

STATE AND LOCAL

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Photo by PETER ROCHA

A local restaurant advertises its drink special on margaritas with a roadside sign. The state has cut down happy hour two-

for-ones and more legislation is pending to restrict establishments from having drink specials at all.

White visits Texas troops at 'Alamo'

Associated Press

LAS ORMIGAS, Honduras — Against a backdrop of real-life political turbulence, Gov. Mark White visited Texas National Guard troops Tuesday at the site of a make-believe war three miles from the Nicaraguan border.

The governor's four-hour visit to the guard base camp, The Alamo, began with a briefing on Big Pine III war games and ended with the 420 guardsmen digging into barbecue that White brought from home.

Instead of watching maneuvers, White toured two nearby villages where the guard has been spreading good will.

At the tiny rural cooperative of Nueva Concepcion, where 30 families eke out a living on the dusty plain, U.S. military engineers had drilled one of nine wells for water used in the Big Pine III exercises.

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White presented a brass paper-

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weight in the shape of Texas to a barefoot village woman with a baby in her arms and another small child clinging to her skirt.

"I know they'll remember us for years to come for their well," White said.

Earlier, in El Carmen, villagers lined up in the hot sun waiting for attention from a guard medical unit, which set up a clinic for the day.

Dr. Howard Axemrod, a guardsman from Mineral Wells, said he expected to see at least 300 villagers on Tuesday.

Axemrod said there was time to do little more than listen to the villagers' complaints and give them cursory treatment, largely for parasites and skin problems.

The Hondurans watched the governor curiously. One of them, Jose Ramiro Flores, 13, said, "We want

the soldiers to stay so they can give us medicine, so they can take care of us."

Throughout White's visit, praise was lavished on the guard by the governor and the military brass.

Col. Roy Kimerling, commander of Joint Task Force XI, which is conducting the war games, said he was impressed by the morale of the guardsmen.

The Texas troops — including guardsmen from McAllen, Edinburg and Edna — were second choice for the exercises. The army initially invited California guard troops, but Gov. George Deukmejian refused to give them permission to go to Honduras because of concerns about their safety.

Texas Adjutant General James Dennis told the troops that the "whole nation is watching you."

"A lot of people will question our motives for being down here," Dennis said. "If we're going to take our place in the defense of (our) nation, we must train in this fashion, because the way we train is the way we fight."

About 3,200 Honduran troops are taking part in the armored exercise scheduled to begin Wednesday morning, according to Col. Rafael Castro, commander of the Honduran 101st Brigade.

U.S. military officials say the object of the exercise is to train the Hondurans in repelling an armored assault from Nicaragua through the Choluteca Gap.

White has said repeatedly that the object of his visit is to demonstrate support to the Texas troops, to assure himself of their safety and to take them a barbecue meal.

His decision to allow the participation of the Texas guard has been controversial because of their proximity to Nicaragua and the current political crisis in Honduras, a power struggle between the Honduran president and the congress.

Aggie elected leader of state student group

By ANN CERVENKA
Staff Writer

A Texas A&M student was elected president of the Texas State Student Association, an organization that serves as an information network for colleges and universities in Texas.

John Hatch, director of the Legislative Study Group at Texas A&M, was elected 1985-86 president on March 30 at the TSSA spring convention.

The organization has existed under various names since 1949. "Their role in the past has been to lobby state officials on behalf of Texas students," Hatch said.

Because members include junior colleges, two- and four-year colleges and universities, problems arose because the organization was expected to represent different sized schools that had different needs.

Although all the schools usually agreed on issues like preventing a tuition increase, views on issues like dividing the Permanent University Fund varied, Hatch said. The Texas A&M and the University of Texas systems opposed the division of PUF because they would lose money. Other Texas schools favored the division.

"We, Texas A&M and UT, were out-voted every time," Hatch said. Therefore, the two schools temporarily pulled out of the organization.

However, with the change of name to TSSA last fall, the scope of the program changed as well. Texas A&M and UT are again members.

"The association is designed to be an information network for schools of higher education in Texas," he said.

The association has five officers, none of whom can be from the same school. TSSA also has a board of



John Hatch

four directors with a separate member to represent each type of school in the association.

As president, Hatch said his main job is recruitment. Of about 100 schools in Texas that are eligible to be members of TSSA because they have a student government, only about 20 are members, he said.

Hatch said Texas A&M has been very involved in the organization in the past.

"Being a big University, we have answered problems that some people are just getting involved with," he said.

For example, several schools are having problems preventing rape on campus. Several years ago, A&M created additional escort services, installed locks on dormitories and built additional lights on campus. Now Texas A&M is helping other schools solve this problem.

Hatch said service projects, rather than legislative issues, will be the main emphasis this year unless a special session is called.

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