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Tonic for the troops

staff photo by David Fisher

Tommy Sugg, left, a wide receiver; Head Coach Jackie Sherrill; and John Withers, an offensive lineman, hump it after Saturday's game at yell practice. The

Aggies lost to Texas Tech 24-15; Sherrill and the team have stayed for yell practice after both losses of the season. See related stories, pages 11 and 12.

Merchants wary of bogus money

by Janet Joyce

Battalion Reporter

Don't take it personally the next time a cashier takes a long, hard look at the \$20 bill you've just handed over. Area merchants have a reason for concern.

Several counterfeit \$20 bills have been discovered in Bryan-College Station during the last two weeks.

A source in the Houston office of the Secret Service said the bills are left over from a counterfeit ring in the Houston-Beaumont area that the Secret Service broke up in 1978.

Several of the bills recently have been found in Houston, he said. But investigators have no idea why the money is showing up now, or why it is showing up in this area.

Lt. Bernard Kapella, in charge of community relations and crime prevention for the College Station Police Department, said he knows of six bills found in College Station. The bills look as if they have gone through a washing machine, Kapella said. The serial numbers are a lime-green color rather than the usual dark green.

Two serial numbers on the bills that have been found are K32276725B and K31933210B. The lower right hand corner of the face of the bill has "F194" printed on it. The lower right corner of the bill has "203" printed on it.

The Secret Service warned that serial numbers alone are not always significant since counterfeiters can change the serial number of each bill if they wish.

Kapella advised merchants who are given the bills to call the police with a description of the person passing the bill and their license plate number if possible. If someone receives the bill in change from a merchant, Kapella recommended asking for another one.

Area banks are telling their commercial customers to watch out for the counterfeit money.

Mark Brack, assistant manager of the Manor East III Theaters in Bryan, said the theater is not accepting any money they suspect may be counterfeit. Notices explaining what to look for in the counterfeit currency

have been placed in the box office and concessions areas to help employees identify the bogus bills.

Fast food chains and convenience food stores are prime targets for people trying to pass counterfeit currency, Kapella said.

Judy Richards, teller supervisor at University National Bank, said one counterfeit bill was found in a deposit from McDonald's on University Drive. After McDonald's management was told about the bill, notices were put up in the crew room instructing all employees to check \$20 bills and telling them what to look for. Steve Kotyk, second assistant manager, said employees have been told not to accept any bills they believe to be counterfeit.

Richards said counterfeit bills are sent to the Houston Secret Service office. The Secret Service issues a receipt to the individual or company that tried to deposit or cash the bill. That amount may be claimed as a loss on the individual's income tax return, she said.

President may use issue in campaigns

Reagan terse about balanced budget loss

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan is not taking the defeat of his balanced budget proposition as a total loss and may instead use it as a political weapon when he hits the campaign trail next week.

"It's a step forward. We got an up-and-down vote," said one presidential aide. "Now the people know what happened."

"This vote today makes clear who supports a balanced budget and who

does not," a terse Reagan told reporters Friday, following the vote in the House of Representatives that defeated the proposed amendment. "Voters across America should count heads and take names."

With exactly a month left before election day, it was certain charges stemming from the balanced-budget vote would figure heavily in his speeches for Republican candidates as he heads to Ohio on Monday and California at the end of next week. "In November, we must elect rep-

resentatives who will support the amendment when we propose it again in the spring," the president said.

Reagan told reporters he shares "the deep burning anger of millions of Americans" because the vote lost on "purely partisan reasons." He said House Speaker Thomas O'Neill "beat the American people."

The president will address the nation again today on radio, but the balanced-budget controversy is not expected to be the subject. He will make the broadcast from the presidential

retreat at Camp David in the Maryland mountains.

Reagan welcomed the new president of Panama, Ricardo de la Esperiella, Friday at the White House as the two leaders met for the first time. A senior administration official described the conference as a "forward-looking meeting" that did not contain any mention of Reagan's former opposition to the Panama Canal treaties.

The official said Reagan has

pledged to support the controversial treaties signed in 1977 that will eventually terminate U.S. operation of the vital waterway. He said Reagan and de la Esperiella developed "a warm working relationship."

He said the canal is currently bringing in record revenues and tonnage and "it has been a success story."

Later, Reagan hosted a luncheon for the justices of the Supreme Court, welcoming them back to Washington

for the start of their new term next week.

He noted that while court decisions are not always popular, the justices must maintain their independence.

"On one point, there must be no disagreement whatsoever," Reagan said. "The Supreme Court must continue to demonstrate the independence and integrity that have always been its hallmark. You, as members of the court, are the principal guardians of those traditions and the rights and freedoms of all Americans."

Bad lots found across Texas

From staff and wire reports
Bottles of Extra-Strength Tylenol bearing the code numbers MD1910, MC2880 and 1809MA have been found statewide in Texas says a spokesman for the Food and Drug Administration.

Dennis Baker, director of programs for the food and drugs division of the FDA, this morning said cyanide-laced capsules from bottles bearing these code numbers have been blamed in the deaths of seven people in Illinois. But no incidences of cyanide poisoning have been reported anywhere in Texas, Baker said.

Twenty-six bottles with the code number 1910MD have been found in Madisonville, Bryan, Huntsville and Brenham.

Mike Ellis, director of the Texas Poison Control Center in Galveston, said a representative of McNeil Consumer Products Co., a subsidiary of Johnson & Johnson, told him the second batch, the MD1910, was made in a manufacturing facility in Round Rock, Texas. Baker said the 1809MA, blamed in the latest death, was also made in the Round Rock plant.

"The MD1910 appears to be all

over the state. From the calls we've been getting — at least on a north-south direction from Dallas to Houston — it seems to be all along there," he said.

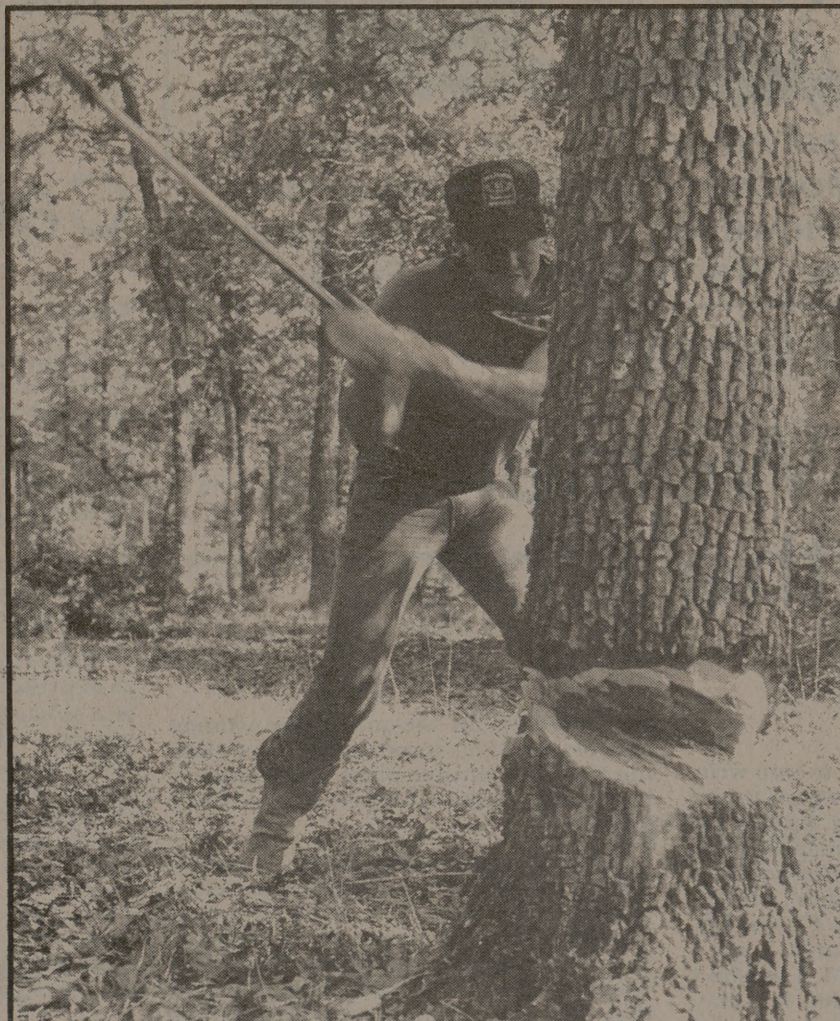
One death has been blamed on capsules from a bottle with the 1910MD code number. Mary McFarland, 31, of Elmhurst, Ill., collapsed at work and died Thursday.

The McNeil Co. has recalled the entire batch labeled 1910MD, about 170,000 bottles of 50 capsules each.

Most Brazos County area pharmacies have already removed all Extra-Strength Tylenol bottles from their shelves pending further information from the manufacturer or federal officials about the safety of the products, officials of the pharmacies said.

The Texas Department of Health has urged consumers in Texas to stop using the capsules for now.

A few states have banned sales of the pain reliever, including North Dakota, Colorado and Massachusetts. Baker said that the capsules have not been banned for sale in Texas, but that the FDA has asked all store owners and consumers to discard the bottles or return the capsules to McNeil.



First cut is the deepest

The first bonfire cutting on Sunday produced a large turnout of cadets and non-reg's. At left, Mike Ghromley takes a determined swing at a tree that is almost ready to fall. Ghromley is a freshman from Pasedena in general studies.

staff photos by David Fisher



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forecast



High in the mid- to upper-80s, low in the lower 60s tonight. Clear skies.

Tehran explosion blamed on U.S.

United Press International
A bomb detonated by "U.S. mercenaries" demolished a five-story hotel in downtown Tehran, killed an undetermined number of people and wounded hundreds of others, the British Broadcasting Corp. said Saturday in a report quoting official Tehran Radio.

Hospitals in Iran's capital city of Tehran were packed with victims of the blast, the BBC quoted the radio as saying. Many buildings near the hotel, as well as buses passing by, were severely damaged by the explosion. Quoting Tehran Radio, the BBC

said many of the passengers in the buses were killed or injured in the blast, which rocked the downtown area of the capital Friday.

About 400 people were taken to one Tehran hospital alone, the BBC said, adding most of the victims were released after treatment. They were mostly hotel guests and customers at nearby cafes.

Official estimates on the total of dead and wounded were not immediately available. The Tehran Radio broadcast blamed "U.S. mercenaries" for the explosion.