



## Rhodes scholarship nominee surprised

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## A&M defense ranked 3rd against the pass

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# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Convention considers highway challenges

by Stephanie M. Ross

Battalion Staff

The Texas state highway system is undergoing a major restructuring, and engineers and managers within the system need to be innovative and creative in order to meet the challenge of the changes, the state engineer and director of the highway department said Tuesday.

State engineer M. G. Goode outlined the recent changes that are causing problems for the state highway department and offered possible solutions at the general session of the 1983 Annual Highway and Transportation Short Course being held at the state capitol.

The theme for the course this year is "The State Highway and Public Transportation System in Transition."

The short course is sponsored by the Texas Transportation Institute — a research arm of the Texas A&M system, and is attended by state highway department engineers and contractors.

Goode outlined the changes that are occurring within the highway department within the past year.

The major change is that the highway system is going from primarily state-funded operation to a

federally funded one.

One year ago the department was not faced with problems, and was looking forward to a possible state tax increase that would raise the needed funds for road repair and construction, Goode said.

If the tax increase was not passed by the state legislature, the department would not be worried, because the state comptroller had said there was excess money for the department for the coming year, 1983.

Then, a major change occurred. On the last day of the regular congressional session, the United States government passed the five cent per gallon gas tax. The president signed the bill in January 1983, and the tax became law.

The new tax was both good and bad for the state, Goode said.

"The good news was that it did give us new federal aid dollars," Goode said. "The bad news was that the people perceived that the problem (of the highway department) had been solved by the new federal dollars."

Federal aid dollars are beneficial to the state, Goode said, but like all federal funds, are given in categories and the state must match the federal funds with state dollars.

The federal aid money will cover all of the needed repairs and construction of the federal highway system, but will cover only 45 percent of the work needed on the U.S. highway system and only 10 to 15 percent of the state highway system, Goode said.

In order to match all of the federal funds needed for current repairs and construction with state funds, the highway department will need to go into deficit financing, which it is not allowed to do, Goode said.

Goode then offered a solution to prevent the shortage of current state funds.

First, the highway department will not spend money on equipment, except in emergency cases. This will save money this year, Goode said, but will be a problem in the future when machinery will have to be replaced.

Secondly, there will be a 5 percent cut in maintenance operations. Money will be saved by using all stockpiled materials and reducing mowing operations and litter pick-up on highways.

Third, the state now will be reimbursed for money used in preliminary engineering work.

## Vet asks A&M to help forgotten' POWs, MIAs

by Steve Thomas

Battalion Staff

James "Bo" Gritz is going all out to help the forgotten Prisoners of War and Missing in Action veterans back home in Vietnam.

And he wants Texas A&M to spearhead his support effort.

"I don't know where it's going to start if it doesn't start at Texas A&M," Gritz said.

Gritz said the United States never accounted for over 2,500 soldiers who went to Vietnam.

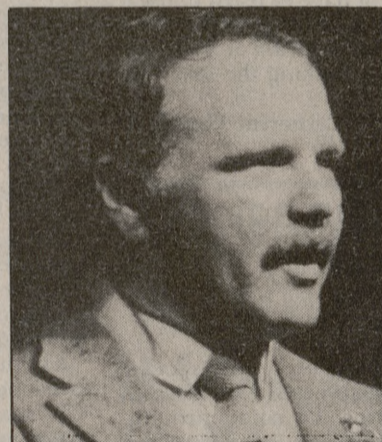
"But, now, it is not in the best interest of the United States to bring them back," he said. "By damn, I don't believe in living a double standard."

Gritz spent four years in Vietnam believing he was doing the right thing. Then, he said, a general told him that the United States had no intention of winning the war, and Gritz left Vietnam the next chance he had.

"If they wanted to fight a political war, they should have sent Congress members there," he said.

But the issue, Gritz said, is that there are Americans still being held captive in Vietnam.

He said there are pictures of Americans in POW camps and there is a constant flow of reports from people coming out of that country who have been captive Americans. He also said that the Vietnamese will neither admit nor deny that they are holding



James "Bo" Gritz

doesn't read the mail. Some weenie in the White House ...". At that point his statement was interrupted by deafening whoops.

"In America we've become a nation of spectators," he said, adding that citizens should have more communication with their representatives.

"Those people work for you," he said.

Gritz wants Texas A&M to raise the POW-MIA flag over the University in support of his and other efforts to get Americans out of Vietnam once and for all.

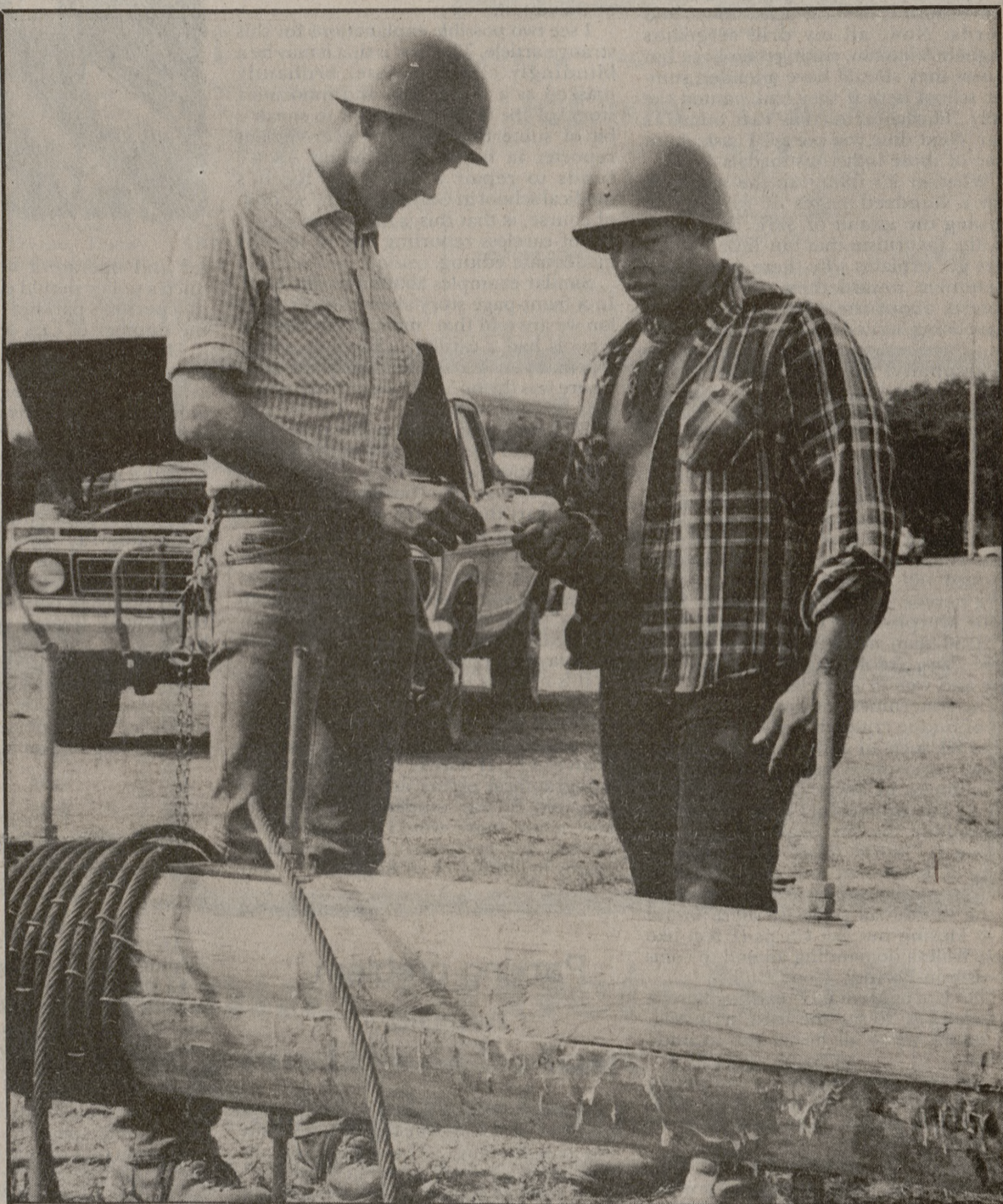


Photo by Eric Ray

### Last Minute Decisions

Junior Redpots Keith Anderson, left, and Ian Carnegie, right, make last minute preparations on the Bonfire centerpole before it goes up today at 4:03 p.m., the

traditional raising time. Anderson is a building construction major from San Antonio and Carnegie is an engineering technology major from Spring.

## Village of Hope drive continues

### 30 student organizations to participate in raising funds

by Ronnie Crocker

Battalion Staff

More than 30 student organizations, including dorms, professional societies and fraternities and sororities, are joining in the effort to raise \$25,000 for the Texas A&M Village of Hope project.

The project calls for the sponsoring of 120 underprivileged children in Colombia, South America. A pledge has been made to raise the money by Dec. 15. So far, about \$4,000 has been raised and \$6,000 has been pledged.

The project recently was made part of the external affairs committee of Student Government. Vice President for External Affairs Jay Holland says his committee was given charge of the project because the effort needed an organization that was linked to various other student groups on campus.

### Five students to attempt a 24-hour marathon for CCF

by Ronnie Crocker

Battalion Staff

Five students will attempt to run 24 consecutive hours this weekend to raise money for the Texas A&M Christian Children's Fund's Village of Hope project.

Peggy Benham, Selina Mendieta, Kendall Graham, Stacie Reich and Jennifer Hartzell will begin the run at 10 a.m. Saturday.

Each runner will run one mile and hand off a baton to the next. The run

will be non-stop and if one of the women drops out, the remaining will continue.

Four of the women participated in the run last year. That group set a world record by running within a few yards of 190 miles, only to have their feat disqualified because of inaccurate measuring.

The record is 186 miles, 262 yards. Last year, the run began on the aerobics track and was transferred to

the Kyle Field track following a Corps of Cadets function and marathon race that simultaneously were being held there. The location switch was responsible for the inaccurate measurements.

Several student groups are sponsoring the runners and collecting donations for them. Among them are Underwood Hall, United Campus Ministries, Aston Hall, Omega Phi Alpha, Chi Omega and the Marketing Society.

lar says that \$362 was collected from his dorm. Schuhmacher also sponsored a car wash with Keathley Hall. The money collected at the car wash was donated to United Way and to the Village of Hope.

The Engineering Technology Society will sell Tyler Roses the week before the SMU game. President Lowell Brooks says about one-third of the proceeds will go to the project.

Delta Delta Delta sorority went door-to-door in College Station neighborhoods and raised more than \$550 in donations on Oct. 7.

Aggie Cowboys President Mark Cone says the fraternity is sponsoring a Bourbon Street Bash and hopes to raise between \$8,000 and \$12,000. The money will be split between the Village of Hope, Spindletop Farms and the American Heart Association, with most of the money going to the AHA.

The Omega Phi Alpha service sorority has a table in the Blocker

Building this week for donations.

In addition to these projects, five women are planning to run for 24 hours around the Kyle Field track starting at 10 a.m. Saturday. They will be sponsored by the mile or by straight donations. The Marketing Society and Underwood Hall will gather sponsors for the run.

Students also can meet at the Blocker Building every Saturday morning at 9:30 and be assigned a neighborhood section of the Bryan-College Station area to go door-to-door asking for donations.

The Village of Hope project is coordinated through the Christian Children's Fund, a charity organization that aids starving children around the world.

The \$25,000 pledge was made last spring when CCF national chairperson Sally Struthers came to Texas A&M to thank the Corps of Cadets for sponsoring five underprivileged children.

Rother's Bookstore is donating t-shirts to the women for the run. Benham, an animal science major from Virginia, says the runners aren't concentrating on the setting a world record because of the uncertainty of the weather. They mainly are interested in just raising money for the Village of Hope, she says.

She says she hopes people will come to the run because "it's going to be hard."

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### forecast

Partly cloudy skies, highs in the mid eighties.