

## In Advance

### Anthropologist to discuss AIDS myths

An Arizona anthropologist will discuss the rapid spread of AIDS and other contagious diseases today in a program sponsored by the Texas A&M anthropology department.

Dr. Susan McCombie, a research scientist from the Pima County Health Department in Tucson, will speak at 4 p.m. in 301 Rudder. She has conducted

several studies on cultural and historical influences on human diseases.

McCombie also will discuss many of the facts and myths surrounding acquired immune deficiency syndrome, which has been spread beyond high-risk groups to the heterosexual population. Admission to the program is free.

### League suggests creation of commerce department

AUSTIN (AP) — The Texas Research League recommended Tuesday the creation of a Texas Commerce Department to implement the state's economic development policy.

The league said the recommendation had been made to both Gov. Bill Clements' Task Force on Business Development and to Speaker Gib Lewis' Economic Advisory Group.

Legislation to create the department is pending in the House. In a statement Tuesday, the

league said, "Economic development agencies, programs and activities are spread over the structure of Texas state government like ornaments on a Christmas tree."

The league recommended that responsibility for the economic development program of the Community Development Block Grant Program be shifted from the Texas Department of Community Affairs to the Commerce Department.

## U.S. still awaits word on 23 live rockets sold to lumberyard owner

FORT BLISS (AP) — The United States still is waiting for Mexican authorities to return 23 live rockets mistakenly sold as scrap lumber to a businessman, a Fort Bliss spokesman said Tuesday.

Lt. Col. James Lawson said he spoke with the U.S. Consulate General's office in next-door Ciudad Juarez, across the Rio Grande from El Paso.

"At that time, (the message) was, 'Don't hold your breath,'" he said.

The 23 rockets were inside wooden crates sold to a Juarez lumberyard owner Jan. 22. The man discovered the rockets and notified officials at Fort Bliss, on the outskirts of El Paso.

The Mexican army's 26th Infantry Battalion confiscated the weapons before they could be brought back across the border, as had been planned, Lawson said.

A Juarez newspaper reported Sunday that Mexican President Mi-

guel de la Madrid was to issue a decision today on the return of the rockets.

Negotiations for the rockets' return are out of the hands of the U.S. Army and are being handled through diplomatic channels, Lawson said.

"Certainly they're (the army) going to have to get the word from Mexico City," Lawson said.

A 24th rocket was found among other wooden crates the Mexican businessman left behind at Fort Bliss to be picked up later, Lawson said. Fort Bliss routinely auctions materials such as scrap lumber, he said.

The rockets would have exploded only if they were in a fire or subjected to electrical currents, officials said.

The Army is conducting an investigation into the incident. According to military authorities, the wooden crates should have been certified as being empty and ready for disposal.

### Breeding program reduces class costs

## Horses still a part of A&M tradition

By Amy Roberts  
Reporter

From their employment in the ROTC's cavalry units to their use in classes and research, horses always have been a part of Texas A&M.

Dr. Gary Webb, animal science lecturer, said A&M breeds its own horses to offset the cost of teaching and research programs in the animal science department.

Webb said A&M stallions usually are bred to about 25 to 100 privately owned mares each year for \$500 to \$850, but the horse industry is in a down cycle.

"People are not breeding many horses," he said, "so, the stallions are not being bred to any outside mares."

Dr. Gary Potter, professor and equine director in the animal science

department, said the constant breeding of the horses helps generate operating revenue that the University does not provide for the horse center.

A&M has a brood-mare band, he said, which consists of 40 mares that are bred to four stallions.

"This is not as stressful as it sounds because of the use of artificial insemination," Potter said.

"Mares are called seasonally polyestrous. This means they have more than one estrous cycle. But they only breed during one particular cycle, which is in the spring."

The horses breed every year, producing about 40 foals to be used in various animal science classes and in research work, he said.

The foals will be used in this man-

ner until the latter part of their second year or the early part of their third year.

If the horse is female and of good quality, it will move into the brood-mare band and replace an older mare.

Horses that don't go into the breeding herd are sold.

"The horses we keep are selected on a quality basis," Potter said. "We keep the higher quality horses and sell the lower quality ones."

The breeding herd — both the 40 mares and the four stallions — consists mainly of American quarter horses, Potter said.

A&M also owns other breeds such as Arabians, thoroughbreds, appaloosas and paints. These mares are

not bred to the stallions, he said, but are used only in classes and research work.

Potter said the majority of A&M's horses are donated.

"The animal science department can own 100 to 175 horses at any given point in time," he said. "The herd typically will run at 150."

Potter said most of the horses are female. The remaining horses, with the exception of the four stallions in the breeding herd, are geldings (neutered males), he said.

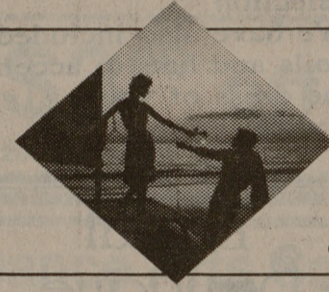
All horses are kept at the horse center or at the equestrian center — a combined 180 acres.

The breeding herd is kept at the horse center. The yearlings and 2-year-olds, which are used mainly in classes, are kept at the equestrian center.

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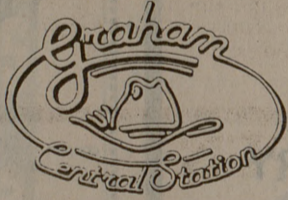
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Monday, February 23, 1987

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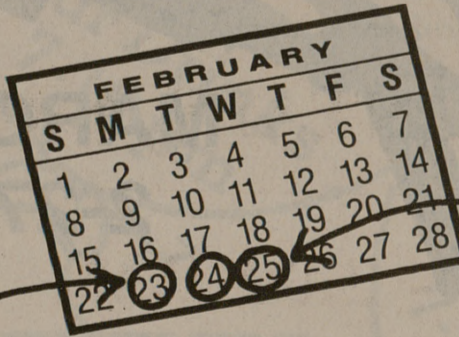
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Interviews (by appointment): February 24 and 25 in the Annex.



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