

# Public school systems better, President says

United Press International

LAS VEGAS, Nev. — President Reagan said Tuesday his back-to-basics policies have stemmed the decline of U.S. public schools and he belittled Democrats for saying future progress depends on increased federal spending.

In speeches to a convention of school principals and at a GOP luncheon, Reagan proclaimed that Republicans "are the ones with courage enough to call for basic reform."

The president stopped in Las Vegas on the way to his California ranch, where he planned to stay through the weekend. His stay could be interrupted, however, by developments in Beirut, where the Lebanese Army and Moslem rebels have engaged in the heaviest fighting since the 1975-76 civil war.

"We've traveled far in improving our schools," Reagan told the National Association of Secondary School Principals. But, he added, "I don't believe there is one principal in this room who wouldn't agree our journey has just begun."

"We cannot allow our children to continue falling behind" students of other nations, such as Japan or the Soviet Union, he said. "Instead, we must insist that all American students master the basics — math, science, history, reading and writing — that have always formed the core of our civilization." Dismissing those who insist more money is needed to bring about lasting educational reform, Reagan said progress cannot be measured in dollars. He said the alarming decline in the quality of education came during a decade during which spending on public education doubled.

"If money alone were the answer, the problem would have been shrinking, not growing. And those who constantly call for more money are the same people who presided over two decades of unbroken educational decline," he said.

His criticism was directed at Democratic front-runner Walter Mondale, who has the endorsement of the nation's largest teachers' union and whose education proposals hinge on billions of dollars in

additional federal aid.

The White House described the speech as non-political, but Reagan picked up on the same theme an hour later at a \$500-a-person GOP fund-raiser, where

*"We cannot allow our children to continue falling behind" students of other nations, such as Japan or the Soviet Union, Reagan said.*

he said Republicans "are the ones with courage enough to call for basic reform" in education.

Voters, he said, must recognize "that it is the Republicans who have a bold vision of the future." After spending 10 months decrying a modern-day crisis in education, Reagan dis-

played a changed tone in his speech to principals, saying the quality of public schools is improving.

"Just as our schools were in decline during the bad days, today they're playing their part in the national renewal," he said.

While asserting that his "back to basics" crusade, initiated last spring, has begun to stem the decline in educational quality, Reagan emphasized the continuing need for tougher academic standards and "good, old-fashioned discipline."

"I can't say it too forcefully: to get learning back into our schools, we must get crime and violence out," he said.

"We must teach our sons and daughters a proper respect for academic standards, for codes of civilized behavior and for knowledge itself — not for the sake of those standards, not for the sake of those codes, not even for the sake of that knowledge, but for the sake of those young human beings."

# SG to consider written requirements proposal

By ED ALANIS  
Staff Writer

The Student Senate will meet tonight to discuss a bill that would require professors to provide course requirements to students in written form.

According to the 1983-1984 Texas A&M University Regulations, the basis for computing final grades in a course must only be announced to students during the first week of class. The announcement may be in written or oral form.

Because many students miss

the first class meetings because of registration and drop-add problems, and because oral announcements can be misinterpreted, a bill has been introduced to the Student Senate requiring instructors to provide in writing the basis for final grade determinations.

The senate also will discuss a proposal to place large maps of the campus in some of the main buildings, such as the Memorial Student Center. The maps, similar to those in shop-

ping malls, will aid visitors and new students. Funding for the project has not been determined.

Old business will include updates on the Zachry Crosswalk Bill and the Midterm Grade Policy Change Bill. Both of these bills have been locked up in committee since last semester.

The meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. in 204 Harrington.

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# Proposal suggests size cut

United Press International

AUSTIN — Rep. Frank Madla, D-San Antonio, said Tuesday he would like to see the 27-member state Board of Education replaced by a full-time three-member board that would administer education much the same way as the Railroad Commission regulates utility rates.

But the proposal, made at a meeting of a subcommittee of H. Ross Perot's Select Committee on Public Education, was generally greeted with skepticism.

"I've got two no's and one maybe," said Madla.

Perot's full committee is expected on March 1 to recommend sweeping reforms in the state's public education system. The Texas Legislature will address the recommendations in a special session, probably in early June.

Madla said if the Legislature wants to upgrade education by making changes in middle management areas of education, it must also look at the top management.

"I've got serious concerns with a 27-member board that's too bulky and meets only once a month," he said. "I don't think that's sufficient."

Madla said he envisioned an education agency run much the same way the Railroad Commission or Insurance Board is administered.

The three education board members would be elected at-large in a statewide election, he said, and would function as "lobbyists for education."

The current board — elected by congressional districts — spends too much time dealing with local issue, he said, and is too heavily influenced by special interests.

But Madla said his plan, which has not been formalized, was not intended as criticism of Texas education commissioner Raymon Bynum or board members.

# Civil rights complaint filed

United Press International

AUSTIN — A former schoolteacher who claims racial discrimination caused her to be hospitalized for hysteria has filed a civil rights complaint against the Austin Independent School District, court records showed Tuesday.

Former sixth grade teacher Christine Reid said discrimination began when she was transferred from one elementary school to another in 1981.

Reid said school officials discriminated against her by refusing to give her keys to the school building, declining to introduce her at an orientation session and questioning students about her teaching ability.

In October 1981, she said she developed "severe physical and emotional symptoms including hemorrhaging and hysteria. Reid said she was hospitalized for eight days and resigned in November 1981.

She said she was refused full-time employment in 1982.

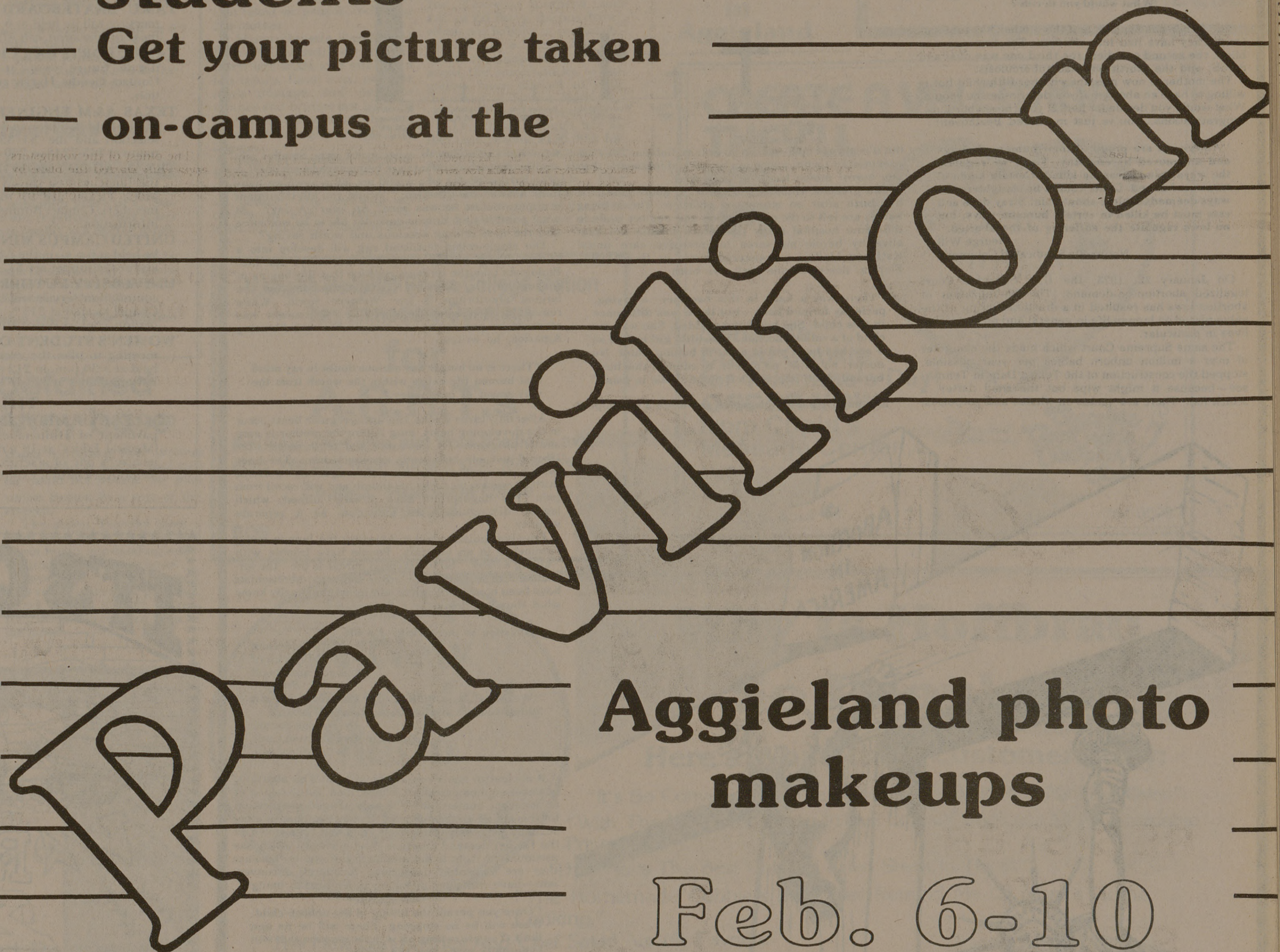
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— Grad, Vet, Med

— students

— Get your picture taken

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# Aggieland photo makeups

# Feb. 6-10

8:30 a.m.-12 noon, 1:00 p.m.-4:30 p.m.  
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