

# THE BATTALION

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## U.S. government favors Zentgraf in sex bias suit

From staff and wire reports  
The government asked a federal judge Monday to force Texas A&M University to allow women to join the all-male bastions of its marching band and three other elite units of the Corps of Cadets.  
In papers filed in U.S. District Court in Austin, the Justice Department sought to intervene in a private lawsuit filed by Melanie Zentgraf against Texas A&M, its president, a vice president and the head of the Corps.

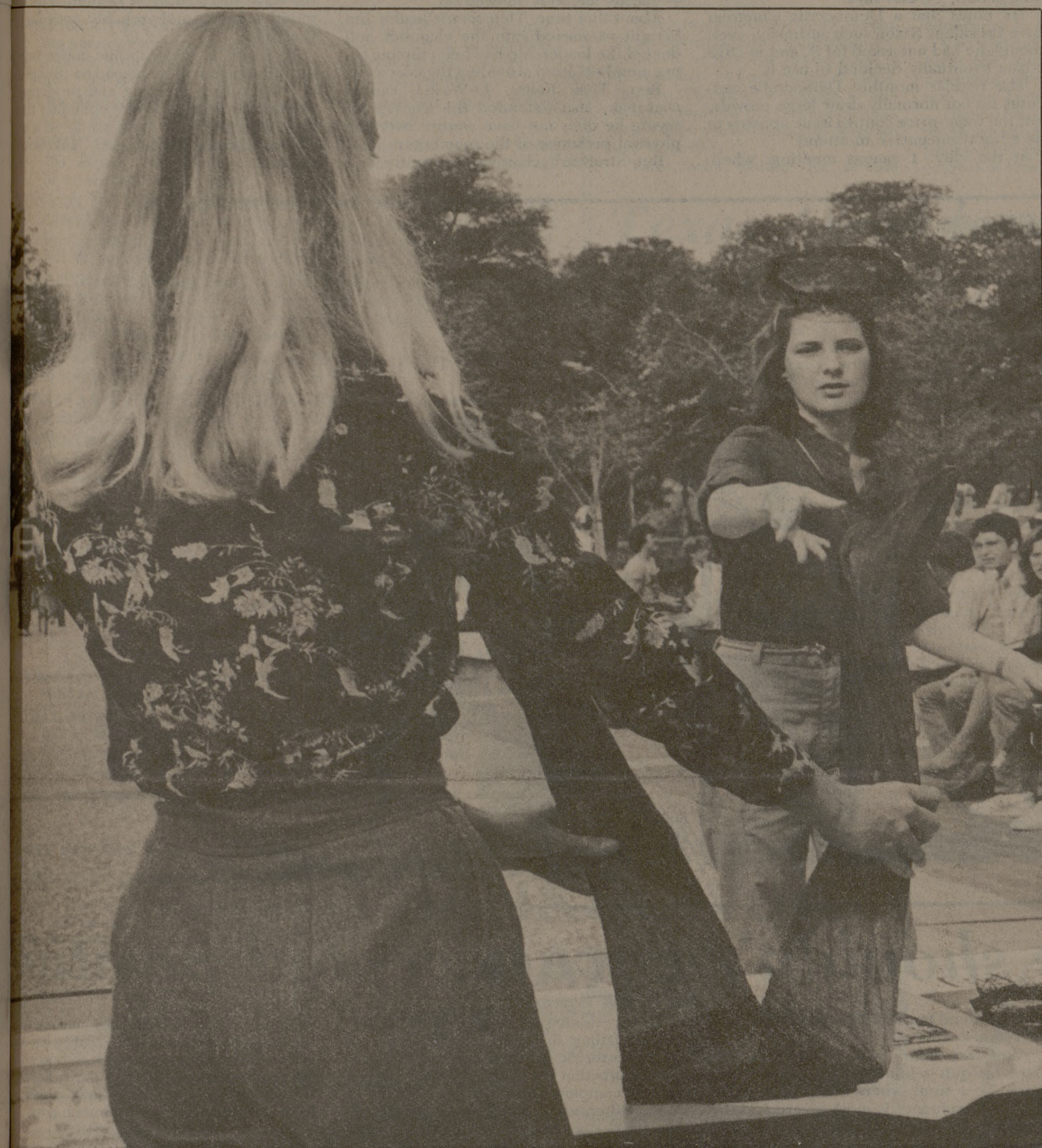
"I'm glad they did it," Zentgraf said Monday night.  
She said she hoped the motion would help bring the case to court more quickly, but added that she expected to have to wait another year before the suit begins.  
"We are really still on the backside of getting anything done," she said.  
She said she had not known for certain the government was going to take action.  
Zentgraf filed her suit last May. She charged that she and other females were

denied the opportunity to participate in certain elite functions of the Corps' program.  
Col. James R. Woodall, commandant of the Corps, declined to make any comment over the phone. Corps Commander Bill Dugat could not be reached, nor could Deputy Corps Commander Dillard Stone.  
"Other than a desire to keep the Aggie Band all male there is no reason for the current effective restriction of the Aggie Band to male membership only," the gov-

ernment said, noting there is no talent requirement for joining the band.  
The government suit notes there are only 60 women among the University's 2,200 ROTC cadets.  
It says there have never been women members in four of the five special units of the Corps of Cadets that represent the University nationally:  
— The 300-member band, which does not require applicants to audition and uses as its main criterion for membership parti-

icipation in a high school band. The suit says each female expressing interest in joining the band "has been actively discouraged or dissuaded by band and/or faculty members."  
— The Ross Volunteer Company, whose 120 members serve as the honor guard for the governor of Texas and as lead marching unit in a Mardi Gras parade each year. Its members decide who will be allowed to join the company.

— The Fish Drill Team, a "nationally famous precision drill team" composed of freshman cadets, which also has no talent requirement. "Female freshman cadets who might wish to participate in the Fish Drill Team are directed to the Women's Drill Team," the suit says.  
— The Parsons' Mounted Cavalry, a volunteer cavalry unit representing the University at agricultural and equestrian events throughout Texas.



Ring around the leg

Sharon Adkins attempts to toss a garter around one of the legs supported by Stacy McElroy in the Town Hall-sponsored garter toss. The contest was a prom-

otion for the play "Chicago" to be presented later this week, with free tickets to the production going to the winners.  
Battalion photo by Sam Stroder

## Freed hostages kept isolated for 'humanitarian reasons'

United Press International  
WIESBADEN, West Germany — Three American hostages freed by Moslem students holding the U.S. Embassy in Tehran arrived in West Germany Monday and entered the U.S. Air Force Hospital at Wiesbaden for medical observation after their 15-day ordeal.  
The hostages — two black Marine guards and one woman secretary — were smuggled into the hospital through a back door, reporters said.  
The special military jet, with one medical technician and one nurse and crew aboard, picked up the three in Copenhagen, where they were flown early Monday on a Scandinavian Airlines System commercial flight from Tehran.  
After the landing at the Rhein-Main base, opposite the huge Frankfurt airport,

officials whisked the three away to the Wiesbaden hospital 20 miles away. A U.S. Consulate spokesman said they would undergo medical treatment before being flown on to the United States.  
"We intend to do everything possible to make their return to their families as comfortable, safe and rapid as possible," the spokesman said.  
The SAS flight carrying the three arrived in Copenhagen's Kastrup airport at 11:15 a.m., where they were met by U.S. Ambassador Dean Warren Manshel.  
They were taken immediately from the aircraft into a waiting car and ferried to the U.S. Air Force jet that took them on to Frankfurt.

Kathy Gross, 22, of Cambridge Springs, Pa., an embassy secretary, was the first off the plane in Copenhagen and was given a welcoming kiss by the ambassador. She was smiling and looked in good health.  
The two black Marine sergeants, Ladell Maples, 23, of Earle, Ark., and William R. Quarles, 23, of Washington, D.C., followed behind, but were not noticeably smiling.  
They had been traveling in the first-class section, where they were cut off from contact with other passengers. One Iranian woman on the plane said she tried to talk to them, but they refused to comment on the embassy situation and said they had been told not to talk about it.  
The embassy said the three would not be allowed any contact with the press "for humanitarian reasons."

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## Senate against new complex if it means high-cost dorm rooms

By ELLEN EIDELBACH  
Battalion Reporter  
Student senators voted Monday to urge the Texas A&M University Board of Regents not to build a new dorm complex if it would mean an increase of 50 to 100 percent in dorm room costs. Senators will also ask the board to reconsider the location of the new complex across from Zachry Engineering Center.  
The regents will meet Nov. 29 and discuss the new dorm project.  
The complex would be similar to the Aston-Dunn-Krueger-Mosher dorm complex on the southeast part of the campus and would include a cafeteria, said Brad Smith, vice president for student services.  
The two possible locations of the new dorm complex would be across from Zachry Engineering Center on the northeast side or on the west end of the campus.  
Smith said there is an unwritten law not to build in front of the administration building. He said the possible construction site would distract from the pleasant view of the green fields in front of the campus.  
One senator argued that the location across from Zachry would be convenient for engineering majors.  
Smith said the campus is expanding to-

wards the west end and that a dorm located by Zachry would be isolated from other campus areas.  
Another bill passed at the meeting requested the physical education department give space for a student weight training facilities in the new sports complex under the Kyle Field expansion. This bill was passed unanimously.  
The student senate will be responsible for several surveys to be taken between now and the end of the semester. These will concern:  
— a proposal to hold Silver Taps on the first Tuesday of each month instead of the first opportunity after a student's death. This survey will be taken Nov. 27 and 28 in the Memorial Student Center.  
— professors giving exams at night outside of class. This survey will be taken Dec. 4 and 5 at the MSC, Zachry Engineering Center, Francis Hall and the Academic Building.  
— professor evaluation, which will be given in various classes Dec. 3-7.  
The senate also voted to change the regulation for graduation with honors so that the grade point ratio will be computed from college hours attempted at Texas A&M only. Previously, the rule maintained that

the GPR for graduation with honors would be based on all college hours attempted.  
At present, seniors must take a minimum of 60 hours at Texas A&M to graduate with honors.  
Transfer student GPR's at Texas A&M are now based on grades received here, with hours earned at other colleges used only if the student's transferred GPR was lower than the one received here.  
New senate business included the introduction of the following bills:  
— to extend postal service hours in the MSC  
— to have a program on attack prevention and self-defense  
— to establish a "Meet Your Senator Week" and provide senators with name tags  
— to request the designation of bicycle paths on both sides of Spence Street from Zachry Engineering Center to the Commons complex  
— to urge the highway department to install a traffic light at the intersection of Joe Routh and Wellborn.  
The senate also elected Ken Johnson as speaker pro tem, replacing Dorothy DuBois who resigned due to a lack of time for the position.

## Ambassador-at-large speaks on country's energy potential

## U.S. interests in Mexico do not end with oil — Krueger

By MARCY BOYCE  
Battalion Reporter  
Mexico has the potential to be one of the world's most powerful energy producers, but our interest will not stop there, Bob Krueger, ambassador-at-large to Mexico, said Monday at Texas A&M University.  
Sponsored by MSC Political Forum, Krueger told a group of about 200 that efforts are underway to coordinate policies with Mexico concerning trade and illegal aliens in addition to energy.  
Krueger said Carter created the ambassador-at-large position to coordinate poli-

cies between the various agencies within the U.S. government that deal with Mexico.  
He said that although Mexico is producing five times more oil now than it did in 1976, it is not a major oil producer yet.  
"Mexico today is courted as the new oil hearse by the world," he said.  
But of the 1.5 million barrels it produces daily, they use one million, sell 400,000 to the United States, leaving only 100,000 for remaining countries.  
For this reason, Krueger said Mexican imports cannot account for the loss of the

700,000 barrels imported daily from Iran.  
However, an advance in oil trade between the United States and Mexico should ease the loss of Iranian oil, he said.  
The United States will begin receiving oil from Mexico at \$3.62 a barrel beginning Jan. 1, he said, overshadowing former energy secretary James Schlesinger's rejection of a previous deal.  
Because this rejection symbolized a history of misunderstandings between the United States and Mexico, Krueger said he considered negotiation of this deal an important advance.

Two weeks ago Mexico took another step towards improved relations. A newspaper advertisement by their secretary of commerce supporting Mexico's entrance into the General Agreement of Trade clearly represents their move towards the world trade market, Krueger said.  
In the past, "Mexico has tended to have a very protective attitude towards trade, using import licenses, tariffs and duties, but Portillo is looking to export stimulation instead," he said.  
Krueger said as their largest trading partner the United States can expect to be a

major target for their exports.  
Because of future interaction between the two economies, the United States should recognize that, "the little things we do have a big impact on them," he said.  
For example, tomatoes are farmed in Mexico specifically for export to the United States. Had the U.S. Treasury Department prohibited the sale of the tomatoes here, in response to protests by Florida farmers, many Mexican workers would lose their jobs, he said.  
Considering Mexico is already plagued

by 40-45 percent unemployment, it is no wonder workers experience a strong urge to seek jobs in the United States since they "expect to earn five to ten times as much by crossing that shallow stream," he said.  
He considers undocumented Mexican workers in the United States as the "largest overarching problem" between our two countries.  
However, Krueger said legislation proposed by President Carter to deal with the problem has been buried in Congress since 1977.

## Bike issue to be discussed at open meeting Monday

By JETTIE STEEN  
Battalion Reporter  
The bicycle vs. the pedestrian. Student organizations are still discussing that heated issue and possible solutions to the problems are up before the Texas A&M University Student Government.  
Paul Bettencourt, vice president of rules and regulations, told a meeting of the Off-Campus Aggies that all surveys conducted by the student senate say the problem of bike-pedestrian accidents has been "semi-overstated."  
There has never been a bill before the student senate to ban bicycles from any part of the Texas A&M campus, Bettencourt said. There is, however, a bill being debated over the necessity of bike lanes on

Spence Street in front of Zachry Engineering Center.  
Bettencourt said that there are many possible solutions being discussed including reinstating mandatory bike registration, enforcement by ticketing cars parked in bike lanes and more bike paths through the campus.  
There will be an open meeting of the rules and regulations committee on the regulation of campus bicycle traffic Monday at 8 p.m. in Room 701 of Rudder Tower. The group's members hope others who are interested will attend.  
"People and bicycles can co-exist on campus," Bettencourt said. "All it takes is conscientiousness on the part of cyclists and pedestrians."

## A merrier Christmas for retarded students

## Family buys candy for Austin State School

By SYLVIA FELLOWS  
Battalion Reporter  
Giving candy to the mentally retarded at Austin State School has been a tradition in the Robinette family for 16 years.  
Jim and Mary Robinette started by collecting leftover Halloween candy from their daughter's kindergarten class to give to the school, but began to worry about the possibility that some candy might be tampered with. So now they accept cash donations and buy candy themselves for the retarded students from local stores.  
The Robinettes work at Texas A&M

University. Jim is a laboratory mechanic for the chemistry department, and Mary is a technician in horticultural sciences. They have a son, 22, who is a resident of Austin State School.  
"Besides giving the kids treats on holidays, the candy is used as a reward for good behavior — a positive way of teaching the children — rather than punishing them when they do something wrong," Mary said. "They use suckers to develop pre-speech muscles in the throat instead of using peanut butter on sticks like they used to."  
There are more than 1,000 students

at the school and the Robinettes try to provide them with candy for Christmas, Easter, Valentines Day, and Halloween.  
Each year the project has grown, and now the Army Reserve Unit helps the Robinettes by storing the candy and delivering it to the school.  
Even though the Robinettes' son has hypoglycemia and cannot eat sweets, the family is still devoted to the program. They plan to continue the candy project indefinitely because it is rewarding for them.  
A fund has been established in care of John Birkner at University National

Bank for the candy donations. The Robinettes and Birkner met while doing volunteer work at the Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center several years ago and became friends. As a bank employee, he takes care of the account.  
Checks can be made to "Retarded Children, State School, Candy Fund" or sent to the Robinettes, Route 5, Box 1150, Bryan 77801. The Robinettes are starting now to collect for the Christmas candy and all contributions are tax deductible, Mary said.  
The Austin School will send its IRS number to all contributors.