

TEXAS

14

DOWN

0

TIME

:00

TO GO

BALL ON

A-M

24

QUARTER

4

THE BATTALION

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The Weather

Yesterday

High 73
Low 55
Rain 0.00 inches

Today

High 78
Low 55
Chance of rain none

Reagan silent on cabinet

LOS ANGELES — With his Cabinet selections well under way, Ronald Reagan says his first order of business as president will be to tackle the nation's economic problems. Confirming top aide Edwin Meese's statement that he has chosen some Cabinet members, Reagan is continuing the guessing game by refusing to disclose their names. "I'm not ready to say that we're ready to announce names," he told reporters on his return Sunday from Palm Springs, where he spent Saturday night with old friends from political and Hollywood circles. When asked if he anticipated an early summit meeting with Soviet President Leonid I. Brezhnev, Reagan replied, "Well, I think for the first few months, anyone in this position ought to concentrate on our economic problems and getting started on that." Brezhnev met last week with Sen. Charles Percy, R-Ill., the incoming Senate Foreign Relations Committee chairman. Percy said he recommended in a weekend

telephone call to Reagan that new strategic arms limitation talks begin as soon as possible. Asked when he thought he could turn the economy around, Reagan said, "I don't know how soon. It took a long time to get into this mess, but we're going to start; we're going to start soon." Continuing his talent search, Reagan said he planned to begin telephoning prospective Cabinet members today. There were indications that those under consideration already are undergoing FBI and financial checks. Outgoing press secretary Lynn Nofziger told reporters Reagan hopes to send the names of his Cabinet members to the new Congress in January, even before he is inaugurated, so that members of his team will be confirmed quickly, and he can hit the ground running. Nofziger also said he expects the White House to be run by a "triumvirate" of three top advisers. They are Edwin Meese, who will counsel Reagan on policy and the issues; long-time trusted aide Mike Deaver, who will function as

an appointments secretary; and newcomer James Baker, who as chief of staff will handle the day-to-day operations. "I visualize it will be pretty much of a triumvirate," said Nofziger. Reagan has yet to name Nofziger's replacement, who will become White House press secretary. At the Los Angeles airport Sunday, Reagan and wife Nancy bid a fond farewell to Nofziger, who is returning to private life as a political consultant in California. In a final interview, Nofziger drew a picture of Reagan's presidential style. He said the president-elect is very self-assured, has his priorities straight, knows how to sort out the important from the unimportant, and does not feel compelled to spend long hours in the office. He also said he does not expect Reagan to make many trips abroad. But he said that Reagan will be returning to his California, especially his ranch near Santa Barbara. "He's in love with that place in the mountains," Nofziger said.

No holiday today for win over Texas

Classes were scheduled as usual today, despite Texas A&M University's 24-14 football win over the University of Texas. Aggies received a day off from classes after last year's victory, and many believe the unscheduled holiday is a tradition. Dr. Charles Samson, acting president, said classes were to be held today. "We simply cannot make a habit of missing a full day of classes every time we beat UT," Samson said, "and I'm enough of an optimist to think that we will have many more such victories in the future." "I'm not necessarily saying we'll make

a habit of whipping the Longhorns, but I will point out this is the second win in a row, the fourth in the last six games in our series. I'm pleased to say it's no longer such a rarity that we feel compelled to take an extra day off to celebrate." Samson concluded, "We savored last year's win all year, so let's do the same this time." The extra-day-off tradition was followed during times when the University's class schedule called for the fall semester to end in mid-January. University officials said the current schedule, which calls for final exams in two weeks, leaves no room for any extra time out from class.

Four years on gridiron leaves some degree-less

By JENNIFER AFLERBACH
Battalion Staff
After spending four years becoming intimately acquainted with a pigskin, some college football players never even see a sheepskin. Football players often spend four years of eligibility at a college, concentrating on football, and then leave without receiving a degree. Of the 68 Texas A&M University football players who lettered at least two years from 1974 to 1977, 26 are registered with the Association of Former Students as graduates. What happened to the other 42? Some went on to the pros, some went into the work force and some went back to school. Glenn Bujnoch chose the pros. After playing four years on scholarship for Texas A&M, he was drafted by the Cincinnati Bengals, where he is in his fifth season. Bujnoch, who "came pretty close to graduating," said of Texas A&M: "The school is good, but it was hard. I was there for one reason, to play football. Let's face it. Football players are not known for their studying."

"Degrees aren't meant for everyone," Bujnoch said. "You find the best way to make money, whether through a college degree or a job or whatever." Bujnoch works for himself during the off-season selling beer in the Conroe and Huntsville area. Another Aggie in the pros, Cody Risien, has a different attitude toward the degree he hasn't completed. "Now that I look back on it, I wish I had devoted more time to academics," said Risien, who is playing his second year with the Cleveland Browns. Risien said football interfered with his studying, but added, "That was my fault. It shouldn't have. Maybe if I had made some sacrifices..." He plans to return to Texas A&M in the spring to work on the 24 hours he needs to graduate. He said he definitely wants his degree in building construction to come from Texas A&M. Like Risien, Charles Marshall said he wishes he had taken better advantage of his education at Texas A&M. Marshall played one and a half years with the New York Jets after completing his four

years of eligibility at Texas A&M in 1977. After he was cut from the Jets, Marshall played for a year with a team in Canada. Now he is working in a warehouse in Dallas and hoping to play with the Houston Oilers next season, he said. However, "football is not a guaranteed thing," he said, and not as important to him as completing his education and getting a job. Marshall is 40 hours short of finishing his degree. He said he plans to go to school in Houston first to bring up his grade point average, but would prefer to receive his degree from Texas A&M. Bucky Sams never made it to the pros although he said he had planned to play more football after college. He went on to complete his degree and is a district supervisor for an oil and gas firm in Spring. "I will always miss (football)," he said. "The highlight of my life was playing football for A&M." Sams said he would have gone on to get his degree even if he had been drafted by the pros. "That degree's probably one of the most important things in my life,"

he said. "If you've got that sheepskin, it means a lot. Too many athletes rely on the draft and don't get drafted. They don't have the grades to stay in school and end up being bums." Sams said football often conflicted with his classes. "Five or six hours a day was football," he said. "We're out on the field learning plays while others are studying." But, Sams said, there is a definite need to "mend the old dumb jock syndrome." David Brothers agreed. "It wasn't just football on my mind all the time," he said. Brothers, who completed his football eligibility in 1979, is still attending Texas A&M and plans to graduate in December or May. Jimmy Hamilton said football was his main concern at first. "That's why I didn't graduate on time," he said. "I realized football is just not everything. I learned that my junior year, too late almost." Hamilton, who needs nine hours to graduate, sat out this semester to raise money to pay for school. He is working as an attendant for a skin diving division in Louisiana.

He said he handles the diving equipment and "keeps them alive under water." "I'm going to try to get my degree first, then try out again (for football)," he said. Dale Meggas, a research assistant for NCAA, is critical of the practice of analyzing college football players who don't graduate. "Just because someone plays football he's supposed to graduate," Meggas said. Football players are put under a microscope, he said, and "scrutinized when they fail." "Other people don't graduate either, but we don't study them. Tom Snyder never graduated, but he's making lots of bucks." "If (football players) get a chance to go pro, they go. They don't turn it down just because they haven't finished their degree." And just because someone graduates does not mean he will be successful, Meggas said. "A player may not want to go to college, but he's given a free ride with a scholarship, so he goes," he said. "Then if he decides it's

not for him after all after a year or two and quits, he's criticized." Neither the Texas A&M University Athletic Department nor the Southwest Conference keeps statistics on the graduation rate of football players, because the Family Education Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 prohibits release of information on whether a student graduates unless written permission is given by the student. It is also difficult to keep track of those who come back later to complete their degrees, a spokesman for the Texas A&M Athletic Department said. NCAA also has no records of the number of football players who graduate. However, Dr. James Maxey of American College Testing has just completed a survey for NCAA to determine the graduation rate over a five-year period of time of males who entered college in the fall of 1975. Maxey said he has not analyzed the data yet, but hopes to have some results by Christmas. Maxey said he previously conducted a similar survey just on athletes who won varsity letters. That survey showed that athletes graduate at a higher rate than the average males of the class, he said.

Cannon causes fight at game

By MARCY BOYCE
Battalion Staff
Two freshmen in the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets managed to escape serious injury in a fight that took place during the football game Saturday when they tried to fire a cannon guarded by several University of Texas students. Traditionally the cannon guards, the UT Silver Spurs, discharge the cannon at the beginning and end of each game, and each time the Longhorns score. An attempt by about 20 cadets to fire the guarded cannon near the end of the game Saturday resulted in a fight involving several UT Silver Spurs and two Texas A&M students, University of Texas Police Lt. J.F. Rush said. Students began running down from the stands when the fight began, but were turned back by UT police, Austin City police and officers from the Department of Public Safety. No one involved in the incident suffered serious injury. Rush said UT Police apprehended the two freshmen cadets, but later released them without pressing charges. UT Police did not detain anyone else involved in the incident, he said. The names of the two Texas A&M students have been released to Dr. John Kolchus, vice president for student services, who will decide whether or not disciplinary action will be taken, Texas A&M University's Acting President Dr. Charles Samson said. A similar attempt by freshmen in the Corps to fire the cannon at the Aggie-Longhorn football game last year was successful. However, Deputy Corps Commander Dave Rencurell said it is not a tradition within the Corps.



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

Turkey trot

Freezing temperatures Thanksgiving morning didn't dampen the spirits of these runners as they set out for a three-mile run in the annual "Turkey Trot." More than 150 persons showed up for the 8 a.m. event, which began at G. Rollie White Coliseum. The runners followed a

route down Jersey Drive, around the the Texas A&M golf course and finished back at G. Rollie White. Certificates were presented to the finishers at the end of the race. For more pictures on activities over the Thanksgiving weekend, including the Texas game, see page 5.

Retail-store Santas may become scarcity

United Press International
DALLAS — The desperate state of the economy will be felt in many areas this Christmas, including one that many may feel should be exempt from the fickle curve of the corporate profit chart — Santa Claus. Western Temporary Services, which in the peak years of 1975 and 1976 placed 180 Santas in some of Dallas' leading retail outlets, this year reports just 30 of their overweight men in red and white suits are listening to the pleas of children. "Some guy sitting at the top with a pencil and paper is thinking, 'Where can I cut expenses?'" said Dean Reynolds, a Santa for the last eight years who this year is teaching others the tricks of the trade. "(Some stores) see Santa as a liability instead of an asset."

why some businesses might find St. Nick a luxury item they can do without, but he quickly protests that the profit column might be helped at the expense of the holiday. "Without Santa Claus, Christmas is nothing but crass commercialism," the full-time insurance man said. "Santa is a catalyst to the Christmas spirit. When you've got someone in your store like him spreading good cheer, and everyone's laughing and smiling, then it adds to the spirit of the season." Reynolds said he got into the Santa business when he was out of work and his former mother-in-law was combing the want ads for a job "even you could do."

"I wasn't too crazy about kids to begin with," he said. "And the suit was hot and uncomfortable. You couldn't see because of the wig and beard. The chair was something out of a torture chamber, and you've got kids crawling all over you. They kick you in the stomach and step on you in other not-so-friendly spots." In time, however, he said he got the hang of being a topnotch Santa and developed several rules for himself and other Santas going out to the stores. The first rule is to make no promises. "Our job, basically," he said, "is to pass the buck onto the parents." At \$10 per hour, the going rate for a rent-a-Santa, Reynolds can understand

Some of the top stores in the area, such as Sears, Joske's and Dillard's, have indicated they will either just have Santas on weekends this year or will bypass the tradition altogether. "Many stores are letting the malls they are in take the responsibility of getting a Santa," Reynolds said. "But I can remember when the mall and all the large stores in it would have Santas, and the lines of children waiting to see them still were long." "Some of the top stores in the area, such as Sears, Joske's and Dillard's, have indicated they will either just have Santas on weekends this year or will bypass the tradition altogether." "Many stores are letting the malls they are in take the responsibility of getting a Santa," Reynolds said. "But I can remember when the mall and all the large stores in it would have Santas, and the lines of children waiting to see them still were long."