

THE BATTALION

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Correction

A woman whose picture appeared on page 1 of Monday's Battalion was incorrectly identified. The woman is Evelia Jasso, owner of Martinez Bakery in Bryan, which sells patent medicinal herbs. The Battalion regrets the error.



Jogger meets Santa

Eddie Dyer, a sophomore physical education major, asked Santa Claus for a new pair of shorts Tuesday. Santa was part of Texas A&M University Forest Club's Christmas tree sale. The trees are for sale, at a cost of

about \$12, from 2 p.m. until dark on weekdays and noon until dark on weekends at the west end of the Forestry Building. Battalion photo by Lynn Blanco

Weightroom restriction equally enforced — now

By ANGELIQUE COPELAND
Battalion Reporter

Until Tuesday, at least one student who is not an intercollegiate athlete had been allowed to use the Deware Fieldhouse weight facilities by weight coach Mike Flynt — against a policy he initiated in September.

When told, Athletic Director Marvin Tate said he would end all special privileges and the policy would be strictly enforced from now on.

When asked about use of the room by non-athletes, Flynt said that because he was in charge of the weight room he could allow who he wanted to use the facility as long as he was there to supervise them.

"There's nothing strange about this," Flynt said. "I run the weight room. I decide who comes in. I don't have to explain myself to anyone."

In an interview earlier this semester, Flynt said he had closed the weight room to the general student body because of problems with students misusing the equipment and because he did not have the time to supervise its use by anyone but the athletes.

One exception to this rule, a female student at A&M who holds no athletic status, was allowed to use the room as a "favor to a friend," Flynt said.

He said it was a "privilege of rank" to allow some people special considerations.

Flynt also said that Tate was aware of the situation.

Tate said that he had not known the woman was using the facilities. The woman's father had called him and asked if she could get advice on a weight training program from Flynt, Tate said, but he had no idea the girl was working out in the room on a regular basis.

Tate said that he would talk to Flynt and that no further special weight room privileges would be granted to anyone.

When asked for comments on why she was allowed in the weight room, the woman said only, "I think you should talk to Marvin Tate."

Carter says U.S. hostages being treated 'disgracefully'

WASHINGTON — President Carter says the 49 American hostages in the besieged U.S. Embassy in Tehran have been treated disgracefully, and some of them have been threatened at gunpoint.

At a briefing Tuesday for state leaders from New Hampshire, Vermont and Maine, Carter drew a bleak picture of the plight of the captives which was at odds with what others have reported of the prisoner treatment, and the general impression that has been left by the 13 women and blacks who already have been freed.

He was reported as saying, "The hostages are not being treated well."

"They have not been permitted to speak a word. They've been threatened at times at pistol point and encouraged to make

statements contrary to their own inclination."

"They've been kept, now, with hands and feet tied, for 23 days. They have not been permitted to speak. When they have spoken, to say 'Good Morning' or 'Good Luck' they have been punished."

"This is a reprehensible thing and a disgrace to everyone who believes in civilization and decency."

Carter's comments, many of which were extracted during a question and answer period, appeared to be a warm-up for his televised news conference tonight which will be his first time to be quizzed by reporters about U.S. efforts to secure the release of the hostages.

He also said the captives had not been permitted to change clothes, bathe or have

any exercise since the ordeal began Nov. 4.

Carter said his two major commitments are "to stand for the honor of the country and its basic principles...and to work as best we can for the safety and release of the hostages."

"Perhaps we've had some success because they have not been seriously injured or killed," he said.

An unidentified White House official also told reporters of "growing evidence that the hostages have been more harshly treated than is generally reported and those holding them would like the world to believe."

It is important, he said, that "the people of the United States and around the world understand the behavior" of the Iranian militants.

December graduates have priority

Backlog delays degree checks

By LOUIE ARTHUR
Battalion Staff

"I'm sorry, but you're missing some required credits. You won't be able to graduate this semester."

Those words, from a student's academic adviser or department head, represent a leering, fearsome monster living in the back of every graduating senior's mind — the fear that a phone call will wipe out an anticipated graduation date.

The degree check is a Texas A&M University system designed to prevent such a last-minute panic. Before graduation, the registrar's office conducts a degree check for the prospective degree candidate.

Many students have expressed concern about a lack of efficiency in the degree check system — in particular, the amount of time needed to complete the check.

Col. Robert H. Baine, assistant registrar, said one reason for the delay is the backlog of work created by students who fail to obtain degree checks before their last semester.

"The priority has to go to the people

graduating," Baine said. He shifted staff members from working on other degree checks so that December graduates' checks would all be completed in time.

Baine said an early degree check (requested the semester prior to graduation) benefits the student, his department and Baine's office. All his office has to do is update a student's folder when graduation approaches.

"My area of responsibility is seeing that the student graduates," he said. "The earlier I can do this, the easier it is for me. We try for a minimum amount of confusion and uncertainty."

"We've gone from 10,000 to 32,000 students and we still do it (degree checks) the same way," Baine said. "We do it all by hand. We use calculators to figure out the GPRs."

Most other schools do degree checks through the departments only, not through the registrar's office, Baine said. Some of these schools use computers for the checks, but they are having a few problems.

"I'll be long retired before we get com-

puters," Baine said. "I need to be assured it will work. If the system went out in the middle of the semester and we had to start over by hand, we'd be lost."

Baine said the system at A&M is better than at other schools because it is a "double check" system.

"Few if any fail to graduate from a lack of a degree check," he said. "It's all pretty cut and dried. Any that apply and don't make it — it tears me apart."

Baine said his office tries to have the checks completed before pre-registration so a student can be certain about which courses he must take in order to graduate.

"If we don't finish in time, the only thing I can do is apologize," he said. "Go back and see your adviser. Go ahead and pre-register. If anything needs adjustment, we can do it during add-drop week."

Baine said his office is working on December, May and August graduates now. All those who want to graduate in August are urged to request their degree check by January.

Embassy is booby trapped to prevent rescue attempts

TEHRAN, Iran — The Moslem students holding 49 Americans hostage in the U.S. embassy here say they have rigged the compound with explosives.

In the meantime there have been several other developments in the crisis now in its 49th day.

President Carter has charged the militants are mistreating their captives "disgracefully" but has pledged to protect the honor of the United States at the same time he works to protect safety of the prisoners. (See Carter story elsewhere this page.)

After a very short session the next major diplomatic move at the U.N. Security Council was postponed until Saturday.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini said the hostages, whose "act of espionage has been proven to the Iranian nation," would be put on trial as spies, but he did not specify when.

At the ayatollah's command other Iranian military forces have been mobilized. A U.S. carrier force is headed for the nearby Persian Gulf.

The 79-year-old ayatollah and the students holding the embassy since Nov. 4 sent Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi returned to Iran. In New York, doctors removed another gallstone from the shah's bile duct Tuesday and sources said he may return to his exile home in Mexico by Friday.

A communicate by the students in control of the embassy said they have booby-trapped the compound after receiving information of an "attempt to save or hurt the

hostages, by American agents sealing the (embassy) walls and dragging people into the embassy of spies." They said the plot was planned to be carried out during expected mass rallies Thursday and Friday, Moslem holy days.

"It should be said here that the grounds inside the spyhouse and the walls around it, particularly where the hostages are being held, are extensively covered with explosive materials and mined. Therefore, coming near these points in any way should be avoided," the students said.

The students appealed to the crowds to "avoid coming near the embassy walls, so that the U.S. agents may be recognized in case of a decision to implement the plot, and receive their punishment."

Despite the warning, the main street in front of the embassy was packed with people Tuesday afternoon.

The U.N. delay in action was also reportedly designed to avoid any possible provocation during Moslem holy days when emotions are high and there are large crowds. The holy period ends Friday. Acting Iranian Foreign Minister Abol Hasan Bani-Sadr is scheduled to arrive in New York for Saturday's council debate.

Khomeini, in his statement said he rejected any U.S.-influenced investigation into the crisis and added that any probe into charges against the shah could only be carried out in Iran "because the evidence to the crimes exists in Iran."

"Our nation does not agree with the formation of this so-called Security Council, whose task has already been set," he said of the upcoming debate.

Special military precautions also were

taken by Iranian forces who were readied for a possible general military mobilization. The ayatollah called for mobilization of "two million gunmen" in a statement Tuesday from his headquarters in Qom, a city whose airspace was declared off-limits to all air traffic. Alitalia airlines whose flights enter Qom was warned airliners would be shot down if they flew over the city.

Editor nominated for spring Battalion

By MERIL EDWARDS
Battalion Staff

Roy Bragg, a senior journalism major at Texas A&M University, was nominated for editor of The Battalion by the Student Publications Board Tuesday night.

Bragg's name will be submitted for confirmation today to Dr. J.M. Prescott, vice president for academic affairs.

"I want to learn something as editor," Bragg said. "I want to do something with the paper."

Bragg said he wants to decrease the number of editors and increase the number of reporters.

"There are too many chiefs at the Battalion now," he said, "and not enough Indians."

He said a smaller number of editors would allow for more reporters, and that this system would generate more money to pay a smaller staff and keep top journalists.

Reporters now are paid \$40 a week, and editors up to \$90.

The editor's position will be more than a title, Bragg said in an interview after the board's selection. He said he plans also to function as a managing editor, and reporters will answer more directly to him than they have to the editor in the past.

Bragg worked as a staff writer for The

Battalion in the spring and as city editor in the summer and fall.

Bragg said The Battalion is the only newspaper read by most students at Texas A&M University. And because of this, dissemination of news in a fast, factual and understandable fashion is a necessity.

He noted that The Battalion is a student-run newspaper designed both as a lab-classroom for journalism students and a medium for news about Texas A&M.

Bragg graduated from Bryan High School in 1975 and has been married for about 1½ years.

He has worked at Safeway for the past six years as a cashier, stocker, dairy worker, carry-out clerk, front end manager, office worker and price marker.

Bragg also works with a comedy acting troupe in Huntsville called "Eat More Theater," and with a similar unnamed group in College Station. His involvement includes writing, acting and directing.

"I'll have to cut down on my other activities next semester," Bragg said. "Also, I'll be taking fewer hours in school to do the best job possible as editor."

Bragg will take over as editor in January. Other candidates for the position were this fall's campus editor Keith Taylor and news editor Karen Cornelison.

United Way reaches 61% of \$75,000 campus goal

As of last Friday, the campus United Way contributions and pledges totaled about \$45,790, said Don Hellriegel, campus chairman of Brazos County United Way. This is 61.1 percent of the campus goal of \$75,000.

Total contributions and pledges are now about \$5,820 higher than the final total last year, Hellriegel said, a 23.8 percent increase over last year.

Hellriegel said all donations and pledges should include a pledge-contribution card including the following information: name of contributor, amount contributed or pledged and unit designation. Anyone needing more pledge cards can get them through Hellriegel.

This is the final week of the United Way drive.



Texas A&M University's Student Publications Board nominated Roy Bragg as Battalion editor for the spring semester. Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.