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Texas A&M The Battalion

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Reagans dine with governors

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan invited the nation's governors to the White House Sunday to underscore his commitment to a re-orientation of government power that has proven difficult to accomplish.

The president and Mrs. Reagan, back from a relaxing weekend at Camp David, arranged a black-tie dinner for state chief executives in town for the three-day winter meeting of the National Governors' Association.

After being wined and dined, the governors return to the White House Monday to hear such key figures as budget director David Stockman and national security adviser Robert McFarlane explain — and defend — administration policy.

The dinner came hours after the U.S. Marines were airlifted from their positions at the Beirut airport

to the safety of warships off the Lebanese coast, completing a withdrawal announced Feb. 7 and begun one week ago.

However, the officials acknowledged these decisions — including further aid to Lebanon and special envoy Donald Rumsfeld's return to the Middle East — were among those discussed at a pair of top-level meetings Thursday and Friday, involving Reagan and his key foreign policy advisers.

Reagan planned to use the occasion to return to a favorite theme of his 1980 campaign and one of the fundamental goals of his presidency: shifting the pendulum of power from Washington back to states and local governments.

Under pressure from Congress and state and local officials who viewed his multibillion-dollar proposals with trepidation, Reagan has scaled back his New Federalism initiatives.

Midterms not mailed; to be at the Pavilion

By KARI FLUEGEL

Reporter

Midterm grades will be handed out again at the Pavilion instead of being mailed to students.

They will be handed out from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. beginning Wednesday, March 7.

The Registrar's Office changed its procedure of mailing midterm grade reports to students last fall, but copies of the grades still are mailed to the parents of students who have authorized it.

"We think it is an effective way to give out grades and we will continue to do it again this spring," Associate Registrar Donald Carter said.

About 29,000 grade reports were produced on undergraduates last semester, Carter said, but only about 50 percent of the grades were picked up.

"We had a few lines the first couple of days, because everyone was anxious to get their grades," Carter said, "but after that, it smoothed out and there was very little waiting time."

Part of the reasoning behind the switch in operations was the savings in postage. In past years, hundreds of grade reports were returned because of incomplete or incorrect student addresses, Carter said.

"Kids are so mobile," he said. "Addresses change and they don't keep abreast of the changes or we don't get them changed soon enough."

Additional labor had to be hired to hand out the reports but the postage

costs still outweighed the labor costs, Carter said. Another plus to handing out grades instead of mailing them is that students get the grades faster, he said.

"It saves money and kids get their grades faster," he said. "There are all these pluses, so we think it was a wise decision and will continue to give out grades."

Carter said Texas A&M is one of the few major universities that still gives midterm grades. He speculated that midterm grades one day will be done away with.

"The question has come up before to do away with them and it is usually the AOC (the Academic Operation Committee), which is made up of assistant and associate deans, that says 'No, let's not do that,'" Carter said.

Carter said many faculty members don't like the extra work it requires to compute an average in the middle of the semester. He also said that the grades are often based only on one quiz and that the instructors sometimes give blanket grades.

"I feel the deans that deal with the students feel the grades are important, especially in flagging those students who have all Ds or Fs," Carter said.

"They can catch these kids early in the semester so they can say 'Hey, get on the stick' or 'Let's get you some help.' Since they are used this way I think we will continue to have midterm grades."

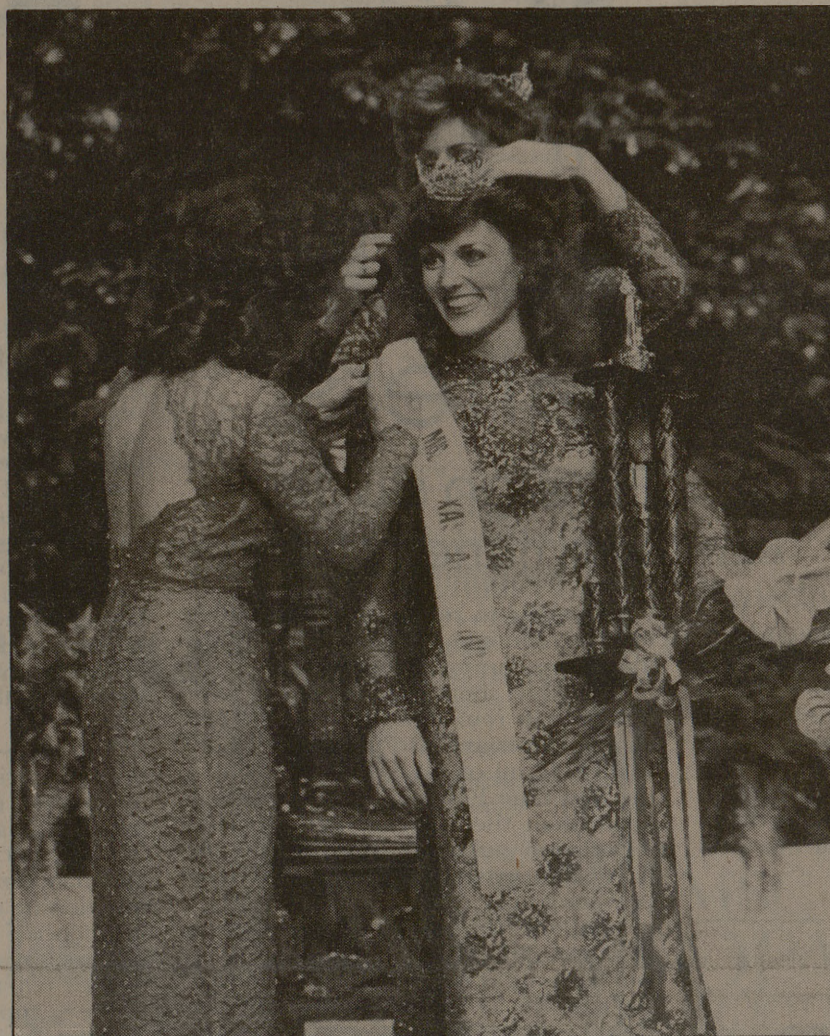


Photo by BILL HUGHES

Miss TAMU 1984

Kim Elizabeth Walters receives her crown from Theresa Jones at the Miss TAMU scholarship pageant in Rudder Auditorium Saturday night. Walters is a senior secondary education major from Orange.

Walters named Miss Texas A&M

By ED ALANIS

Staff Writer

Amidst gala pageantry, reigning Miss Texas A&M University Theresa Jones handed over her crown Saturday night to the new Miss Texas A&M, Kim Walters.

Walters, a senior secondary education major from Orange, entertained the audience with a medley of songs from the Broadway musical, "A Chorus Line." Talent counted as half of the contestants' scores.

Walters will go on to represent Texas A&M in the 1984 Miss Texas Pageant, to be held in Fort Worth in July. As Miss Orange County 1983, she participated in last year's Miss Texas pageant and received a special Judges' Award.

First runner-up was Dorothy Beeler, a freshman from Richmond. Beeler also participated in the 1983 Miss Texas Pageant as Miss Fort Bend County.

Carolyn Coffey, a sophomore speech communications major from Sanger, was second runner-up. Third runner-up was Christy Langford, a sophomore computer science major from Spring. Theresa Fritz, a junior from San Antonio in her first year of veterinary school, received fourth runner-up.

The 20 finalists participating in Saturday's competition were picked by a panel of judges in November. Judges for Saturday night were model Willa Bratcher, past president of the Association of Former Students Jack Fritts, and former Miss Texas, Sheri Ryman. Ryman was Miss Texas A&M 1981 and fourth runner-up to Miss America 1982.

Mistress of ceremonies was Cindy

Green, a former Miss Texas A&M and first runner-up to Miss Texas 1983. Green performed a piano solo for the audience.

Other entertainment included a singing performance by the reigning Miss Texas A&M and a song and dance number by the Texas A&M Reveliers.

For the opening number, the twenty contestants performed a song and dance routine to a medley from the Broadway hit "It's Showtime."

In the talent competition, finalists danced, sang, twirled batons, played instruments, and one even acted out a dramatic monologue. Deana Tunnell, a senior from Nederland, received the non-finalist award for talent, for her oboe solo.

The non-finalist award for the swimsuit competition was given to LaRhesa Moon, a sophomore from San Antonio.

1984 was the fifth year of the Miss Texas A&M University Pageant, a project of the Memorial Student Center Hospitality Committee. During its first year in 1980, the pageant was named Outstanding First Year Pageant within the Miss Texas franchise. Several participants have gone on to receive recognition in the Miss Texas pageants.

As the new Miss Texas A&M, Walters will receive a \$1,000 scholarship, a \$1,000 wardrobe allowance, use a 50-diamond pendant valued at over \$3,000, the official Miss Texas A&M crown and trophy, and the use of a 1984 Cadillac.

The runners-up will also receive scholarships.

Last of U.S. Marines leave Beirut

United Press International

BEIRUT — The U.S. Marines ended their 17-month peace-keeping mission in Beirut Sunday with the last Americans leaving their airport base 40 minutes before U.S. warships fired their mammoth guns at Druze rebel targets.

The last Marine amphibious assault vehicle drove off Lebanese soil at 12:37 p.m. and churned its way to U.S. warships stationed off the Lebanese coast.

Six minutes later, Shiite Moslem militiamen, who are fighting to topple the U.S.-backed Lebanese government along with other rebel factions, ran up their own flag over the former Marine base at Beirut Airport.

"If they wanted peacekeepers, they should've wanted peace," said Lt. Peter Walton, a 25-year-old tank

commander from Cincinnati, Ohio. "The only peace I saw was them shooting at us, shooting at each other."

Forty minutes after the Marines left for the safety of the 6th Fleet, U.S. warships opened fire for the second time in 24 hours at the Druze-held mountains overlooking Beirut.

The roar of cannons, including the huge 16-inch guns of the USS New Jersey, the world's only operational battleship, shook Beirut.

"A routine air reconnaissance mission received hostile fire," Pentagon spokesman Lt. Col. Bill Hudson said in Washington. "The battleship New Jersey responded with 16 rounds of 16-inch and the USS caron added 50 rounds of 5-inch directed against the suspected hostile fire locations."

The mountain radio station of the Syrian-backed Druze rebels reported

one U.S. plane had been hit, but Hudson said the single F-14 from the nuclear aircraft carrier USS Kennedy returned safely.

The Caron's rhythmic barrage of 5-inch cannon fire came 12 hours after the same American destroyer fired about 90 rounds at Druze rebel positions.

Hudson said the first barrage was precipitated by rebel shelling toward "some U.S. forces — parts of the multinational force." Hudson did not say where the troops were. A State Department source said the fire was to protect U.S. artillery spotters in the Christian mountain town of Beit Meri.

Despite fears of drawing fire as they left, the Marines were surrounded Sunday only by curious Lebanese.

The final pullout began at dawn —

at the same beach where the Marines arrived Sept. 29, 1982 — with helicopters carrying men and equipment over the unseasonably calm waters of the Mediterranean Sea.

Inside the main compound encircling Beirut airport, units of the Lebanese army's 6th Brigade took up positions. Amal Shiite militiamen were on the perimeter.

The brigade, which had refused to fight the Moslem rebel takeover of west Beirut three weeks ago, manned posts on the road to the airport and on higher ground in the center of the former Marine compound.

The Marines followed the British and Italian contingents of the multinational force out of Beirut, leaving only the French.

Candidates in special election defining main issues differently

By KAREN WALLACE

Staff Writer

The March 10 special election to fill the 14th district state representative seat vacated by Bill Prenal has been in the public eye recently. Candidates have been holding frequent press conferences and some students are upset about the election date.

However, not much has been said about the candidates and the issues that are important to them. The three candidates are front-runners Neeley Lewis and Richard Smith, and a newcomer to politics John D. Seaman.

The issue that appears most often between the front-runners is party affiliation.

Seaman says the main issue is Texas A&M funding.

Neeley Lewis, a College Station Democrat, says people need to look at the real issue — that the majority of legislative leaders are Democrats.

The stakes are too high to risk trying to get a Republican into a lead-

ership position on a committee," he said at a press conference where Sen. Kent Caperton announced his endorsement of Lewis.

Because he is a Democrat, Lewis says he would be in a leadership position from the start.

The first goal Lewis says he would like to meet are to find out the various legislative needs of people in the Brazos County, including Texas A&M, and to hold a special session dealing with education.

Lewis says his eight years as Democratic Party Chairman gave him the experience in working with elected officials and a knowledge of the political process.

"Richard Smith should be given credit for being mayor, but Lewis knows how to get the job done," said Sen. Kent Caperton.

Richard Smith, a Bryan Republican, disagrees with Lewis' stand on Democratic leadership in Austin. There have been many Republican leaders including Bob Davis who chaired the Ways and Means Com-

mittee for two sessions under former Texas House Speaker Bill Clayton, Smith says.

Because of his experience as mayor and a councilman, Smith says he is certain he will be more effective than Lewis and that his party affiliation makes no difference.

Smith, who was mayor of Bryan for five years, is the only Republican in the race and the Texas A&M College Republicans organization feels he is at a disadvantage because the election day is the first Saturday of spring break. Texas A&M students, who have a history of voting strongly Republican, will not be here to vote and absentee voter turn out usually isn't very high.

Smith, who wants a pay increase for classroom teachers, a new district court and repaired county roads, says he believes county voters approve of other Republicans, so his party affiliation should be an advantage.

John D. Seaman, also a College Station Democrat, says the main issue

is preserving the Permanent University Fund.

Presently, the PUF is divided between Texas A&M's and The University of Texas' main campuses. A proposed bill is asking that the Available University Fund — proceeds from bonds issued against PUF lands — be made available to Prairie View A&M University as well as UT and Texas A&M.

Seaman, a newcomer to politics, supports the House Joint Resolution 19 (HJR) which would keep the PUF and AUF as funds only for the University of Texas and Texas A&M.

"The reason I'm in favor of the HJR is because any pie you can cut into too many pieces," Seaman said. "The key to excellence is the more money you put into education at one school, the better that school is going to be."

Seaman, a College Station pharmacist, says he is against parimutuel betting, favored a stronger Sunday closing law and wants to raise the drinking age to 21.

In Today's Battalion

Local

• The MSC Outdoor Recreation Committee will sponsor an Outdoor Horizons Conference beginning today. See story page 5.

Nation

• Colleges and universities around the nation are facing a stampede of freshman applications. See story page 6.
• Richard Pryor and Billy Dee Williams were among several famous blacks inducted into the Filmmaker's Hall of Fame. See story page 7.

World

• Alleged nude photos of Prince Andrew's girlfriend appeared on the front page of a British newspaper. See story page 3.