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Texas A&M The Battalion

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Reagan waiting for Soviet response to start arms talks

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan said Wednesday he is waiting for the Kremlin to reply to a U.S. proposal to meet in Geneva in early March for a new round of nuclear arms talks, but he added he doesn't believe the Soviets are dragging their feet.

"We have only recently settled on a date that we thought would be satisfactory to us," Reagan told The Associated Press in the first interview of his new term.

Asked why something seemingly so simple should take weeks to resolve, Reagan said, "We just haven't had an answer yet..."

"Obviously if there is some reason that's not satisfactory to them, we'll continue trying to find a date."

Two weeks ago, Secretary of State George P. Shultz and Soviet Foreign

The president said "there just is no way of knowing" whether the uncertainty about Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko's health will affect the outcome of the talks.

Minister Andrei A. Gromyko met in Geneva and agreed the two nations would resume discussions on reducing intermediate and long-range nuclear weapons and would begin talks on how to prevent an arms race in space. But the date and place for the three-point talks were to be determined later, hopefully within a month.

The president said "there just is no way of knowing" whether the uncertainty about Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko's health will

affect the outcome of the talks.

But observing that there have been as many Soviet presidents since he took office as there were in the preceding 48 years, Reagan said, "The long periods of ill health and so forth obviously had to have an effect" on Kremlin decision-making during his first term.

In the wide-ranging, 25-minute discussion in the Oval Office, Reagan also said:

• He has been "discussing ways of capping" the fees doctors and hospi-

tals charge Medicare patients in an effort to hold down the rising costs of the Medicare program for the elderly and disabled. He said doctors would be free to stop serving Medicare patients if they wish, adding that government social programs have discouraged physicians from providing free medical care to the poor on their own initiative.

• He believes the nation's farmers should return to a free-market system uncontrolled by federal subsidy programs. But he said the administration's plan to phase out farm price supports will be done in increments so as not to "instantly pull that rug out" from under them.

• There would be "great difficulties" in openly aiding Nicaraguan rebels, because that would constitute an act of war under international law.

May graduates start work now

By SARAH OATES
Staff Writer

Spring commencement is four months away, but seniors must turn in their applications for graduation by 5 p.m. Feb. 1. Assistant registrar Don Gardner said the early deadline gives the admissions office time to order diplomas and check them.

"We have to order so many diplomas," Gardner said. "Then we can start checking them. That's why we have an early deadline."

Gardner said he could not estimate how many students will apply for spring graduation. He said the degree check office will begin contacting students about problems with applications "around April 1."

"Transfer work and grade changes within the system are the most common problems," he said.

Students may be blocked for unpaid parking tickets or if they owe money to Student Financial Aid or the fiscal office. Gardner said the clear list for graduating seniors will be posted outside Heaton Hall at 8 a.m. May 1. Students have until noon the following day to clear up any problems.

A red dot next to a senior's name means he has a fiscal or academic block that must be cleared. If the block is fiscal, the transcript office will not mail out a student's transcript. If the block is academic, he may not be allowed to graduate.

Mary Smith, of the fiscal office, said letters informing seniors of blocks are sent out "as soon as possible after we get the list of who's graduating."

"Sometimes it's two weeks before graduation, sometimes it's only 10 days," she said.

Undergraduate applications for graduation are available in 105 Heaton. Graduate students can apply at 125 Teague Research Center.

Seniors must pay a \$15 diploma fee before they apply. Gardner said seniors who did not pay the fee when they preregistered can do so at the fiscal office.

"We need to see a paid fee slip or a receipt from the fiscal office when they come in to apply," he said.

The deadline for ordering graduation announcements is Feb. 7.

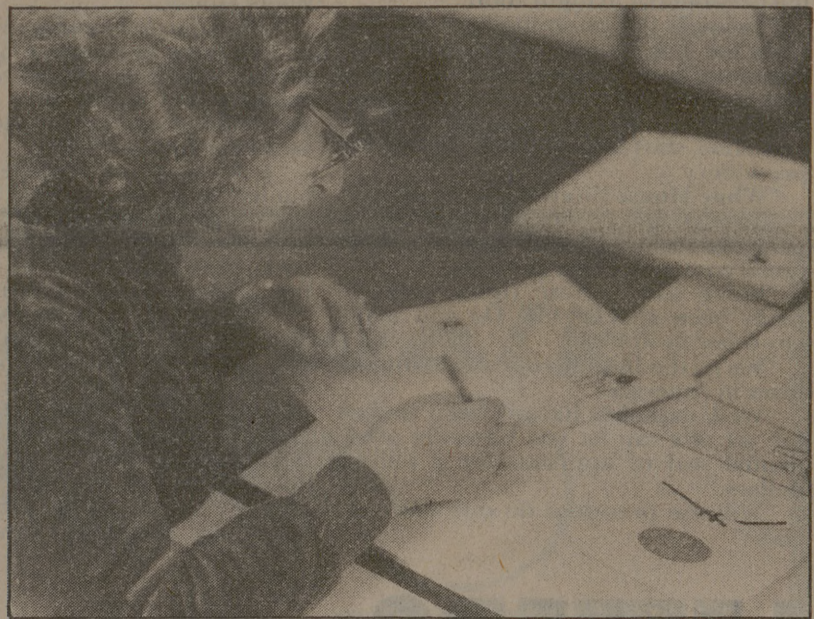


Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

Lisa Combest orders graduation announcements.

Marjorie Patke, acting supervisor for the MSC Student Financial Center, located in 217 Memorial Student Center, suggested that students order their announcements as soon as possible.

"Orders are coming in steadily," she said. "Students shouldn't wait until the last day because they have to decide what kind of announcements they want and how many to order."

Charles Gentry, assistant manager of the MSC Bookstore, said caps and gowns will go on sale early in April. They can be purchased up to the day of graduation, he said.

Preparing for graduation makes their last semester a hectic time for many seniors. However, there is one thing this year's graduates do not have to worry about: seniors are exempt from final exams until Spring 1988.

Rollins: Corps has pulled together

By KIRSTEN DIETZ
Staff Writer

In a report to the Board of Regents' Corps of Cadets Enhancement Committee Wednesday, Corps of Cadets Commander Chuck Rollins recommended no action be taken to restructure or discipline the Corps. Rollins said he thought the Corps had pulled together to iron out problems resulting from the Aug. 30 death of cadet Bruce Goodrich.

Goodrich died following an off-hours exercise session. Rollins' report dealt with the steps the Corps leadership has taken since Goodrich's death.

After Goodrich's death, Rollins said he sent out a committee of 12 officers to talk to cadets and determine their feelings on Corps matters. The committee found that the biggest problem was the lack of enforcement of existing Corps policies, Rollins said.

He also said written policies had been reviewed. A few that Rollins said could be construed as acts of hazing, such as quadding, were dropped.

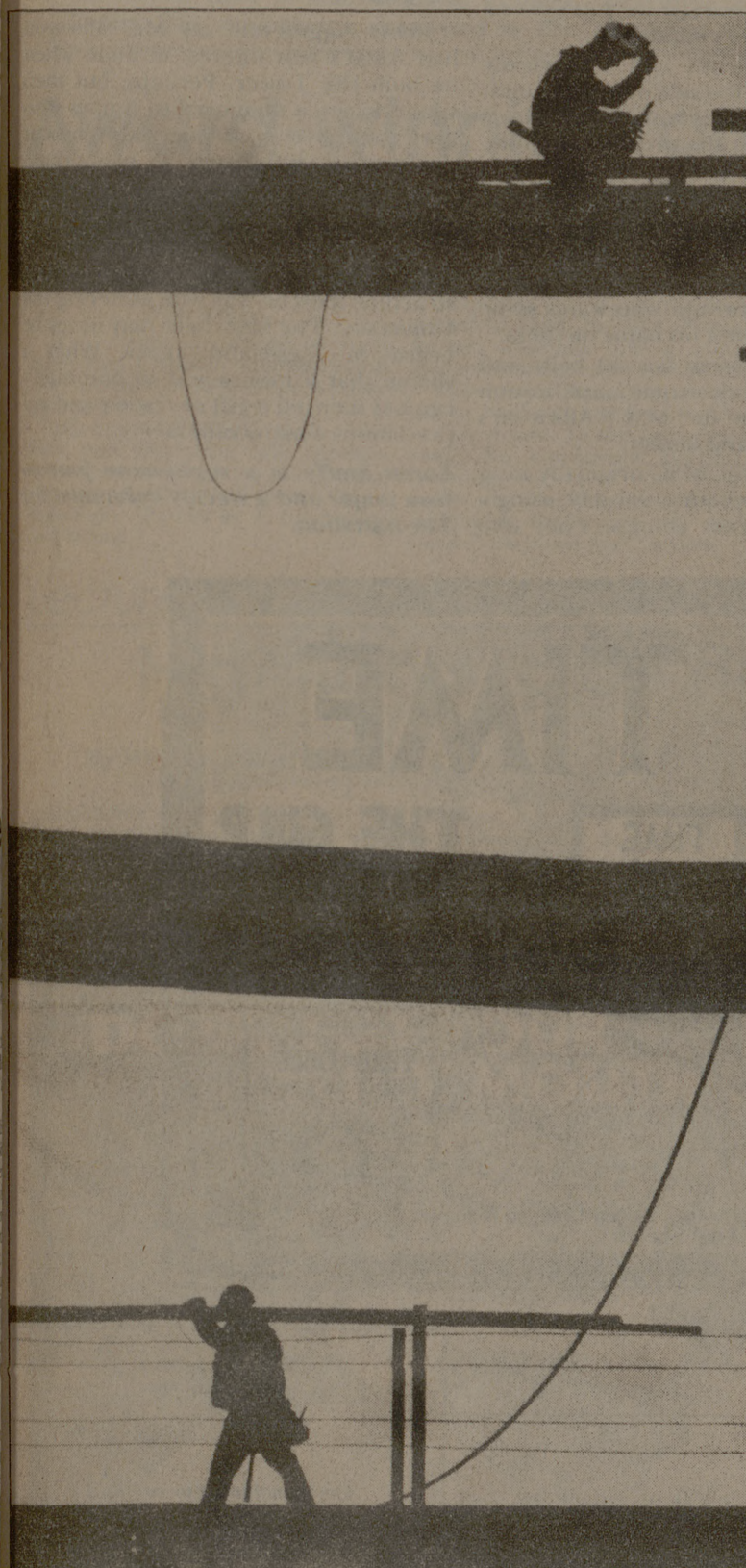
He said Corps commandant Col. Donald L. Burton has emphasized he will not tolerate any hazing or the abuse of authority under the penalty of dismissal from the University. Burton also made sure the cadets were informed of the rights they have if they are hazed.

"I think he did a very good job of getting the point across," Rollins said.

At the end of the fall semester, the 12 committee members again met with Rollins and Burton.

"Without a doubt we have noticed the policies being followed and enforced," Rollins said. Burton agreed and reiterated that the Corps chain of command should not be restructured.

Texas A&M University President Frank E. Vandiver said, "At the time I believe that the Corps is more mature than it was before the Goodrich incident and feel it will continue to go that way."



Beam Me Up Photo by JOHN MAKLEY

One worker takes the high beam and the other takes the low as they assemble safety railing along high walkways of the Engineering/Physics Building.

Women should be encouraged to join band

Student Senate passes resolution

By JERRY OSLIN
Staff Writer

After debating for more than an hour Wednesday night, the Texas A&M Student Senate passed a resolution recommending women should not be discouraged to join the Texas Aggie Band.

"There shouldn't be any discrimination against women at this university," Senator Brian Hay said.

"It's a continuing struggle against discrimination for women at this university. Women have proved they

can handle being in the Corps so they should be allowed in the band."

Mike Cook, vice president of Rules and Regulations differed with Hay.

"The student government hasn't worked with the Corps of Cadets or the student body on this issue and if we pass this resolution we will not be looking out for the best interest of the students," Cook said. "We should be looking out for students' best interest and not try to show how

liberal and open-minded we are."

Eric Thode, speaker pro tempore of the senate, said student government is supposed to represent the students at Texas A&M and the majority of students are overwhelmingly against having women in the band.

Sen. James Cleary disagreed with Thode.

"I don't think we should represent the majority when the majority acts with prejudice and fear," Cleary

said. "We should follow our conscience and do what we think is right."

In other business, student body President David Alders said the University is becoming more research oriented and student government should be committed to making sure that the student's education is the university's main concern.

"The quality of students will eventually tell people what kind of university Texas A&M is," Alders said.

Shuttle readied for delayed launch

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — The Florida deep freeze that grounded space shuttle Discovery for 24 hours ended Wednesday and crews readied the ship with its intriguing military cargo for launching at an announced time Thursday afternoon.

"No freezing temperatures are expected locally tonight," a National Aeronautics and Space Administration statement said. "The weather outlook for tomorrow is favorable."

The Kennedy Space Center was closed to the public even though the launch was still a day away.

NASA spokesmen, under orders to say nothing that might remotely violate security rules, issued a statement late Wednesday saying only that activities leading to the launch "are proceeding normally."

As the daytime temperature climbed into the 50s, a small band of protesters stood outside the center with signs reading "Weaponizing

outer space is irresponsible," and "Keep the heavens undefiled."

On the launch tower, plumbers replaced leaking nozzles and burst valves in the firefighting equipment.

If everything continues to go well, Discovery will be launched on its secret mission between 1:15 p.m. and 4:15 p.m. today with a crew of five, all military men. The temperature is forecast to be between 58 degrees and 64 degrees after an overnight low of 36 degrees.

Officials said the postponement, ordered shortly before midnight Tuesday, proved to be a wise precaution.

"As the night progressed, our concerns were borne out," said spokesman Jim Ball. "Although the temperature only went down to 30 degrees, the humidity was much higher than expected. The consensus of experts is that we would have had an ice problem had we continued on to propellant loading."