

Midterms available today at Pavilion

Happy Spring Break!

Operation: Mop-up a big success

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Texas A&M The Battalion

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College Station, Texas

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B/CS not a hot spot for the break

By LEIGH FORREST
Reporter

Spring Break on the slopes. Spring break on the beach. Spring break in College Station??

If you are one of the few Aggies spending March 9-18 in Aggieland, you might be wondering what you can do. Here are some helpful hints on what's happening in College Station over Spring break.

Most of Texas A&M will stay open until 5 p.m. on Tuesday and then remain closed for the rest of the week. This includes the Memo-

rial Student Center. So you better cash your checks before then.

Food services says the MSC cafeteria is the only dining establishment that will be open during Spring Break and it will only remain open until 5 p.m. Tuesday with the rest of the MSC.

Although the MSC will be closed, the post office will be open during the following hours:

Monday-Tuesday 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Wednesday-Thursday 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

The MSC will reopen at noon

Sunday, March 18.

Facilities in East Kyle will also close on Tuesday at 5 p.m. and will not reopen again until the following Monday.

For those students who are staying in College Station to study, the library has set special hours for the break:

Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Monday-Tuesday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Wednesday-Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sunday 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

If you live off campus, you'll have to find your own ride to campus, because the shuttle service stops today at 5 p.m.

If you live on campus, you'll have to live without members of the opposite sex for a while. The Housing Office is not permitting visitation in the residence halls over the break. The Housing Office is also locking all women's residence halls and lounge areas for security reasons.

If you are stuck in College Station for Spring Break, just be careful and TRY to have fun!

Computerized farms tested

By DAINAH BULLARD
Staff Writer

With the help of a half-million dollar grant and 30 donated computers, Texas A&M University is ushering in the age of the computerized farm.

The "Year 2000 Computerized Farm," a three-year, \$1.2 million project, is being tested at the Stiles Foundation Farm, a 3,124 acre farm near Thrall in Williamson County. A building designed to house the 30 computers was completed in late February. The computers will be installed in March, and the first computer training program for county extension agents, farmers and ranchers is scheduled for June.

The computerized farm project began in December, 1983, the result of a \$500,000 grant from the W.K. Kellogg Foundation and 30 microcomputers provided by Texas Instruments, Inc.

"It's probably the first (computerized farm) in the world where you can demonstrate the technology," said Dr. James M. McGrann, director of the project. "The key is being able to bring in farmers and ranchers to a real world situation with computers. There's a big difference in just lecturing farmers, and being able to show them a real operation using computers."

McGrann, an assistant professor of agricultural economics, said the project will emphasize the use of com-

puters in accounting and financial management, production and performance records, and decision making.

The "Year 2000 Computerized Farm" is sponsored by the Texas A&M University System, including the Texas Agricultural Extension Service and the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station. The departments of agricultural economics, agricultural engineering, animal science, entomology, horticulture, meteorology, rural sociology, soil and crop sciences, veterinary medicine, and wildlife and fisheries are also involved in the computerized farm project.

"It won't be long before a farmer goes to a bank and must provide computer information for a loan," McGrann said. "We're fooling ourselves to think they can put off using this stuff."

McGrann said computers are being used on the Stiles Farm to keep production and performance records for swine, cattle and catfish operations. Computers are also being used to keep field records, he said.

Computers may prove most valuable to farmers as decision-making aids. McGrann said the computers can be programmed to compare crops and evaluate investment choices, government programs and marketing alternatives.

"Texas needs this system,"

McGrann said. "The state is very diversified, and that makes management skills more important."

Yearly evaluation of the effectiveness of the computer training program will be under the direction of Dr. Howard W. Ladewig, associate professor of rural sociology. Ladewig said the yearly evaluations will serve two purposes.

"The first thing we're trying to do is determine the knowledge they (the farmers) have coming into the Stiles Farm," Ladewig said. "Second, we'll determine what they learned and how they applied it."

Ladewig said the program will train two types of people — the educators, or county extension agents, and the farmers and ranchers.

The organization of farms and the control the farmer has as decision maker may make it difficult to convince some farmers of the necessity of computers, Ladewig said. Farmers will have to be shown the value of computers, he said.

"From my perspective, a computer is most helpful for making decisions over periods of time," Ladewig said. "The computer can help intensify the management process because more information will be available to farmers."

The host of the "Year 2000 Computerized Farm," the Stiles Farm, was bequeathed to Texas by the late J.V. and H.A. Stiles. As requested in

the brothers' will, the Texas A&M Regents assumed trusteeship of the Stiles Foundation on Sept. 23, 1961.

The Stiles Farm is a non profit, self-supporting institution. Commodities produced on the farm include cotton, wheat, sorghum, corn, oats, hay, forages, garden vegetables, blackberries and grapes. The farm also maintains cattle, swine and catfish operations.

Since 1961, the foundation has been a demonstration farm for the Blacklands area, said Dr. O.D. Butler Jr., associate deputy chancellor for agriculture.

"It's been a demonstration farm the whole time," Butler said. "The new grant we got from the Kellogg Foundation just enables us to do demonstrations of a little more advanced nature."

Butler said management plans for the Stiles Farm are made with the cooperation of county agents from the five counties near the farm (Williamson, Bell, Burnet, Milam and Travis counties).

The Stiles Farm will have a field day June 19. Tours of the farm, with county extension agents serving as tour guides, and a speech explaining the "Year 2000 Computerized Farm" project are scheduled for the day, Butler said.

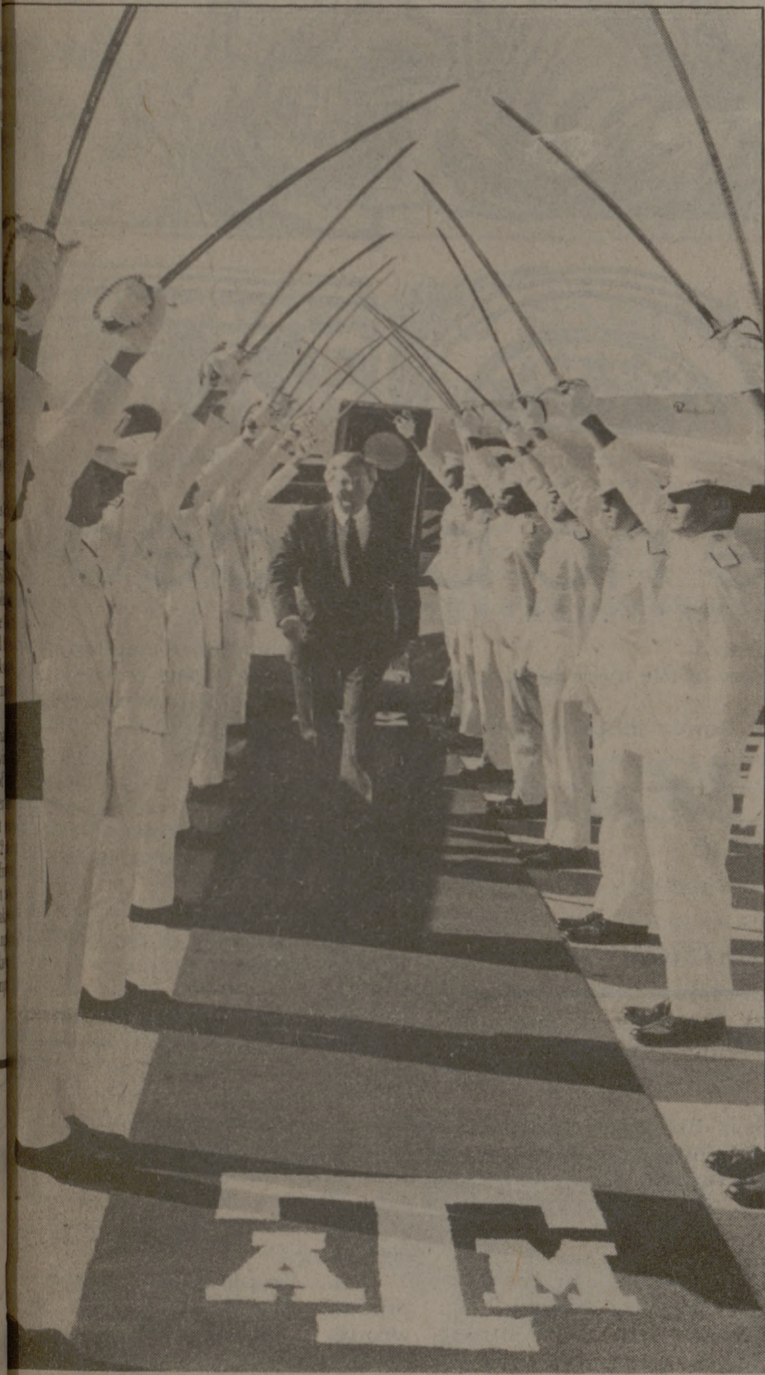


Photo by JOHN RYAN

Tribute to the Governor

The Ross Volunteers give Gov. Mark White the 'red carpet' treatment during his arrival at Easterwood Airport Thursday. The Governor was in town to speak at the county clerks and district attorneys conference held at the Ramada Inn.

School prayer compromise pushed by backers

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Opponents to organized school prayer continued their attacks Thursday, believing that this is aiding their fight against a constitutional amendment still seven votes shy of Senate passage. "The longer that people have a chance to think, the better our chances are," said the Rev. Charles Bergstrom of the Lutheran Council. He said opponents are only beginning attempts to counter the massive, well-funded campaign for organized school prayer mounted by the religious right.

Still short of the two-thirds vote needed for passage of a constitutional amendment, supporters are revising the proposal to mollify undecided senators. After a couple hours of debate the Senate quit until Monday. No vote on the amendment is expected until next week and may be delayed still more.

Backers have come up with a compromise that allows silent meditation in classrooms as well as vocal prayer. It permits Bible study or religious meetings on school grounds. And the newest modification says students who do not wish to pray aloud must

be provided a place to go.

Senate GOP leader Howard Baker defended the prayer proposal by quoting scripture. "The fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much."

"It's linguistic hocus-pocus," said the Rev. Barry Lynn of the American Civil Liberties Union. He says prayers supplied by school boards or teachers would tend to favor the religion practiced by most of the community, thereby discriminating against minority faiths.

To make the point, Lynn held a news conference with two mothers

who objected to prayer sessions held by the Little Axe, Okla., schools their children attend. At the mandatory meetings hymns were sung, teachers prayed aloud and Bible verses were read.

"Has everyone in Washington gone crazy?" asked Jo Ann Bell, who filed a 1981 lawsuit to stop the prayer sessions together with the ACLU and Lucille McCord. Their suit comes to trial next fall in federal court.

Bell said she was threatened by neighbors, beaten by a school worker, her home burned down and her children were branded commu-

nists because of her objections.

"Anyone who says, as President Reagan has said, that a little bit of prayer never hurt anyone, has never been in our situation," said Bell, a member of the Church of the Nazarene, a Methodist offshoot.

She and McCord, who belongs to the Church of Christ, moved from Little Axe because of harassment they cited.

"I resent the fact that Ronald Reagan and Jerry Falwell are saying the Supreme Court took God out of our schools," McCord said. "I was raised to believe that God is, and always will

be, everywhere.

Supporters say the decisions by the Supreme Court 20 years ago banning government-sponsored school prayer interfere with the right of Americans to practice their faith freely.

Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., objected to the claims of some supporters that school prayer will help bring back traditional values.

"I don't think anyone's getting into heaven ... merely because they get goose pimples up and down their back hearing Kate Smith sing God Bless America," Hatfield said.

Iran says it drove off Iraqi attack to stay in control of oil-rich island

United Press International
Iran said it repulsed Iraqi forces in an overnight battle Thursday to maintain control of oil-rich Majnoon Island, Tehran radio said in its three-week Gulf War offensive. The claims broadcast on Tehran radio, monitored in London, came as Iran protested an Iraqi missile attack on a British cargo ship March 1 on the third strike against a foreign ship in a week. Fighting centered on Majnoon Island in the oil-rich marshes near the port of Basra for the third straight day, Tehran radio said. The artificial island built to tap the rich oil reserves is Iran's most important gain since it launched a

major offensive against Iraq Feb. 21. The island has an untapped oil field with estimated reserves of 7 billion barrels. Iranian troops captured it Feb. 24.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini's fundamentalist fighters launched an attack Wednesday and the fighting raged for four hours, Tehran radio said.

"An important part of the mechanized and armor-plated forces of the enemy was destroyed and a large number of Iraqi troops were killed or wounded," the radio said. It gave no further details.

Arab League officials polled member states on Iraq's call for an urgent summit of Arab foreign ministers to

discuss the Gulf War. Iraq wants the meeting to be held in Baghdad next Tuesday.

Britain's Foreign Office summoned Iraqi Ambassador, Dr. Wahbi Al-Qaraghuli, and instructed him to deliver a message to Baghdad protesting the Iraqi missile attack on a British cargo vessel, the 19,200-ton Charming, Foreign Office minister Richard Luce told Parliament.

Damage was substantial, crewmembers were forced to abandon ship and the vessel was stuck on a sandbank near Bandar Khomeini at the northern end of the Gulf.

The Iraqi attack was aimed at cutting Iran's oil export route through the Hormuz Strait. The neighboring

countries have been at war since September 1980.

Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher rejected suggestions that the Strait of Hormuz be patrolled by a U.N. force. She reiterated that Britain was prepared to help the United States keep the shipping lane open if necessary.

"I think it would be extremely difficult if not impossible for the U.N. to mount a maritime peace-keeping force," Mrs. Thatcher said.

U.S. contingency arrangements were "the best way to keep open these straits," she said, alluding to the force of U.S. warships in the area to back up President Reagan's pledge to keep Hormuz open.

In Today's Battalion

Local

• 40 Texas A&M cadets will spend their spring break in their hometowns recruiting freshmen for the Corps of Cadets. See story page 3.

• A Kurten man interrupted two burglars in his home Thursday afternoon and shot them. They were later apprehended at the Brazos County Health Center. See story page 8.

State

• James "Cowboy" Autry has appealed for a stay from his March 14 execution. See story page 6.

• The University Interscholastic League has said it will regulate junior high athletics beginning in the 1984-1985 school year. See story page 7.