

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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Photo by Bill Hughes

## About Face!

Steve Moore, left, and Steve Schneider listen to Fish Drill Team adviser Dirk Bergoon's explanation of the proper technique for spinning a rifle. The team is practicing seven days a week in preparation for a heavy competition schedule this spring.

## \$20.4 million OK'd to fund prison reform

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Bill Clements and legislative leaders Tuesday agreed on a \$20.4 million emergency funding plan for prison reforms, a pact Clements said will show good faith in meeting federal court orders.

Clements announced the plan at his weekly news conference and, within hours, the House endorsed it by adding the funds to another prison bill that was passed, 125-11.

U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice has threatened to fine Texas \$800,500 a day beginning April 1 if numerous prison reforms agreed to in 1985 aren't carried out.

"This is the obvious first step in that direction," Clements said. "We're going to do everything that I know to do to bring ourselves in a spirit of good faith in compliance (with the court) and avoid those fines."

Rep. Bill Ceverha, R-Dallas, carried the funding plan on the House floor, saying, "It's much wiser to come up with (the money) now than have to come up with \$800,000-a-day on April 1."

Under the funding plan, the state would take money from the Highway Department and use it for prison-related programs, including:

- \$8.4 million for salaries of medical personnel.
- \$2.2 million to increase salaries for prison nurses.
- \$2 million for 400 prison beds to help further separate violent and non-violent inmates.

- \$1 million for the Adult Probation Commission to expand intensive supervision and electronic monitoring of some released inmates.
- \$2.2 million for placing additional prisoners in halfway houses.
- \$4.9 million creating an extra 1,000 halfway house beds.

The House added the spending plan onto a Senate-approved bill which sponsors said would give the Texas Department of Corrections a better chance to manage the state's packed prison system.

House Speaker Gib Lewis, D-Fort Worth, predicted the plan would be well-received by Justice and said House members had no choice but to back it.

"None of us really would like to allow anyone out of the prison system, but unfortunately we are facing a court order — and also contempt charges — that would cost the taxpayers \$24 million a month," he said.

## Texas prisons admit 400 at reopening

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — The Texas prison system reopened Tuesday after closing its doors for six days, but officials said the prisons probably will close again this week after more than 400 inmates were admitted.

The Texas Department of Corrections began accepting new admissions after the inmate population had dropped below a state-mandated 95-percent capacity mark, prison spokesman Charles Brown said.

"The doors opened at 8 a.m.," Brown said Tuesday morning. "I'm sure we've already got some in. If tradition holds true, we'll probably get a lot in today."

Brown accurately predicted the tradition as a record 475 inmates were admitted Tuesday from county jails throughout the state. Just 130 prisoners were released.

A head count taken at midnight Monday and released Tuesday afternoon showed there were 38,275 inmates. That number was 94.73 percent of capacity, or 111 inmates below the legal limit. An official count due today probably will force the system to close again.

## Clements: Texas going 'all-out' to attract supercollider project

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas will pull out all stops in bidding to lure the multibillion-dollar "supercollider" research project to the state, Gov. Bill Clements pledged Tuesday.

"We're going to leave no stone unturned," said Clements, who put the project at the top of the agenda for his week-long trip to Washington that begins Friday.

Clements, who will attend a National Governors Association meeting in Washington next week, said he wants to talk with everyone from "President Reagan and on down" about putting the huge atom-smashing project in Texas.

The state has two good candidates for the site — Dallas-Fort Worth and the area between Austin, Houston and Bryan, Clements said.

"We're going to go all-out," Clements told his weekly news conference. "We're going to turn on every bit of contacts that we have, every bit of influence that we have."

"It's going to be a real battle. It's a tremendous plum. We're a state without a federal research center . . . I'm saying to you as the governor of this state that we are entitled to one."

The superconducting supercollider would be the largest piece of scientific research equipment ever built, officials say. Cost estimates range from \$6 billion to \$10 billion.

When completed, the supercollider would employ about 3,000 people and have an annual budget of \$270 million.

According to the U.S. Energy Department, the supercollider would be a unique research tool for high-energy physics, the science that studies the fundamental nature of matter and energy.

When completed in 1996, the supercollider will be housed in a 52-mile circular tunnel about 10 feet across and several feet underground. Superconducting magnets would focus and guide two beams of subatomic protons in opposite directions through the tunnel. After accelerating to nearly the speed of light, the protons would collide head-on.

Some scientists say that on a tiny scale, the energy from such a collision could be compared to the so-called "big bang" that created the universe.

"This supercollider will be the absolute razor-edge in technology in regard to physics," Clements said. "This will be the No. 1 physics re-

search facility in the world."

The atom-smashing supercollider is sought by other states, including California, Illinois, Colorado, Washington, Utah and New York.

But Clements said the two Texas sites have a good chance because

they meet the criteria outlined by the energy department.

Helping in the bid are the presence of Texas A&M University, the University of Texas, Rice University and the University of Houston, he said.

## Reagan urges U.S. to be competitive

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan, trying to derail import-restricting trade legislation in Congress, challenged the nation Tuesday to "work harder and work better" and restore pride in the label reading "Made in America."

In a speech to 200 business leaders, Reagan summoned Americans to undertake "a quest for excellence" in education and business to make the United States competitive into the 21st century.

The address was the kickoff of Reagan's campaign for a package of "competitiveness" proposals, including easing antitrust laws, changing product-liability statutes, a \$980 million job re-

training program and other intentions to help shrink the nation's \$170 billion trade deficit.

Competing with Reagan's plan are labor-backed measures moving through Congress that would restrict Reagan's hand in dealing with trade disputes and provide mandatory retaliation — through tariffs or quotas — against nations that have huge trade surpluses with the United States.

"History has taught us that we cannot become more competitive or enjoy major job growth by restricting imports across-the-board," Reagan said. "In 1930, the United States imposed major new tariffs, against the advice of most economists."

"Three years later, the unemployment rate stood at 25 percent. Free trade is one of the few things almost all economists agree on."

Reagan said it's "going to take some doing" for the United States to be competitive with other countries. "In the years ahead, we're going to have to work harder and work better."

He said his program "will challenge all Americans to be all that they can be, to work together to seek new opportunities, to be the very best in a strong and growing international economy."

Reagan's speech did not include many details of his plan, but it has been outlined in depth by other administration officials.

## Experts still question shuttle-design testing

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Exactly one year before shuttle flights are scheduled to resume, experts continue to question the way NASA is correcting the rocket flaw that caused the Challenger disaster.

The new booster design and its testing have come under attack from Congress, from industry experts and from astronauts whose lives will depend upon the solid-fueled rocket engine.

NASA officials and engineers from Morton Thiokol Inc., manufacturer of the rocket, say they remain confident the new design will pass critical firing tests scheduled to begin this summer.

Challenger exploded 73 seconds after launch on Jan. 28, 1986, killing its seven-member crew. A presidential commission that investigated said the accident was caused by a solid rocket booster joint that leaked, allowing superheated flame to ignite a rocket fuel tank.

The three remaining shuttles have been grounded while engineers redesign the rocket joint and conduct tests. Flights are scheduled to resume on Feb. 18, 1988.

Investigators believe three factors caused the rocket joint to fail: a flawed design that allowed the joint to move slightly at ignition, compro-

missing the seal formed by two rubberized O-rings; frigid temperatures on the morning of launch that made the O-rings stiff; and a series of wind shears that buffeted the rising spacecraft, perhaps causing the joint to open still further.

Engineers have settled on a new design they believe will create a more positive seal for the three joints in the solid rockets. This new design includes a metal lip that will limit joint movement and adds a third O-ring in each joint.

Additionally, the engineers are experimenting with the use of a silicon material in the O-rings to give them more resilience in cold. If the material proves inadequate, heaters will be added to the joint.

The new joint also includes insulation that is interleaved in such a way that pressure from the rocket will actually tighten the seal.

But to date these elements remain largely untested.

Thiokol has made three firings of partial rocket engines that included two field joints, but these tests used the design that failed on Challenger.

Partial rocket tests of the new joint design will not be conducted until June, Thiokol spokesman Gil Moore said, followed by a full-scale test later in the summer.

## Planned facility sparks opposition

## A&M parking garage coming soon

By Robert Morris  
Staff Writer

It will rise six stories above the earth, provide convenience for faculty and students alike and safely accommodate its occupants — motor vehicles.

It's a 2,010-space parking garage, recently approved by the Texas College and University Coordinating Board. The garage will be located on the site of the soon-to-be-demolished physical plant facility between Asbury Street and Ireland.

The building will be closely monitored with alarm facilities, numerous closed circuit televisions, and guards.

Construction will begin on the \$12.6 million structure in April and is to be completed by late spring next year.

But there has been some opposition to the building. In a letter to the Bryan-College Station Eagle, Dr. Thomas Cacci, assistant professor of internal medicine at Texas A&M expressed his discontent with the plan.

"At a time when the University is facing fiscal crisis after fiscal crisis," he said, "and when faculty morale is rapidly sinking; when

faculty and staff salaries are, for the most part, frozen; when new staff cannot be hired, nor new equipment purchased; when academic programs have been curtailed or terminated because of budget cuts; and when student financial assistance has been limited, it makes little sense to spend money on a parking garage."

Director of University Police Bob Wiatt said Dr. Cacci has a

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— Bob Wiatt, director of University Police

misconception of the funding process for the structure.

"No state funds are being used," Wiatt said. "No student service funds are being used for this garage. It is totally funding we get from selling permits and from fines in our parking account, and through a bond issue that will have to be paid off from parking revenue."

"What I gathered from the letter was that rather than use this \$12 million for the garage, you

could plow it into faculty salaries, etc. Well, you are prohibited from doing this."

The money for the garage must come from auxiliary income, not state funding, Wiatt said.

Funding for the garage will come from a bond issue. The bonds then will be paid for with revenue generated from the sale of garage parking permits.

"We will sell permits for a ga-

rage occupant, just like a faculty person buys a permit for a specific lot," Wiatt said. "We intend to sell permits to anybody who wants to park throughout the day in the garage. Now, for anybody else, and that will include anyone who does not have a permit, we are going to have access lanes that will pay a daily fee of possibly a dollar."

"We are trying to give flexibility to anyone who wants to use the garage."

Anyone will be able to buy a permit which will, however, restrict the buyer to the garage, just like any other permit restricts them to a certain area, Wiatt said.

The cost of a permit for the garage will be the same as a regular reserve lot permit.

"We are not going to raise any parking fees this year, and possibly next year, so the cost will initially be \$82 per year," Wiatt said.

Although he still sees continued problems, Wiatt said the garage will help the current parking problem by adding 2,010 parking places to the current 16,000.

"I'll be honest with you," Wiatt said. "If there is a surface lot closer to where a person wants to go, they are going to take a chance and park illegally. I will hope that it will take some of the squeeze off the central campus parking, but I'm not prepared to say that this will be a panacea to our parking problems."

Added traffic caused by the garage should not be a problem, Wiatt said, because the state highway department and the city of College Station are planning to widen University Drive in the area around the garage.