

Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol. 76 No. 96 USPS 045360 14 Pages

College Station, Texas

Monday, February 14, 1983



staff photo by David Fisher

Reaching for it

Rick Beardon, a member of the Aggie lacrosse team, battles with a University of Houston player for the ball while teammate Joey Donahue, number 16, watches. The Aggies won 13-3 Saturday at the main drill field.

Hinckley will survive overdose, doctors say

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Presidential assailant John W. Hinckley Jr. took an overdose of drugs in his mental ward and was in serious condition today but doctors said they expected him to survive.

It was Hinckley's third presumed suicide attempt since shooting President Reagan and three other men March 30, 1981.

"He is presently in stable but serious condition. He is on the respirator. His vital signs are stable. He is restrained somewhat," said Dr. Jim Levy, president of Greater Southeast Community Hospital.

Hinckley, acquitted by reason of insanity last year of trying to kill the president, swallowed the unidentified drugs Sunday at St. Elizabeths Hospital and was rushed to Greater Southeast Community Hospital.

One doctor said the dose was potentially deadly and it would be 24 hours before it can be determined whether Hinckley, 27, is "out of the woods."

A nurse was inside Hinckley's room today to monitor vital signs. Security was tight at the hospital.

Hospital spokesman Wayne Pines said Hinckley was found in his ward at the mental hospital at 7:15 a.m. Sunday and taken to the Southeast hospital for emergency care.

Levy told reporters Hinckley was in "a serious but stable condition." At 9 p.m. hospital spokeswoman Stephanie McNeill said Hinckley's condition was unchanged.

Asked whether Hinckley was in any danger of dying, Levy said, "Yes he is."

"I cannot give you a prognosis," he said.

"We have every reason to believe he is going to be all right. We think he is going to be all right. (But) I will not be able to tell you until the next 24 hours whether he is out of the woods. He is still in serious condition.

Officials said Hinckley was breathing with difficulty and looking blue when he was taken to the hospital where his stomach was pumped and doctors administered cardiopulmonary resuscitation.

Hinckley had tried to kill himself twice before. Pines said it was a "reasonable assumption" that Hinckley again had attempted to take his

life, but a final determination could not be made pending a full investigation.

Levy and Pines declined to say what drug Hinckley took but officials speculated it may have been his prescribed medicine.

"Hinckley did take a substance. We have some ideas but would not want to characterize it," Levy said.

Pines said Hinckley was found on the floor in his room in semi-conscious condition face up. There was vomit next to him, he said, and indications were he had fallen off his bed.

Hospital officials said they expect Hinckley to be returned to St. Elizabeths following an expected recovery.

They said Hinckley's parents, John and JoAnn Hinckley of Evergreen, Colo., had been notified.

The movie "Taxi Driver," which Hinckley has said sparked his lingering infatuation with actress Jodie Foster, was shown on a Washington area television station Friday night. Levy said "my information is that he did not" see the movie.

Hinckley has said he shot Reagan to impress Miss Foster, who played a child prostitute in the movie, which featured a loner stalking a political candidate.

In written responses to questions submitted by United Press International last fall, Hinckley said he had hopes of being released from the mental hospital and declared, "I am not suicidal."

A federal jury acquitted Hinckley June 21, 1982, of charges of attempting to kill Reagan and shooting three others. He was ordered confined at St. Elizabeths indefinitely.

During his first suicide attempt, Hinckley secretly saved an undisclosed quantity of an aspirin substitute at the federal correctional facility at Butner, N.C., and took an overdose one afternoon. Law enforcement officials characterized the incident as an attempt to harm himself.

The second time, Hinckley jammed the lock of his jail cell at the Army stockade at Fort Meade, Md., and fashioned a noose from a jacket. He hung for three to five minutes before federal marshals could cut him down.

Gramm calls election win a victory for his principles

by Patrice Koranek

Battalion Staff
Phil Gramm called his victory in Saturday's special election "no accident" and said that it was not a personal victory, but a victory for the principles he has supported — reducing the size and budget of the federal government — during his four years as congressman.

Gramm received 55.1 percent of the votes cast for representative of the 6th Congressional District. His closest opponent, former congressman Dan Kubiak, garnered 39.4 percent of the vote. John Henry Faulk, who received 3.7 percent, was the only other opponent in the 11-man race to receive more than one percent of the vote.

"I'm very grateful to the people in the district for the vote of confidence," Gramm said. "The margin was bigger than I expected and we ran a little stronger than I thought we would."

Since Gramm received 55 percent of the vote, a runoff election will not be needed.

"I'm pleased to have defeated 10 opponents without a runoff," Gramm said. "I'm especially proud of the fact that I carried counties that are traditionally Democratic."

Gramm telephoned President Ronald Reagan Saturday night to inform him of the victory. Reagan congratulated Gramm on the win and said, "God bless you and welcome back."

Kubiak, the leading Democratic candidate, said he thought he made a good showing for what he called a 23-day "David and Goliath campaign." He raised about \$60,000 for his campaign effort.

"We faced an incumbent with lots of name recognition and actually a \$1 million campaign," he said. "We were forced into the fight with one hand

behind us and nearly pulled it out."

"We lost the election but we're not conceding. We'll be around for two years to expose the record."

Kubiak said he plans to run for the same office in the next election.

Gramm, who had \$206,000 left from his previous campaign and raised another \$500,000, used most of his funds for radio and television advertising.

Voter turnout in Saturday's election was moderate with 34 percent of the voters going to the polls. Turnout in Brazos County was slightly higher — 41 percent of the voters went to the polls.

Gramm, former Texas A&M economics professor, gained overwhelming support in three counties that collectively have almost half of the district's voters. He won with a decisive 4-1 margin in Dallas County and took Montgomery County by a 3-1 margin.

Turnout in those counties was considered moderate to heavy.

In Brazos County, Gramm's home and the place where he began his political career, he won by a 2-1 margin. Brazos County voters turned out to give Gramm 66 percent of the vote and Kubiak 28 percent.

Kubiak won six of the 14 counties in the district, but most of those were by slim margins. Overall he received 33,162 votes to Gramm's 46,334.

Gramm forced the special election when he resigned his seat as a Democrat in the U.S. House of Representatives on Jan. 5. Gramm resigned after Democratic leaders ousted him from the House Budget Committee because of his support of President Reagan's economic recovery plan.

Gramm's success in the election did not guarantee him a position on the budget committee. Gramm, however, said he will be named to the House Budget Committee when he is sworn in this week.

Search for Texas fugitives begins

United Press International

MEDINA, N.D. — Police searched today for two members of a paramilitary tax protest group who killed two U.S. marshals with machine gun fire, wounded three other law officers and then fled in an unmarked police car, authorities said.

Local police, state and county authorities, marshals and FBI agents flown in from Washington joined the manhunt for parole violator Gordon Kahl, 65,

of Midland, Texas, and one of his followers, identified as Scott Faul.

Kahl's son, Yorie, 23, was captured shortly after the shoot-out when he went to a Jamestown hospital with a stomach wound. A woman believed to be the younger Kahl's wife fled on foot and was captured soon after the shooting.

Both Yorie Kahl and the woman were charged with aiding and abetting the shooting of a federal officer.

Police report begins today

Starting today, a campus police report will appear daily in The Battalion. Today's report is on page four.

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forecast

Partly cloudy skies today with the high near 61. Southeast winds at 15 to 20 mph. Becoming mostly cloudy tonight with a 40 percent chance of thundershowers and a low near 49. Continued mostly cloudy on Tuesday morning with a 50 percent chance of showers. Tuesday's high will be about 60.

almanac

United Press International
Today is Monday, Feb. 14, the 45th day of 1983 with 320 to follow. This is Valentine's Day. Those born on this day include Polish astronomer Nicolaus Copernicus in 1473, English economist Thomas Malthus in 1766, American suffrage leader Anna Howard Shaw in 1874, and comedian Jack Benny in 1894.

EPA may allow banned herbicide to be sold, used

United Press International
BOSTON — Despite a ban on a herbicide containing dioxin, the deadly chemical that has severely contaminated at least 22 sites in Missouri, the Environmental Protection Agency may permit a chemical company to continue to sell the substance, a Boston newspaper reported.

According to a report in the Boston Globe Sunday, the EPA is negotiating an agreement with Dow Chemical Co., the company that makes the herbicide 2,4,5-T, to allow wider use of the chemical.

The report also said 2,4,5-T still is being sprayed on thousands of rice fields and cattle ranges in the United States.

In 1979, the EPA issued a ban on 2,4,5-T that led government officials to believe that the ban covered all uses of the herbicide. However, it did not.

Charles Benbrook, staff director of a congressional subcommittee that deals with herbicide issues, initially told a reporter that 2,4,5-T was banned. After checking, he said he "was surprised and a little disturbed" to find that many uses of the herbicide had never stopped.

Patrick Tobin, acting director of the EPA's criteria and standards division, said the July 1981 study was sent to EPA deputy administrator John Hernandez "months ago."

Benbrook said the long delay in publishing the study "is usual practice

when a study is contrary to the prevailing political stance of the agency."

"Since they can't change the study without impinging on the rights and research of the scientists, they just sit on it and keep saying it is under review," Benbrook said.

Dioxin is a byproduct of many chemicals, including 2,4,5-T, which is used to kill broadleaf weed on rice and cattle-grazing land.

Experiments on laboratory animals show that the dioxin in 2,4,5-T causes cancer, birth defects and damage to the liver and other organs at very low levels of exposure.

A water-quality study completed by the EPA but never published concluded that the form of dioxin found both at the Missouri sites and in the herbicide 2,3,7,8-tetrachlorodibenzo-p-dioxin is "one of the most toxic substances known."

"It exhibits a delayed biological response in many species and is highly lethal at low doses to aquatic organisms, birds and mammals," the study said.

Dow Chemical argues that "the small theoretical risk posed by the trace amounts of dioxin in 2,4,5-T is well within acceptable limits."

The company argues that use of dioxin-contaminated 2,4,5-T should be allowed because the risk is "lower than other commonplace carcinogenic risks found acceptable by society."



photo by Dena L. Brown

Home at last

After a 24-hour field training exercise in Nacogdoches, Army ROTC cadets in the Rudder's Rangers Company return Sunday

to A&M. Eight helicopters deposited 50 to 60 "rangers" — cadets who want extra adventure training — at the polo field.