

# THE BATTALION

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## The Weather

Today	Tomorrow
High . . . . . 82	High . . . . .
Low . . . . . 59	Low . . . . . 52
Chance of rain . . . . . none	Chance of rain . . . . . none

## Joke-cracking Reagan recovering

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — President Reagan, feeling "quite well" today, walked around his hospital room for the first time since surgeons removed the bullet fired into his chest by a young drifter who apparently wanted to win the love of a teen-age movie star.

Reagan, 70, who resumed the duties of chief executive Tuesday by signing a milk price support bill with a wobbly signature, is expected to be back in the White House in a week or two.

He was shot in the chest Monday by a would-be assassin who also wounded press secretary James Brady, a Secret Service agent and a police officer assigned to protect the president.

Reagan was not told until shortly after noon Tuesday that Brady had been shot in the head and was in "critical condi-

tion" in the hospital. "Oh damn, oh damn," Reagan said.

Doctors, though, are optimistic White House press secretary Jim Brady will survive the bullet that passed through his brain and say he is responding to voices and moving the right side of his body.

"Brady is going to live. It's incredible. They told us when people are brought in like that they don't recover, and they held out very little hope. Maybe our prayers have been answered," White House chief of staff James Baker told reporters.

Brady, shot in the attempt on President Reagan's life Monday, was in "critical but stable" condition.

A medical bulletin said Brady, 40, can understand and respond to commands to move his right side. A source close to his family said doctors expect him to be able to speak when tubes helping him breathe are removed from his throat.

"His vital signs are normal," he said.

Reagan's doctor, Daniel Ruge, said Reagan's vital signs were normal, and that the conditions of Brady and Secret Service agent Timothy McCarthy were "essentially the same."

Reagan was moved Tuesday night to a more spacious hospital suite. Said Dr. Ruge: "The president continues on the road to recovery. He is doing extremely well."

Doctors say his convalescence will take perhaps two to three months before complete recovery.

With a shaky signature Tuesday, Reagan approved a bill to cancel a scheduled April 1 increase in the milk price support to complete action on the first congressional test of his budget proposals.

Down the hall from the president's hospital room, presidential aides manned a White House communication center

that included the "black bag" the president would need in case of a confrontation with the Soviet Union.

The president met Tuesday with his family, his top aides, Chief Justice and Mrs. Warren Burger, some members of Reagan's "kitchen cabinet" and Vice President George Bush, who was standing in for Reagan at the White House but did not assume the office of president.

Reagan also kept up his steady stream of wisecracks.

When political aide Lyn Nofziger told Reagan the government was running normally without him, Reagan replied: "What makes you think I'd be happy about that?"

When the aides walked into his room, he said, "Well I guess I really screwed up the schedule today."

The young man charged with trying to assassinate Reagan, John W. Hinckley Jr., 25, was due to undergo psychiatric tests today.

## NCAA probes recruiting in A&M athletics

By RICHARD OLIVER  
**Battalion Staff**

The NCAA is conducting a preliminary investigation into Texas A&M University athletics for possible recruiting violations. The Battalion has learned.

Texas A&M Acting President Charles Samson and Athletic Director Marvin Tate received letters March 23, confirming the Athletic Department was being investigated. The letter did not specify what the NCAA was looking into.

The Battalion, however, has learned the NCAA is checking into possible recruiting violations and investigators reportedly have been approached by several former football players with allegations of infractions.

"We've speculated and we just don't know what the investigation is about," Samson said last week. "We just don't have any idea."

Samson stressed the investigation was simply a notification that the NCAA would be looking into possible problems, and added letters notifying the University of preliminary investigations have been received in the past at Texas A&M.

NCAA official David Berst, contacted

at the organization's national offices in Kansas, said he could not respond in any way to inquiries concerning the investigation until Texas A&M officially released the information. The Athletic Department has not yet released an official statement concerning the investigation.

Tate said if violations were found in the recruiting procedure, necessary steps would be taken.

"If the Southwest Conference or the NCAA came to our University with allegations, an investigation would be made," he said. "A hearing would be held. If the allegations are valid, if it's found we're in violation, steps would be taken for us by the NCAA and the SWC. We would obviously take corrective measures."

"Recruiters go into their respective areas of the state representing A&M in an effort to recruit student athletes at Texas A&M. On a high level, a professional basis. If this is not done and rules are violated knowingly and it is proved that this (violations) happens, then those involved will have to suffer the consequences."

Tate said he had no knowledge of recruiting violations.



**The American way**  
Students complete ballot forms in front of Sbis Hall for the spring student elections. Paul Bettencourt and Karen Klaras (at table) are overseeing the balloting, which continues thru today at 6 p.m. The elections are for various student and yell leader positions. Staff photo by Brian Tate

## Science faculty evaluation process under fire

By MELANI BAYLESS  
**Battalion Reporter**

A faculty member in the Texas A&M mathematics department says the faculty evaluation process used by departments within the College of Science at Texas A&M is being criticized from students and faculty who claim it does not sufficiently emphasize and reward outstanding teaching ability.

Letters and petitions are being circulated to gain support for the instructor, who is leaving Texas A&M because of failure to be granted tenure on the basis of evaluations he received.

Dr. Lee Whitt, an assistant professor of mathematics, said he has taken a new job in Norfolk, Va. Whitt said he made his decision to leave because he had no future at A&M. "I went to the top and talked with (Acting) President (Charles) Samson.

He said he was sympathetic but couldn't interfere in departmental affairs. It's clear to me that the University isn't going in the right direction and I'm faced with no alternative but to try and get out."

Samson said Tuesday that he preferred not to comment on the specific situation concerning Whitt.

However, concerning his (Samson's) involvement in University departmental affairs he said, "My interest would be simply to assure that an individual had received proper and fair consideration."

Whitt said that his third- and fourth-year faculty evaluations were "negative" because of his failure to meet departmental research requirements.

Whitt said the mathematics department at Texas A&M stresses frontier research. "Frontier or front-line research is

basically something that can't be explained to anyone except other mathematicians," he said.

Rod O'Connor, professor and director of first-year chemistry at Texas A&M, said, "Dr. Whitt's situation is not an isolated incident, but most students don't know that."

In the College of Science, tenure, merit raises and promotions are almost all based on research, he said.

"The problem is that there seems to be no requirement at any level of the tenure process which pays specific attention to teaching," he said.

T.T. Sugihara, dean of the College of Science, could not be reached for comment at his home or at his office.

A call was placed to Sugihara's office on Monday. His secretary said Sugihara was busy but she said she would leave a message for him to return the call. He never returned the call.

H. E. Lacey, head of the University mathematics department, said teaching ability isn't ignored in the evaluation of faculty, but outstanding teaching ability coupled with frontier research, "research into the unknown," is preferred.

"Texas A&M is a university, not a teacher's college — the

University lives by research. We can't have relevant undergraduate or graduate programs without frontier research," he said.

Lacey said guidelines or standards are used to evaluate research but "no one really knows how to evaluate teaching contributions."

Lacey said he is serving on a committee established by Dr. J.M. Prescott, vice president for academic affairs, last fall to "formulate effective methods of evaluating teaching for various personnel considerations."

Whitt said, "The lack of balance between rewarding faculty for teaching and rewarding faculty for research is the bottom line problem; research is usually favored."

Whitt, who taught at Cornell University for two years before coming to Texas A&M and received a doctorate in mathematics from Yale University, said he has done some research during his four years at Texas A&M, but not enough.

"I have had four articles published and am expecting another one to come out soon, but my area of interest involves teaching — helping students see something they can relate to

(See 'Whitt' page 6)

## Be prepared for foolishness

By DANA SMELSER  
**Battalion Reporter**

If someone tells you today that your zipper is down, don't bother to check unless you're really unsure of yourself — it may be an April Fool's Day joke.

April 1, the practical joker's paradise, is known for unscrewed salt-shaker lids, imaginary bugs and little white lies.

Although April Fool's Day, or All Fool's Day, has been celebrated for centuries in several countries, the stories surrounding the origin of the day are as numerous as the practical jokes played.

One version contends the day originated in France when the celebration of New Year's Day changed from April 1 to Jan. 1 after the adoption of a new calendar in 1564.

Those who still celebrated on April 1 became known as April fools. The custom of fooling friends on that day became popular in France and spread to other countries.

Another story of the celebration's origin also pins it to 16th century France, where there was an old custom of paying formal calls to people on April 1, one week after New Year's Day.

When the old calendar was replaced, mock calls continued to be paid on April 1 as a joke.

The tradition among the Jews, another version says, began when Noah sent a dove from the ark to try to find dry land on April 1 but the water had not subsided.



April Fool's Day resembles other festivals, such as the Hilaric of ancient Rome (March 25), and the Holi festival of India (ending March 31). In Mexico, All Fool's Day is celebrated on Dec. 28.

Through the years, April Fool's Day has been observed by children and adults and sometimes involves rather elaborate hoaxes as well as merely simple jokes.

Many students at Texas A&M University have their own memories of April Fool's Day fun.

Kathi Molloy, a Houston freshman, said, "I once filled an eclair with shaving cream."

Pat Howell, a sophomore from Plainview, said, "We would get all the Aggies together, wear our Aggie shirts, and tell everyone it was 'Aggie Day.'"

One time, Dickenson sophomore Nancy Odenwalder said, her friends put up "Dial-a-Laugh" signs all over campus with her phone number. "People kept calling me asking for jokes until I went around and pulled all the signs down," she said.

Bryan Kaminski, a freshman from Dallas, said at a club last year someone switched the signs for the men's and ladies' rooms. "That could get dangerous," he added.

Today can get dangerous. One word of advice: Be prepared. You never know when someone might be trying to fool you today.

By the way, your zipper's down.

## Students have little input into tenure or reward, prof says

By MELANI BAYLESS  
**Battalion Reporter**

The system used to choose and reward outstanding faculty members in Texas A&M's College of Science places little emphasis on teaching ability, a prominent chemistry professor says.

Rod O'Connor, professor and director of first-year chemistry at Texas A&M, said, "Dr. (Lee) Whitt's situation is not an isolated incident, but most students don't know that."

Whitt said that his third- and fourth-year faculty evaluations were "negative" because of his failure to meet departmental research requirements. Whitt said he made a decision to leave Texas A&M because he had no future at the school.

In the College of Science, tenure, merit raises and promotions are almost all based on research, he said.

"The problem is that there seems to be no requirement at any level of the tenure process which pays specific attention to teaching," he said.

T.T. Sugihara, dean of the College of Science, could not be reached at his home or at his office to comment on the situation.

O'Connor said that although the chemistry department is strong on teaching, "When I served on the tenure committee for this department we never saw the results of student evaluations. In the College of Science, teacher evaluations are filled out by students and then held onto in case the dean or department head wants to see them."

A problem exists with how to measure teaching without the bias of the person giving the evaluation entering into the process, he said.

"First, it's possible that instructors could remove all bad comments and just keep the good," O'Connor said. "But a more subtle problem exists when students react to a teacher's personality rather than to his teaching ability."

"Tenure should only be granted for excellence," he said. "But that should include excellent teaching ability also."

O'Connor said, "I have been looking at Texas A&M over the past eight years that I've been here and in the College of Science I can see the level of teaching and the time spent with students declining."

He said there should be "a route to reward excellent teaching. A faculty member should be able to tell his department head what expertise he wants to try for — teaching, research, service — and should then be rewarded if he excels in two of the three criteria."

"The current priority for rewarding faculty in the College of Science seems to be something like this: research, publication, outside judgment of publication, the potential good the individual can do for the department, and lastly, teaching," O'Connor said.

"Whitt is a bubble," he said, "When the pot on the stove gets hot and you see one bubble, you know something's just about to boil soon."