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MX dense-pack plan approved by Reagan

wire services

President Reagan announced a decision Monday to deploy 100 new MX nuclear-armed missiles in a controversial dense pack basing system near Francis L. Warren Air Force Base near Cheyenne, Wyo., but he also said his administration is committed to seeking sharp reductions in strategic arms by mutual agreement with the Soviet Union.

Reagan's nationally broadcast speech Monday night came six hours after his administration concluded a protracted internal debate over deployment of the proposed new MX missile.

"It still takes weapons to prevent war," Reagan said in calling for the dense-pack configuration of the MX missiles.

The president appealed to the Soviet Union to take several steps with the United States designed to ease fears of an accidental nuclear war. Among other things, he proposed "a broad-ranging exchange of basic data about our nuclear forces."

Reagan said he hoped to "remove surprise and uncertainty at the sudden appearance of such missiles on the warning screens of the two countries."

And in support of his proposal for superpowers to exchange information about nuclear forces, Reagan said, "The more one side knows about what the other side is doing, the less room there is for surprise and miscalculation."

He said the MX is urgently needed to increase the stability and security of the U.S. strategic nuclear forces.

He also gave the missile a new name, "Peacekeeper." The initials MX, by which it has long been called, have stood only for "missile experimental."

The president said the plan will cost \$26 billion in new appropriations and the first missiles will be deployed by 1986.

The MX will be the largest missile in the U.S. arsenal and will carry 10 warheads, each about twice as powerful as the largest warheads on today's Minuteman missiles, the heart of U.S. land-based missile forces for a generation.

The long-debated MX missile, which faces a questionable future in Congress, would be the first new intercontinental missile the United States has deployed in 20 years.

Regents pick west campus for park site

by Denise Richter

The Texas A&M industrial park finally has a home — 393 acres on the northwest corner of the west campus. And the head of the industrial park family soon may be on his way.

Chancellor Emeritus Frank W.R. Hubert told regents Monday that a nationwide search is under way for a park director.

Three sites for the high-technology park were proposed: the west campus; 650 acres at the dairy, bounded by Jones Bridge Road, FM 2818 and Wellborn Road; and 540 acres at Bryan Air Base.

The west campus site was approved after a lengthy debate among regents.

Regent H.C. "Dulie" Bell of Austin expressed concern that constructing the industrial park on the west campus would interfere with land use projected in the west campus master plan. The plan calls for the land to be used for agriculture and for facilities including classroom buildings, housing and dining facilities and a special events center.

"The industrial park on the west campus would... effectively stop the growth of buildings and facilities for agriculture," Bell said.

Hubert reminded the board that building an industrial park doesn't mean the regents are giving up the land. Park tenants will have leases not to exceed 40 years, Hubert said. After that, any physical improvements added by the tenants revert back to University ownership.

System Chancellor Arthur G. Hansen said: "Development of the park) is going to take a long time. It isn't a

chunk of land to be developed overnight."

If the park is built by the poultry center in the northwest corner of the west campus, developments on the rest of the land can continue as planned, he said.

The motion to construct the park on the west campus passed with Bell and Norman Moser of DeKalb casting dissenting votes.

In an earlier interview, Hubert said that the park could be ready for occupancy within a year to 18 months after selecting a park site.

The park is expected to house 12 to 15 tenants, employing about 1,500 people.

University researchers will benefit from the park, Hubert said, because it is designed to establish closer working relationships between University researchers and those in industry.

Regents met as a full board at 8:30 a.m. today. They were expected to name Eddie J. Davis vice president for fiscal affairs, a position created by Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver as part of his reorganization of top University administration.

Under Vandiver's plan, the duties of the vice president for business affairs will be divided between the vice president for operations and vice president for fiscal affairs.

Vice President for Business Affairs Howard L. Vestal will retire Jan. 31. In September, Charles R. "Chuck" Cargill was named vice president for operations.

In other personnel appointments, regents were expected to grant Dr. William O. Trogon the title of presi-

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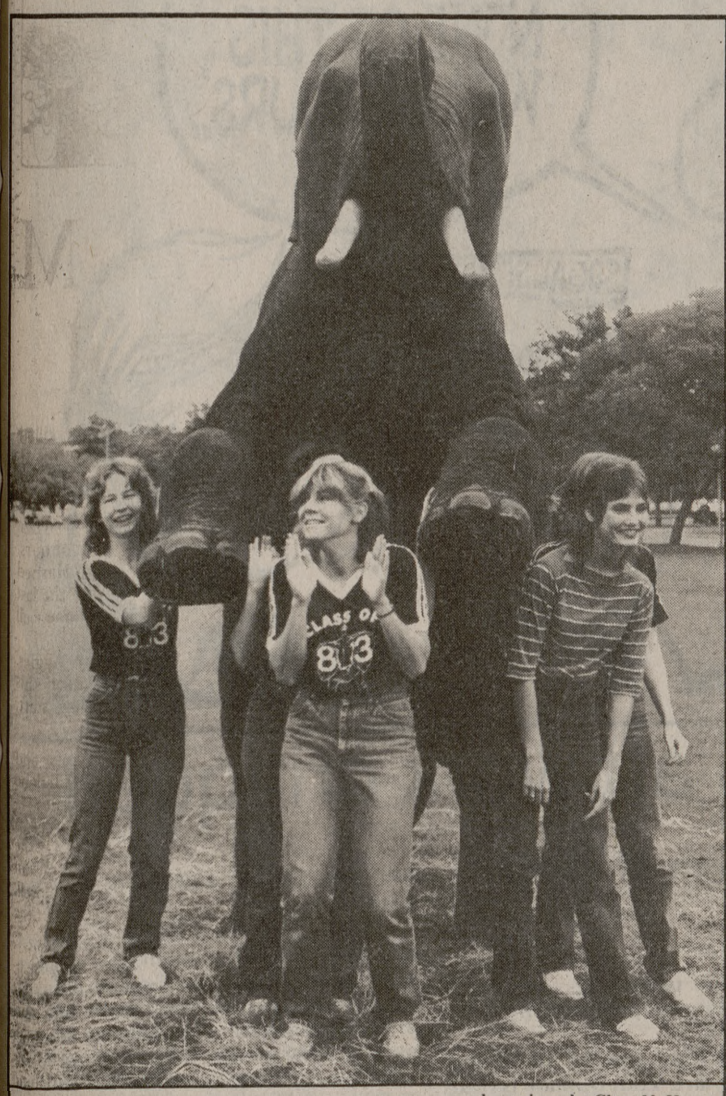
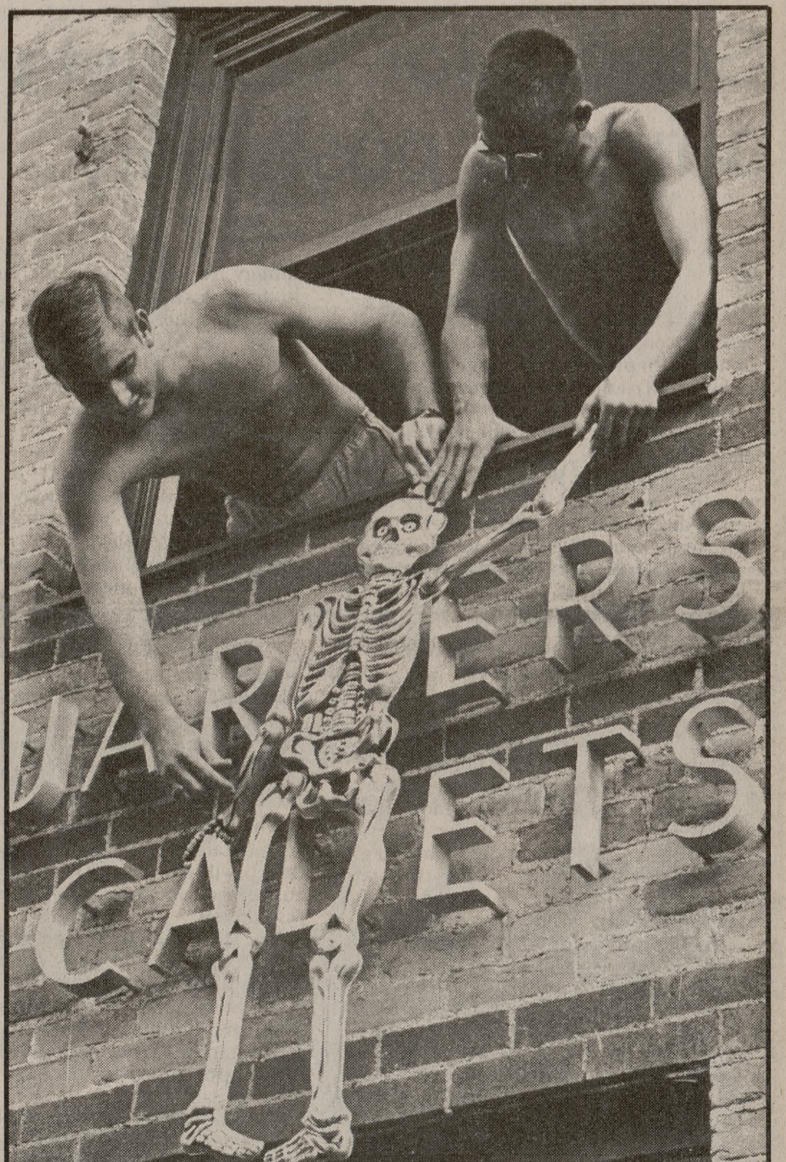


photo above by Clara N. Hurter

Elephant Walk '82

Above, seniors Joy Richardson, left, of Granbury, and Brenda Ricossa, of Richardson — both accounting majors — and industrial distribution major Laura Bednarczyk of Houston pose with Vance, an 11-year-old Indian elephant. Photos of seniors posing with the elephant were taken Monday as part of Elephant Walk festivities. Below, Head Coach and Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill "humps it" with seniors at the yell practice following the walk.

staff photo below by Octavio Garcia



staff photo by Irene Mees

Spirits of the 'dead'

Seniors John Spellman, left, and Bill Heye decorate their dorm with a skeleton. The skeleton symbolizes the "death" of the Class of '83, now that work on bonfire is finished. Spellman is an electrical engineering major from Carrollton and Heye is a mechanical engineering major from Richardson.

Spoof of The Battalion surprises readers, staff

by Robert McGlohn

Battalion Staff

Readers of The Battalion got a surprise Monday when they picked up what they thought was the student newspaper — only to find an abbreviated parody labeled "The Battalion."

The paper, in addition to spoofing The Battalion, contained stories about such groups and individuals as the Corps of Cadets, the Board of Regents, Student Government, the football team, Head Coach Jackie Sherrill, Governor Bill Clements and President Ronald Reagan.

The Battalion was published anonymously, but a man claiming to be the editor of the

spoof called The Battalion Monday night to defend the publication.

He said his group published the Battalion because Texas A&M takes itself too seriously and is a closed-minded university. He also said the group was frustrated with what he termed a "boring" newspaper.

The caller refused to give his name, saying he feared retaliation.

Reaction to the spoof was mixed.

Diana Sultenfuss, editor of The Battalion, said she didn't take the parody too seriously. "I didn't like the way it was so close to the way The Battalion looks," Sultenfuss said. "But I just think it was a prank."

She also said that early in the day specula-

tion centered on whether or not students at the University of Texas were responsible for the spoof (because of the football game to be played Thursday), but said she didn't think UT students had done it.

"I don't think UT is responsible because the parody is too similar to The Battalion," she said. "I don't think another school would be that particular about details."

Sultenfuss also said she wasn't happy with the way some Battalion staff members' names were parodied so closely in the spoof.

"And some of the language was really tacky," she said.

System Chancellor Arthur G. Hansen said he was with the Board of Regents when they

read the parody. The regents got "a good laugh" out of it, he said.

"They've done that on many campuses — spoofing the administration," Hansen said. "And it's fine when it's all taken as a good joke."

Donald C. Johnson, director of student publications, said he thought it was typical of the kind of parody newspaper produced at some colleges and universities.

"Some of it was in poor taste," he said.

"Some of it was obviously somebody having fun. And some of it also represented a direct attempt to look like The Battalion, which is unfair to say the least."

Mike Holmes, Corps commander, said he

thought the Battalion was disrespectful to Texas A&M.

"It was done in poor taste and it was sacrilegious in some places," Holmes said. "Just trying to make fun of the conservative closed-minded Aggie stereotype is all right, but I think they went a little too far in some places."

Scott McCullar, a Battalion cartoonist whose comic strip was imitated in the Battalion, said he liked the spoof.

"In a way it appealed to the dissident in me," McCullar said. "As to the whole project, which obviously was following the lead of the National Lampoon's spoof of Newsweek, in a way I admire its intent to upset."

Bigger, better bonfire ready to burn

by Beverly Hamilton

Battalion Staff

The finishing touches are being put on bonfire, which will burn around 7:30 tonight on the field behind Duncan Dining Hall.

This year's orange outhouse — built by band members in the Class of '85 — will be put into place atop the bonfire this afternoon and the stack then will be covered with fuel by the Texas A&M Fireman Training Center.

Bonfire started in the early 1900s as nothing more than a pile of junk. During November and December, when football games

usually were played, a fire was welcomed for the warmth it provided on a chilly night.

Building and burning a bonfire before the game played against the University of Texas gradually became a custom and by the 1920s was a tradition.

The outhouse that sits atop bonfire found its beginnings in this era. One of the cadets' favorite materials for building their bonfires was untended outhouses.

Once the outhouse is in place this afternoon and the stack is fueled, a guard of cadets will surround the bonfire. Once the bon-

fire has been lit, the yell leaders will conduct yell practice.

University President Frank E. Vandiver, Head Coach and Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill and the Aggie football team will attend bonfire. In addition, the Fireman Training Center and the Brazos Valley Volunteer Fire Department will be at the bonfire site throughout the burning.

The five senior redpots, head civilian, head stack and the truckpot — the people responsible for the construction of the bonfire — will light the stack.

The perimeter of Corps guards

around the bonfire will keep people from getting too close to the burning stack, said Al Link, head civilian. The only people who will be allowed inside the perimeter will be redpots, special guests and persons with special permission from the redpots.

"People are always running to the edge to light cigars and it's quite dangerous," Link said. "We want people to be aware of what potential risk is involved if (the stack) falls."

Redpot Randy Gover said the 1982 bonfire is about 64 feet tall

and has a larger diameter than last year's stack.

Link said the redpots were pleased with the bonfire.

"It's a good stack and it's a strong stack, and we've had a lot of help from people we didn't expect like Jackie Sherrill and Col. (Donald L.) Burton," Link said.

Gover said weather conditions hampered efforts to begin bonfire, but didn't lessen the load of wood collected.

"It goes real slow until the last few days. People get real motivated right at the end."

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forecast

The high will be in the low 70s in the morning but should drop to the 50s by sunset. The overnight low will be in the upper 30s. There is a 40 percent chance of rain.