

Texas A&M  
**The Battalion**

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## Campus flowers might get budget ax

By SARAH OATES  
Staff Writer

Texas A&M's floral test garden, one of the brightest spots on campus, may be pruned out of the University's budget as A&M cuts costs in anticipation of a 4 percent reduction in state funding.

However, University officials say closing the garden is only one option under consideration if the budget cuts become law.

"There's no way to tell what's going to happen until the appropriations picture becomes clearer," said Jim Ferguson, associate vice president of operations, which maintains the garden.

"If it's a question of jobs or maintaining the garden, the garden goes. I think I can safely say that they (the University) would hate to see it go."

Ferguson said University operations is considering other options besides closing the test garden, which is located near the aerobics track on Houston Street.

"We may get rid of some flower beds, or reduce the number of times plants are turned over in the color beds," he said. "We may reduce mowing schedules so that employees are free to do other jobs."

Ferguson said the University would consider accepting private donations to maintain the garden.

"If we could get some kind of endowment for funding, we'd love to entertain that kind of proposal," he said.



Photo by DAVID STEEL

### Speed Racer

A cyclist speeds past the stop sign at the intersection of Bizell and Spence streets in defiance of the law. Under the law, bicyclists are required to obey the same rules as motor vehicles.

## Mexico increasing protection for tourists

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In response to pressure from the United States, Mexico is beefing up law enforcement to better protect American tourists, the State Department has told Sen. Lloyd Bentsen.

Assistant Secretary of State William Ball wrote Bentsen, D-Texas, that the department decided against issuing travel advisories in Guadalajara and Puerto Vallarta despite being "particularly concerned" about crimes against Americans in those cities.

"As a result of our discussions with Mexican officials at the local and national level, we believe improvements are beginning to be made," Ball wrote.

He said crimes and accidents involving U.S. tourists in Mexico were up 13 percent in 1984 over 1983.

But, added Ball, "no accurate ac-

counting of assaults or other incidents involving Americans in Mexico exists because our citizens often forego making an official complaint to the Mexican police, sometimes even in cases as serious as rape or robbery."

Ball said that in 1983 there were 736 assaults compared with 806 in 1984. The number of abductions or disappearances rose from three to 15.

But Ball stressed that the figures should be considered in the context that an estimated 4 million American tourists visit Mexico every year.

Bentsen had asked the department to issue travelers' advisories to Americans considering visiting Guadalajara or Puerto Vallarta because of reports of increased crimes against Americans.

Though the department turned him down, Bentsen said in an interview taped for distribution to Texas

television stations, "They did tell me they're getting better cooperation out of the Mexican government."

"You have more Mexican policemen on the highways, they have put more Mexican policemen in those towns, and on the town of Puerto Vallarta, even have the cooperation of the Mexican Navy to try to provide security on the beaches," Bentsen said.

Ball said that in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico is funding the hiring of 200 more police officers, installing eight new police booths and putting 10 new police patrol cars into service.

In response to State Department expressions of concern, Mexico has established an office under its attorney general to monitor investigation and prosecution of crimes against Americans, Ball said.

The Ministry of Tourism also operates a 24-hour "hotline" for tourists needing aid, he said.

## A&M students should know rights under Texas DWI laws

By KIRSTEN DIETZ  
Staff Writer

Students unaware of their rights when stopped for driving while intoxicated often are taken advantage of, says Bill Vance, a Bryan attorney.

Vance says about 75 percent of those stopped for DWI plead guilty without understanding the consequences.

Attorney John Barron says, "They just don't understand the impact (of pleading guilty)."

Since Jan. 1, the University Police have arrested two students on campus for DWI. In 1984 they arrested seven students for DWI.

Bryan and College Station police do not keep separate statistics on the number of students and non-students arrested for DWI.

DWI convictions, as of Jan. 1, 1984, are listed on the offender's record for 10 years. This can affect the person's employment.

Vance says, "Anything you need to be bonded for or if you are going into military service, they're sure going to find out about it."

If a student is going to plead guilty on the first offense, he doesn't need an attorney because with or without an attorney, the result will be the same in terms of court costs and fines, Vance says.

"They're not gaining anything by using them (attorneys)," he says.

James Locke, another lawyer, disagrees.

"It's probably not a good idea for them to go in (to court) completely alone," he says.

Locke recommends the person at least talk to an attorney before going to court.

Barron agrees with Locke.

Vance says some attorneys take advantage of students by charging large fees just to plead the case. Then they add the cost of a jury.

If a student insists on having an attorney, he should shop around, Vance advises.

## Space ride

### Fish to be part of shuttle experiment

By MARY McWHORTER  
Reporter

About 15 students from Texas A&M and Clear Creek high school in Houston are planning to send fish on a ride through space on the space shuttle's future "get away special."

The experiment, designed to study the effects of weightlessness on fish and how they adjust to gravity changes, was the idea of A&M freshmen David DeVore and Kim Karrick.

DeVore and Karrick said they wanted to develop a self-sustaining system that can be used on future space missions to keep any organism alive for use as food. The compact electronic equipment under development also should be useful on other space shuttle projects.

"We are clearing a path for future get away specials," Karrick said.

The students began the experiment at Clear Creek High School as a science fair project.

"We thought it would be so easy," DeVore said.

However as the project grew, DeVore and Karrick realized that it would take several years to plan and build the equipment. Along with other students, they have already spent three years developing the experiment tentatively scheduled for the summer of 1986.

Karrick, a computer science major, is in charge of designing and building the hardware for the project. DeVore, a bio-chemistry major, is studying the behavior of platys — the fish that will be used in the experiment. He also is designing a life support system for the fish.

DeVore said platys (small, semi-tropical fish) were chosen because

they exhibit physical changes that are easily observed when they're under stress and are in danger of going into shock.

"They display a lot of behavior patterns that we will be able to pick up on camera," DeVore said.

This characteristic will make it easy to determine if the fish are adjusting well to their new environment. For example, under normal, healthy conditions, platys are a bright blue. But if they disagree with changes in their environment, their color fades rapidly.

The Space Center Rotary Club bought the five square foot container that will contain the experiment for \$10,000.

The entire experiment must fit in-

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## Simpson speaks on values, integrity of the 'true' Aggie

Being an Aggie is more than wearing an Aggie ring, attending Midnight Yell Practice and going to Muster, Lt. Gen. Ormond R. Simpson said Sunday at Muster in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

"None of these, taken singularly or as a group, make a real Texas Aggie," Simpson, Class of '36, said before a capacity crowd. "They are symbols, not the real substance of a true Aggie."

Simpson, assistant vice president for student services, said integrity is the key to being a true Aggie.

"I believe integrity is the basic building block for the Aggie Spirit in any real Texas Aggie," he said. "Being a Texas Aggie is not of the flesh — but of the spirit. In a very real sense it is a state of mind."

"You are confident without being cocky, proud without being arrogant, competent without being overbearing, considerate but never subservient, steadfast but not stubborn, humble in victory, gracious in defeat."

Simpson said A&M expects its students to recognize its high standard of integrity and to "give it your best try."

"The Aggie Spirit is both your heritage and your challenge," he said. "Make the most of it."

Following Simpson's speech, Bill Hayes, a Muster Committee member, and Deanne Rand, president of the Brazos County A&M Club, called a roll for 76 students and former students who have died in the past year.

Friends and family members answered "here" when the name

of a loved one was called. Candles were lighted for each name called.

The A&M Muster was organized by a committee of 29 students headed by Chairman Leannah Reed. It was one of more than 400 musters held worldwide.

The Muster featured welcoming speeches by Davis Ford, president of the Association of Former Students, President Frank E. Vandiver and Student Body President David Alders.

Mrs. Jerome A. McDavitt presented a flag made by her husband and his comrades in 1945 after they were freed from a Japanese prisoner-of-war camp. Jerome McDavitt was one of 25 Aggies who mustered under Japanese fire on Corregidor.

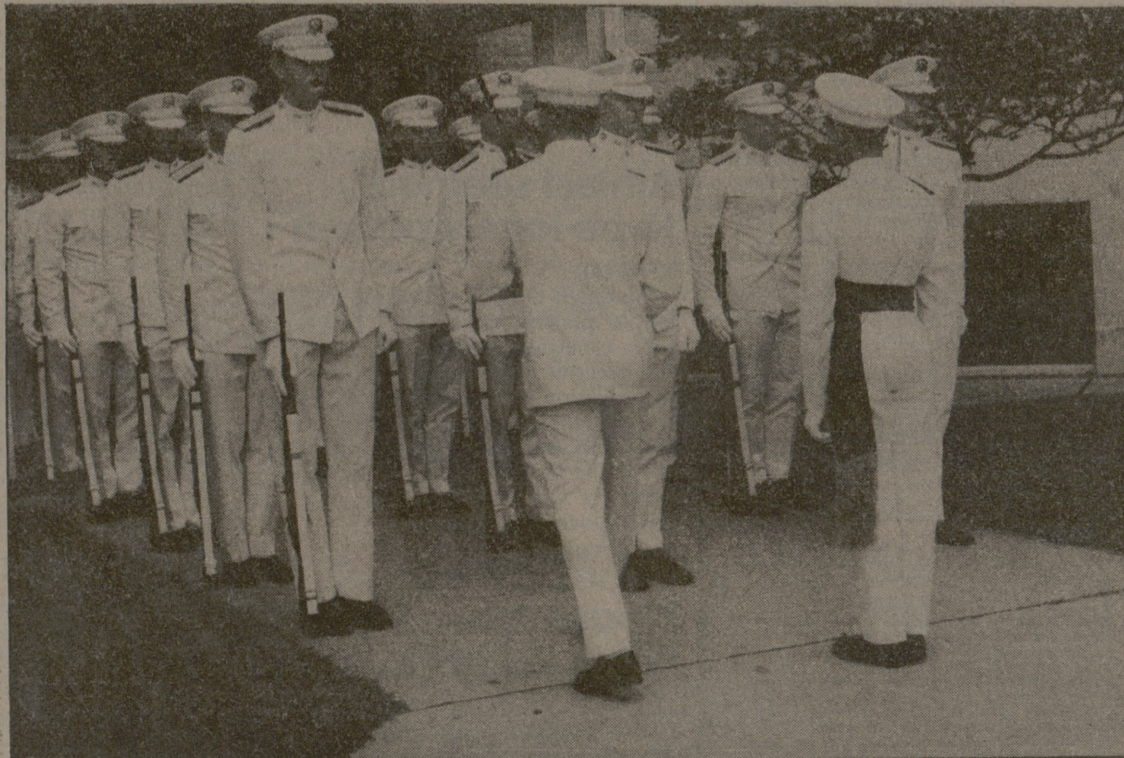


Photo by KYLE HAWKINS

Ross Volunteers prepare for Sunday's Muster ceremony