

# Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol. 80 No. 144 USPS 045360 16 pages

College Station, Texas

Wednesday, May 1, 1985

## Reagan imposes embargo

BONN, West Germany (AP) — President Reagan ordered a total embargo on trade with leftist Nicaragua today and moved to deny U.S. access to Nicaraguan commercial airlines and flag vessels.

To counter Nicaragua's aggressive actions in Central America, Reagan also is abrogating a 27-year-old U.S.-Nicaraguan friendship treaty.

"The activities of Nicaragua, supported by the Soviet Union and its allies, are incompatible with normal commercial relations," presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said.

"The president authorized these steps in response to the emergency situation created by the Nicaraguan government's aggressive action in Central America," Speakes said in an announcement to reporters shortly after Reagan arrived in the West German capital for a seven-nation economic summit.

Speakes said the president was signing orders for the embargo today and sending a message on the action to Congress.



Ten Years Later . . .

The Vietnamese Student Association at Texas A&M held a silent protest Tuesday afternoon near the Academic Building and a torchlight remembrance Tuesday night. The

protest marked the 10th anniversary of the fall of Saigon and the beginning of Communist rule in South Vietnam. See related stories and photos page 15.

Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

## Senate accepts \$52 billion cut in 1986 budget

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Republican-controlled Senate, on a 50-49 vote that closely followed party lines, gave symbolic, first-step approval Tuesday night to \$52 billion in spending cuts for 1986, including curtailment of Social Security cost of living increases.

But in a sign of struggles still to come, several Republicans who voted for the plan were expected to join Democrats in later efforts to restore the Social Security increases, reverse deep cuts in domestic programs and freeze Pentagon spending authority at this year's level.

The vote was a victory for President Reagan just before his scheduled departure for an economic summit meeting in Europe, and Senate Majority Leader Robert Dole of Kansas said it demonstrated that "for one brief moment, at least, we agreed we wanted to cut the deficit by \$300 billion" over three years.

Reagan, in a statement issued by the White House, said the vote "demonstrated foresight and responsible leadership" but warned that supporters of the package "will have to stand fast against a long list of amendments."

Predictably, Democratic critics took a dim view of the package, detailing what they said would be a disastrous result for farmers, Social Security recipients and others. The three-year curtailment of Social Security benefits will "drive another half a million people into poverty" by 1988, said Sen. Donald Riegle, D-Mich.

All 47 Democrats voted against the blueprint, joined by Republicans Robert Mathias of Wisconsin and Charles Stenholm of Maryland. The 50 "yes" votes were all provided by

Republicans. The only senator not voting, Republican John East of North Carolina, is hospitalized.

Dole said he was uncertain about the outcome until the votes were cast. He arranged to have Vice President George Bush presiding in case his vote were needed to break a tie.

The only practical effect of the roll call was to place the controversial budget before the Senate as a package — open for Republican and Democratic attempts to dismantle it.

Several Republicans played down the importance of their vote, describing it as purely procedural. Sen. Mark Andrews of North Dakota denounced the budget as a "turkey" and pledged to seek restoration of funds for agriculture, housing, health and other programs.

Republicans Alfonse D'Amato of New York and Paula Hawkins of Florida said they voted for the plan after being assured their amendment to restore Social Security increases would be voted on first today. "I think we can pass that amendment," said D'Amato.

But Sen. Pete V. Domenici, R-N.M., chairman of the Senate Budget Committee, said the vote "shows there is a willingness to put together a package of deficit reduction that's the size needed to keep the economy going and get interest rates down."

Further votes were put off until today, but Senate GOP Whip Alan Simpson of Wyoming and other party leaders conceded in advance the package might begin to unravel swiftly from amendments such as D'Amato's and Hawkins'.

In that case, Simpson and others suggested, the GOP fallback position would be to seek Democratic support for a revised package of spending cuts, without giving in to demands to consider tax increases.

## A&M awaiting decision

# Officials secure Italian artifacts

By TRENT LEOPOLD  
Senior Staff Writer

University officials have taken seven artifacts from the Pavilion where they were on display and locked them away inside a vault.

The officials are waiting to find out if the artifacts were legally brought into this country. The artifacts are under the supervision of J. Wayne Stark, special assistant for cultural development to Texas A&M President Frank Vandiver.

Dr. Gordon P. Eaton, vice president for academic affairs, said Tuesday the artifacts will be kept in the vault until Italian government officials determine if the artifacts, do-

minated to A&M by Dr. Michele Caputo, are here legally.

Caputo, a geophysics professor, was quoted in The Battalion on April 12 as saying he smuggled one of the artifacts, a vase, from Italy into the United States. He said he bought the vase, dating from the Spina civilization of fourth century B.C., from a fisherman and then placed a fish to hide the vase in.

In a letter to The Battalion published Monday, Vaughn M. Bryant, professor and head of the anthropology department, stated that Caputo's smuggling activities set a poor example for others and placed A&M in jeopardy.

But Tuesday, Caputo said he was the legal owner of the artifacts, although he could not remember when he got them.

"I cannot say when I got them or how much I paid for them," Caputo said. "I do not remember."

Eaton said all but one of the artifacts were purchased, at what is the equivalent of an antique store, in Italy. And Italian law allows them to be taken out of Italy.

Caputo said he didn't think any Italian museum would be interested in his pieces because they "have hundreds of beautiful pieces."

"They (the artifacts) are not valuable in Italy because museums have

thousands of them," Caputo said. "They have them on their ceilings and everywhere. They don't even have enough room to house them all."

Caputo said he was ready to cooperate "with anything, which might satisfy the University and everybody."

"My gesture (of donating the artifacts) was to show devotion to A&M," Caputo said.

Eaton said no action would be taken against Caputo until the University hears from the Italian government, and he believes this will take several weeks.

# Tutor expresses opinion of Chemistry program

Editor's note: This is the second article in a two-part series on the freshman chemistry program at Texas A&M.

By ANN CERVENKA  
Staff Writer

Michael Coad, known by many Texas A&M students for his "Chem Buster" shirt, is now tutoring 518 students to help them enjoy Chemistry 102, Fundamentals of Chemistry II, while they learn it.

Although some A&M chemistry professors have said their program is effective, Coad disagrees. Coad said students complain that

many homeworks are not corrected and returned but shows up on tests, that exam questions are too challenging, that the book is too difficult to understand and that the grading policy does not reflect what students know.

Last semester, a Chemistry 101, Fundamentals of Chemistry I, student with a 78 percent average got the same grade as a person with a 56 percent average: C.

"It's not fair," Coad said. "It doesn't show what they know at the end of the course."

Coad said low grades discourage many students from taking more chemistry classes.

He compared the A&M department with that of the University of Texas. Both departments use the same text.

After averaging the grades from three exams of about 2,000 A&M students, the results are as follows: 6 percent A's, 15.5 percent B's, 20.5 percent C's, 26.5 percent D's and 31.5 percent F's.

Of 2,171 chemistry students at UT, the grades are as follows: 26.8 percent A's, 25.2 percent B's, 21.7 percent C's, 11.4 percent D's and 15 percent F's.

The University has 58 percent D's and F's while UT has 26 percent. And the chemistry department at

A&M provides additional help, including tutoring, for students free of charge.

"If the department has so much tutoring, why do I have 518 students," Coad asked. "Something needs to be done."

Coad said his students, with an overall grade point ratio of 2.72, come to him because they cannot understand chemistry. Although his students are not "brains," they make grades above the average in Chemistry 102.

On the first exam, the department average was 64 percent. Coad's students averaged 69 percent. The de-

partment average for the second exam was 69 percent; his students averaged 81 percent.

Coad said 90 percent of his students found the book "wordy, confusing and illogical." Although the book is used in several colleges and universities around the country, most only cover about half the material.

"A&M covers 29 out of the 30 chapters," Coad said. "UT uses 19 out of 30 in the same amount of time."

"UT also has a pre-required chemistry course before the students even begin," he said.

Coad said before the last exam, every available space in his apartment was used by 62 students who needed extra help. Students also come by his apartment at other times each week.

"I teach chemistry in simple everyday terms," he said.

Coad uses acronyms, demonstrations and association games to teach the theory so it can be easily understood by students.

Coad charges \$25 per semester, which averages to 48 cents an hour.

"I want to help people," Coad said. "I'm concerned that students do learn. Learning should be an exciting adventure."

## The Battalion's errors irk some Texas A&M faculty and students

Editor's note: This is the third article in a three-part series on The Battalion.

By CYNTHIA GAY  
Reporter

Some Texas A&M students are well aware of The Battalion's errors.

"It bothers me every other day to see a correction," senior Carla Proctor says.

When needed, The Battalion correction box is shaded and printed on Page 1.

Michelle Powe, the managing editor for the Fall semester, says: "That means we're not afraid to admit our mistakes. The New York Times and The Eagle have a correction box, but they don't put it on the front (page)." See NEWS, page 5

Rhonda Snider, the fall editor, says: "We want people to realize that we're not afraid to admit our mistakes."

Like the college student who finds himself finishing one exam only to see another one looming on the academic horizon, the reporter lives from deadline to deadline. The mixing of the dual roles of student and reporter within the confines of The Battalion newsroom often makes for an atmosphere more explosive than a chemistry lab in Heldenfels Hall.

Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, says, "There's no group on campus that has the same amount of pressure everyday as The Battalion."

# Teen-agers talk about laws for minors

Editor's note: This is the third article in a three-part series on the rights of minors.

By CATHIE ANDERSON  
Staff Writer

Teen-agers in College Station hold various opinions about Texas laws for minors and the effect that those laws have upon them.

Probably the hottest topic of discussion among this group was the law, which prevents teen-agers under the age of 19 from drinking.

One 18-year-old, who had recently been charged for possession of alcohol, said he could see the principle of the law, but that it still seemed unfair to teen-agers.

Alicia Parrish, a sophomore at A&M Consolidated High School, said if the law is going to be enforced, it should be enforced the same across the board. While some people say they have only gotten warnings for breaking this law, she said, others have gotten charged immediately.

It's not fair to all minors if it's not strictly enforced with everyone, Parrish said.

Of course, no one wants a 13-year-old girl going out and having sex with a 19-year-old guy, Alicia Parrish, a junior at A&M Consolidated High School, said. But part of the responsibility for keeping this sort of thing from happening must remain with minors' parents.

But Parrish also said that being a responsible drinker is part of what adolescents must learn to become responsible adults. She said that people have to realize that some things simply can't be legislated.

Jonathan Pledger, a senior at A&M Consolidated, was of the same opinion. He said that some subjects are handled better within a parent-child relationship rather than a state-minor one.

Both Pledger and Parrish said the age that minors can legally have sex is one of those subjects. In Texas, citizens are legally prohibited from engaging in sex until they reach the age of 17.

Of course, no one wants a 13-year-old girl going out and having

sex with a 19-year-old guy, Parrish said. But she said partial responsibility for keeping this from happening must remain with parents.

Statutory rape can be a cop-out for both parents and teen-agers, Parrish said. Parents are angry because they don't know their children are having sex, and children are scared because their parents have found out they're having sex.

But the teen-agers weren't totally negative about — or in disagreement with — Texas laws.

Gordon Bass, a senior at A&M Consolidated, said that he agrees with the law that prohibits minors between the ages of 14 and 18 from marrying without parental consent. "I just can't see anybody at 16

going out and getting married without parental consent, so I'd have to agree with that (law)," he said.

Parrish said: "I can't imagine getting married now (age 16). I think that parents would deserve to know about a decision like that."

Bass also agreed with a law, which says minors can get pregnancy- or sex-related treatment without parental notification.

"I think it's fantastic if people don't have to tell their parents because if they did, they'd never get any help," he said.

If a teen-ager gets pregnant and needs help, Bass said, she should be able to get treatment without parental consent or notification.

Parrish and Bass also agreed with the Supreme Court decision that allows minors to have an abortion without parental consent. Bass said minors need this privilege because of possible health problems as well as parental and peer pressure.

"If they had to tell their parents," Parrish said, "their lives could be ru-

See MINORS, page 8