

This weekend is last to cut for the bonfire

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Remember — juniors A-K register today

Aggie spikers teach Owls 3-game lesson

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# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Resolution referred to committee

By DAINAH BULLARD  
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M Student Senate voted Wednesday night to refer to a committee a resolution recommending that the University encourage women to participate in the Aggie Band.

The senate heard comments about the issue from Brian Hay, the senator from the Graduate College who created the resolution, and band commander John Ripley. The senate debated for about 1 1/2 hours before reaching their decision.

Introducing the resolution, Hay presented both sides of the issue. He listed several factors which favor the resolution, including the equal treatment rules listed in A&M's Rules and Regulations handbook. The strongest argument against the resolution is tradition, he said.

"I'm not anti-tradition, I'm not anti-Corps, and I'm not anti-band," Hay said. "All I'm doing in this resolution is asking for equality for all."

Ripley surprised some senators by pointing out that women have not been denied membership in the band since Melanie Zentgraf first filed her lawsuit in 1979.

Though some women have considered joining the band, they changed their minds when they realized it was a military band, not a show band, he said.

Ripley said band members will abide by the decision made by a federal court of law concerning the Zentgraf case.

"Whatever the decision is, we are law-abiding citizens, and we will do what the University says," Ripley said. "My people will deal with this as best they can."

Ripley said he believes the student body is interested in maintaining the traditional all-male band.

"We're the last one around," he said. "There are no more all-male marching military bands. That's why we feel this love for it. We are the last of our kind."

Eric Thode, speaker pro tempore, referred the resolution to the Student Services Committee. The resolution will be a topic at the Nov. 19 Issues and Grievances Meeting, at 7:30 p.m. in Rudder 604. All students are invited to attend the meeting.

The senate heard reports from Judicial Board Chairman Lindsey Dingmore and the vice presidents of the senate's five committees.

Brett Shine, vice president of external affairs, and Mike Hachtman, liaison to the College Station City Council, reported that the city has received permission from Missouri Pacific Railroads to close the Luther Street crossing and open a new railroad crossing at Holleman Street.

The project will be funded by the city and the businesses on the west side of the railroad tracks, Hachtman said.



Hello

Jean Ross, left, a freshman marketing major from Waco and Lynn Allen, an elementary education major from Houston make good

use of the phone booths for sitting as well as for talking. The two say these booths at the Commons are often used this way.

Photo by MIKE SANCHEZ

## Nicaragua says U.S. ship, plane in their territory

United Press International

CORINTO, Nicaragua — Nicaragua charged Wednesday that a U.S. warship entered its waters and unloaded speedboats as a Soviet bloc freighter possibly carrying Soviet combat jets arrived under heavy security in the Pacific port of Corinto.

The red-and-black freighter Gakuriani, identified as Soviet, pulled in at noon at the main Nicaraguan port of Corinto, some 60 miles northwest of Managua, Sandinista port authorities said.

Reporters usually are allowed on the pier but were barred Wednesday by port officials, who cited special Defense Ministry orders. The ship could be seen only from afar, and its cargo was not discernible. There was no unloading.

The officials said they did not have a manifest for the contents of the ship.

Two hours before the ship arrived, a suspected U.S. spy plane

flew over the port and was fired upon, but was not hit, Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto said.

The leftist Sandinista government denied any Soviet-bloc ship was carrying a cargo of combat aircraft for them, and said reports of any such shipments were a pretext for a U.S. attack. The government told its people to be prepared for a general mobilization.

In Los Angeles, President Reagan said the United States was "keeping a close watch" on the ship because of the reports it possibly was carrying MiG-21 jet fighters. He said introducing MiGs to Nicaragua would indicate the country is "contemplating being a threat to their neighbors here in the Americas."

Administration officials have warned that the United States would not tolerate introduction of advanced military aircraft in Nicaragua

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## World leaders react to re-election

United Press International

The Soviet Union, in unusually conciliatory statements, congratulated President Reagan Wednesday on his re-election and said improved U.S.-Soviet ties would "radically" lessen global tensions.

Western leaders pressed for renewed arms talks with Moscow while hailing Reagan's landslide victory over Democratic challenger Walter Mondale in a deluge of congratulatory messages.

Newspapers around the world bannered the Reagan electoral romp with British newspapers using headlines like "Here I Go Again!" and "The Eagle has landed."

Latin American reaction was mixed. Conservative leaders applauded the Reagan victory, but others lamented the re-election of a

leader whose economic policies they blame for prolonging recessions and increasing their heavy foreign debt.

Jordan, Egypt and Lebanon pressed for a new U.S. Middle East peace initiative, and China said Reagan's re-election came as "no surprise."

Black African nations urged Reagan to focus on abolishing apartheid, South Africa's official system of racial segregation.

South African President Pieter Botha, whose government enjoys U.S. support, urged Reagan to "turn back the forces of international terrorism and frustrate Marxist attempts to create chaos."

Moscow, in a Tass news agency release containing little of the usual harsh criticism, acknowledged "there are many problems" in its re-

lations with Washington.

"However, experience shows that a positive, constructive approach to solving them on the basis of equality and equal security is entirely possible," it said, in sharp contrast to pre-election tirades condemning Reagan as a warmonger.

The Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Soviet Union, the nation's government, congratulated Reagan and said "It is to be hoped that the coming years will be marked by a turn for the better in relations between our countries."

"For its part, the Soviet Union is ready to improve Soviet-American relations on the basis of equality and respect of each other's legitimate interests, for removing the threat of war and radically improving the international situation."

In a statement about Reagan to a special German television election program, West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl said "I am sure he will use his victory to take steps that can lead to disarmament."

Norway and Sweden also pressed for a reduction in East-West tension.

"It is most important to keep in mind President Reagan's expressed desire to seek an agreement with the Soviet Union on limitations of nuclear arms," Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme said in a statement.

In Paris, President Francois Mitterrand said "I am certain the friendly and confident dialogue between our two countries will develop and serve peace and progress in the world."

In Britain, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher told Reagan in a con-

gratulatory message, "You can count on Britain to work closely with you in meeting the challenges which lie ahead."

Neil Kinnock, leader of Britain's opposition Labor party, and David Owen, leader of the middle-of-the-road Alliance party, urged Reagan to press ahead with arms talks.

"President Reagan now has the strength of a second term of office based on a substantial majority. He should use that strength to promote nuclear disarmament talks between the USA and the Soviet Union," Kinnock said.

Kenyan President Daniel Arap Moi and Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda congratulated Reagan but urged him to use his influence to help abolish apartheid in South Africa.

## Alex Haley: idea for 'Roots' was no accident

By KIRSTEN DIETZ  
Reporter



Alex Haley

Mankind needs to get to know each other better, Alex Haley, lecturer and best-selling author told an audience of about 200 Wednesday night.

"It's as if we live in separate rooms in the same house," he said.

Haley said this realization came as he traveled around the world talking to people of different ethnic backgrounds after the publication of his second book, "Roots."

The book became the biggest best-seller in publishing history, selling over 7 million hardback copies. It was translated in 37 languages and earned Haley the Pulitzer Prize and

the National Book Award.

Haley's speech, the highlight of Racial Awareness Week, dealt primarily with the conception of the book, except for a comment about the government.

He said the government is not sufficiently sensitive to the country's needs. He pointed to the high percentage of blacks in the prisons and said when the administration is not sensitive to the reasons for this, they will one day have to deal with social combustion.

Haley said "Roots" promoted black awareness in its readers.

"Prior to 'Roots,' the biggest single image maker for the history and culture of Africans was Tarzan," he

said. "As ridiculous as that is, many people, both black and white, have said that."

The highest praise he said he received for the book was when the West African Teachers' Association asked for permission to condense the book for children.

"They felt this sort of a book would afford the African children a better perception of their history and culture," Haley said.

He said he has experienced an emotional response to the book around the world.

Haley stressed that the idea for "Roots" did not just happen.

"Roots" was born before I was able to spell the word book," he said.

He told of listening to his maternal grandmother and her sisters sit on the porch in Henning, Tenn., and reminisce. Gradually, they recounted the family history back through the generations to the African, Kunta Kinte.

"I remember so well how 'Roots' got born that summer I was six," he said.

But the book was not written for many years.

After finishing his first book, "The Autobiography of Malcolm X," he found himself outside the U.S. National Archives in Washington, D.C. He went in and asked to see

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## KAMU-FM station manager's humor impromptu

By TONY CORNETT  
Staff Writer

The emerald green Coupe de Ville leapt into the lunchtime traffic of Texas Avenue, its tires screaming. Melissa Cotropia had been sitting at the stop sign long enough.

"I've never done that before," she chuckled.

Cotropia's impulsive. She's at her best when she's having to think and act quickly and creatively.

Working in radio, as the station manager at KAMU-FM, the 27-year-old host of "Thank Jazz It's Friday" and "Cafe Eclectic" is constantly relying on her ability to work productively with creative impulses.

She looks through her large-lensed glasses with her brown eyes and smiles her ready smile. She's been known to change the color of

her slightly wavy, shoulder length hair, but the current chestnut brown is the real color.

She's also a big ham.

She's not the kind of hammy person who tries to crack a funny, fails, and then doesn't realize it. She's got the timing and the sensitivity to pull off disarming impromptu humor. She concedes that she's a rotten teller of jokes. But in a conversation, her incisive wit shines through.

Sometimes Cotropia is so sharp that she's misunderstood, or not understood at all.

"My biggest fear is people who don't get the joke," Cotropia said. "It gets me in trouble a lot."

"Don't you want to know what my guiding theme in life is? Never underestimate the value of a good time. Anybody who thinks that dedicating

your life to entertaining people is of any less value than being a doctor or a lawyer is missing the point. That's why I'm in radio."

KAMU-FM is a public radio station and a member of National Public Radio, which means that there is a significant amount of solicitation of donations from the public to help fund station operations. Being articulate and persuasive helps. Being an entertainer certainly helps as well.

Cotropia became station manager in December of 1983. Since then, she and her staff have set fundraising records and continued to involve interested members of the community in station programming.

"The key to my success is that whenever I have an idea, I write it down," Melissa said. "That's the reason our station does as well as it does

with only three full-time employees."

Cotropia's a thinker. She's working on a master's degree in English. She's done a great deal of thinking about her motivations, strengths and weaknesses.

She smokes cigarettes occasionally, but you really don't notice too much. Your eye gets distracted by the red earrings, red bracelet or that smile. She explained that smoking is a substitute for some of her emotional expression.

"I don't show anger any more," she said, "I used to just cry for every emotion. Now, I smoke. I think it's the pressure of broadcasting. I think that's why so many broadcasters smoke. I link smoking with the pressure situations that I'm used to smoking in."

She keeps a photo on her bulletin board of her cat sitting in the bathroom sink. Jonathan E., named after the character in the movie "Rollerball," is a large cat.

"Jonathan is my son," Cotropia said. "He keeps me from chewing my fingers off until I can have a baby. That's one of the biggest preoccupations of my life — babies and children."

Cotropia's husband is about to enter medical school — she figures that means another five years of human childhood for Jonathan E.

Cotropia is a little bit eccentric and says she comes from a family of zany people. She has an older brother and an older sister, but



Melissa Cotropia

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