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## The Weather

Yesterday

Today

High ..... 56

High ..... 56

Low ..... 36

Low ..... 33

Rain ..... 0.00 inches

## Reagan goes to California to consider appointments

United Press International

WASHINGTON — After a conquering hero tour of Washington at the White House, Capitol Hill, the Supreme Court and meetings with President Carter and German Chancellor Helmut Schmidt, President-elect Ronald Reagan turns his attention to Cabinet appointments and foreign policy.

Reagan scheduled morning meetings today with former President Gerald Ford, Vice President-elect George Bush, members of his transition team and a first gathering with his foreign policy advisory group before returning to California.

He also was set to meet Saturday in Los Angeles with a Cabinet appointments advisory committee composed primarily of members of his "kitchen cabinet," a group of Southern California businessmen who have backed and advised Reagan since he ran for governor in 1966.

Reagan arrived in Washington Monday night and embarked on a whirlwind tour of the city to introduce himself to local and national leaders.

After a Thursday-night dinner at the home of conservative columnist George Will, Reagan said he had not made any Cabinet decisions.

"We're just in the process of accumulating all the possibilities and names," Reagan said. "We haven't gotten down to selection."

Among those attending the dinner honoring the Reagans and Vice President-elect George Bush and his wife were Robert Strauss, Carter's campaign chairman; Washington Post Co. board Chairman Katharine Graham and Boone Arledge, head of ABC News and Sports.

The president-elect's day was highlighted by a trip across the street from his temporary government residence to the White House to meet with Carter.

The meeting, which lasted more than one hour, was described as a success by both men who had not seen each other since the debate in Cleveland a week before the election.

"The president was most gracious, most helpful and he's gone all out to be completely helpful in the transition," Reagan told reporters outside the White House.

Carter called the meeting "very delightful." While Carter and Reagan talked, Rosalynn Carter led Nancy Reagan on a tour of the White House.

"It was nice and very helpful," Mrs. Reagan told reporters. "But I think I'm going to have to come back a second time," she said laughing.

After walking across Pennsylvania Avenue to his guest townhouse, Reagan met for an hour with Schmidt, who was in Washington to visit Carter and requested the meeting with Reagan.

Neither man would comment on their discussion, but Schmidt described it as "very friendly."

He also said it was "good to hear" Reagan reassert his campaign promise of close consultations with America's NATO allies. He declined to compare Carter with what he expects from Reagan.

## Elephant Walk to take place Monday

By TERRI COULSON

Battalion Reporter

Every year before the Texas A&M-Texas football game, Texas A&M seniors gather in front of the Academic Building flagpole to participate in Elephant Walk.

According to the tradition, they form a single line and wander aimlessly around the campus like dying elephants.

Seniors are dubbed "elephants." Elephant Walk is an acknowledgement of the seniors' impending "death," for after the Texas game, they are of no further use

to the Twelfth Man.

In order to hasten the "death" of their upperclassmen, juniors wait in ambush along the expected path of the Walk. Armed with toy guns, berries, ax handles or a variety of other "weapons," the juniors pick out their favorite seniors and "shoot" them.

The ambush does have its drawbacks. Seniors often chase down and wrestle their attackers.

The walk will take place Monday at noon,

and it is for all members of the Class of '81. Seniors are to meet in front of the Academic Building by the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Head Yell leader Mark Outlaw said. A short yell practice will be held and from there the walk will begin.

"I'm not really sure where we will go," Outlaw said, "since I haven't been involved in it before."

"We will most likely go by the northside dorms, then over to the drill field. Then we will probably go over to Kyle Field by way of the Memorial Student Center and Rud-

der Tower. Once there, we will have another short yell practice.

"Then we will head on over to the Quad and finally end up at the bonfire site," he said.

Once there, another short yell practice will be held and then the seniors from the band will conclude it by playing "The Aggie War Hymn" and "The Spirit of Aggieland," Outlaw said.

The walk will probably last about 1½ hours, Outlaw said.

## Regents to discuss planning, building

A host of planning and building items and a report on a marine programs study highlight the agenda for a Texas A&M University System Board of Regents meeting next week.

The Board will meet in its various committees starting at 9 a.m. Monday. Tuesday, a general meeting will start at 8:30 a.m.

Among the items for action include awarding of bids for a new \$13.1 million Engineering Laboratory Center at Texas A&M, to be located south of Zachry Engineering Center. The center will house research and laboratory facilities of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station and Center for Strategic Studies.

The regents will also hear a report on the reorganization of the System's marine

programs. In September, the Board heard a preliminary report citing the need for greater coordination among the programs.

Other items for action include: — an appropriation for the preliminary design of the Texas A&M Animal Science Pavilion;

— approval of a dormitory renovation program for Texas A&M, to take place in Summer 1981;

— approval of an installment purchase agreement for a new TEEEX computer, to supplement the existing facility at Texas A&M;

— consideration of the purchase of a new sea-going vessel for TEEEX, and

— approval of field trip fees for various Texas A&M classes.

The regents will meet in the Memorial Student Center annex.

## Fried rat responsible for campus blackout

A "very dead, very fried rat" was responsible for a blackout on parts of the Texas A&M University campus Thursday morning.

Power was out for about six hours in the Biological Sciences Building, the Sterling C. Evans Library and the Reed McDonald Building.

"A rat got into the library switch gear and chewed it up and blew three fuses," Joe Estill, director of the physical plant, said. "This flipped a breaker at the power plant."

The lights went out at 12:04 a.m. Thursday, and power was restored about 6 a.m.

In order to maintain power to the rest

of the campus, power to other areas was reduced, Estill said.

"We had to reduce our load and lost feeders four, five, six and eight," he said. "These are the DPC (Data Processing Center), the Cyclotron and the O&M Building and Married Student Housing. These were back up within 30 to 40 minutes."

"We took these off the line," Estill said, "or else we would have lost the whole campus."

It took longer to restore power to the original three buildings, Estill said, because workers had to re-establish power loads and find the cause of the failure, the fried rat.



Staff photo by Pat O'Malley

Michael Mixon, a junior in Company E-2, gets a lift from an H.B. Zachry crane to the first level of the bonfire stack Thursday afternoon. Bonfire workers say there is still much work to do before the bonfire on Tuesday.

## Bonfire workers say they need help

The last weekend before Tuesday's bonfire is here and supervisors say help is still badly needed to get the huge Aggie stack ready for burning.

Mike Thomas, head civilian for bonfire this year, is asking students to come out to the stacks and help. Work includes hauling the logs to the stacks, cutting wires and wiring logs together.

"I just want to let people know that this weekend is critical," Thomas said. "We have the potential to have a bigger bonfire than ever before if we get a good turnout in these last few days."

Thomas said that there is not a lack of enthusiasm. But he said he thinks many civilian students might not know how to go about participating.

"People can stay for whatever time they want. We'll be happy to have

them," he said. Once at the stack, students should find a member of the red-dot committee for directions of work, Thomas said.

Reddots are bonfire supervisors. Working shifts will operate 24 hours a day.

Students who would like to work on bonfire should bring their own wirecutters, pliers and hardhats if possible, Thomas said.

Chains should be attached to the tools a student brings, to keep them from falling from the stack, he said.

Students without any experience on bonfire work should wear a white marking such as tape or a handkerchief on their right legs.

Bonfire is scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Expert says it's not as difficult as people think

## Establishing credit rating important for students

By BERNIE FETTE

Battalion Reporter

As some college students anxiously look forward to their graduation, course credits seem to be more important than anything. But as that graduation date draws nearer, a different kind of credit may become even more important.

According to David Benson of Texas A&M's Personal Finance Department, establishing a credit rating is important for college students, particularly seniors and graduate students, "because they've got to have it for the rest of their lives."

The biggest misunderstanding among students about obtaining a credit rating is that they think it's difficult to do, but it's not really, Benson said.

In fact, they (the students) are actively solicited by credit companies because they are good or at least potentially good credit risks.

A survey of 300 college seniors and graduates conducted by Market Facts Inc. for the American Express Co. showed that while three quarters of those students surveyed felt a credit rating was important to have, less than half of them had actually established one.

A similar survey was conducted on one of Benson's finance classes by Burston Marsteller of New York, during a visit here. The results of that survey were almost identical to the national survey, according to Phil Shuman of Burston Marsteller.

"They didn't really know how important it was for them to establish a credit rating as soon as they could," Shuman said. "But when you really need credit, that's when it's harder to get."

According to Thomas K. Meyers, executive vice president of the American Express card division, "the consumer credit crunch affecting all Americans, but none more so than this year's more than one million graduating college seniors."

Credit Bureau Services in Bryan is a credit reporting agency which keeps references on file for persons seeking credit.

If, for instance, a student applied for credit at one of the local banks, the bank would contact the Credit Bureau in order to check out the student's credit history.

If the student had no file, the bureau would check out the other references given to them by the student. If there are no such references, the student has to establish a credit rating on his own.

The two most common ways of establishing a credit rating are either to simply apply for a credit or charge card, or to take out and repay a loan.

When using the method of repaying a loan to get a credit rating, a credit union is one place to consider. Credit unions generally have more lenient lending policies than most financial institutions and usually charge lower interest rates than banks.

However, to be eligible for loans from a credit union, membership in the organization which that credit union serves is sometimes required. Such organizations include labor unions and colleges.



Staff photo by Jeff Kerber

Finance experts say students should try to establish a credit rating while they are still in school. Applying for a credit card or charge card is one way to get a credit rating started.