

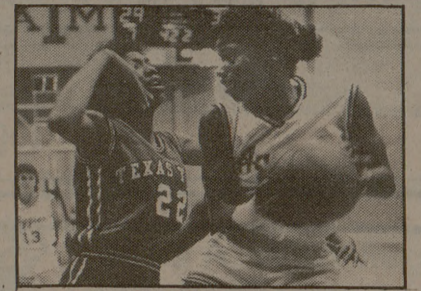
Crowd thin, applause thick
at country music concert

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Lady Aggies try to regroup
for final home game of '86

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Texas A&M The Battalion

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Soldiers killed in Grenada honored

Associated Press

ST. GEORGE'S, Grenada — Under a dazzling Caribbean sun, President Reagan on Thursday retraced the steps of American invasion forces that ousted a radical Marxist government from this tiny island 27 years ago and vowed the United States also "must help those struggling for freedom in Nicaragua."

Reagan flew here to honor the 19 servicemen killed in three days of fighting that forced Cuban troops from Grenada and led to formation of a democratically elected government.

He laid a green wreath with a purple ribbon at the foot of a memorial to the 19, then stepped back and stood silent for a moment.

In a speech hours later to a cheering, flag-waving crowd, Reagan likened events in Nicaragua to those that prompted him to order an invasion of Grenada and declared he won't be satisfied "until all the people of the Americas have lived in the warm sunshine of liberty and justice."

He was introduced as "our own national hero, our own rescuer" by the Minister Herbert Blaize, who declared a national holiday in honor of the visit.

The audience estimated at more than 20,000 roared approval when Reagan hailed democracy in Grenada and declared, "When people are free, their rights to speak and to live are protected by law, and the prisons are not running the jails, they win the jails."

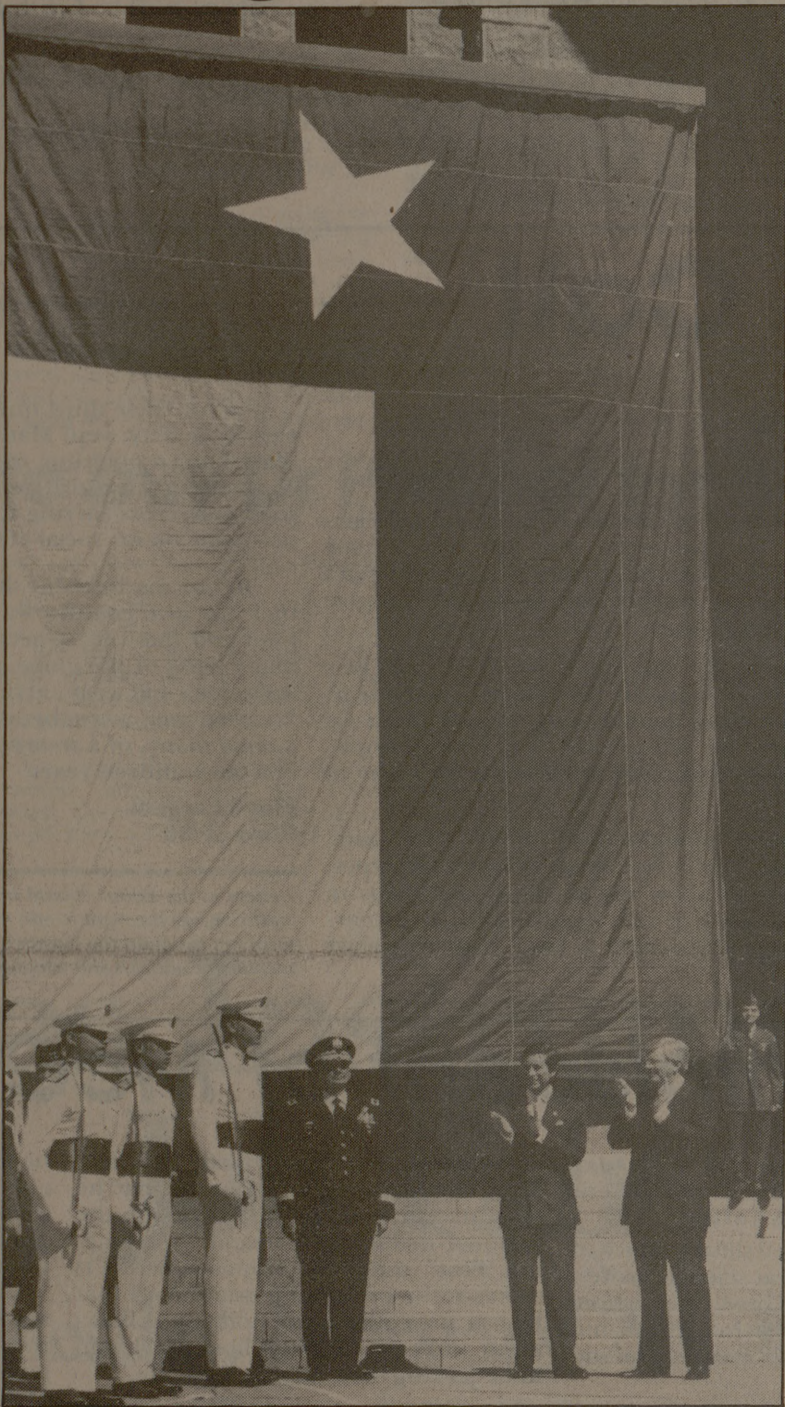
Reporters asked Reagan whether he had any plans to use military force in Nicaragua.

"No," he replied. "I think it's a completely different situation. We have no plans."

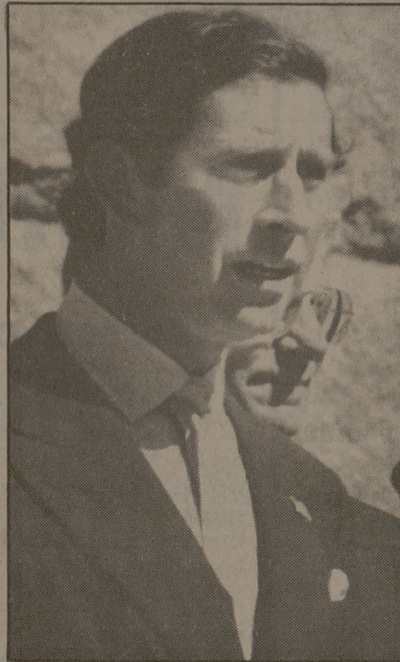
But in his speech, Reagan said, "Today in Nicaragua we see a chain of events similar to what happened here. We hear the same excuses made for the communists, while the people of Nicaragua see their freedom slowly but surely eaten away."

RVs greet Prince Charles in Austin

Cadets join in Sesquicentennial ceremony



Thousands watched as Texas A&M's Ross Volunteers participated in a Sesquicentennial ceremony with Prince Charles and Gov. Mark White.



By staff and wire reports

AUSTIN — When Britain's Prince Charles and Gov. Mark White stepped out on the Capitol's steps Thursday for a ceremony celebrating Texas' Sesquicentennial, 15 members of Texas A&M's Ross Volunteers stood at attention to greet them.

The RVs, the official honor guard for the governor, formed two lines on Capitol steps, through which White and Prince Charles walked.

During the 10 minute ceremony, which included a 21-gun salute by the National Guard, Prince Charles gave a short speech and exchanged gifts with White. As the ceremony concluded, the prince pulled a cord to unveil a huge Texas flag to a crowd of more than 3,000 people.

Mark Feagins, a senior agribusiness major, describes the event as an emotional one for the RVs.

"The highlight of the trip was

standing there representing A&M while our national anthem was playing," Feagins says. "It was just a great experience."

"It was something I'll remember my whole life. I was just glad to get the opportunity to go."

In another ceremony Thursday, Prince Charles, skillfully wielding a three-foot sword, cut a 45-ton cake to help Texas celebrate its 150th anniversary.

"I bring the very best possible wishes from the people of Great Britain and her majesty, the queen," Prince Charles said earlier in the day. "I do wish you a very happy birthday indeed."

The Texas-sized cake, 110-by-80-feet, was made with 36,000 pounds of yellow cake mix and 30,000 pounds of vanilla frosting.

The tuxedo-clad prince received an ovation from the crowd when he tried the cake. He also handed pieces to two children who were selected for the first samples.

Cutting the cake capped a day of Sesquicentennial-related events.

During a tour of the Capitol, Prince Charles received a gift he jokingly said might prove useful around the palace.

While meeting state legislators in the Texas Senate chamber, the prince was presented a 1½-foot-long wooden gavel by Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby.

"I can only say that this gavel — which is by far the biggest I've ever had and which is entirely appropriate because it comes from Texas — I'm sure will be a frightfully useful blunt instrument for maintaining discipline in the home," said the father of two young sons.

The giant gavel was one of many gifts Texans offered during the prince's day-long visit to Austin.

Presents included a Texas flag that flew over the Capitol, given by House Speaker Gib Lewis; an 1838 London-made map of Texas from White, and a stuffed longhorn steer toy from a University of Texas student.

The prince said he has enjoyed his Texas trip, which began Monday in Dallas, took him to Houston and ends Friday in San Antonio.

Photo by GREG BAILEY

Worker at A&M files complaint with safety administration

By SONDRICK PICKARD
Staff Writer

A construction worker at Texas A&M filed a complaint Wednesday with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, saying he was fired because he refused to work under unsafe conditions.

Randy Thomas, 34, said he was exposed Tuesday to dangerous levels of harmful chemicals found in an epoxy solvent being used in the construction of the new Engineering Physics Building. He said he refused to work under the potentially hazardous conditions and was fired.

Thomas worked for Houston Metro Electric, a subcontractor of Rogers Con-

struction, the general contractor for the building project.

He worked five weeks as an electrician's assistant at the site before he was assigned a job in the basement of the building where epoxy was being sprayed on the walls.

Epoxy is a resin, or plant-extracted substance, that is commonly used in strong, resistant glues and enamels. It is sprayed over paint to give it a shiny appearance and to protect the surface.

Thomas said he worked in the basement for four days, sometimes for hours at a time, as painters applied the epoxy. During that time, he said, he experienced symptoms such as dizziness, nausea, headaches and irritated eyes — symptoms that he said

persisted up to eight hours after leaving work.

Thomas said that when his requests to be relocated to another part of the building were denied, he refused to continue working and was told by his foreman, Jerry Travis, to "pick up your tools and go on home."

Thomas has filed complaints with the Austin and Houston OSHA offices and the University Safety Office at A&M.

The complaints he filed are listed under paragraph 11C of the Occupational Safety Health Act, which states that every employee has the right to safety and health at his workplace, and must not be discriminated against for complaining about unsafe conditions while on the job.

Ed Cosgrove, an industrial hygienist with the Austin OSHA, took Thomas's complaint. Cosgrove said Thomas's complaint will be forwarded to OSHA's regional office in Dallas, where a discrimination officer will take the case and contact both Thomas and his former employer by telephone. Cosgrove said if the complaint is legitimate, OSHA would like to see Thomas get his job back, receive any back pay he may be missing and get his personnel record purged of the incident.

In this particular kind of case, Cosgrove said, an investigator will not be sent to the worksite because the job in question will probably be finished in a couple of days. In cases involving ongoing projects posing an

extremely serious threat to workers, an OSHA investigator is usually sent within seven days.

A graduate student in the A&M Recreation and Parks Department, Thomas said he was working on the construction to earn some extra money and that he knew the job would only last about two months.

"Everybody's been getting high as a kite while they're working down there," Thomas said. "You get dizzy and sort of lost while you're trying to work. Your lungs hurt and you're nauseated."

"I'd have been glad to work anywhere, just not right in there where they're spray-

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Court reduces bond for Texaco's appeal

Associated Press

NEW YORK — A federal appeals court took pressure off Texaco Inc. Thursday, ruling Texaco need not post a \$12 billion bond before it can appeal a multi-billion-dollar damage judgment won by Pennzoil Co. in Texas.

A three-judge panel of the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals upheld a lower court ruling that Texaco would have to put up \$1 billion in security, a requirement the company satisfied by pledging stock in its Canadian subsidiary.

The appeals panel said the \$12 billion bond that would have been required by Texas law "lacks any rational basis, since it would de-

stroy Texaco and render its right of appeal in Texas an exercise in futility."

"This would at least amount to a deprivation of its property in violation of its right to due process under the Constitution," the court added.

John K. McKinley, the company's chairman and chief executive officer, said, "This decision confirms Texaco's ability to appeal the judgement of the appellate courts without the burden of oppressive bond and liens."

In Houston, Pennzoil Chairman J. Hugh Liedtke told The Associated Press that he joined McKinley in being "delighted"

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A&M nuclear reactor

Uranium fuel level expected to be downgraded by 1988

By BRIAN PEARSON
Senior Staff Writer

High-enriched uranium fuel used in Texas A&M's nuclear reactor is expected to be replaced by low-enriched fuel by the end of 1988, the director of the A&M Nuclear Sciences Center said Tuesday.

Donald Feltz said this change is being made to comply with a Feb. 6 ruling made by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The ruling requires about 24 nuclear research reactors around the country to use low-enriched fuel because if this fuel were stolen, it would be more difficult to use in the composition of a nuclear weapon than would the weapons-grade, high-enriched fuel.

The fuel replacement should allow the facility, upon approval by

the NRC, to upgrade reactor power from one megawatt to two megawatts, Feltz said.

"We've opposed this (rule) all along," Feltz said.

Feltz said the current fuel, which is not weapons grade, would be difficult to steal and convert to weapons-grade uranium. Weapons-grade uranium is almost 99 percent pure. Uranium fuel less than 99 percent pure must go through a complicated refining process to become weapons grade, he said.

Feltz said that although the NRC has not set a deadline for replacement, the A&M facility probably will switch the fuel in 1988 and follow through with the proposed upgrade of the reactor.

"The (NRC) rule only will be put into effect if federal funds are avail-

able," Feltz said. "In the long-range planning of this facility, we were looking at upgrading our reactor in its performance anyway."

He said the federal government, through the U.S. Department of Energy, will pay about \$150,000 in fuel shipping costs and about \$750,000 for the recently-developed, low-enriched fuel.

Feltz said the A&M reactor currently uses 70 percent uranium-enriched fuel and is on the end of the list of facilities affected by the NRC ruling.

The first reactors that will be asked by the NRC to switch fuels currently use 93 percent enriched fuel, Feltz said.

He said the new fuel will be less than 20 percent enriched, the point at which a fuel is considered to be

low enriched and difficult to use to make a nuclear weapon.

The new fuel along with the upgrading of the facility, Feltz said, will allow the reactor to provide more research because the low-enriched fuel will be operated at a higher megawatt capacity than the current fuel. The present high-enriched fuel can operate at a maximum of 1.5 megawatts and the new low-enriched fuel design can operate at three megawatts.

To operate a nuclear reactor at a higher megawatt power, the control rods in the reactor core are further out to allow for more fission to occur. This allows for a greater release of neutrons.

"The higher the neutron flux, the

See A&M nuclear, page 12