

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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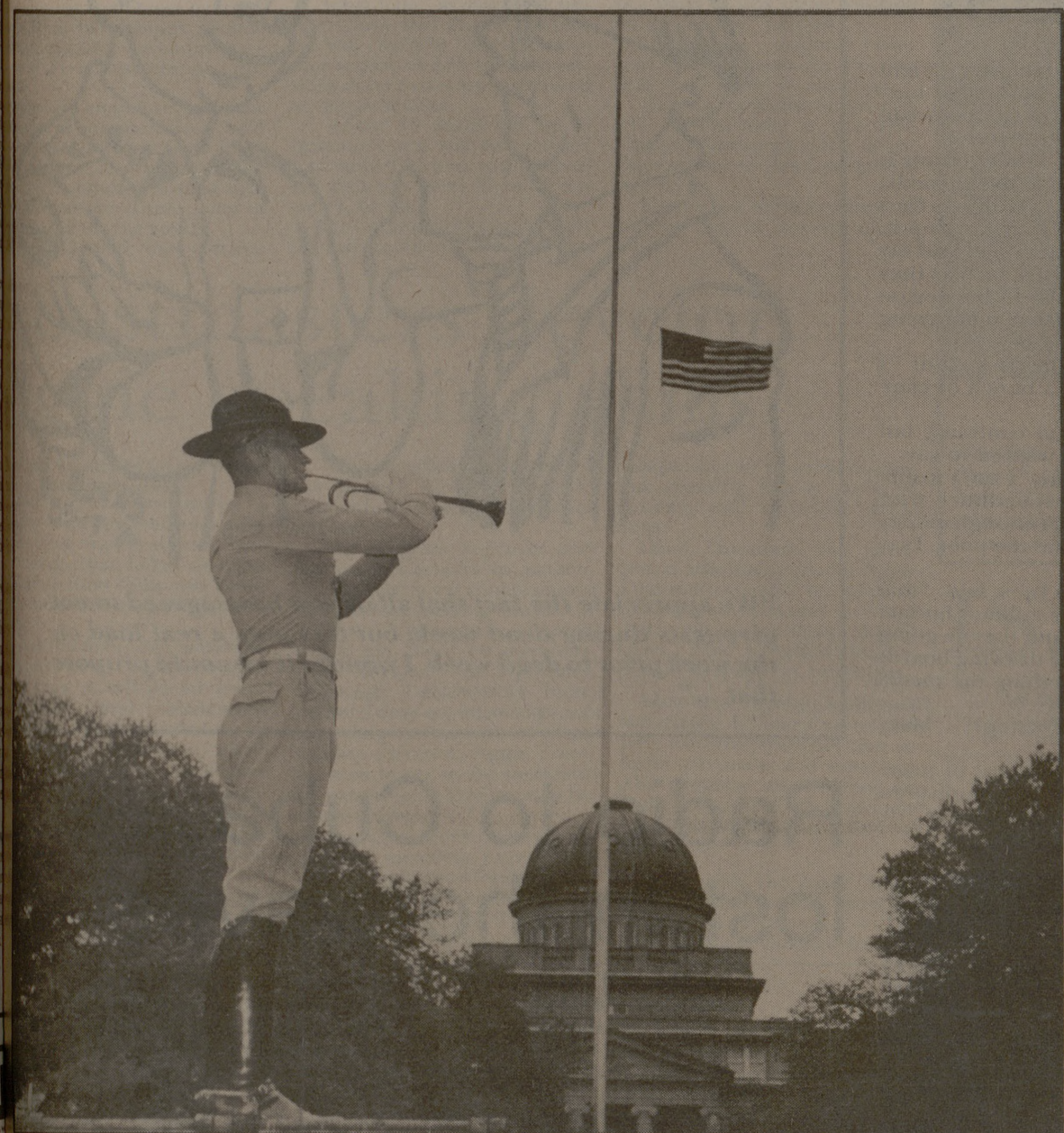


photo by Jeanette Hennigan

## 100th anniversary of Aggie Muster

Hailing the 100th anniversary of Muster, David Womack, a senior marketing major from Houston, plays his bugle in front of the Academic Building. Muster, the ceremony that honors students and former students who have died during the past year, begins at 7 p.m. tonight in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

## Drug ring cracked; 12 Texans arrested

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — Drug agents cracked one of the nation's "largest and most highly organized" drug trafficking rings with the arrests of an estimated 60 people in eight states in an investigation codenamed Operation Bushmaster, authorities said.

Marion Hambrick, agent-in-charge of the Houston office of the Drug Enforcement Administration, said federal agents Wednesday began arresting 60 suspects on charges of shipping and selling heroine, cocaine, methamphetamines and marijuana in eight states.

"It was one of the nation's largest and most highly organized drug rings," Hambrick said.

The ring, which shipped much of its drug supply from South America and Mexico, operated in Texas, Louisiana, Tennessee, Georgia, Kansas, Colorado, California, and Arizona for at least five years, officials said.

Federal officials named their investigation Operation Bushmaster after a poisonous, nocturnal snake in South America called a bushmaster.

"This should have a definite impact on the cocaine, methamphetamine, marijuana and heroine traffic in these states. We feel the people they were

supplying are definitely going to be without a supplier for a while," he said.

In Texas, 12 people were arrested, including an attorney and two other men believed to be ring leaders, authorities said.

Hambrick said agents planned to arrest 60 people throughout the eight states, but complete arrest figures and details on seizures in other states were not available, he said.

Hambrick identified one of the key figures in the group as Dempsey Merida, 55, a transmission shop owner of Houston. Federal agents arrested Merida at his home about 6 a.m. Wednesday and seized various drugs and weapons.

"We seized about 45 pounds of methamphetamine — worth about \$2.5 million, one pound of cocaine, over 100 rifles, shotguns and pistols, five machine guns and thousands of dollars in cash," Hambrick said.

Merida was charged with conspiracy to violate federal narcotics laws.

Two other major figures in the drug gang were identified as William Thomas Follis, 51, a used car salesman of Houston and Charles T. Newlin, 36, a Houston attorney.

Authorities identified the other

arrested Texas suspects as: Wesley Lee Williams, 38, of Houston; Jay Michael Knapper, 30, of Houston; James Warren Edwards, 35, of Austin; David Lee Merida, 22, of Houston; Hayes Phillip Jackson, 35, of Houston; Anthony Walker Stone-dale, 26, of Houston; Billy Ray Lilly, 39, of Spring; Jeffrey D. Morales, 27, of Galveston, and Dean Claude McCauley, 44, of Austin.

Hambrick said all were charged with conspiracy to violate federal drug laws. Other drug charges were pending, he said.

During the one-year investigation, law officers seized at least 10 methamphetamine laboratories which the group operated in southeast and central Texas, Hambrick said.

He said the crackdown involved 16 law enforcement agencies throughout the Southwest.

"I think this type of coordinated law enforcement investigation epitomizes what the U.S. Attorney General was striving for when he directed the creation of federal task forces throughout the United States to key in on organized crime groups which are trafficking in drugs which would impact more than one area," Hambrick said.

## Emergency Care Team needs new radio system

by Craig Harris

Battalion Reporter

The Texas A&M Emergency Care Team needs almost \$20,000 to improve its radio communications system, says Vance Riley, chief of ambulance operations.

"This system (we have) just isn't adequate for the number of emergency cases we handle," Riley said.

The ECT now is accepting bids for the new radio equipment, Riley said. Funding for the new radio system probably will come from the Development Office or the Association of Former Students, he said.

But the team won't have the system for at least several weeks, Riley said.

The medical team now has an older system that consists of one radio in the dispatch room, one radio in one of its two ambulances and two hand-held radios.

The team's system is a very high

frequency unit and doesn't always operate properly, he said. Most hospitals operate on ultra-high frequency. St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan soon will switch to UHF.

The system the care team plans to purchase will include both UHF and VHF frequencies.

"If a patient is unconscious when we take him in, we cannot take him to the (A.P. Beutel) Health Center, but we take him to St. Joseph," Riley said. "We need to be able to talk to St. Joseph, but with our radio, we can't pick them up unless we're within a mile of them — and that is a dangerous situation."

The radio is used to communicate with the hospital about the patient's condition, the number of patients involved and emergency care at the scene, Riley said.

The Emergency Care Team, which sends its ambulances to emergency

situations on Texas A&M property in Brazos County, averages about three cases a day. Half of the runs are emergency situations, while the rest of the runs are spent transporting patients from the health center to another hospital.

"The demand for the service has more than doubled since we got our first ambulance in January of 1980," Riley said.

"I originally asked for the new equipment in February of 1982," Riley said, "but the money got caught in red tape and we still haven't received it yet."

Because the care team is a volunteer organization and is run much like a volunteer fire department, Riley said, University officials have been reluctant to allocate the \$20,000.

Four of the team members, including Riley, live in the health center and are paid a salary, but the other team members are volunteers.

## Israel to keep territory

**United Press International**  
ISRAELI Prime Minister Menachem Begin, in a rebuff of President Reagan, said the Jewish state's annexation of Syria's Golan Heights is irreversible and rejected any restrictions on Jewish settlement in occupied territory.

Speaking in Jerusalem Wednesday

to veterans of his Herut Party, Begin also said Israel hopes for an agreement on the withdrawal of Tel Aviv's 30,000 troops from Lebanon despite the "complicated situation" there.

The thrust of the prime minister's speech was a pointed rejoinder to Reagan's assurances to Syria that U.N. Security Council Resolution 242

implies an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights Israel annexed 18 months ago.

"The law, the jurisdiction and the administration of the state of Israel is in force and will remain in force on the Golan Heights," Begin said to boisterous clapping. Israel seized the Golan Heights in a 1967 war.

## Child must have another new liver

**United Press International**  
MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Brandon's new liver has been hopelessly damaged by a blood clot and doctors must replace it again within a few days or the world's second longest liver transplant patient will die.

"It's possible we have no more than a day or two, perhaps we have a week," said Dr. Peter Whittington, Brandon's pediatrician.

The 13-month-old Walnut, Miss., child was listed in critical but stable condition at LeBonheur Children's Medical Center, where he was receiving follow-up care from a liver transplant one week ago today.

"We finished tests on Brandon, and the artery going to the liver is blocked," Dr. James Williams, chief

transplant surgeon for the University of Tennessee Center for the Health Sciences, said Wednesday.

The 1-millimeter clot in the hepatic artery was revealed by an arteriogram, a test conducted to determine the flow of blood through the transplanted liver.

Brandon's mother, Billie Hall, who last week gained national attention by testifying before a House subcommittee in Washington hours before Brandon was rushed into surgery, was shaken by the latest news.

Doctors said the second transplant should be simpler and less time-consuming than the first.

Brandon needs a liver from a child weighing between 10 and 25 pounds with O-positive blood type.

## Congressman says EPA ignoring fears

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — A Texas congressman said Wednesday the Environmental Protection Agency's 1984 budget proposal cutting hazardous and toxic waste programs shows the administration is ignoring citizens' fears.

In testimony before a House committee, Rep. Bill Patman, D-Texas, said the EPA's 1984 budget request demonstrates that the administration is simply not listening to what people in this country are saying about hazardous waste.

He noted concerned residents of Bay City, Texas, were organizing night patrols of the back roads of Matagorda County to prevent illegal midnight dumping by chemical waste haulers.

"These people aren't far-out environmental extremists," he said. "They are ordinary working people concerned that unsafe hazardous waste disposal practices are shortening the lives of their children and increasing their risks of cancer."

He urged the House to increase the EPA's budget requests for hazardous and toxic waste programs to at least current funding, adjusted for inflation.

"Anything less than this amount will result in a giant step backwards in our national effort to control hazardous chemical wastes," he said.

He said that although the EPA has requested more money for Superfund response actions, it would not substitute "for careful attention to the hazardous waste and toxic substances programs."

## TV camera a 'two-by-four'

### Zindler 'tells it like it is'

by Lezlee Hinson

Battalion Reporter

"You have to hit a jackass on the head with a two-by-four to get its attention," says Houston news commentator Marvin Zindler. And, he adds, a television camera can serve quite well in the place of a two-by-four.

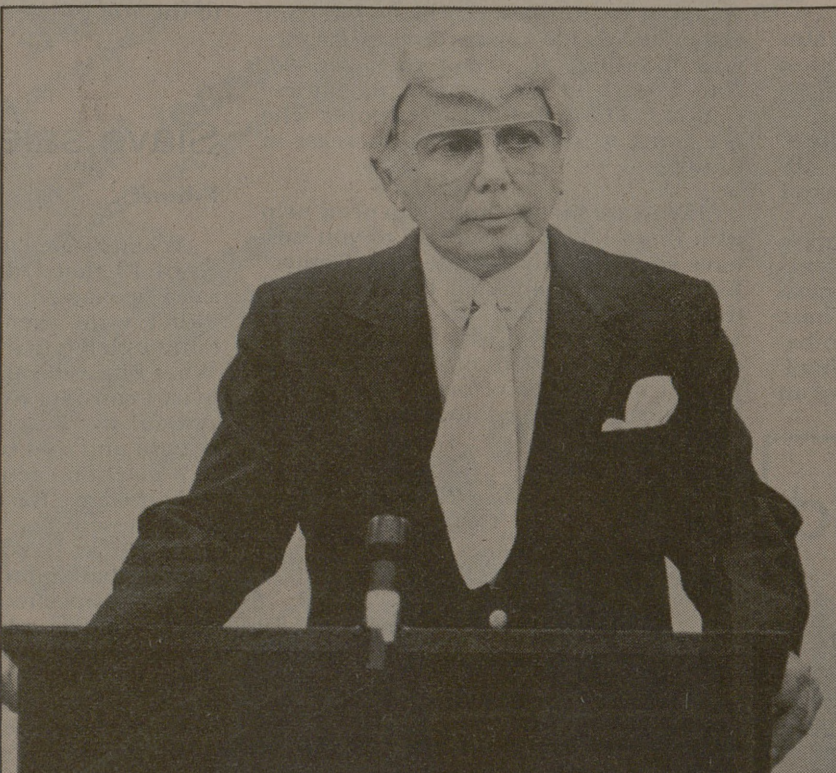
Zindler, a well-known consumer advocate in Houston, spoke at the Sterling C. Evans Library on Wednesday in recognition of National Library Week.

His daily commentary on KTRK-TV, Channel 13, often is controversial. One of his most famous investigations resulted in the closing of the infamous Chicken Ranch in La Grange — a place, Zindler said, some older Aggies should know a lot about. The movie and Broadway play, "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas," were based on Zindler's report.

Zindler's two-by-four — the television camera — was instrumental in the Chicken Ranch investigation, but in most cases, he said, the camera isn't necessary. Businesses are notified, by letter, when a complaint is lodged against them and about 75 percent of the complaints are resolved without further action, Zindler said.

If the complaint is unanswered, a personal phone call — suggesting the possibility of a personal visit from Zindler and his camera crew — will usually prompt the company to consider the matter more carefully, he said.

Some companies, however, require still more persuasion, Zindler said, and a personal visit often is required. He said he is amazed how often company representatives claim they had planned to take care of the matter on the very day that Zindler shows up — usually unannounced.



staff photo by Eric Evan Lee

Marvin Zindler, a Houston news commentator, speaks at Sterling C. Evans Library Wednesday.

The purpose of television, Zindler said, is to keep the public informed. And reporters must tell it like it is, even if it isn't nice, he said.

Zindler said that his segment of Eyewitness News often is responsible for losses in advertising revenues. Businesses sometimes stop advertising on Channel 13 when they become the target of one of Zindler's investigations, he said. But that is just one of the consequences

that must be accepted. Advertisers often think that they can control the media through their advertising purchases, Zindler said, but that just isn't true.

Zindler warns that the television camera — like the two-by-four — must be used with extreme caution. Both are powerful, effective tools but can be dangerous if not handled with care.

## Academic Council to meet

The Academic Council will meet at 1:30 p.m. Friday in 601 Rudder.

Items scheduled for discussion include:

- addition and withdrawal of courses.
  - changes in curricula.
  - changes in degree programs in the Department of Engineering Technology.
  - resignation of the Institute of Statistics as the Department of Statistics.
  - changes in the admission policy of the Graduate College.
  - changes in the University Rules and Regulations.
  - approval of candidates for graduate, undergraduate, veterinary medicine and medicine degrees.
- President Frank E. Vandiver will preside over the meeting.

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## forecast

Cloudy to partly cloudy today with a 30 percent chance of thunder-showers and a high of 75. A 40 percent chance of thundershowers tonight with a low near 57. Partly cloudy Friday with a 30 percent chance of morning showers and a high near 79.