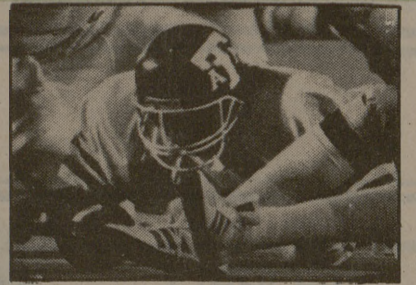


Aggie grad student studying computer medical diagnoses

— Page 4

A&M defense prepares to halt Houston's 'big play' offense

— Page 11



Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 81 No. 222 USPS 075360 16 pages

College Station, Texas

Wednesday, October 9, 1985

Hijackers claim to have killed 2 Americans

Associated Press
A man who said he was the captain of a hijacked Italian cruise liner in the Mediterranean pleaded with rescuers Tuesday to stay away from the Achille Lauro, on which were heavily armed Palestinian pirates.
Reports said the hijackers had freed two American hostages to meet their demand that Israel free Palestinian prisoners.
Please, please, don't try anything my ship," he shouted into the radio from the ship, which was reported to be in international waters off Cyprus.
The Palestinian hijackers were

said to have a large supply of explosives, and vowed soon after seizing the vessel Monday night that they would blow it up if military, air or naval forces tried to interfere.
The Italian government said it would not give in to "terrorist blackmail," and also said that the hijackers "seem" to be demanding freedom for prisoners in Italy and other countries.
Most of the Americans who had been on the Achille Lauro cruise were among about 600 passengers who disembarked in Alexandria, Egypt, before the Palestinians seized the ship about 30 miles west of Port Said. Reports indicated about a dozen Americans still were aboard.

Reagan says U.S. working to end 'this act of terrorism'

Associated Press
WASHINGTON — President Reagan called the hijacking of an Italian cruise ship "the most ridiculous thing" Tuesday, and the White House said the United

States was working with other governments "to bring about an end to this act of terrorism."
Both the State Department and White House said there was no information that the hijackers had

Western diplomats in Damascus said the Syrian Foreign Ministry told Italian Charge d'Affaires Pietro Cordone the hijackers claimed to have killed two Americans.

"We have no confirmation," said one diplomat.
The ship sailed west from the Syrian coast after it was denied access to Syrian territorial waters outside the

port of Tartus, a diplomat reported.
A Western diplomat in Damascus said it was bound for Cyprus, and Beirut port officials said it was in international waters off the coast of Cyprus.
In an earlier radio conversation with Beirut port authorities, the hijack gang's leader demanded negotiations with Israel.
He shouted: "We will hit any ship, any plane that tries to approach us! This is Omar, the hijacker of the Italian ship. I want to speak to Beirut port authorities."
When port officials identified themselves, Omar said:
"I want to negotiate . . . I want to negotiate with Israel. I want you to

convey this message. I want to negotiate with Israel. That's all, I want to break off now."
Cairo newspapers said the gang leader identified himself shortly after the hijack as Omar Mustafa, code-named Abu Rashad, but nothing more was known about him.
The Beirut port officials and Israeli radio monitors said the man who said he was the captain shouted into the radio later: "I have one message. Please, please, don't try anything on my ship. Everybody is in very good health."
Cordone, the Italian charge d'affaires, said Italy had refused all contact with the hijackers.

Death toll nears 100 in Puerto Rico after tragic storm

Associated Press
PONCE, Puerto Rico — Volunteers and soldiers dug through tons of mud and shattered homes Tuesday in a desperate search for survivors of the tropical rainstorm that hit southern Puerto Rico, killing at least 66 people.
Hundreds of others are missing, authorities said, in the mudslides and floods from Monday's deluge that dumped seven inches of rain in 10 hours along the southern coast of the island.
Thousands of victims, their homes crushed or washed away, are given temporary shelter.
Gov. Rafael Hernandez Colon said Tuesday: "This is the worst tragedy ever to hit our island in its history. It fills me with pain, as governor and as a Ponce native."
The National Weather Service said the official death count was slightly less than 100, and that from Monday evening through Monday morning, 10 to 15 inches had fallen. Local officials have counted 66 bodies.



Sidewalk Surfin'

John Boyle, a freshman mechanical engineering major from Overton, takes a break from his studies to hit the pavement. Boyle, from Squadron 2,

learned how to skateboard six years ago in Germany when his father was stationed there with the Army.

Photo by FRANK HADA

School reforms make recruiting more complicated

By CYNTHIA GAY
Staff Writer

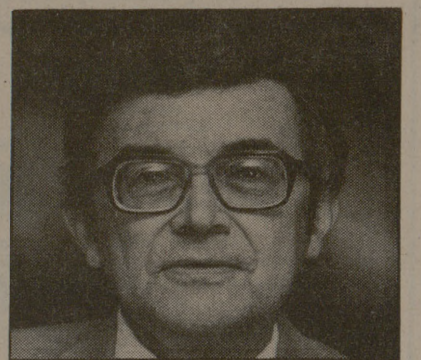
Recruitment. It's a touchy subject around the Southwest Conference these days. But when it comes to offering students an educational challenge, Texas A&M has earned the respect of the state's high schools.
"A&M is academically too strong" is the oft-repeated statement of students to A&M officials visiting the high school campus, said Loyd Taylor, director of the Office of School Relations.
When high school students tell him they "couldn't hack it" at A&M, Taylor said he replies that the average student is the bedrock of the University's greatness.
"It's a place where average students can be successful," Taylor said.
He likes to call A&M officials who travel around the state speaking to interested juniors and seniors informers, not recruiters. On the high school campus, Taylor said, A&M's approach is to simply state the facts and encourage students to visit the University.
A&M's educational opportunities,

history, enrollment, size of freshman class, academic standing, number of national merit scholars and amount of money spent on research are some of the first details the high school student hears.
The fact that 97 percent of A&M students came from the top half of their graduating class, with close to 80 percent of those from the highest quarter, is clear testimony of the kind of students that consider A&M, he said.
But for University officials on the high school campus, field work is no rose bed now because House Bill 72 has limited the time the student can be outside of the classroom, Taylor said. About one-half of high school counselors will no longer allow the students to meet with college officials, he said.
At College Day or College Night programs in major city high schools, representatives from public and private institutions give students and their parents presentations that are
See A&M recruiters, page 15

Eaton 1 of 6 candidates for Iowa State presidency

From staff and wire reports

Dr. Gordon Eaton, Texas A&M provost and vice president of academic affairs, is on a list of six candidates for the job of president of Iowa State University, a search committee said Tuesday.
Monday, 10 candidates were interviewed by ISU officials. By Tuesday evening, the number of candidates had been narrowed to six.
Eaton said he has mixed emotions about his nomination, and hasn't made any decisions yet. He said he is involving his family in the process and is "content to wait." Eaton said there probably will be another round of elimination before the final decision is made.
ISU President Dr. Robert Parks announced earlier this year that he would retire in June 1986 and since



Dr. Gordon Eaton

then, the firm Heidrick and Struggles has been conducting a search by mail for a replacement.
Eaton said in August he was not
See Eaton, page 12

October marks Texas Restaurant Month

By MARK RUDOLPH
Reporter

Eating out is fun.
This is the motto of the Texas Restaurant Association, which is promoting October as Texas Restaurant Month, says Mary Newton, president of the Brazos Valley chapter of the association and owner of Prioritas Coffee and Tea Specialty Shop.
"We want to permeate the community and the student body with a positive attitude about restaurants," Newton says.
Governor Mark White has proclaimed October as Texas Restaurant Month in recognition of the state's 300,000 food service workers and in honor of the state's eating places, which will pump over \$10 billion into the economy in 1985.

Newton says the idea behind Texas Restaurant Month is to get people to recognize restaurants.
"We want people to think 'eating out,'" she says.
Currently, there are 587 foodservice units in the Brazos Valley area, which employ almost 6,000 people.
Ray Bowman, former president of the Brazos Valley chapter, says consumers in Bryan-College Station spend \$672 per capita annually to eat out. Bowman also says residents spend 38.9 percent of their food dollar to eat away from home.
Newton says the area is tremendously overbuilt, so the 38.9 percent of the food dollar spent away from home could be misleading. She says the population just isn't large enough to support all of the restaurants.
Newton adds that the market in

the area is very diverse, but the number one reason people eat out is for convenience.
"The last thing I want to do after work is go home and prepare a decent meal," she says.
Newton says that people's decisions in choosing a restaurant could be affected by how they feel. She says if someone was tired, he may choose to sit down for a meal instead of standing in a fast food line.
Newton also says students were a very important part of the market. When asked what types of foods they preferred, Newton did not hesitate.
"Fajitas," she replied.
Patsy Perry, manager of The Grapevine Bistro and Restaurant in College Station, says sandwiches and soups were popular. But, she says hamburgers are the biggest lunch

item in Texas, according to statistics she has received.
Bennigan's in College Station can attest to this statistic. Their management says hamburgers are the most popular item on the menu.
John Ersoy, general manager of J.J. Muggs in College Station, also says hamburgers are a big selling item. He adds that hamburger sales are down from last year, but still account for 45 percent of total sales.
"We are starting to see a little more diversity," Ersoy says. "People are beginning to shy away from red meat."
He says chicken and salads are becoming popular.
According to Texas Restaurant Association statistics, 36 percent of the consumers polled in a recent "Texas Tastes" survey say they are more likely to order natural foods

when dining out than they were a year ago.
The president of the organization, Louis Hochman, says customer demand for healthy foods is being felt in all segments of the business, from dining to fast food.
"Today's consumer is more interested in 'eating healthy' than 'just eating' and restaurateurs are responding to this trend by including foods perceived as nutritious on their menu," Hochman says.
The "Texas Tastes" study also reports that 25 percent of the respondents are less likely to order red meat and 35 percent are more likely to order salads.
According to the Texas Restaurant Association, in the B-CS area,
See Eating, page 15