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Marines kill 12 in Philippines street clash

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Marines fired M-16 assault rifles into a crowd of peasants and leftists demanding land reform Thursday, killing 12 and wounding 94 in the deadliest street clash of Corazon Aquino's presidency.

There will be those who seek to exploit this tragic incident to derail efforts to bring democracy," Aquino said in an address broadcast nationwide after the slayings.

On Thursday, her peace initiative toward Communist rebels all collapsed as Communist and government negotiators suspended

talks indefinitely because of death threats.

An estimated 10,000 people organized by the leftist Movement of Philippine Farmers marched from the downtown Post Office toward the presidential palace to demand that farm plots be given to the landless.

About 500 national police and marines lined up eight deep waiting for them at the Mendiola Bridge, 300 yards from Malacanang Palace's main gate. The bridge was the site of several bloody civilian-military confrontations during the 20-year rule

of ex-President Ferdinand E. Marcos.

As the front ranks of marchers approached police lines, they began chanting "Come and join! Don't be afraid!" Marchers linked arms across Recto Street and began pushing against the front line of brown-uniformed troops of the Integrated National Police deployed in front of the bridge.

The police, behind long plastic shields, shoved the marchers back a few steps. But the protesters then surged forward. The police fell back

about 10 yards. Stones flew from among the marchers.

Suddenly, marines in full battle dress deployed behind the police opened fire with M-16s, first into the air for about two minutes, then into the panicked crowd for three more minutes. The firing continued while people ran into the street to drag the dead and wounded out of the firing line.

When the firing ceased, four jeepsloads of police raced forward, scattering the remaining demonstrators with volleys of tear gas.

Before the clash, Jaime Tedeco,

the leader of the Movement of Philippine Farmers, exhorted the marchers to challenge the forces guarding the palace.

Denouncing what he and other leftist and peasant leaders have called slow and inefficient implementation of land reform, he told a rally before the march: "Charge to Malacanang! Let's break down the barricades!"

Several young men among the marchers tore iron bars from a gate, and others carried wooden clubs with protruding nails.

Aquino recently granted land ti-

ties to nearly 6,000 tenant farmers in northern Luzon. Heherson Alvarez, the agrarian reform minister, says his ministry is preparing to distribute about 18,000 titles and more will come later.

Aquino, who came to power 11 months ago after a civilian-military uprising forced Marcos to flee to Hawaii, expressed shock over the killings.

She announced creation of a special commission under retired Supreme Court Justice Jose FERIA to investigate the clash and promised to punish those responsible.

Officials: Crash of jet occurred on maneuvers

AUSTIN (AP)—Two Air Force jets that collided near Brownwood killed two pilots were experimenting with aerial attack-and-ade maneuvers and not locked in simulated dogfight as witnesses first thought, officials said Thursday.

Two Air Force officers were killed and two managed to parachute to safety Wednesday after a fiery collision.

It was the second military air disaster in two days.

Officials at Bergstrom Air Force Base in Austin, where the jets were based, declined to be specific about what may have caused the crash.

Capt. Michael K. Elder, 31, of cattle, and 1st Lt. Walter W. Kokak, 24, of Ormond Beach, Fla., were killed in the collision.

The RF-4C Phantom II jets, which can fly at twice the speed of sound and are used as photo-

graphic reconnaissance aircraft, collided about 14,000 feet above Lake Brownwood, Bergstrom spokeswoman Wanda Whitney said.

Lake Brownwood is in a military operations area that is about 140 miles northwest of the base, Whitney said.

"The defensive maneuvering training mission is one in which aircraft maneuver to defeat a simulated aerial attack," she said.

She said that it was not a simulated dogfight as some observers at the scene said.

She declined to give further details, including whether the two survivors were on the same plane.

Herman Thompson, a farmer near the crash site, said he looked skyward after hearing what

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Cadets' trial date set for assault charges

By Curtis L. Culbertson
Staff Writer

A tentative court date of Feb. 4 has been set for the six freshman cadets charged with the Nov. 18 assault of a woman Weaver at the bonfire site. Investigations by both the Department of Student Affairs and the Commandant's Office are being conducted to determine if other parties were involved.

Brian MacManus, James L. Dease III, Andrew C. Cooper, Cody Rogin, Clinton D. Taylor and William Paul Miller have requested a trial and will be represented by

attorney Henry C. Paine, said Justice Clerk Louisa Dunn.

The case has been turned over from Justice of the Peace Michael Callihan to Justice of the Peace Wesley Hall, who will decide whether or not there will be a preliminary hearing before the official court date, Dunn said.

"It takes time to get a jury together," Dunn said. She added that there was more work to be done before an official date for a hearing could be released.

Weaver has said that she would not have filed charges against the freshman cadets had they revealed the names of the people who ordered them to attack her.

Weaver's suspicions about the attack were investigated by University Police.

"Initially, when I talked to the people involved, I wasn't able to get any names out of them," Detective Will Scott said. "They claimed they didn't know."

But Scott did say he has received information that the University Police may soon be getting some names from investigations being conducted by Student Affairs and the Commandant's Office.

Scott added that if other parties were found, they could probably be charged as accessories to the misdemeanor assault.

Economy of U.S. hit by deficit

WASHINGTON (AP)—The U.S. economy, weighted down by a foreign trade deficit, turned in its worst performance in 1986 since the last recession, the government reported Thursday.

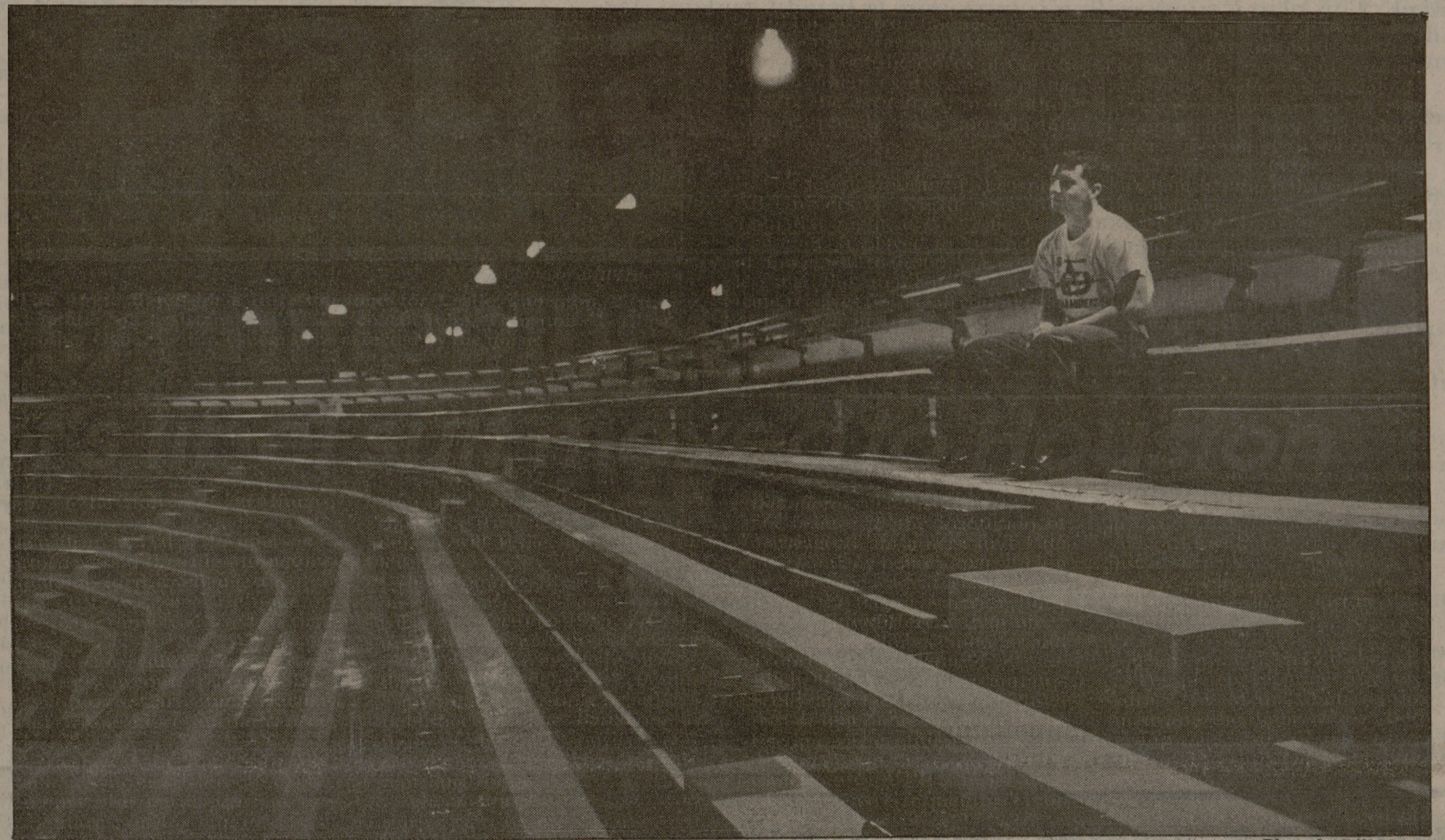
The Commerce Department said the gross national product, the broadest measure of economic health, rose 2.5 percent last year, the weakest growth rate since a 2.5 percent decline during the recession of 1982.

But the news on inflation was exceptional. A price index tied to the CPI turned in its best performance since 1967, a 2.7 percent rise last year which was held down by the dramatic plunge in oil prices. For the fourth quarter, this inflation index rose at an annual rate of 1 percent, the slowest advance of the year.

The administration believed that lower oil prices and falling interest rates would help lift the economy out of the doldrums.

However, the country's trade deficit soared to a new record, throwing the country's manufacturing sector into a virtual recession, while the big drop in oil prices forced layoffs in the petroleum industry.

Private economists said the weakness in the fourth quarter was disturbing and some analysts forecast growth could drop even farther because of adverse impacts from the tax law.



Dave Rogers, a junior in Company S-2, sits in the upper tiers of G. Rollie White Coliseum during All-U Night.

Photo by Bill Hughes

Corps yells dominate poorly-attended '87 spring version of All-University Night

By Robert Morris
Staff Writer

Is it a spring sports pep rally or a chance for love-starved, prematurely balding, young men to make loud animal-like noises as the women's track team walks in their presence? Both descriptions are suitable in assessing the 1987 spring version of All-University Night.

The answer depends largely on the observer's point of view.

Of course, that observer would most likely be a whoop-happy member of the group mentioned above.

The crowd was composed largely of members of the Corps of Cadets, who, in their exuberance, created most of the excitement in an otherwise extremely long introduction ceremony.

The latest edition of the spring All-University Night was held Thursday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum. It played to an audience of about 800 to 1,000, considerably less than the attendance the football team receives for its fall counterpart.

The welcome back pep rally was designed to heighten attention to-

ward and attendance at spring sports events such as baseball games and tennis matches.

Women's Athletic Director Lynn Hickey said, "Aggieland is a very special place to be, but the thing that makes us special is not the traditions and the customs, it's the people that carry them on."

"We need you at our contests. If you will attend our event you will be proud of what you see. We are winners, but we will be bigger and better winners if you will help us."

Hickey was followed by Charlie Thomas, the men's and women's track coach, who was upstaged by the ever-present barrage of cheers of appreciation from the Corps of Cadets. Seemingly, the women's team received ovations according to skirt length rather than athletic accomplishment.

The subsequent introduction ceremonies by the coaches of other post-football sports largely followed the same pattern.

The program closed with a brief yell practice.



The Aggie Band got a little too loud for Leslie Thornton, 2, the daughter of assistant basketball coach John Thornton. Leslie's brother Gabe, 5, didn't seem to be affected by the noise.

Photo by Bill Hughes

A&M prof's libel suit moved to Houston

By Christi Daugherty
Staff Writer

A year-old libel case filed by a Texas A&M professor is still awaiting trial but has been transferred from a Minnesota federal court to a Texas federal court.

The suit was filed June 18, 1986 by Terry Anderson, an associate professor of history, against both the Accuracy In Academia (AIA) and Accuracy in Media conservative watchdog corporations.

It is based on a syndicated column published by the Washington D.C.-based AIA and printed in about 10 college newspapers around the country.

Anderson, who is a University of Minnesota graduate, has said he originally filed the \$50,000 case in that state because he first heard of the column from the ed-

itor of the University of Minnesota newspaper.

William D. Harper, Anderson's attorney, said that the Minnesota judge decided to change the venue of the case because none of the parties involved lived in that state.

The case will now be tried in the Houston court of Federal District Judge Carl Bue, Harper said, if one more hurdle can be cleared.

Matthew Scully, one of the defendants in the trial, is out of the country and participants in the case must wait for him to return in order to determine if the case can be tried in federal court, Harper said. Scully has declared Texas his legal residence, and if that proves true the case does not fall within federal jurisdiction.

If the case is tried in federal court, Harper said, he is confi-

dent of a victory, and if the case cannot be tried in that court, Anderson will refile at a different level.

The Campus Report column on which the case is based was distributed in October 1985 and garnered its information and quotes from a *Battalion* article published the year before. The AIA column compared Anderson's beliefs, as published by *The Battalion*, to those of the devil, Lucifer, and called him a "hog charging the morning trough."

The October 1984 *Battalion* story was written when Anderson won the Association of Former Students' award for distinguished teaching and described his goals as "to provoke, stimulate and challenge students' ideas."

Anderson, who is still a professor at A&M but is currently in Malaysia, was also quoted in *The*

Battalion article as saying, "I do not believe in the institution of marriage, I am atheist and I do not claim any political party. I am not patriotic toward Texas A&M, Texas, the flag or America. But I am not any different than other Americans as far as emotions and a concern for humanity."

The Campus Report authors, Scully and Les Csorba III, used part of that quote but left out the last line. The authors, who are defendants in the case, followed the quote with, "Lucifer himself could not have framed his credo any better."

John Hemenway, an attorney with Accuracy in Media, called the situation and the case wild and absurd.

"The article was published from a *Battalion* article which he never claimed to have an argu-

ment with," Hemenway said. "We just said what you printed that he said. And within all this it's wild, just absurd that he would try to sue us — located as we are in Washington — in a court in Minnesota."

Hemenway described the AIA as completely separate from Accuracy in Media, but sharing many of the same views. Both groups, he said, despise things that offend the democratic process.

"There is a constant need on campus and in the news industry, to have people who care about freedom or honesty or truth in reporting and in the classroom to tell their co-workers that what's important is not to grind their own axes, but to teach and report the truth," Hemenway said.