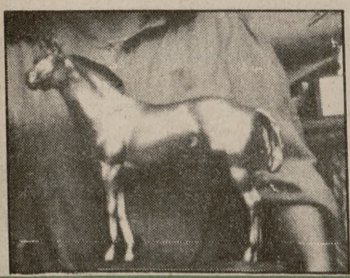


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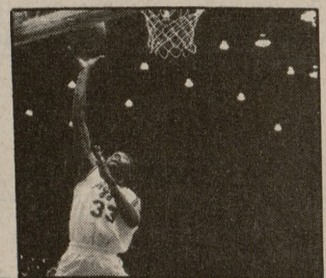


A&M horse judging team
wins 3 national competitions

— Page 5

Lady Ags stay undefeated
at home with a 72-61 win

— Page 7



Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 82 No. 66 USPS 075360 12 pages

College Station, Texas

Wednesday, December 4, 1985

Shuttle photos may help find water in Africa

Associated Press

EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. — The space shuttle Atlantis landed safely Tuesday with a cargo of promise: photos that may locate hidden water in drought-ridden Africa, a purified hormone for tests of a new medical treatment, and video tapes to help design a U.S. space station.

With mission commander Brewster Shaw at the controls, the shuttle landed at this desert air base at 4:33 p.m. EST in front of about 6,700 spectators.

The shuttle's plunge from orbit started when Shaw fired rockets at 3:27 p.m. to slow the craft and drop it from its 218 mile-high orbit in a long blazing glide over the Pacific Ocean.

Others on the crew were astronauts Bryan O'Connor, Mary Cleave, Sherwood Spring and Jerry Ross, McDonnell Douglas engineer Charles Walker, and Mexican astronaut Rodolfo Neri, the first of his nation to fly in space.

Shaw said at Monday's news conference that the astronauts took photographs of Africa's drought-stricken Ethiopia and Somalia. Experts plan to examine the photos for surface evidence of water that may be hidden beneath those desert lands, where famine continues to kill.

Also stored aboard Atlantis were miles of video tapes of Ross and Spring as they built large structures of spindly metal struts in the shuttle's open cargo bay during two spacewalks. Scientists believe the construction demonstration will make a major contribution in the design of an American space station planned for the 1990s.

Atlantis also carried samples of a purified hormone that can be used to treat red blood cell deficiencies, such as anemia. The samples, purified in an electrical process that is more efficient in zero gravity, will be used in animal tests, the first step in winning Food and Drug Administration approval for clinical use.

The astronauts also launched three communications satellites, conducted a variety of crystal-growth experiments, and tested a new autopilot system that will enable shuttles to automatically hold position in orbit next to a space station or satellite.

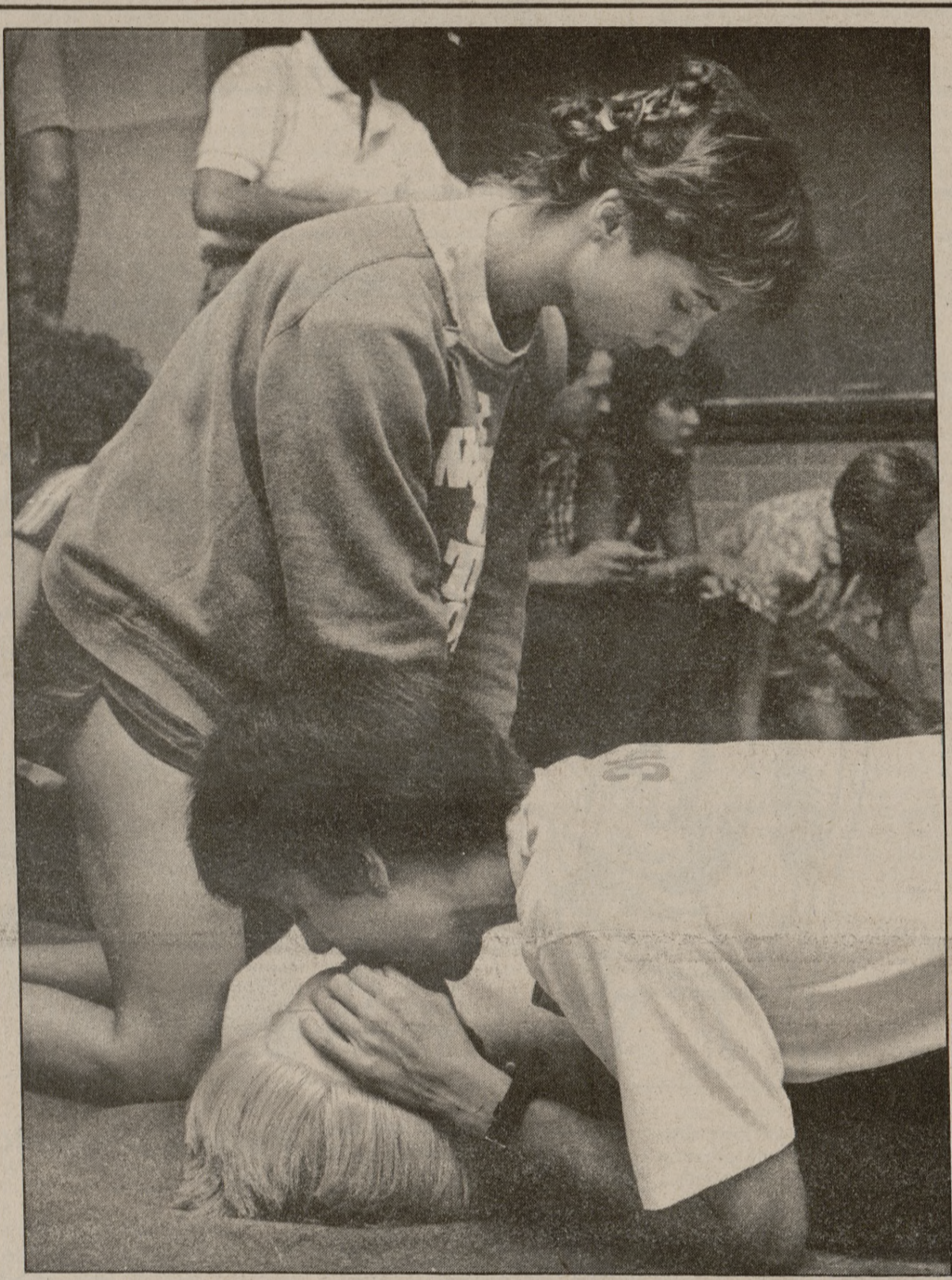


Photo by MIKE SANCHEZ

Resuscitating Annie

Inez Ferraco (bottom) and Susan Dart (top), both on Resuscitation Annie during the CPR block of instruction while in scuba class.

Defense firm suspended by Pentagon

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — General Dynamics Corp. on Tuesday lost its right to obtain new government contracts, one day after the firm and four former or current executives, including NASA administrator James M. Beggs, were indicted on fraud charges.

The contract suspension, announced by the Defense Department, is the second such action imposed on the nation's third-largest defense contractor this year. The latest suspension applies not only to Pentagon contracts, but also to any other government work.

Meanwhile, a key congressman said Beggs plans to take a leave of absence as NASA administrator while he defends himself against the charges.

"He is relinquishing his duties during the period in which the courts will judge the charges made in the indictment," said Rep. Don Fuqua, D-Fla., chairman of the House Science and Technology

Committee, which oversees NASA. Fuqua said he talked to Beggs on Tuesday afternoon and that "he informed me of his decision to step aside."

The suspension order was issued by the Navy in its role as executive agent for the Pentagon on all contractual matters involving General Dynamics, which received defense contracts worth \$6 billion in fiscal 1984.

Alvin Spivak, a company spokesman, said the Navy's action was "inappropriate, since the issue in the case should not have resulted in indictments against the company or its people."

Spivak said the indictment involved "highly sophisticated regulatory and accounting matters." Had those matters been properly referred to a "civil forum... we doubt that the government's position would have prevailed," Spivak said.

On Monday, Beggs had said "I am

See General, page 12

Abortion activist: Leave choice to individual

By SONDRA PICKARD
Reporter

The choice of abortion is one that should be left to the individual and not the government because it is uncertain when life actually begins, an abortion activist said Tuesday in Rudder Theatre.

Sarah Weddington, an Austin attorney, fought before the U.S. Supreme Court in favor of legalized abortion in the 1973 landmark case of Roe vs. Wade.

"The Supreme Court has said that where the experts in law, medicine, science and religion cannot agree on an answer to the question of when life begins, then that is an issue for each person to decide for themselves," Weddington said. "I agree with that decision."

She said the majority of Americans still believe that abortion should be a matter of choice and not a matter of state prescribed law.

Before Weddington won her case, a Texas law provided that abortion was illegal except in cases where the woman's death was imminent. She said a few states had more liberal laws, permitting abortions in cases of rape, incest, or fetal deformity.

Weddington pointed out that Texans continued to receive abortions despite the statute.

"There was a flight that left Love Field in Dallas every Saturday morning going from Texas to California for people who were going there to get procedures," Weddington said.



Sarah Weddington

"But in many parts of Texas there were women going to Mexico for essentially illegal procedures that were often very dangerous and not well-performed."

However, Jane Roe was not one of these Texans. She tried to obtain an abortion in Texas but was denied. Weddington met Roe at this time and decided to take her case.

Although Weddington won the case, Dallas District Attorney Henry Wade announced that he would continue prosecuting. The case was then

See Activist, page 12

Strike marks anniversary of gas leak

Associated Press

BHOPAL, India — A general strike paralyzed this central Indian city Tuesday and thousands of angry protesters filled the streets on the second day of demonstrations marking the first anniversary of the Union Carbide gas leak that killed more than 2,000 people.

Hundreds of effigies of the American chemical company's chairman were set ablaze Tuesday night.

Marches and rallies were conducted in at least five other Indian

cities, including New Delhi and Calcutta, commemorating the leak of methyl isocyanate gas that killed more than 2,000 people in Bhopal — most of them slum dwellers — and injured 300,000 others.

About 4,000 demonstrators swarmed outside the Union Carbide pesticide plant in Bhopal, demanding that the plant be permanently closed before another disaster occurs.

"Our struggle will be alive as long as we have life in our bodies and sen-

sation in our toes," Abid Rizvi, a textile union leader, told protesters outside the plant.

"Down with killer Carbide, drown Anderson in chemicals," they shouted.

Protest leaders said they planned to burn one effigy for each victim in the Dec. 2-3, 1984, industrial disaster, the world's worst.

Government offices, schools, shops and markets in Bhopal were closed Tuesday in memory of the victims. Motorscooter rickshaws and

mini-buses, the principal means of transportation in the city of 900,000, stayed off the roads.

Black flags flew over homes in most of the slums around the Bhopal plant while the victims marked the anniversary as a "black day."

No violence was reported in any of the demonstrations. The United News of India, quoting official sources, said three more slum dwellers who lived near the plant died Tuesday of gas-related injuries.

Powe is nominated for Battalion editor

By BRIAN PEARSON
Senior Staff Writer

Michelle Powe was nominated Tuesday by the Student Publications Board to be editor of The Battalion for the spring 1986 semester.

The decision by the board, which is made up of three students, three faculty members and one administrator, was unanimous. The decision must be confirmed by Texas A&M Provost Gordon Eaton.

Powe, a senior journalism major from Springfield, Va., is the current managing editor of The Battalion. During her 3½-years at the newspaper, Powe has been staff writer, senior staff writer, as-



Michelle Powe

sistant news editor, assistant city editor, photo editor and editorial page editor.

"I've been here for a long time

See Spring editor, page 12

Phone fraud

Company investigating B-CS residents for long distance toll abuse

By CRAIG RENFRO
Reporter

Bryan-College Station residents are under investigation for several thousand dollars of long distance toll fraud abuse, says a spokesman for U.S. Telecom Inc.

Tim Bowring, assistant vice president for corporate communications for U.S. Telecom, in Kansas City Mo., says the investigations are part of a multi-million dollar loss suffered by long distance services in Texas.

"We noticed an unusual amount of numbers being dialed out of the switching center for the (Texas A&M) campus area," Bowring says. "After we identified where the abuse was occurring we canceled many of the abused codes."

When the investigations are com-

pleted, students will be encouraged to come forward and make restitution for the calls, Bowring says.

"Students are breaking federal law and are subject to fines," Bowring says. "They just aren't getting free phone calls."

Long distance service companies across the nation have lost an estimated \$500 million through toll fraud abuse, says a spokesman for MCI Telecommunications Inc.

John Houser, corporate public relations director for MCI in Washington, D.C., says the Secret Service is being called in to investigate the fraud.

Bowring says most people don't realize the illegal calls are a felony, punishable by a \$50,000 fine or by 15 years in jail.

"Our purpose is to stop the abu-

se," Bowring says. "We prefer not to prosecute. The best solution of all is for code abusers to come forward and make restitution for the calls."

"This investigation is like a drug bust. We don't want to get the person with a half-ounce of marijuana, we want the big dealer."

Houser says Communications Fraud Control Association, an organization of 34 long distance companies, has banded together to identify where the fraud is occurring across the states and to assist federal officials with the investigations.

"Monitoring systems are being used to detect frequently dialed codes, and then the calls will be traced and the suspects will be appre-

hended," Houser says.

Last week five individuals were arrested in New York for toll fraud abuse, Houser says.

He says there are several ways people can get these free numbers.

"There are computer hackers who just keep dialing numbers until they find one that works," Houser says. "I've even heard of instances in New York where you can buy a code off the street for \$2."

Bowring says even though the investigations are preliminary, they have been done in other areas and were successful.

"Tell students don't do it," he says. "It isn't worth it."