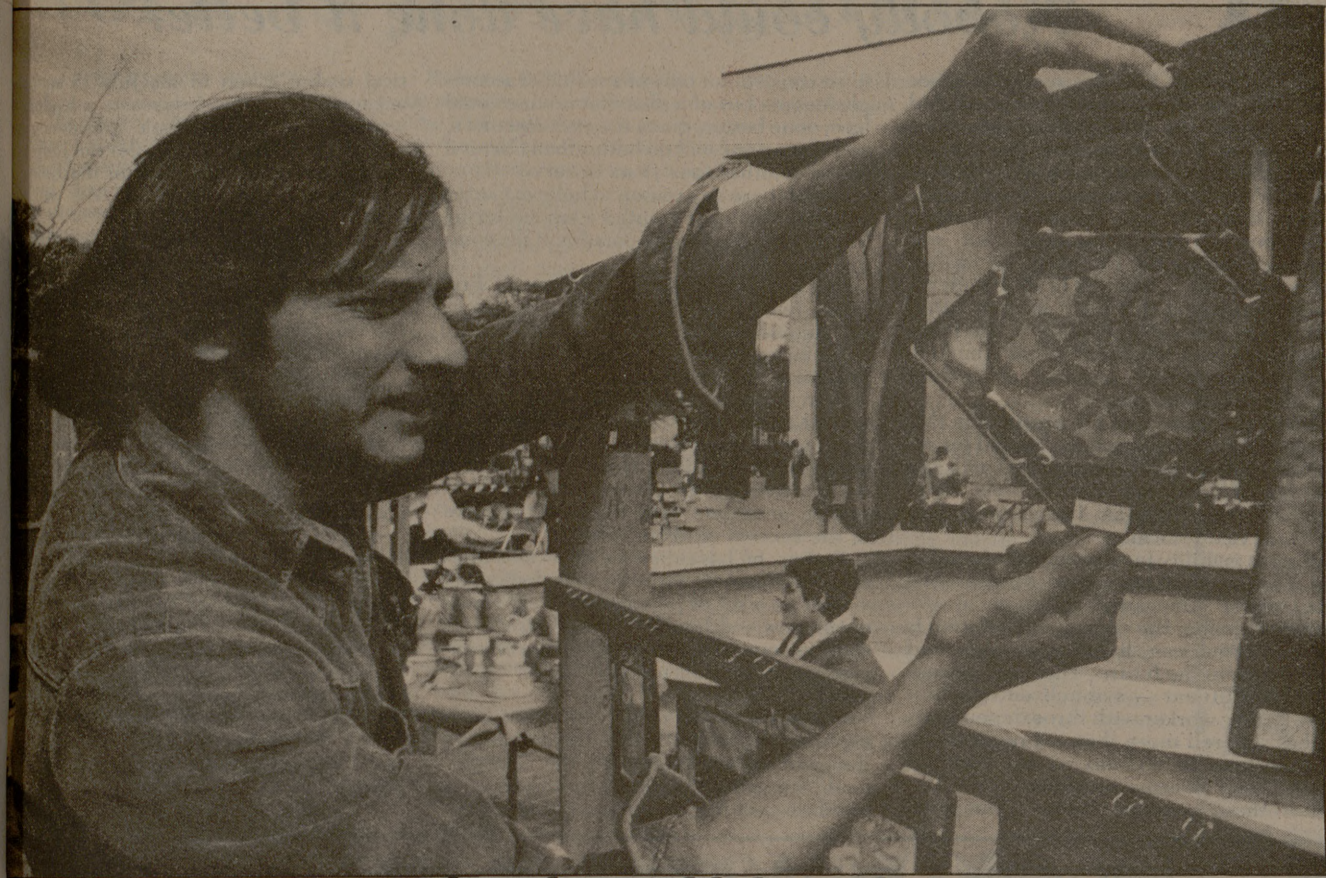


# THE BATTALION

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Look at the world through ...

Jim Kamas, a graduate student in horticulture at Texas A&M University, displays some of the leaded glass he and his wife make. He was selling his wares at the arts-and-crafts fair by Rudder Fountain Wednesday morning. The fair will continue today and Friday.

Battalion photo by Clay B. Cockrill

## Senate OKs bill for monthly Taps

By ELLEN EIDELBACH  
Battalion Reporter

Student senators voted 49-25 Wednesday night to recommend holding Silver Taps on the first Tuesday of each month of school at 10:30 p.m.

The recommendation — which will be made to the Vice President of Student Services Dr. John J. Koldus — was almost put up for reconsideration after being decided by a roll call vote.

The reason for the reconsideration was because Tracy Cox, the senator who authored the bill, had sent a message to the Ross Volunteers that the bill had passed.

Student body president Ronnie Kapavik said the bill is not final and the Ross Volunteers should not have been notified.

A bill is not final, he added, until the speaker of the senate and student body president have signed it.

The senate decided not to reconsider the bill and it passed by the original margin.

Brad Smith, vice president for student affairs, said there are two main reasons for holding Silver Taps once a month.

A regularly scheduled ceremony would increase attendance and make the student body more aware of its importance, he said.

The results of a survey taken Nov. 27 and

28 in the Memorial Student Center found out sentiments towards the possible change showed 48 percent of the people questioned wanted the change and 52 percent were against it.

A total of 1193 students and faculty were surveyed. Only the freshman surveyed voted against the change.

Several arguments at the meeting presented both positive and negative reasons to change Silver Taps.

Senior yell leader, Jeff Smiley, was against the change on the grounds it would depersonalize the meaning of the ceremony and be unfair to families and friends of the dead person to hold it at a later date. He also said the number of people attending Silver Taps shouldn't be significant of its importance. In addition, students who don't take time to attend shouldn't be called Aggies.

Smiley added tradition is based on past and not future concerns.

Cox said the bill is not intended to change tradition.

"The point of Silver Taps," Cox said, "is that you go just because he (the dead person) is an Aggie. A lot of people just don't care anymore. I think more people will come if they know it's the first Tuesday of the month."

He also explained that only 50 percent of the parents invited to Silver Taps attend.

One parent, Cox said, said she felt no additional sorrow because she had attended the Silver Taps ceremony for her daughter.

Other senators expressed concerns about off-campus students not being able to attend due to no shuttle bus service.

In other action, passed bills which included:

- requesting the traffic panel to designate bicycle paths on both sides of Spence Street from Zachry Engineering Center to the Commons
- coordinating a program on personal security.
- having a week for students to meet representatives of various campus organizations
- urging the highway department to install a traffic light at Joe Routh and Wellborn Road
- thanking president Miller for cancelling classes on Monday due to the Aggies' football victory over Texas on Saturday.

Only one bill was on its first reading. It concerned an urge for academic departments to use a seniority system for preregistration.

## U.S. says Kremlin press statements 'deplorable'

United Press International  
MOSCOW — The Soviet Union Wednesday broke its loud silence on the Iranian hostage situation, condemning the United States — not Iran — for breaking international law.

Significantly, the report in the Communist Party newspaper Pravda did not mention Soviet counteraction if the United States uses military force against Ayatollah Khomeini's Islamic government.

Reacting to the statement, the United States charged the Soviet Union is not doing enough to help secure the release of

American hostages in Iran and accused the Kremlin of deplorable press statements on the situation.

"The commentary that was carried in Pravda today is deplorable. We have made our views known on this subject to the Soviet Union," President Carter said. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance raised the issue during a midmorning meeting with Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin.

The Pravda article was considered significant because it was signed by Alexei Petrov, a pseudonym known to mean the author was a high ranking Kremlin official and

the message was authoritative.

While it noted that the Nov. 4 storming of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and the taking of American hostages violated international law, Pravda said the United States had also broken international statutes by beefing up its military force in the Persian Gulf and by harboring the deposed Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi.

"A very alarming and dangerous situation is being formed," Pravda said. "The United States is resorting to blackmail with respect to sovereign states."

"Instead of setting an example of forbear-

ance, responsibility and being cool-headed in the present situation, instead of doubling their efforts to seek a reasonable way out of the situation, instead of not letting their emotions burst, certain circles in the United States are staking (a lot) on force."

It noted the sending of the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk to the Persian Gulf and said "there are more than enough facts showing that preparations for using force are being carried out in the Middle East. Forces of such size have never been accumulated in the vicinity of Iran."

It said the holding of the hostages by

Islamic students who have threatened to kill them "cannot serve as a justification for violating the sovereignty of an independent state — the core of the whole international law."

Carter said, "What we have is a two-fold thing here: The Soviets have taken some positive constructive steps in diplomatic channels such as the U.N. Security Council resolution in support of the principle of diplomatic immunity."

But, he added, "In light of the Pravda article, the Soviet position remains ambiguous."

"Speaking for the U.S. government, we feel the Soviet Union can and should do more to support the immediate release of the hostages. Insofar as the Pravda commentary is concerned, that commentary is deplorable."

Vance met with Dobrynin at his State Department office just before the Soviet diplomat's return to Moscow for consultations. Asked if they discussed the Pravda article, Carter said: "I wouldn't lead you away from that idea."

## Militant students reject U.N. council resolution

United Press International  
TEHRAN, Iran — Finance Minister Bani Sadr Wednesday said a U.N. Security Council resolution demanding their freedom paved the way for further negotiations.

But militant students holding the hostages for the 32nd day Wednesday rejected the U.N. resolution, threatened to try the hostages for spying and urged the entire Moslem world to arise and kick out "this great devil," the United States.

While the militants appeared to dig in on their demands over the release of the hostages, Bani Sadr told a news conference he stood against a spy trial and urged the release of the hostages.

Bani Sadr, who was replaced recently as Iran's foreign minister, said a solution could still be found to the crisis if U.N. Secretary General Kurt Waldheim convened an international commission to look into the crimes of the shah.

Earlier he had lectured the militants, saying they could not try people who "are official representatives of a foreign state when you have captured them on their own territory. They can only be expelled."

"Outside the embassy, hundreds of Iranians demonstrated, waving placards such as 'guns and warships do not scare us.'"

The students holding the embassy issued their 60th communique, saying: "Today all the Moslem world, in particular you (the people of Saudi Arabia) should rise and

block the way for the U.S., this great devil."

The militants said rising against America was a "Godly duty," accused the United States of plundering Arab oil wealth and killing Moslems and said the people of Islam should not be afraid of dying and becoming martyrs.

Interior Minister Ayatollah Kashemi Rafsanjani also denounced the U.N. resolution as "worthless," but the country's official radio issued conflicting commentaries, both criticizing and praising the resolution.

In a morning commentary, the radio called the resolution "unacceptable." But a later commentary said it left the way open "for continuing efforts" to bring a peaceful end to the crisis, now in its 33rd day.

The later commentary said the Security Council resolution was "not compulsory" and in no way condemned Iran but "indirectly warned the United States about military threats or actions."

With contradictory statements totally confusing the situation in Tehran, Foreign Minister Sadegh Qotbzadeh, who said Tuesday the hostages would definitely stand trial, traveled to the city of Qom for talks with Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini to decide Iran's official reaction to the latest U.N. moves.

A spokesman for the students holding the hostages appeared to contradict a statement by Qotbzadeh that the students themselves would judge the hostages, now in their 33rd day of captivity.

## Iranian Ags respond to request for status

By JACKIE FAIR  
Battalion Reporter

Iranian students at Texas A&M University met with San Antonio Immigration officials Wednesday in compliance with President Carter's orders to check the status of Iranian students enrolled in U.S. universities.

The students were responding to a letter they received from the Texas A&M International Affairs Department, calling for a mandatory review of the students' current status as legal temporary residents.

"We sent a letter to every Iranian student enrolled at Texas A&M, except those in the Corps, and urged them to spread the word," said Frank Castillo, of the San Antonio Immigration Service.

"If they don't show up, they face deportation proceedings."

Iranian cadets have to go through similar screening to be allowed in the Corps.

After filling out a government form concerning health, income, employment and other aspects of their lives in the U.S., the students were questioned about their answers by the immigration officers.

They were also required to bring their passports, evidence of their cur-

rent address and a letter from the University certifying their academic status.

"If they fail to meet any of these requirements, they must be sent to San Antonio for further questioning," Castillo said.

"For example, if it is a matter of grades, the student can probably extend his probation, but only after further questioning in San Antonio to determine his efforts."

If he doesn't meet the requirements, he is given the choice of going back on his own or going through the deportation procedure.

One Iranian student, who asked that his name be withheld, was angry about the questioning.

"They (the immigration service) are wasting my time and their own," he said. "How will relations improve between our two countries by sending back a couple of Iranian students?"

But P. Wayne Gosnell, director of the International Services on campus, said he feels the students are lucky the San Antonio officials came here.

"Otherwise the students would have had to travel to San Antonio," Gosnell said. "It's more efficient this way."



A Texas A&M University Iranian student begins filling out the paperwork required by the International Student Service interviewers in Bizzell Hall.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

## Athlete-reporter loses place on women's track team

By LIZ NEWLIN  
Battalion Editor

Angelique Copeland, a sprinter, was dismissed from the Texas A&M University women's track team two days after The Battalion published her article concerning possible favoritism in the use of the Athletics Department weight room. The department says the two events are not connected.

Track Coach Bill Nix said the dismissal was "totally irrelevant to the story." He said Copeland was removed from the team Friday afternoon because she disputed his authority during a workout.

Copeland said Nix told her and her running partner they weren't performing up to his standards — they weren't running fast enough — and they should leave practice.

The other woman left practice, but Copeland went back and told the coach she was doing her best. Nix then told her she was off the team for arguing with him. Her

running partner is still on the team.

Copeland says she was removed because of the story.

"After the story ran, Coach Nix felt pressure from the Athletic Department, even though no one told him to get rid of me," Copeland said in an interview Wednesday.

"Just judging from the flak I got, he must have felt some pressure."

"When he told me I wasn't doing my best in practice, I tried to get across to him I was trying to do my best." Copeland says she wasn't "the politest thing in the world," but contends she wasn't screaming at him, as Nix says.

Both Nix and Copeland say they've never had disciplinary disputes before. Copeland says she still wants to run track, especially after eight years of training.

What kind of chance does she have to get back on the team? Tuesday Nix said "none."

Nix said Copeland had "a chip on her shoulder all the time," but the dismissal was "totally irrelevant to the story."

Copeland believes Nix was also upset because he had to return a key to the weight room; he had used the key to let the cross country team work out after hours. Strength Coach Mike Flynt, who supervises the room, had allowed Nix to use the room when Flynt was not there — a technical violation of the rules.

"He (Nix) was upset after Coach Flynt took back his key to the weight room since under strict interpretation of the rules that was favoritism," Copeland said. Athletic Director Marvin Tate had told Flynt to observe the rule strictly.

Copeland told her coach about the weight room story before it ran. After Flynt took the key away but still before the story ran, Copeland says Nix told her she should consider that publishing the story would be hurting the track team.

Nix said he didn't agree with the story, and said Tuesday he told her, "If you could get the article out of the paper, I'd appreciate it."

But, he said, the story did not color his decision.

"She was not told to leave this team because of the article. It was strictly as an

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athlete. I don't hold one thing over another."

Assistant Athletic Director Kay Don also said the dismissal was unrelated to the story.

"No one has ever told anyone she was to be taken off a team," she said. Don, who heads the women's athletic program, said she called Copeland into her office after the

story appeared as an "informational" meeting.

At the time, Copeland said Don told her she had "set the women's program back two years." But in an interview Tuesday, Don said she'd "been able to work out potential problems" and doubted the story would harm her program. Don also said the matter was out of her hands.

The article in last Wednesday's Battalion said non-collegiate athletes were being allowed to use the weight room in DeWare Fieldhouse, a violation of the rules Flynt had established. Flynt said at least one student was using the room as a "favor to a friend." In that case, Tate said he knew the student wanted advice from Flynt, but was not aware the student was using the weight room.

After learning about the weight room use, Tate instructed Flynt to cut out special privileges, including the key to Nix.

Andy Williams, managing editor of The

Battalion, assigned Copeland to report and write the story after she discovered the situation.

Copeland is in Journalism 204, a class that writes articles for the paper. Copeland was a non-scholarship member of the track team.

Looking back, Williams says a better decision would have been to assign another reporter to the story — one who had no possible stake in it.

"I think it was a bad decision," Williams said Wednesday, "but I could not imagine the repercussions would be as severe as they appear to have been."

Williams says the story was reported accurately and fairly.

"Obviously, as it turned out, it would have been a better decision to let someone else do the story. But I think it's ridiculous we have to worry about this kind of consequence."