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Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 80 No. 182 USPS 045360 6 pages

College Station, Texas

Wednesday July 31, 1985

Vandiver to speak at graduation

By BRIAN PEARSON
Staff Writer

Texas A&M President Frank Vandiver will speak at graduation ceremonies on Aug. 17. The ceremonies will begin at 9 a.m. in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Also, graduating members of the Corps of Cadets at the ceremony, who will be going into the Army, Navy, Air Force or Marines, will be commissioned as second lieutenants by Lt. Gen Ormond Simpson, vice president for student services. It will be Simpson's last ceremony to commission cadets because he is retiring on Aug. 31.

Simpson said about 21 cadets will be commissioned.

Associate Registrar Don Carter said a list of graduation candidates, both those who are cleared and not cleared for graduation, will be posted in front of Heaton Hall at 8 a.m. on Aug. 15. He said students must clear all academic problems by 5 p.m. on Aug. 15 if they expect to graduate.

"We go to the printing center that evening and if they're not in the program, they don't graduate," Carter said.

He said students owing money to various University departments will still be able to graduate, although their transcripts will be blocked.

He said students who come in to clear academic problems after Aug. 15, even if it's Friday (Aug. 16), will be "S.O.L. (Sorry, Out of Luck)."

Carter said 1,557 have applied for graduation, and about 100 are expected to pull out at the last minute.

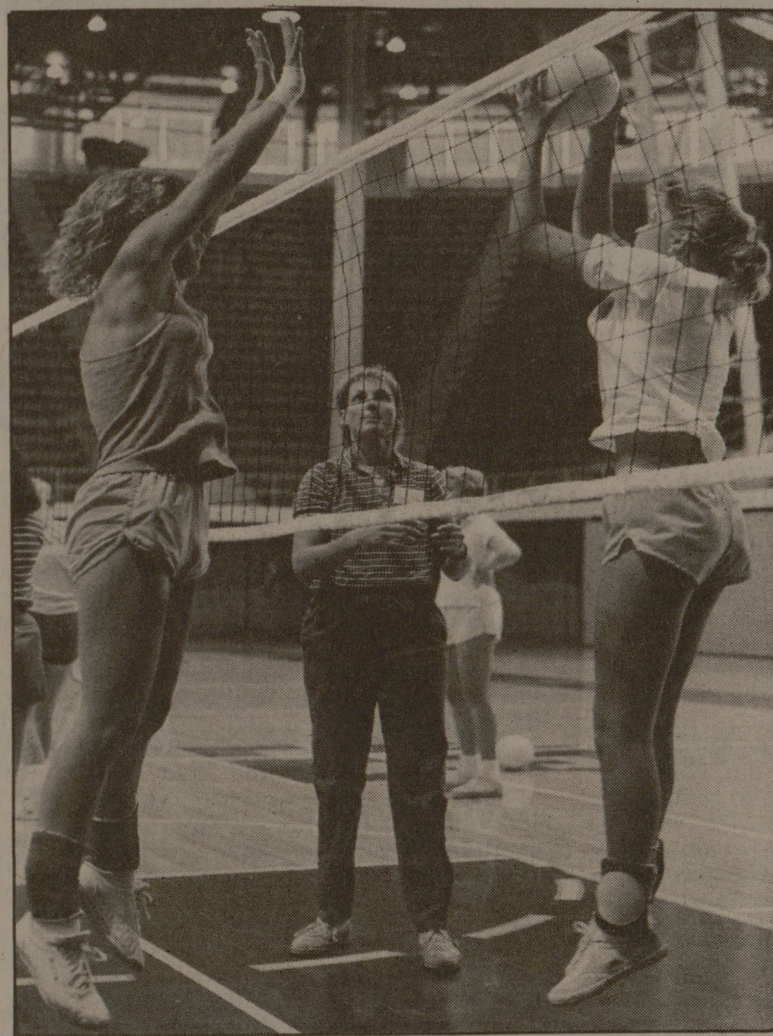


Photo by TONY S. CASPER

Jumping For Joy

Texas A&M women's volleyball coach Terry Condon (center) watches Amy Hamlin (left) and Kelly Bollman execute a blocking drill in G. Rollie White Coliseum during the A&M Volleyball Camp. The camp is being held from July 29 until August 1.

White allots money for Corpus homeport

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Gov. Mark White signed a proclamation Tuesday allowing \$25 million in state money to be spent for the Navy homeport to be built at Corpus Christi.

Undecided, however, is how Galveston will come up with the \$8 million it needs to land the "consolation prize" offered by the Navy when it picked Corpus Christi as the main site.

A Houston lawmaker on hand when White signed the proclamation in private said some of the \$25 million might be shifted to Galveston.

"We're working on that right now," Rep. Ashley Smith said.

But a White aide said there's little chance Galveston would get any of the \$25 million.

The Navy, after looking at several Gulf Coast cities in a few states, recently picked Corpus Christi as the homeport for the U.S.S. Wisconsin and its support fleet. Houston-Galveston also sought the port, but got what Smith called a "consolation prize" — five Navy ships.

Galveston must come up with \$8 million by Aug. 1 or the Navy might look elsewhere. The island city doesn't have the money and is already near its taxing limit. Galveston has a 9.8 percent unemployment rate and needs the 450 jobs the ships

would bring, according to Mayor Jan Coggeshall.

Smith hopes the state's \$25 million can be split. Corpus Christi's share will be used for dock construction, channel dredging and installation of electric lines. Texas lawmakers approved the money this year as part of the state's pitch for the homeport.

The proclamation signed by White certifies that the homeport would mean much for the state economy.

Only Corpus Christi is mentioned in the proclamation, but Smith said Galveston needs some of the money.

U.S., Japan, Soviet Union will establish radio link

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States and Japan have agreed with the Soviet Union to establish a radio link to better monitor commercial aircraft crossing the North Pacific, lessening the likelihood of a plane straying into Soviet air space, officials announced Tuesday.

The measure, aimed at preventing a recurrence of the incident in September 1983 when a Korean Air Lines jumbo jet with 269 people aboard penetrated Soviet airspace

and was shot down, was tentatively agreed to Monday in Tokyo, the officials said.

Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole, who announced the agreement, called it "an encouraging step toward enhancement of the safety of civil air traffic in the North Pacific region."

The preliminary agreement calls for a special communications network linking air traffic control centers in Tokyo and Anchorage, Alaska, with Soviet air traffic controllers in Khabarovsk, U.S.S.R.

The communication line would be used if civilian airliners flying the northern Pacific route are in difficulty or off course and heading over restricted Soviet territory, the officials said.

Neither U.S. nor Japanese air traffic controllers are able to track a jetliner on radar along its entire trip across the Pacific. But aviation experts say Japanese and U.S. controllers in conjunction with Soviet controllers could monitor an aircraft the entire time.

Congressman: War hasn't begun

'War on Drugs' takes criticism

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The much-heralded "War on Drugs" won't even begin until the U.S. Customs Service gets its own air fleet, a congressman whose committee oversees the war told members of the congressional Border Caucus on Tuesday.

Rep. Glenn English, D-Okla., said,

"We haven't been beaten in the War on Drugs, quite frankly we haven't had a War on Drugs."

English, who is chairman of the House Government Operations Subcommittee on Government Information, Justice and Agriculture, suggested the naming of a "drug czar" to coordinate the various federal efforts aimed at illegal drugs.

English said despite Reagan administration support, congressional initiatives have made the real difference in the War on Drugs.

The cornerstone of the War on Drugs was to be a 1981 amendment to the Posse Comitatus Act to allow military support for civilian drug interception efforts.

He said the National Narcotics

Border Interdiction System, which is headed by Vice President George Bush, has done little. He cited a Government Accounting Office report that found that NNBIS had "no mission, no staff, no budget and no authority."

Customs estimates that 62 percent of illegal drugs entering the country come in by air, English said.

Medicare, Medicaid see 20th birthday

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Medicare and Medicaid, considered grand social experiments when they were signed into law, marked their 20th birthday Tuesday with Democrats complaining their bright promises have been dimmed by Reagan administration efforts to cap soaring costs.

At the same time, the administration said it has strengthened the programs, which are the cornerstones of federal health policy.

"We have a great deal more to do to ensure what I think is a test of the society, and that is how it cares for its senior citizens," Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass.,

who helped push the original bill through Congress, said at a Capitol Hill ceremony.

"We will not be silent until we guarantee our elderly people the opportunity to live their golden years in peace and security, and free from the fear of devastating medical bills," Kennedy said.

He said new eligibility rules imposed on Medicaid have pushed thousands of poor people off the rolls. And he said Medicare leaves the elderly with the burden of paying for long-term nursing care, eye, foot and dental care, preventive treatment and prescription drugs.

The Reagan administration official who has headed the pro-

gram for the past four and a half years contended, however, that the administration leaves a valuable legacy to the nation's elderly at the 20-year mark — a program far broader than the original one, but with controls that can prevent it from collapsing of its own financial weight.

Medicare, a health insurance program for the elderly, and Medicaid, the program for the poor, were goals of President John F. Kennedy during his time in the Senate and the White House and became part of President Lyndon Johnson's blueprint for a "Great Society."

Over the years, Congress expanded the program to meet new

needs. The disabled were brought into Medicare in 1972, and other services were added later.

Costs escalated accordingly. Medicare spending grew from \$1 billion in its first year to \$71 billion — some \$8.5 million an hour — this year, Davis said. Expenditures for Medicaid increased an average of 31 percent a year from 1965 to 1971, and 21 percent a year from 1972 to 1975.

The spending has made Medicare and Medicaid the cornerstones of the entire medical industry, accounting for 27 percent of all health care expenditures in the nation, Davis said.

A&M prof says research on animals can benefit people

By MICHAEL CRAWFORD
Senior Staff Writer

During the early morning hours of Dec. 9, 1984, 12 people broke into the City of Hope National Medical Center in Durate, Calif. After entering the labs, they broke into three groups and less than 45 minutes later they left with more than 100 laboratory animals.

That raid was one of about 20 since 1982 carried out by the Animal Liberation Front, a secret organization dedicated to eliminating the use of animals for experimentation. Biomedical researchers are concerned that each twist of the key destroys years of detailed research in these "liberations," while animal rights' groups accuse the research

community of extreme cruelty.

Scientists at the City of Hope facility said they lost more than the dogs, cats, rabbits and rats. The biggest loss, they said, was the research into cancer and emphysema.

Texas A&M used more than 31,000 live animals, from white-tailed deer to hamsters, in 1984 experiments. A raid on the University would not only cost research time, but also research funds that have become scarce during federal budget cuts.

Gary Joiner, director of University Laboratory Animal Care, says some research would be lost because federal agencies would be reluctant to fund research that was previously started.

The storm centers around the animal rights groups' belief that lower animals, not

just humans, have inalienable rights which must be respected. Although Joiner says he understands the sympathies of the groups, he favors the use of animals.

"I don't think we have the right to cause pain or to abuse them," he says. "But I think it's wrong to deny people the benefits of help simply because we don't want to cause pain or discomfort to an animal."

But the Washington D.C.-based People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals insists that most researchers use animals as a matter of habit rather than of necessity. Director Ingrid Newkirk says tapes taken from labs by the ALF show researchers abusing unanesthetized animals. In another raid, Newkirk says, dogs were discovered dying of suffocation and living in their own waste.

In an interview last week on the Cable News Network program "Newsmaker Saturday," Robert Krauss, executive director of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, said some labs may have violated generally accepted standards of animal care. But those labs are exceptions and improvements continue to be made "without the interference of a terrorist organization breaking into labs."

Joiner admits that some questionable practices might have occurred at A&M several years ago, but he insists University guidelines and researcher awareness have eliminated the problem. Still, he says, if the two or three "crank letters" received annually by the University become more serious, additional security will be installed.

The alternative method of research mentioned most often by animal rights groups is computer modeling of animals' biological functions. Using this method, proponents claim almost 100 percent of animal use could be eliminated. Critics charge that computer modeling is too new, too complex and too expensive to be used practically.

Awareness of the controversy has prompted lawmakers to examine federal guidelines for animal care. Current guidelines require that animals receive appropriate veterinary care, that they be used only in the advancement of science, and that anesthetic be used if a procedure will cause pain.

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