

Texas A&M

The Battalion

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Local caller says drug poisoned

By Scott Sutherland
Assistant City Editor

An unidentified caller told a Bryan pharmacist March 21 that cyanide had been placed in packets of Dextatrim, a diet aid, according to a Bryan Police Department report.

Robert Clayton, a Bryan pharmacist, said he was told that FBI agents had asked other local pharmacists to keep incident quiet until an investigation had been completed.

According to the police report, the caller told an employee of Medical Pharmacy, 200 W. 26th St. in Bryan, that he had placed cyanide in Dextatrim capsules. The employee called the caller what he had said and the caller repeated it.

The employee then asked another employee to pick up the phone and the caller repeated the threat. The employee asked the caller his name and the caller said he was not going to give it. The caller again said he had placed cyanide in the Dextatrim and hung up the phone. The employees immediately called Bryan police.

Bryan Police Chief Charles Phelps said the case was immediately turned over to local FBI agent Mike Williams.

Clayton, a pharmacist at Twin Pharmacies pharmacy in Bryan and operator of a local pharmacists' hotline, said after he was informed of the incident he notified other local pharmacists.

When Clayton noticed that some pharmacists weren't getting the word, he called a few to check into the matter. He says he was told that FBI officials had asked pharmacists to keep the incident quiet until an FBI investigation had been completed.

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Jim Cleary, Mike Hachtman, Marty Roos, Brett Shine and Mike Sims are vying for the presidency. Students will cast their ballots on April 2.

The candidates fielded questions on a five-member panel comprised of Donna Banfield, Student Y Association president; Katie Shuman, SC Political Forum chairwoman; Gary Oslin, The Battalion's city editor; Rob Liles, Off-Campus Aggies assessor; and Garland Wilkinson, 1986-87 Corps Commander.

Cleary emphasized the diverse composition of Texas A&M's student population and the need for all students to be served.

"I think that, unfortunately, in the minds, some students, and also some faculty members and some administrators seem to remember Texas A&M of old, which was a quality school—but it was a different school," he said. "I think what we're going to do is to do—if we haven't yet—wake up and realize that there are a lot of students that are different from us, and they have different needs, come



Happy Easter

Chance Brandon (left) and Jarred Phillips ask for more candy from Easter bunny Sharon Dent, a lecturer in the Texas A&M Department of English.

Beta Sigma Phi, an area service sorority, sponsored Denton's hop to Frills and Freckles Nursery in Bryan Thursday.

Photo by Brian Pearson

Senate OKs aid program for Contras

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Senate on Thursday revived President Reagan's plan to send \$100 million to aid Nicaragua's Contra rebels on a narrow 53-47 vote, but imposed a three-month delay in lethal aid to give negotiations a final chance.

Following the roll call vote attaching the conditions, the Senate approved the president's aid program on a pro forma voice vote. That sent the measure back to the House, which a week ago rejected 222-210 the plan to put military pressure on the leftist Sandinista regime in Nicaragua.

Republicans had hoped that word of the Nicaraguan raid on Contra positions inside Honduras over the weekend would give them a bigger margin of victory.

But only 11 Democrats joined 42 Republicans in voting for the aid resolution while 36 Democrats joined by 11 Republicans voted against it.

The Senate wrote into the legislation promises made by Reagan not to provide the Contras offensive weapons for 90 days in order to give negotiations a chance.

However, Democrats contended that the White House had attached so many conditions to that promise as to make successful negotiations impossible.

In Santa Barbara, Calif., President Reagan said he was "deeply pleased" by the vote, adding that it would send a "profoundly reassuring signal to the freedom fighters in Nicaragua and to Nicaragua's threatened neighbors."

Reagan's plan would give the Con-

tras \$70 million in military aid and \$30 million in non-lethal help in their effort to oust the Sandinistas. The current U.S. aid package, which expires Monday, contains \$27 million in non-lethal assistance, including uniforms and medicine.

After the vote, Sen. James Sasser, D-Tenn., who led efforts to reshape the president's plan, told reporters, "Frankly, I think the vote was so close you cannot call it a victory for admi-

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President urges aid for rebels

NEW ORLEANS — President Reagan, looking beyond the Contra-aid vote Thursday in the Senate and toward a second chance for his plan in the House, said the Nicaraguan incursion in Honduras this week was a "slap in the face" to those House members who opposed aid to the Contras.

On a fundraising visit here for Republican Senate candidate Henson Moore before proceeding to California for an Easter vacation, the president cited the incursion by Nicaragua's Sandinistas as an example of their intransigence.

"The Communists in Managua are not seeking dialogue and pluralism," Reagan said. "They want total power in their hands, and they have no respect for the borders of their neighbors. This Sandinista offensive is a slap in the face to everyone who voted against aid to the (Contras) thinking it to be a vote for conciliation."

Last week, the House voted 222-210 to refuse the president's request for \$100 million including \$70 million for weapons in aid to the rebel Contras. It is scheduled to take up the issue a second time on April 15.

Both House and Senate opponents of the president's plan have insisted that he make good-faith efforts to negotiate a peace settlement in Nicaragua before getting the arms assistance for the rebels.

Reagan, pointing to the Sandinista cross-border raids against Contra enclaves in Honduras this week, maintains that Sandinista leaders have no intention of bargaining for a settlement that entails sharing power.

Even as he offered the Honduran incursion as a sign of Sandinista perfidy, debate within the administration intensified over the size, scope and meaning of the assault.

At the Pentagon and other agencies, the size of the Sandinista strike, which apparently came at three points inside the Honduran border was judged to be somewhat smaller than initially estimated.

Hopefuls for student body president debate

By Frank Smith
Staff Writer

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Candidates for Texas A&M student body president discussed their platforms Thursday night in the Memorial Student Center. From left,

they are Marty Roos, Mike Hachtman, Mike Sims, Jim Cleary and Brett Shine.

Photo by John Makely

from different backgrounds and are not necessarily Texans and realize that Student Government is not just Student Government for certain students, but it's a Student Government for students that have very diverse interests and very diverse backgrounds."

Cleary also said Student Government needs to establish better rela-

tions with the school's faculty and administration. A lot of students view faculty members and administrators as foes, he said, but those differences can be bridged by uniting with them on common problems, such as relations with the Board of Regents.

Cleary added that to be effective, Student Government must be comprised of intelligent, dedicated peo-

ple who will approach their jobs as challenges, and not as "a line on a resume."

Sims, when asked about the future role of the Corps of Cadets, also addressed the subject of A&M as a changing institution.

"Although a changing University, I feel that if Texas A&M is to continue to be an original school — I

mean the only Texas A&M — then they're going to have to continue to rely on the Corps to be the keepers of tradition, to be our roots in the tradition," Sims said. "However, as a changing University, we're going to have to be able to gather input from all sources."

To do that, Sims said he would

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U.S. 6th fleet finishes exercises off Libyan coast

WASHINGTON (AP) — The ships and planes of the 6th Fleet withdrew from the Gulf of Sidra off Libya's coast Thursday as President Reagan and other officials declared the United States had accomplished its mission of defending freedom of the seas.

"The exercise is over," Reagan announced in early afternoon as he stepped in New Orleans for a speech route to a California vacation.

"We have completed our exercise of the Gulf of Sidra, and it was in every way a successful operation," Defense Secretary Caspar W. Wein-

berger told reporters at the Pentagon.

"This exercise has demonstrated once again what it set out to do, which is our right and the right of all nations to operate in international waters," he said. "If Libya's radical claims and aggression against our forces were to go unanswered, no peaceful nation could safely rely on freedom of the seas anywhere."

The withdrawal came four days after the 6th Fleet began operations in the Gulf of Sidra and two days after Libyan forces gave up any pretense of further military challenge to the

30-ship battle group led by three aircraft carriers carrying about 250 planes.

The firing of surface-to-air missiles at American planes on Monday touched off U.S. attacks on the missile site and on Libyan patrol boats. At least two of the vessels were reported sunk.

No American casualties were reported, and Weinberger said the United States had no estimate of Libyan losses.

Adm. William Crowe, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said Libyan strongman Moammar Kha-

dafy acted rationally for a change in deciding to abandon military action against the U.S. forces.

Reagan charged that Khadafy was planning terrorist operations against Americans even before the confrontation in the gulf, and he pledged,

"The United States will not be intimidated by new threats of terrorism against us . . . Mr. Khadafy must know that we will hold him fully accountable for any such actions."

Without being specific, he said, "We're aware of intensive Libyan

preparations that were already under way for terrorist operations against Americans."

The president telephoned the 6th Fleet commander, Vice Adm. Frank B. Kelso, to praise the servicemen for their bravery and "tireless response to Libyan threats."

The withdrawal of the U.S. battle group began Thursday morning with a gradual reduction in the number of fighter flights over the gulf and orders to a cruiser and two destroyers inside the gulf to begin steaming northward.

Although Crowe and Weinberger refused to discuss future movements, Pentagon sources said the fleet had been ordered to take up stations in the central Mediterranean north of Libya and to remain there at least through the weekend.

Khadafy claims the Gulf of Sidra as Libyan territorial waters. Last January, in the wake of U.S. charges he had supported the Dec. 27 terrorist attacks on the Rome and Vienna airports, he drew an imaginary "line of death" across the top of the gulf, vowing any U.S. ships or planes that crossed it would be subject to attack.