

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Reagan urges Central America aid

WASHINGTON — President Reagan urged a skeptical Congress to embrace his arms and economic program for Central America, claiming the United States has "a vital interest, moral duty and a solemn responsibility" to save the region from the leftist revolution.

"If we cannot defend ourselves there," Reagan said, "we cannot expect to prevail elsewhere. Our credibility would collapse, our alliances would crumble, and the safety of our homeland would be put at jeopardy."

Reagan's nationally broadcast address was primarily an attempt to salvage a proposed \$110 million in U.S. aid for the besieged regime in El Salvador. Congress so far has balked over all but \$30 million of that.

But Reagan pressed Congress to approve his full request for aid for all

of Central America, totaling about \$600 million for 1984. "That is less than one-tenth of what Americans will spend this year on coin-operated video games," the president said.

He said the United States will support "democracy, reform and human freedom" in Central America, and called for open and fair elections in El Salvador and Nicaragua.

He said the United States also supports economic development programs throughout the region. "In response to the military chal-

lenge from Cuba and Nicaragua — to their deliberate use of force to spread tyranny — we will support the security of the regions' threatened nations," Reagan said.

Reagan noted the recent seizure in Brazil of four Libyan cargo planes loaded with arms en route to Nicaragua, and said "violence has been Nicaragua's most important export to the world."

His speech in the House chamber marked the first time Reagan addressed legislators on a foreign policy

issue. Usually presidents address Congress only to deliver the annual State of the Union report.

The speech came one day after the House Appropriations subcommittee chopped in half his request to shift military aid worth \$60 million to El Salvador from amounts allocated for other countries.

On the matter of Nicaragua, the House Intelligence Committee plans to vote today on legislation to cut off all secret aid to rebels battling the leftist regime there.

In a Democratic response to Reagan, Sen. Christopher Dodd, of Connecticut, instead called for more emphasis on negotiation and said the administration's whole approach to Central America was ignorant.

Dodd, a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and a Peace Corps volunteer in the Dominican Republic from 1966-68, said, "The painful truth is that many of our highest officials seem to know as little about Central America in 1983 as we knew about Indochina in 1963."

### Picnic a la frisbee

Texas A&M students on board plan at the dining halls got a treat Wednesday — a dinner served on frisbees. Above left, freshmen Michelle Hoelscher, left, and Suzie Brawley eat dinner off frisbees provided by food services department at the fish pond. Meanwhile at the Quad, below, the picnic ended in a water fight. Freshman cadet Lynette Dromsky is drenched by a fellow cadet.



## House to create ethics committee

AUSTIN — The Texas House of Representatives approved new rules that will create an ethics committee to conduct investigations of charges of lawmakers' misconduct.

Lawmakers approved the creation of an ethics committee, after opponents succeeded in changing the panel by indicating that the ethics guidelines were being considered in violation of House rules.

The House leadership accepted a proposal to form the ethics panel from the House General Investigative Committee, instead of the House Administration Committee.

The ethics panel would be prohibited from inquiring into lawmakers' conduct 120 days before a primary or general election.

The ethics committee was proposed by Rep. Jim Turner, D-Crockett, in late January was named to lead a special subcommittee created to investigate the spending of Rep. Dan Wilson, D-Houston. Turner's panel also planned an inquiry into House Speaker Gib Lewis' failure to disclose his financial dealings.

approved a bill that would save the state \$220 million in 1984-85 by lowering the state's contribution to public schoolteachers' retirement.

The bill would not reduce teachers' retirement benefits because of salary hikes and an increase in the number of teachers contributing to the fund, Sen. Grant Jones, D-Abilene, said.

The Senate Finance Committee recommended lowering the state contribution from the current 8.5 percent to 7.1 percent in the appropriations bill currently pending before the Senate. Teachers contribute 6.65 percent to the retirement fund.

Other bills approved by the House:

• Bill that would increase state revenues by \$48 million in 1984-85 by hiking fees charged by 20 state agencies.

• Bill that would require judges to dismiss charges of driving without automobile insurance against drivers who can prove they have insurance. The bill faces another House vote before going to the Senate.

• Bill that would make it a third degree felony for officers of a housing authority to have an interest in publicly funded housing projects. Bill was sent to the Senate.

### State board to consider requests

## A&M asks for new programs

by Beverly Hamilton  
Battalion Staff

Requests for new degree programs within the Texas A&M System and approval of the construction of a \$1.2 million chancellor's residence will be considered at the quarterly meeting of the state Coordinating Board on Friday.

The board will consider Texas A&M's request for a doctorate of philosophy in applied psychology with majors in industrial and organizational psychology and community clinical psychology.

In its consideration of new doctoral programs, the board invites teams of out-of-state consultants to assess the quality of existing programs in the state and to determine whether additional programs are needed.

The University also has requested that the board consider establishing a Department of Computer Science.

Currently, the computer science division is included in the industrial engineering department within the College of Engineering. The proposed department would offer bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees.

The board also will consider the request for construction of a 7,291-square-foot house for the System chancellor. The estimated cost of building and furnishing the house is \$1.2 million. The Texas A&M Development Foundation will provide initial funding for the project, but will be reimbursed through individual donations.

The proposed house, to be located on a 13-acre site off Jersey Street, is scheduled for completion by December 1984.

In other action, the board will consider revising its eligibility guidelines for the Legislative Academic Scholarship Program to encourage a broader

ethnic mix at public universities in Texas. The new criteria would require grant recipients to be members of an ethnic group that constitutes less than 40 percent of the population.

The revised guidelines are intended to increase enrollment of black and Hispanic students at institutions with relatively low percentages of minority students. White students also would be eligible for the awards for the first time if they enroll in universities with largely black or Hispanic populations. Current criteria require only that recipients be members of an ethnic minority of the state population.

The revised guidelines would allocate \$4,000 to \$20,000 in scholarship funds to 30 public universities. The recommended allocations are based on past funding levels of \$250,000 per year.

To help maintain the revolving status of the Hinson-Hazelwood College Student Loan Program, the board will consider the transfer of \$2.6 million in federal money into the state loan fund. The \$2.6 million is available through the Special Lender's Allowance Fund, which compensates lenders for providing low-interest student loans.

Other proposals within the System include:

• Consideration of a bachelor program in computer science at Prairie View A&M. The proposed program would require legislative start-up funds of approximately \$800,000 over the next three years.

• Construction of a dormitory at an estimated cost of \$3,966 at Tarleton State University.

The board meets at 9 a.m. in the Bevington A. Reed Building, 200 East Riverside Drive in Austin.

### Productivity on upswing

Productivity in non-farm business rose at an annual rate of 4.8 percent in the first quarter, the best showing in two years and a fair sign of eventual improvement in the job market.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported Wednesday that productivity, including agriculture, grew at its fastest quarterly pace in two years. The seasonally adjusted indicator had risen only 0.4 percent in the fourth quarter of 1982.

Private economists said the improving productivity performance could eventually enhance job prospects for the nation's 11.4 million unemployed.

Productivity measures the sum of goods and services produced in an hour's paid working time.

## Summer registration may double

by Karen Schrimsher  
Battalion Staff

The number of provisional students in summer school here this year may be double the number who attended last summer, the director of admissions and records says.

Provisional students are freshmen who begin classes in the summer because they are denied admission for the fall semester on the basis of their Scholastic Aptitude Test scores.

Dr. Billy G. Lay, director of admissions and records, said about 20 percent of all high school students who apply for enrollment here are not accepted because their SAT scores do not meet admissions requirements.

Last year, an estimated 350 people who applied at Texas A&M were

offered provisional student status. So far this year, the program has been offered to about 700 applicants.

As of April 1982, 152 high school seniors had expressed an interest in the provisional student program. This year, 433 students have said they are interested in the program.

In the first summer session last year, 176 students actually enrolled. More stringent admission requirements than last year are one reason for the increase in the number of provisional students, Lay said.

Under the new requirements, applicants in the fourth quarter of their high school class must have an SAT score of at least 1,200, applicants in the third must score 1,100,

those in the second quarter must score 950 and students in the top quarter must score 800. Students in the top 10 percent of their class have no minimum score requirement.

When applicants are rejected on the basis of SAT scores, they are offered two options for admission. They may try the provisional program in the summer or transfer after a semester at another university or junior college.

Provisional students can enroll for the summer sessions and stay for the fall semester if they meet the requirements set by the admissions office.

A provisional student is required to enroll in nine hours of assigned academic class work during the first and second summer sessions.

sarily higher prices.

The change in the flow, called for by the Reagan decontrol legislation, is called contract carriage. It means that an end user of gas, such as a big factory or wholesaler, could shop around for gas from a producer, buy it directly and contract with a pipeline to get the gas to the customer for a fee. Pipelines would have to carry the gas if they had the capacity. As it is now, pipelines buy gas from produc-

ers and decide which customers can buy it from them.

Benjamin A. Cooper of the Senate Energy Committee staff said the main contract carriage provision in current natural gas law applies only to emergencies: In times of shortage, a big customer can buy directly and the pipeline can be directed to carry the gas if it has the available space in the pipeline.

The Reagan contract carrier prop-

osal is seen as a way to soften opposition to his plan to free all gas from federal price controls by 1986. He would allow direct buying and selling of gas under certain circumstances, with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission policing the process.

"This is the most important provision of this bill," Energy Committee chief Counsel D. Michael Harvey said.

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### forecast

Partly cloudy skies today with a high of 83. Southerly winds of 10 to 15 mph. Clear to partly cloudy tonight with a low near 65. Partly sunny skies Friday with a high near 86.