

# The Battalion



You Want Me To Do What?

Photo by Tom Ownbey

Marcellus Casey, right foreground, doesn't seem too happy about facing off with former Texas A&M center Matt Darwin, left, but Yinton Lee and Ryan Scott, partly obscured right back, face off at Kyle Field against Reggie White, a noseguard

for the Philadelphia Eagles; Herb Scott, a former guard for the Dallas Cowboys; while John Stanley takes the snap from his small center. All are participating in a Fellowship of Christian Athletes camp.

## House passes harsh sanctions on South Africa

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House unexpectedly approved on Wednesday legislation calling for withdrawal of U.S. business investment in South Africa and an all-out trade embargo, the harshest sanctions yet proposed against the white-minority Pretoria government.

The punitive steps approved by voice vote on a substitute amendment for the Anti-Apartheid Act of 1986 came at a time of rising indignation in Congress over apartheid in South Africa.

But it became clear that many lawmakers joining in the chorus of "ayes" were concerned more about thwarting sanctions than imposing them.

Republicans who allowed the substitute measure to go through said they did so as a parliamentary ploy to kill prospects that sanctions will ever be imposed. The way to do this, they said, was to report out a bill so harsh there was no way it would ever become law.

If adopted by the Senate and signed into law by President Reagan, the measure would order all U.S. companies out of South Africa within 180 days and impose a total trade embargo.

In approving the substitute for a measure which had been crafted by the House Foreign Affairs Committee, the lawmakers ignored a last-minute letter from national security adviser John Poindexter, who argued that punitive sanctions would cripple U.S. diplomacy and "strengthen the hands of extremists."

The vote came after Rep. Ronald Dellums, D-Calif., said the crisis in South Africa calls for the abandonment of timidity. The bill approved was a Dellums amendment which substituted for language developed by members of the committee. The panel's bill would have imposed a measured and incremental set of sanctions. The revised bill was

passed when Republicans did not demand roll call votes.

Strong medicine is needed "to end this madness," he declared.

Dellums had called on the House to discard halfway measures and to adopt "an all out, powerful, aggressive statement."

"I'm going to have a heart attack," an astonished Dellums said after the vote. He said he thought the Republicans did not ask for a roll call vote because "the momentum is on our side. The Republicans don't have the numbers to wreck this legislation."

Rep. William Gray, D-Pa., proclaimed: "This is historic; the House just voted total disinvestment."

But Rep. Mark Siljander, R-Mich., who led opposition to imposition of sanctions, declared: "This whole bill is dead. Sanctions are dead."

House Republican leader Robert Michel of Illinois had said he did not have the votes to block passage of the more measured and incremental approach advocated in Gray's measure.

"The Dellums bill is a lemon," Siljander said. "Frankly it's the kiss of death. So we decided to lose the battle and win the war and let this lemon fly through and kill sanctions once and for all."

Rep. Thomas P. O'Neill, D-Mass., evidently seeking to emphasize the positive aspects of what had transpired, said, "The House has condemned apartheid in the strongest possible terms. Today's bipartisan action shows the tidal wave of American revulsion against the discredited policy" of trying to work with the Pretoria government to bring about social change. "constructive engagement."

Rep. Daniel Burton, R-Ind., said the reason the Dellums substitute measure was passed "... was because we knew something was going to pass and it was better to let a lousy bill go through."

### Amendment to aid middle class cut

## Senate rejects tax relief measure

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate, on the verge of approving one of the most-sweeping tax plans of the 20th century, rejected an amendment Wednesday that would have targeted more tax relief to middle-income Americans at the expense of the rich.

A 71-29 vote killed the amendment by Sen. George Mitchell, D-Maine, clearing away what appar-

ently was the last major hurdle to passage of the tax-overhaul package. Forty-nine Republicans and 22 Democrats voted against the amendment; 25 Democrats and 4 Republicans favored it.

A final vote on the bill is likely this afternoon, which would send it to a compromise conference with the House, which has approved a markedly different version.

Mitchell said that while the Senate measure is a great improvement over present law, it falls short of perfection. "The bill does a lot for the rich, a lot for the poor, and little for the middle class," he said, and offered his amendment as a solution.

Mitchell proposed to create a third tax rate of 35 percent that would apply only to the 5 percent of taxpayers with the highest incomes.

That would pay for greater tax reductions at lower levels. The Finance Committee bill would give those with incomes between \$30,000 and \$40,000 tax cuts averaging 5 percent. Mitchell wanted to boost that relief to 10.4 percent.

Under the bill, said Sen. Paul Sarbanes, D-Md., even senators would get a larger tax cut than the average middle-income family.

## 50 A&M profs join boycott of SDI research

By Sondra Pickard  
Reporter

By signing a petition that is circulating on over 100 university campuses, about 50 Texas A&M University professors have joined, a nationwide academic boycott of "Star Wars" research.

In response to the A&M visit Friday by Sen. Phil Gramm and the top echelon of the Strategic Defense Initiative Organization research team, a petition was started at A&M a few weeks ago which is almost identical to one circulating at other universities across the country.

When Dr. John McDermott, distinguished professor of philosophy and professor and head of Humanities in Medicine, introduced the petition to the Faculty Senate two weeks ago, he said President Frank E. Vandiver was "irate, hostile and furious" about it.

Vandiver is on vacation and was not available for comment. Citing a mixture of political, technical and academic concerns, each of the participants signing the original petition has pledged not to solicit or accept any funds from the controversial ballistic missile defense program.

Although the petition at A&M, drafted by physics professor Dr. Wayne Saslow, does not ask its signees to deny research funding completely, it does explain that it would

be "unethical to accept research money for a project that has no reasonable likelihood of success."

The principal explanation given in the petition is that the program is an "ill-conceived and faltering project." But it also complains that there is "a great risk of infringement on academic freedom by undertaking research which may later become classified, and such potentially classified research is not in consonance with the stated mission of Texas A&M, a public land-grant University responsible to the citizens of the state of Texas."

Saslow said the petition here is specifically drafted for A&M, with additions to and deletions from the original one.

"I'm really concerned that something is going to be happening with respect to A&M," Saslow said. "The SDI office has really had a hard time getting universities to accept money, and I think that they've solved that through Phil Gramm and his connections with A&M."

Using the Challenger disaster as an example, Saslow said the abundance of Star Wars funds would guarantee that a generation of scientists and engineers would be forced to work on an economically unproductive project which can't possibly work.

"Certain people who should know much better have lost serious track

## 'Star Wars' researchers to visit campus Friday

By Sondra Pickard  
Senior Staff Writer

Sen. Phil Gramm and Texas A&M University officials Friday want to ensure a visiting "Star Wars" research team and the director of the Strategic Defense Initiative that A&M has the capabilities to do the kind of research SDI needs.

The group is headed by Lt. Gen. James A. Abrahamson, SDI director.

Larry Neal, a spokesman for Gramm, said Gramm hopes to focus Abrahamson's attention on the research facilities and capabilities that exist in Texas.

"What we hope is that they will come away from two days of pretty intense examination of the facilities and research personnel at A&M with the feeling that this is the place they can go with their

of what our priorities should be," he said, "and I really worry for the country."

Saslow said SDI research funding, which could run into the billions of dollars, is basically there to try to

keep college professors from being a source of criticism.

But support for Star Wars on campus is certainly not absent.

Dr. John Thomas, director for the A&M Center for Strategic Studies,

said the government should be able to get its hands on the best minds in the country when it has a need for research.

"These people that worry excessively about academic freedom ought to look at just freedom alone," Thomas said. "I think it is their duty as citizens to help protect that free-

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Phil Gramm

has been working on relatively small projects for about three years.

Elements of SDI were underway here long before the program was officially announced by President Ronald Reagan in 1983, he said.

Currently, A&M is receiving a total of \$12.5 million in federal



James A. Abrahamson

defense research funding for 128 separate projects. Only one of those projects is for SDI research and is funded at less than \$200,000.

Thomas said Abrahamson was here less than a month ago, at which time university officials made a general pitch for more involvement in SDI.

## Drug traffic discussed in El Paso meeting

EL PASO (AP) — About a third of all cocaine, heroin and marijuana consumed in the United States is either from Mexico or reaches this country through our neighbor to the south, a Treasury Department official said Wednesday.

"This is not to point the finger at Mexico," said Francis A. Keating, assistant secretary of the Treasury Department for enforcement. "They may be the retail liquor store, but we are the drunks."

Keating was in Fort Worth to meet with representatives of law enforcement agencies from California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas.

The meeting was part of the Southwest Border Initiative, or SBI, an effort to pool the resources of federal, state and local agencies to fight the traffic of illegal drugs from Mexico into the United States.

"We ... cannot wait idly by for America's appetite for drugs to subside," said Keating.

## 25 die in Grand Canyon plane crash

GRAND CANYON VILLAGE, Ariz. (AP) — A helicopter and a twin-engine plane, both carrying sightseers, collided and crashed in flames into the Grand Canyon on Wednesday, killing all 25 people aboard.

Coconino County sheriff's department officers reported 20 dead from the plane, which was carrying mostly foreign tourists, and five dead from the helicopter.

The dead aboard the De Havilland Twin Otter airplane included 11 from the Netherlands, two from Switzerland, one from South Africa and six from the United States, including the two pilots, said John

Guthrie, deputy superintendent of the Grand Canyon National Park. He had no breakdown on the dead aboard the helicopter, a Bell 206.

Guthrie initially said there were six dead aboard the helicopter, but Lt. Jim Driscoll said at the sheriff's department headquarters in Flagstaff that there were only five people aboard.

The aircraft went down several hundred yards apart on a rugged hillside north of the Colorado River and about one mile south of the Grand Canyon's north rim.

Park Ranger Charlie Peterson, who was among the first to reach the crash site, said it was in a gorge

north of Tuna Creek, about one mile north of the river.

The plane's tail section was found roughly one-quarter of a mile away from the rest of the wreckage, said Coconino County Sheriff Joe Richards.

"It would appear that the tail section had been sheared off," said Richards. "It appears that it might have been sheared off by the helicopter rotor. That's just speculation."

Richards said his office planned to ask the Arizona National Guard for

helicopters to remove the bodies. But he said poor flying conditions and the need to complete investigative work would delay the removal of the bodies until Thursday morning at the earliest.

Larry Bjork of the Federal Aviation Administration's flight service station at Prescott, Ariz., said the plane and helicopter were both operating under visual "see and be seen" flight rules and neither was being tracked by FAA radar.

The plane belonged to Grand Canyon Airlines and the helicopter to Helitech Inc.