

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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Photo by Greg Bailey



Photo by Tom Ownbey

## Reload

Seniors (above) gathered at Sully on Monday for Elephant Walk. Kyle Soltis (right) holds "Pat Palson" on Tobin Kurtin's shoulders.

## Barclays Bank of Britain divests from S. Africa

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Barclays Bank of Britain, citing financial and political pressure, said Monday it sold its last shares in its South African affiliate for about \$280 million.

It was the biggest divestment yet by a foreign company.

A consortium of South African companies signed the deal last week to buy Barclays' shares in Barclays National Bank of South Africa, the country's largest commercial bank.

"The Barclays PLC sale of shares must have an impact on the South African economy," Basil Hersov, chairman of Barclays National, told a news conference. "It is certainly not a perilous matter, but it is cause for serious concern in terms of psychological impact."

The London-based Barclays Bank PLC once owned 100 percent of the local affiliate but since 1973 had reduced its share to 40.4 percent. Its final pullout is the first by a major British company but follows withdrawal by numerous American companies — most recently General Motors, Kodak and IBM.

The value of the divestment and number of employees involved — 26,000 — made it the largest so far. However, officials of the local affiliate said the existing staff and operations will be maintained.

South African bankers, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they

feared Barclays' withdrawal would encourage pullouts by other British companies.

Britain is the largest foreign investor in South Africa, with \$8.5 billion, compared to about \$1.3 billion in American investments.

Local managing director Chris Ball said, "Barclays are longstanding friends of South Africa. They're not doing this to punish South Africa. They're doing it because they're under political pressure which is converting into financial pressure."

In London, Barclays spokesman Geoffrey Kelly said the sale was made chiefly because of the affiliate's poor economic performance and unfavorable prospects for the South African economy.

But he told the Associated Press, "I think certainly political factors come into it."

"The lack of progress toward ending apartheid has itself had impact on the South African economy. It is also true that the threat to our business in the U.K. and the U.S. is one of the factors, but not the prime factor."

In Britain, anti-apartheid groups have protested outside Barclays' branches to push for divestment.

Barclays gave the sale price as 527 million rand, or \$234 million at Monday's exchange rate.

## U.S. official blasts Reagan

Whitehead: There's evidence of Iranian terrorist activities

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WASHINGTON (AP) — A top-ranking State Department official on Monday bluntly challenged President Reagan's assurances that there's been no recent evidence of Iranian involvement in terrorism, while Reagan defended his decision to approve arms shipments to Tehran.

"I don't like to have to differ with my president, but I believe there is some evidence of Iranian involvement with terrorists," Deputy Secretary of State John C. Whitehead said during an extraordinary appearance before the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Whitehead testified as Reagan said, "I didn't make any mistakes" and declared that "I'm not firing anybody." The president then sat down with members of his Cabinet and top advisers to weigh new moves, amid a crescendo of calls by members of Congress for a White House shakeup.

According to a Justice Department source, speaking on condition of anonymity, the White House meeting, whose participants included Attorney General Edwin Meese, lasted over three hours, more than two hours longer than planned.

In statements that left some House committee members stunned,

Whitehead, the No. 2 State Department official under Secretary of State George Shultz, also suggested pointedly that Congress rein in the National Security Council and said publicly that his department was disenchanted with the unit.

In his nationally broadcast speech Nov. 13, Reagan defended his policy of selling arms to Iran, saying that "since U.S. government contacts began with Iran, there's been no evidence of Iranian government complicity in acts of terrorism against the United States."

Whitehead contradicted that statement Monday.

Responding to the committee's questions, he said: "There continue to be terrorist acts in Iran of the type that we find to be reprehensible."

Whitehead did not immediately elaborate.

State Department spokesmen had been saying for weeks that while Iran remained on a list of nations officially identified as "terrorist-sponsoring states," they would not provide evidence that that nation has sponsored any recent terrorist acts.

On Friday, however, Whitehead, and other State Department officials

speaking privately, linked Iranian-sponsored groups to the kidnapping of three Americans seized in Beirut since Sept. 9.

They are Frank H. Reed, director of a private school in Beirut, Joseph J. Cicippio, acting controller of the American University in that city and Edward A. Tracy, a writer.

A department official, speaking on condition he not be identified, said the United States was initially unsure who was responsible for some of the recent kidnappings because a group unknown to terrorism experts — the Revolutionary Justice Organization — had claimed responsibility.

Subsequently, the department has received "pretty good" information that pro-Iranian factions are behind

the kidnappings, the official said.

During a picture-taking session in the Oval Office, Reagan made no secret of his unhappiness over news reports about back-biting among his staff, calls for resignations, and suggestions that he admit the Iranian initiative was a mistake.

"I think you'd be happier if I said I'd stop answering questions on that because you wouldn't like my answers," the president told reporters.

Even so, he said, "I'm not firing anybody."

As for whether he would admit it was wrong to approve arms for Iran, the president replied, "I'm not going to lie about that. I didn't make a mistake."

## Registration 'lines' busiest at the start of each class slot

By Pamela Utley Smith  
Reporter

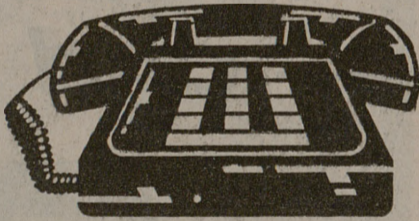
Lines for spring registration are now only as long as the number of people between you and the nearest touch-tone phone, but the wait to get to the computer may be as long as ever for those who call during the first two days they're scheduled to register, says Willis Ritchey, assistant registrar in charge of registration.

The 32 available phone lines constantly were filled Nov. 10, the first day the system was available, Ritchey says. He says the number of phone lines is sufficient, but that quite a few students who are not seniors or graduate students tried to register, and this helped to block lines which already were overloaded by large numbers of qualified students trying to register.

"If you have a number (action code), you can access the system," Ritchey says, "and it won't tell you that you can't register until you get about 30 to 35 seconds into the process."

About one-fourth of Texas A&M's seniors registered Nov. 10, and usually only three-fourths of all seniors preregister during their allotted time, Ritchey says. But according to figures from the registrar's office, about three-fifths of all seniors registered through Nov. 15.

On Nov. 17, the first day of junior registration, about one-third



of the qualified students preregistered, according to the registrar's figures. About five-sevenths of all juniors registered through Nov. 22.

The University has been working toward the phone registration system for about two years, Ritchey says.

The two systems used to register during that time were only interim systems leading up to this one, he says.

The phone registration system is faster and less expensive than any other system previously used, Ritchey says.

Where once 40 extra people were needed to work during registration, now only 12 are needed, he says. Another advantage is that less damage is done to equipment because it isn't moved.

When students become more familiar with the system the time needed for each classification to preregister could be halved, Ritchey says.

In the future Ritchey expects

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## More people seek Thanksgiving meal

## Number of 'new poor' up in U.S.

(AP) — They are the new poor. Across the country, organizations that are preparing Thanksgiving meals for the needy say they are struck by increasing numbers of families and youngsters who are calling for help.

In Kansas City and Phoenix, in Chicago and Little Rock, the gyms, churches and armories where the poor and lonely gather for Thanksgiving will be filled this year with the sounds of children.

In the farm and oil belts, the problem is especially pronounced.

Jess L. Duncan of the Salvation Army in New Orleans said, "The typical person we're working with now, compared to maybe a year or two years ago, are the new unemployed."

Mike Moreau of New Orleans' Traveler's Aid said, "The trend we see is the number of intact families thrown into homelessness. Three or four years ago, that wasn't a problem."

In Kansas City, Mo., the director of the City Union Mission said people from farms and rural towns are increasingly among the homeless.

Rev. Maurice Vanderberg said, "I think it has to do with the farm econ-

## Farmers get 'table scraps'

AUSTIN (AP) — Food for a typical Thanksgiving dinner this year will cost consumers \$2.79 per plate, but Texas farmers will receive only 8 cents of that total, agriculture officials said Monday.

"Texas farmers will be left with table scraps after providing millions of thankful consumers with another bountiful Thanksgiving feast this year," Agriculture Commissioner Jim Hightower said.

The Texas Department of Agriculture again this year analyzed the farm value of 11 Thanksgiving menu items grown or raised by Texas farmers.

On a per-plate basis, the cost is \$2.79, about what it was last year,

omy. Farms don't require the manpower they used to."

In Little Rock, Ark., restaurant owner Robert McIntosh gave away 500 baskets of free food last year, more than 2,000 people signed up for the baskets this year.

Hightower reported.

Of the 11 items, Hightower said, seven either resulted in no profit or a net loss to farmers — stuffing, mashed potatoes, corn-on-the-cob, grapefruit, green beans, milk and ice cream.

Farmers received a net profit on the remaining four items — turkey, lettuce, tomatoes and pecan pie. Hightower said that the total 8-cent return to farmers was misleading.

"That ridiculously low return is inflated when we consider that 70 to 80 percent of our state's turkey production is controlled by one company," Hightower said. "It is virtually the only one to realize any gain on our Thanksgiving dinner."

"I have seen lots of hard times, but this beats them all," he said.

In Phoenix, Ariz., the St. Vincent de Paul Society is preparing 2,500 dinners, up from 1,500 last year.

Spokeswoman Teresa Coury-Davia said, "People are coming to Phoe-

nix for the weather. It's all over the newspapers that Arizona is the place with a lot of jobs."

But people arrive and find they aren't qualified for jobs, she said.

Prosperous Southern states report the same problem. Social agencies are receiving an unusual number of pleas from families who came seeking work, found they didn't have the right skills, and wound up living in cardboard boxes or cars.

Maj. Herb Bergen at the Salvation Army Post in Knoxville, Tenn. said, "They are just moving from one state to another and hoping they can find that job. Some of these people are not skilled in anything and they just fall through the cracks again when they get in your community."

The problem is not limited to the Sun Belt. In Chicago, steel plant closings boosted the number of hungry.

Sister Donna Marie Preston of the Parish Cooperative Social Service Center said, "We're beginning to see those people who have been laid off some time ago. . . ."