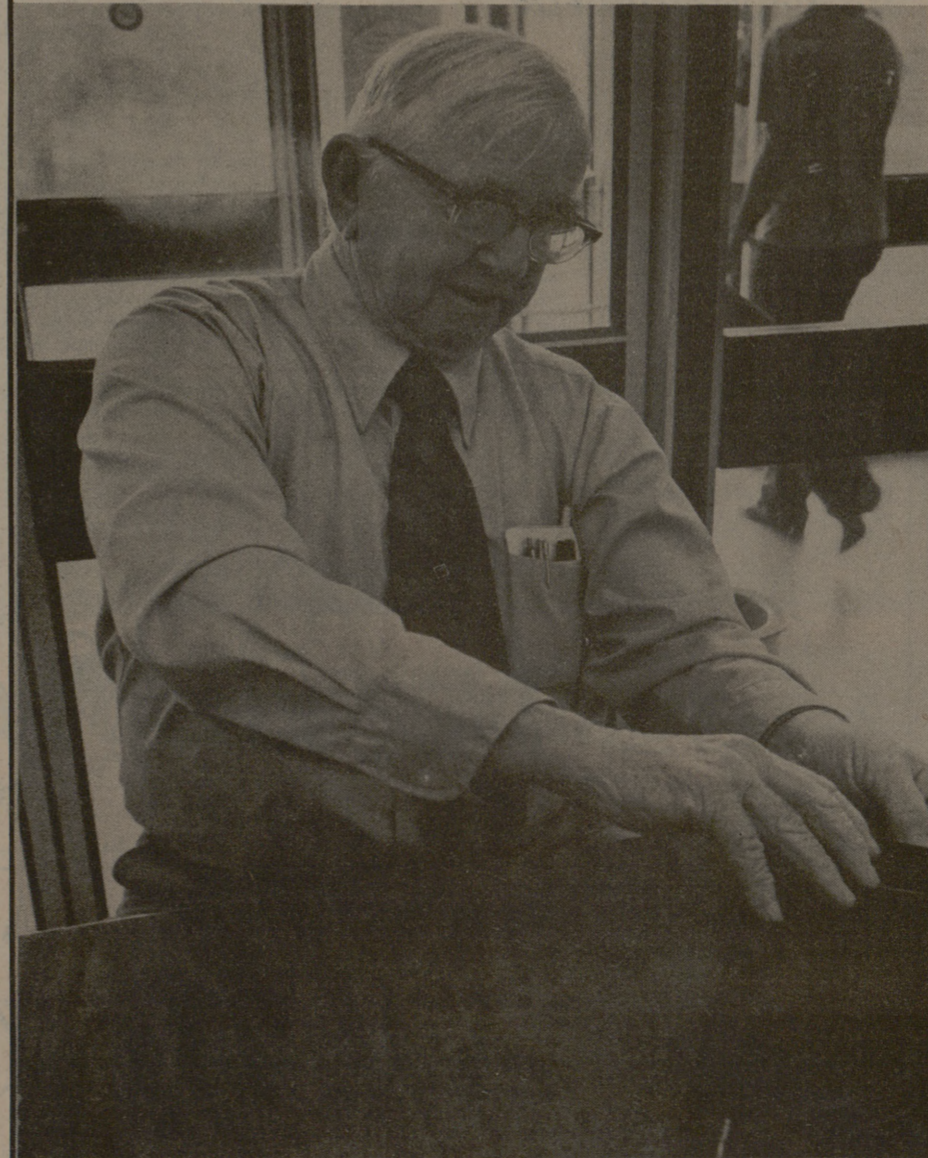
Blackburn, who has been with the library since 1970, has a similar assessment of the students. "I can't help but notice how neat and orderly they are here. They're serious about their studies and they show a pride in their school that you don't always see nowadays."

Neither man has any definite plans for the immediate future once they leave the library.

"I'm probably going to go home and work in the yard or go fishing," Witcher said. "Now that I've got the time, I'd still like to travel around the country visit the places I never got a chance to go to. I guess you could call me 're-retired' for now."

Blackburn, who recently recovered from a heart attack suffered last September, said he too plans to catch up on his yard work.

"Come May, I'm going to retire all over again. I think at my age, I'll probably be glad to stay home. After that heart attack, I am more than happy to be able to be here."



Fred Norcross has checked students' books at the doors of Sterling C. Evans Library for 11 years. When the new section opens in May, he'll be out of a job. Norcross moved from Mumford to Bryan in 1949, and before checking in with the library, was a candy-man, selling "all the best kinds."

Battalion photo by Lyle Lovett