

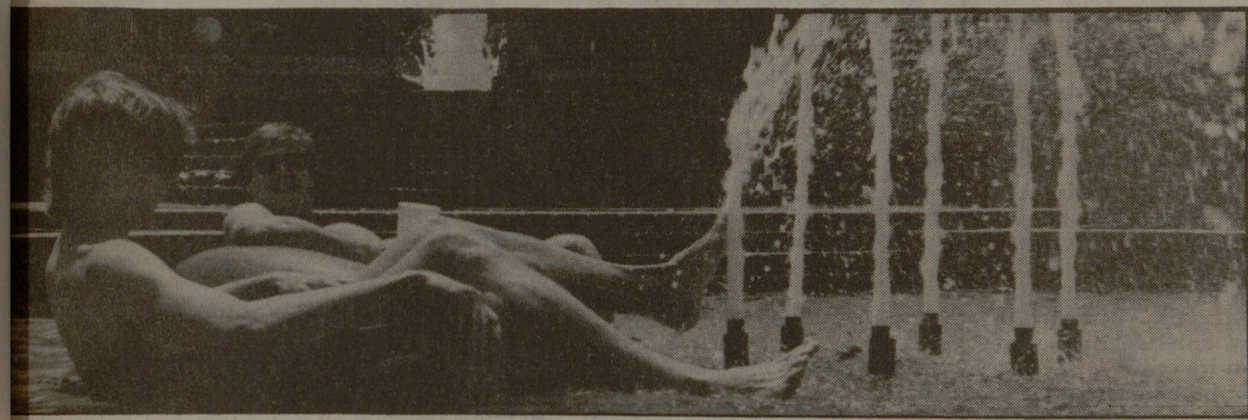
Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol. 76 No. 149 USPS 045360 20 Pages In 2 Sections

College Station, Texas

Thursday, May 5, 1983



Taking it easy

photo by Kevin S. Inda

These students seem to have forsaken studying for finals in order to float in the fountain in front of the

Chemistry Building. Finance major John Cook, left, and management major Mike Peterson are both from Dallas.

Reagan says Soviet arms proposal 'encouraging'

WASHINGTON — President Reagan says Soviet leader Yuri Andropov's new arms control proposal is encouraging and the United States will give it serious consideration before the Geneva talks resume May 17.

Reagan accented the positive on the Andropov proposal to count warheads instead of missiles when he was interviewed in the Oval Office Wednesday by six White House reporters.

The president said the Soviets have moved in the direction of the United States' position on counting warheads rather than launchers and added "this is what we should be negotiating."

"We're going to to this serious consideration as we do any proposal they

make," he said.

Before taking off on a Western trip, Reagan arranged to meet with a group of Republican and Democratic lawmakers today to discuss the MX commission recommendations before taking off on a Western swing.

He said he would discuss the Andropov proposal with Paul Nitze, the chief negotiator at the intermediate-range missile talks, before Nitze flies back to Geneva later in the month.

He acknowledged the Andropov offer contains the condition, rejected by the United States, that British and French forces be counted along with U.S. missiles set for deployment in Europe.

"The encouraging thing was that he made a proposal and it was a proposal aimed at something that has been

a consideration of ours," he said.

As to whether the Kremlin is making a sincere offer, Reagan said:

"You won't know until you're really sitting across the (negotiating) table from them whether this was just propaganda or a proposal."

Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger struck the same note of optimism telling a Pentagon news conference Andropov's agreement to the U.S. proposal to count warheads instead of missile launchers in the negotiations "a good thing."

But Weinberger said the Soviet emphasis on including British and French missiles in the negotiations bothers him. "I wouldn't think that is going to be a very useful path to pursue if we really want arms reduction results," he said.

Iran expels diplomats, outlaws communist party

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Iran, implying the Soviet Union aided a plot to overthrow Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, Wednesday outlawed the communist Tudeh Party and ordered 18 Soviet diplomats to leave the country by the weekend.

Without linking Moscow directly to the plot, Tehran said the Soviets were "interfering with the internal affairs of the Islamic republic through establishing contacts and taking advantage of treacherous and mercenary agents."

Khomeini, in a message broadcast

by Tehran Radio, commended the government for its crackdown on the Tudeh Party, which included the arrest of executive committee members in addition to its leader.

Word of the expulsions was released Wednesday after the Soviet Ambassador to Tehran V.K. Boldyrev, was summoned to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

He was told 18 Soviet diplomats, including three military attaches, were declared persona non grata and had 48 hours to get out of Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency said.

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declared persona non grata and had 48 hours to get out of Iran, the Islamic Republic News Agency said.

The specific charges included "espionage activities for the benefit of foreign powers," illegal possession of weapons, infiltration of government agencies, including the military, and sabotage of industrial plants.

The events came a week after police arrested several top leaders of the 42-year-old pro-Moscow communist organization, including its leader, Nurreddin Kianouri, who purportedly confessed to spying for the Soviets.

House passes arms freeze agreement

WASHINGTON — Joyous sponsors of a nuclear freeze resolution that passed the House overwhelmingly claimed a "great victory" for Americans and a repudiation of President Reagan's arms control policies.

But the 278-149 approval came after resolution sponsors, mainly Democrats, lost a key point. Republicans succeeded in attaching an amendment that would allow arms-control negotiators to set a time limit on how long a negotiated freeze would remain in effect without arms reductions.

In return, Republicans agree to drop consideration of more than 30

pending amendments.

Resolution author Edward Markey, D-Mass., called the approval "a historic vote to repudiate a sitting president's negotiating position with the Soviet Union" at the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks in Geneva.

"It is the position of the House of Representatives, as voiced through an overwhelming vote here this evening, the American people want a freeze now in the nuclear-arms race between the United States and the Soviet Union, and then substantial reductions to follow that nuclear freeze," he said.

The resolution, which now goes to the Senate where its chances of passage are dim, calls on the United States and the Soviet Union to negoti-

ate an "immediate mutual and verifiable freeze" on production, development and deployment of nuclear weapons, then reduce their nuclear arsenals.

President Reagan, who repeatedly warned its passage would tie the hands of U.S. arms negotiators and send the wrong message to the Soviets, had no immediate comment on the vote.

Rep. William Broomfield, R-Mich., who led the freeze opposition as ranking Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said the adoption of more than 30 amendments during six days of debate "really pointed out the imperfection" of the original resolution.

Prof doubts authenticity

Hitler diaries 'suspicious'

There's an 80 percent chance that a 62-volume set of diaries supposedly written by Adolf Hitler is a forgery, says a Texas A&M Nazi history specialist.

"Of course, I haven't seen them (the diaries), but as I understand it, the handwriting is not consistent with Hitler's handwriting," said Dr. Arnold Krammer, professor of history and author of two books and more than 20 articles on Nazi Germany.

"Hitler wrote in crabbed sentences with tightly compressed words but the diaries are written in a long and lengthy scrawl," Krammer said.

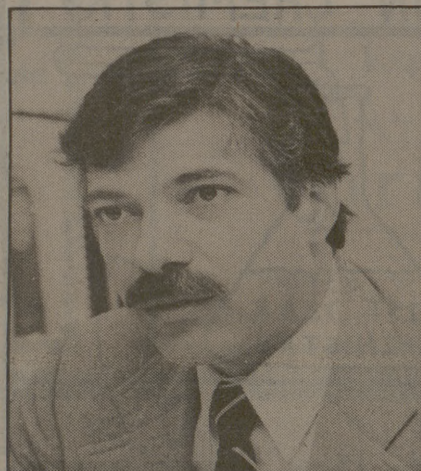
The 8-by-12 inch, one-half inch thick, imitation-leather bound diaries were first shown to the public in April from a Swiss bank vault in Zurich. The actual story of how they arrived in the bank vault still is questionable.

Gerd Heidemann, a journalist for Stern magazine — a West German publication — followed a "long-shot lead" and researched the story of a plane crash near a small village in East Germany. In 1945, an airplane carrying some of Hitler's possessions taken from his bunker in Berlin crashed in Bornersdorf just days before Hitler's death. Some documents were reputed to have been carried away from the plane crash by some of the villagers.

Krammer said he feels the whole matter of the discovery was handled rather poorly because the diaries are being rushed into print by Stern, which could lead many to believe the diaries are authentic even though

proof has not been established.

"If I would have to choose the one thing that leads me to believe the diaries are forged, I'd say it's because



Dr. Arnold Krammer

there's no difference in the handwriting during tumultuous events such as when Hitler's right hand was injured in an assassination attempt in 1944," Krammer said.

"I don't think Hitler was writing for posterity because these aren't the words one leaves behind for posterity," he said. "It seems there are no profound thoughts or bombastic ideas, just the daily mutterings of a megalomaniac. If he were writing for posterity, Hitler would have at least tried to be profound."

Hitler had written quite a lot before and during World War I, even to his

landlord and tax collector, but eventually turned to dictating his letters, Krammer said. Hitler even dictated his first book, "Mein Kampf," from his jail cell to Rudolph Hess in the next cell, he said.

Another reason Krammer believes the diaries may be forgeries is because no one had ever mentioned them before. Somehow the diaries' existence had escaped notice of even the closest of Hitler's aides — including his valet who wrote an extensive biography about Hitler without ever mentioning the diaries.

Krammer also questions the authenticity of the diaries due to the fact that they came out of East Germany.

"For political reasons, East Germany would like to make the West Germans look like rabid Nazi sympathizers," Krammer said.

"It's just too fortuitous that the diaries come at the peak of interest. It is the 50th anniversary of the Nazis' rise to power in Germany and it's also odd that the diaries were discovered in April, the very same month Hitler committed suicide," Krammer said.

"Now the curious thing is, if the find isn't real, then who did it?" Krammer said. "If a neo-Nazi group did it, then it could rehabilitate Hitler's image and might humanize him. It also could make him seem more in control than he was."

"In some incidences in the diaries, it makes him look like a peacemaker which we knew he was not," he added.

Although he led a sloth-like existence — waking late and taking leisurely walks after breakfast, Krammer said, Hitler did have the self-

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Corps' increasing enrollment due to extra job security, officials say

Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part series on the future of the Corps of Cadets at Texas A&M.

by Diana Sultenfuss

Today's graduates are finding that a college degree no longer is an insurance policy for employment. In the search for jobs, some are turning to Uncle Sam.

Enrollment in Reserve Officer Training Corps programs is booming across the nation, as tens of thousands of students find ROTC scholarships and the promise of post-graduation employment too good to pass up. And at Texas A&M, the path to ROTC leads to membership in the Corps of Cadets.

"The popularity of ROTC nationwide is increasing," Corps Commandant Donald L. Burton said. "That's going to tend to draw more students into participation in the Corps at Texas A&M."

Enrollment in the Corps declined throughout the 1960s and early 1970s, but now is on the upswing. Of the 36,000 students enrolled here, 1,950 — about 6 percent — are cadets.

The Corps will commission 250 officers this year and next year. Texas A&M is the largest producer of military officers of any university outside the service academies.

"Our reputation in the military services is quite high," Burton said. "Officers from Texas A&M hold their own with officers from West Point."

Preston Abbott, 1983-84 Corps commander, said: "The military is getting into the situation where

they're the buyers and not the sellers. They're picking the people that they want."

Abbott said military standards have been raised — 90 percent of all enlisted men now have high school diplomas and the majority of the officers have above a 2.5 college grade point average.

Burton said he thinks the caliber of entering freshmen will increase.

"The two biggest things that are going to change in the Corps in the next 10 years are in the areas of academic achievement and academic background," Burton said. "There will be more technical and more management skills."

"The sort of skills demanded (by the military) are going to require knowledge of computers and mathematics, the ability to think analytically, and the ability to manage systems."

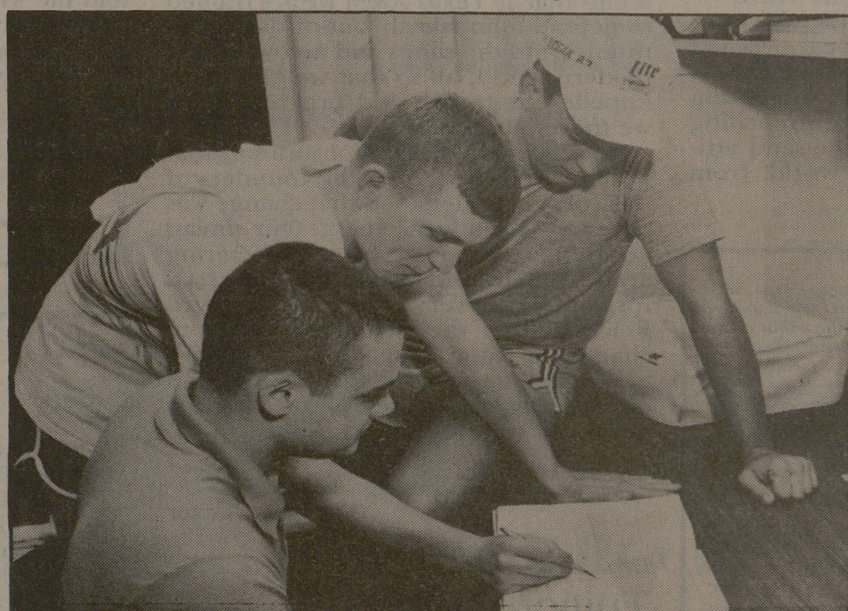
Cadets not only have to grasp those technical and management skills, they also have to maintain a favorable image at the University. And they seem to be succeeding.

President Frank E. Vandiver calls the Corps "the core of a lot of Aggie traditions and the outward symbol of Texas A&M."

"I certainly expect that they will remain a central force and have a great deal to do with maintaining the character of Texas A&M. I hope they get up to a force of at least 3,000 for maximum effectiveness."

Burton says he feels the Corps will achieve this growth.

"Two things will cause this: an influx of more freshmen coming into the Corps and better retention



staff photo by Bill Schulz

Freshman cadet Nathan Abbott and sophomores Greg Bowen and Pat Allen, from left, take advantage of call to quarters to study. The cadets are members of Squadron F.

"If they keep their grades up and good leadership continues, I wouldn't be surprised to see the Corps of Cadets at 4,000 in the next five years, certainly within 10 years."

Abbott says this is a possibility, but it will take a lot of work and a good recruiting program.

Brian Terrell, 1983-84 deputy Corps commander, said the Corps needs to work on grades and the relationship between the Corps and civilians.

"If we can continue to maintain an acceptable academic performance and an acceptable relationship with the rest of the University, including the administration, then we can nearly ensure our longevity," Terrell said. "We do an all right job now, and we're making progress in both areas, especially grades."

Abbott agreed. "Relationships with civilian students will be im-

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Horse race betting measure 'not dead'

AUSTIN — The author of a bill to legalize horse race betting is honing his persuasion skills in hopes of getting one last stab at bringing the Senate-approved gambling measure to the House floor for debate.

House Speaker Pro-Tem Hugo Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi, refused to concede that a narrow committee vote against his racing bill spelled death for parimutuel wagering in the 1983 legislative session.

"It's still at the starting gate," Berlanga said Wednesday.

The House Urban Affairs Committee voted 8-7 against the betting measure Tuesday. A second vote to report the bill unfavorably — a move that would have resulted in a "minority report" enabling debate on the measure by the full House — also failed 8-7.

Berlanga said he now is concentrating on changing the mind of at least one opponent so the bill can be resurrected in the committee to allow the 150-member House to debate the measure.

"It will take another committee vote to get it to the floor," said Berlanga, who originally blamed the measure's defeat on one committee member's confusion over complicated parliamentary procedures that plagued the lengthy debate.

But the speaker pro-tem said Wednesday that Rep. Al Edwards, D-Houston — the swing vote on a committee that was split 7-7 going into Tuesday's meeting — apparently "just wasn't ready to vote for the bill."

"I had hoped that during the course of the action last night that Mr. Edwards or somebody would see fit to change their mind and vote for it," Berlanga said. "But I didn't anticipate 12 amendments, six points of order

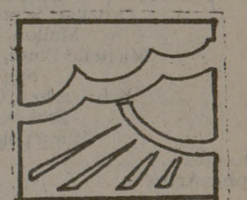
and an appeal of (a parliamentary ruling by) the chairman."

The betting bill, which passed last week in the Senate, would legalize horse race betting upon the issue's approval in a statewide referendum. Local option elections then would clear the way for tracks to operate in individual counties.

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forecast



Clear to partly cloudy skies today with a high of 83. Winds from the south at 10 to 15 mph. Mild temperatures tonight with a low of 64. For Friday, partly cloudy with a high near 85.