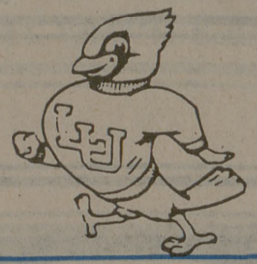


A&M's Silver Taps to be held tonight in honor of freshman

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Aggie spikers hope to draw good 'Cards' against Lamar

— Page 9



# Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

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College Station, Texas

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## Reagan asks Heckler to switch posts

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan asked Health and Human Services Secretary Margaret Heckler on Monday to give up her Cabinet post for the ambassadorship to Ireland, the White House announced.

Heckler, who launched a campaign in recent days to save her job at the helm of the government's largest department, asked for and was given a few days to think about it, presidential spokesman Larry Speakes said.

Heckler met with Reagan alone in the Oval Office for 50 minutes Monday afternoon to try to talk him out of reassigning her.

But Speakes said the president, who denied earlier in the day that he would fire the HHS secretary, urged her to accept the job as "a promotion."

Earlier, Reagan had declared himself satisfied with Heckler's performance. Heckler's management ability and loyalty to conservative principles have been questioned by top administration officials.

Heckler, after leaving the White House, ignored reporters' attempts to question her. She returned to HHS headquarters after the session. A spokeswoman said the secretary would have no immediate comment on the session with Reagan.

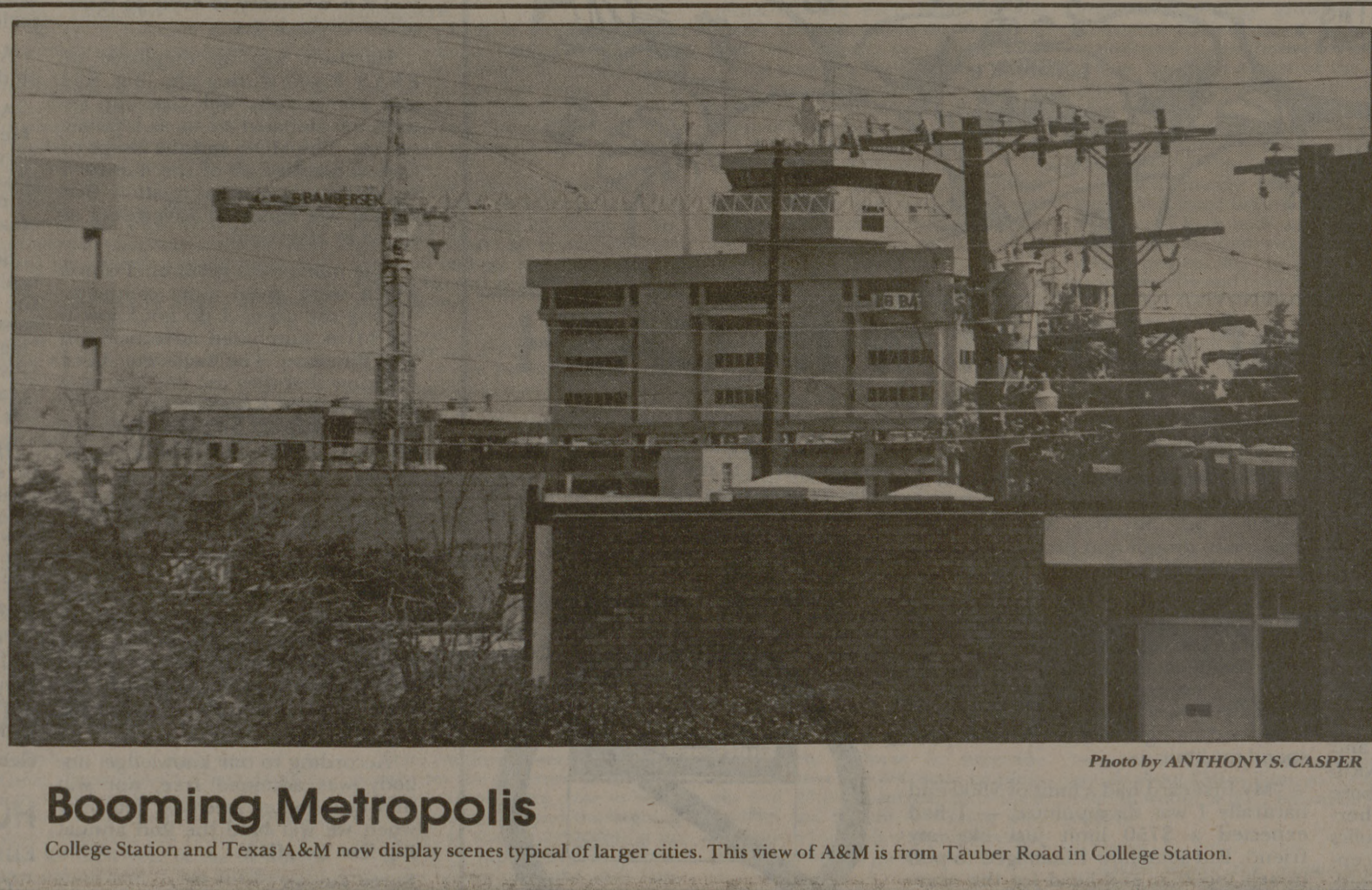
Reagan, who had never asked a member of his Cabinet to step down, may have been convinced by his chief of staff, Donald T. Regan, and other advisers that Heckler should be removed from leadership of HHS. But Speakes insisted the president was not dissatisfied with her performance and that she was not being fired.

Asked if she had the option of remaining in her post, however, the spokeswoman replied, "I do not have an answer to that."

Speakes said Heckler, as a woman of Irish descent, "would make a valuable contribution in U.S.-Irish relations."

"Mrs. Heckler has asked for a few days to consider the president's offer and will respond at that time," the spokeswoman said.

See Reagan, page 11



## Booming Metropolis

College Station and Texas A&M now display scenes typical of larger cities. This view of A&M is from Tauber Road in College Station.

Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

## Four Soviets kidnapped in Lebanon

Associated Press

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Gunmen dragged three Soviet diplomats and an embassy doctor out of their official cars, fired bullets at their feet and kidnapped them Monday in Moslem west Beirut, police and witnesses said.

Anonymous telephone callers claimed responsibility for the kidnapping on behalf of the terrorist group Islamic Jihad, which has said it is holding hostage six Americans and four Frenchmen who have disappeared in Lebanon.

Radio reports said the Soviets were seized from two embassy cars that later were found abandoned near Beirut airport. Witnesses said one of the cars was intercepted by several gunmen.

They dragged two Soviets out, the witnesses said, fired handguns at their feet, pushed them into a white Mercedes and drove off. The other two Soviets were seized from a second car, police said.

An embassy spokesman confirmed the kidnappings but declined to give details.

They were the first Soviets known to be kidnapped in Beirut since gunmen started seizing foreigners in

See Soviets confirm, page 11

## Aggies' blood a highly prized item

By ED CASSAVOY  
Staff Writer

In recent years, the Red Cross and the Wadley Institute have been locked in a competition for a valuable resource at Texas A&M — Aggie blood.

Until two weeks ago only Wadley had been allowed to collect blood on campus, but a recent Red Cross blood drive at the Veterinary Medicine Complex could be the first tentative step toward having both services at A&M, says Joanie DuVall, Bryan-College Station director of Red Cross blood drives.

"We've always asked them (Student Government)," DuVall says, "but I guess they felt that students

"We're (Red Cross) no threat to Wadley."

— Joanie DuVall, the director of Red Cross' local blood drives.

couldn't support two blood drives on campus. We just talked to Student Government and showed them what we wanted to do."

The result was the collection of 304 units of blood during a two-day period, Sept. 17-18.

"We couldn't handle the volume that Wadley does," DuVall says, "but if we had gotten 500 units we would have been ecstatic. We got 304 units, and we felt it was excellent. We're no threat to Wadley."

The differences between the Red Cross and Wadley are more philosophical than anything else, says Lynda Faulkenberry, a Red Cross donor resources consultant.

"We're a non-profit organization," Faulkenberry says, "so we don't

have the resources that Wadley does."

Wadley was chosen by the 1983

"... Wadley gives a very good deal to Aggies."

— Beth Morrison, director of the Student Government blood drive committee.

Student Government blood drive committee as the sole A&M campus blood collector. Student Govern-

ment, through its blood drive committee, is responsible for deciding blood drive policy every two years.

This year's committee was responsible for looking at the current policy and making the changes.

Student Government has allowed only Wadley to collect blood for a number of reasons, says Beth Morrison, the blood drive committee director.

"The way it is," she says, "is that Wadley gives a very good deal to Aggies. We are preferred customers."

Blood donated by A&M students

See Red Cross, page 11

## Health center to stop paying for local ambulance services

By MELANIE WEINMANN  
Reporter

Beginning today, students, faculty and staff of Texas A&M will be responsible for charges for any ambulance service, other than the service provided by A.P. Beutel Health Center.

Howard Perry, associate vice president of student affairs, said the health center will no longer pay for any services provided by either Bryan or College Station ambulances.

In the past, Perry said, the health center paid for all emergency runs made on campus when health center ambulances were unable to respond

due to prior emergency commitments. But the health center can no longer support this policy, he said.

Perry also said the health center cannot send ambulances off campus due to local city ordinances prohibiting such runs.

The health center previously paid for all services provided by city ambulances to off-campus A&M students, faculty and staff, but the center is forced to change this practice too, Perry said.

Perry said Bryan and College Station ambulance services have become more expensive. Both cities increased service rates from \$40 to \$100 a run, he said.

Perry reported that, between Sep-

tember 1984 and August 1985, city ambulances made a total of 128 calls, for which the health center paid.

"It's simply become prohibitive in cost for the health center to pick up city ambulance charges anymore," Perry said.

Health center fees paid by students at the beginning of each semester do not cover the cost of ambulance services provided by the health center, Perry said. He explained that those fees pay only for medical care given directly within the health center facilities.

Perry said although the change in the health center's payment policy was induced by the recent increase

in cost, it might have taken place regardless of the increase.

"The increase in rates prompted the change," Perry said, "but it might have occurred anyway because it's a tight-budget year."

Perry said the service was being misused in some cases. Many of the emergency runs made last year were unnecessary, he said.

"I don't want to say the service was being abused," Perry said, "but I do think it was being misused."

Perry explained that in some cases ambulances were sent to patients merely scared by an accident or sudden illness or were called simply because the patient had no other way to get to a medical facility. In a lot of

those cases the patient's condition was not serious enough to warrant an emergency run, he said.

Perry said he believes the change in health center policy will cause people to think twice before immediately calling an ambulance at the first sign of illness or injury.

Perry said he doubts that in the future the health center will add more ambulances to the two the center has already.

"We feel the amount's pretty adequate, and we know we have the backup facilities if needed," he said.

Perry said he wants people to know the health center will do as much as possible to help patients.

Health center ambulances can

transfer patients from the center to either St. Joseph or Humana hospitals if necessary, Perry said.

He explained that, in cases of emergency, the center's ambulance can make runs to either hospital as long as city ambulance services are notified of the trip beforehand.

The health center also maintains a station wagon for simple transport services, Perry said.

The car is used in less-serious situations, such as when a patient, without other transportation at his disposal, needs to get to or from a medical facility but does not need the equipment and care provided by an ambulance and attending paramedics.

## Opponents: Proposals would hurt economy

## Pay equity bill stalled in U.S. House

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Congressional Democrats thought they were waltzing toward passage of a law this year that would lead to equal pay for women. Then House conservatives stopped the music.

Angry women's groups and labor unions say the few Republicans who have stalled the legislation with scores of amendments are fighting a losing battle against one of the most significant women's issues of the decade.

But opponents — backed by President Reagan and major corporations — believe they are buying time to inform Americans that the proposal to raise pay for certain jobs traditionally held by women could destroy the economy.

At issue is a House bill scheduled for action this week proposing to

study whether women and minorities in the federal workforce are victims of pay discrimination.

If it becomes law, it could be used to establish a system of comparable worth under which men and women would receive the same salaries for different jobs judged to be of similar value. If the bill fails, the women's movement and labor unions will have lost an important test of strength.

"If they make this a big national issue, they're going to get a black eye," predicts the bill's sponsor, Rep. Mary Rose Oakar, D-Ohio.

"Women and minorities have a stake in the bill. If conservatives want to fight it, good. Let them alienate the blacks, women and Hispanics in their districts."

Oakar's pay equity bill passed the House by a 413-6 vote last year, but

it never came up for a vote in the Republican-controlled Senate. To increase the chance of passage this year, the measure was broadened to include minority groups. In addition, an identical bill was introduced in the Senate by Sens. Alan Cranston, D-Calif., and Daniel Evans, R-Wash.

This year, Oakar said, Senate approval is more likely because Evans is a co-sponsor and because 22 Senate seats held by Republicans are up for re-election next year.

Supporters of the proposal say it is uncertain whether Reagan would be bold enough to veto the bill with the 22 Senate seats on the ballot next year.

Opponents say including minorities is a political trick designed to pass legislation that would hold down the pay of men who hold blue-collar jobs and increase pay for

women who work mostly in offices.

"How can you tell a steelworker that his job is less valuable than a secretary's? Free enterprise should decide that, not some government panel," said Rep. Richard Arney, R-Texas, a former economics professor leading the House fight against pay equity.

Arney and his allies say the political risks of fighting the proposal are exaggerated.

"The radical fringe of the feminist movement is supporting this bill but they don't have the troops to back it up," said Rep. Robert Walker, R-Pa. "They don't really represent the mainstream of American women."

To support that view, Walker and Arney cite the 1984 election in which Reagan won 56 percent of the vote among women despite polls showing he was relatively unpopular among them.

## Graduation testing begins today for 11th graders

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Close to a quarter million Texas 11th graders will take the state's first graduation test Tuesday and Wednesday with about one-fourth of them expected to flunk the exam.

State school officials expect failing percentages to be even higher for black and Hispanic students.

"I anticipate the worst," Jon Brumley, chairman of the State Board of Education, said about the mandatory English test on Tuesday and a companion math quiz Wednesday.

"You're going to have a lot of unhappy people out there, and I don't know if they will take their wrath out on the local school district or the state," Brumley said.

Attorneys for the Mexican

American Legal Defense and Education Fund said they would be watching test results closely for any discrimination. The organization already has blocked, at least temporarily, a Texas school test required for college students who want to become teachers.

The "exit-level" examinations will be the first of four chances that students will have to meet academic standard set for the 1984 major school reform legislation.

Those who fail next week's tests and the following exams will not get a diploma.

State school officials estimate that about 24 percent of all those taking the two-hour English language test on Tuesday will make

See Eleventh, page 11