

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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Photo by Bill Hughes

## Whaddaya Mean, Strike?

Aggie baseball announcer Derrick Grubbs turns to Carrie Heightly, Lady Aggie catcher, for help after two strikes during an exhibition Thursday. Despite his efforts, Grubbs was unable to get a hit against

the Lady Aggie softball team. The Lady Aggies are hosting the Aggie Spring Invitational at the Southwood Valley Athletic Complex today and tomorrow.

## Student under local, federal investigations

By Olivier Uytendaele  
Senior Staff Writer

Computer and communications equipment confiscated from a Texas A&M student's apartment may have been used for illegal "hacking," Brazos County Attorney Jim Kuboviak said Thursday.

No charges had been filed as of Thursday, Kuboviak said, but the equipment is being examined in connection with a federal investigation.

Investigators seized stolen AT&T telephones and automatic dialing equipment, computer disks and other equipment and data, including a list of numbers Kuboviak said may

be MCI Telecommunications Corporation access codes.

Kuboviak said that the U.S. Secret Service is involved in the investigation because the case involves possible access code abuse. MCI investigators, the county attorney's office and the College Station-Police Department are also involved, he said.

The A&M student came to the attention of the county attorney's office after a photo of the student's room was published in *The Battalion* Feb. 26.

The photo, printed in an issue of *At Ease*, showed traffic signs, a road-construction barricade, a public tele-

phone and a six-foot replica of Ronald McDonald along one wall of the apartment. Investigators also confiscated these items when they entered the apartment with a search warrant, Kuboviak said.

The apartment's resident wasn't identified when the photo ran in *The Battalion*.

Kevin Morgan, chief investigator of the county attorney's office, said that after the photo was published he made phone calls to students he considered "reasonable informants" and learned that the apartment was in the Briarwood apartment complex.

Kuboviak didn't discover that other agencies already were investigating the student until after the county attorney's office began its investigation.

He said MCI investigators had interviewed the resident of the apartment before local law enforcement officials became involved with the investigation.

Kuboviak said much of the equipment, including floppy disks and a hard disk drive, has been sent to an MCI facility in Dallas for analysis but he wouldn't estimate when the tests will be finished or if criminal charges might be filed.

## Reagan asks for more aid for Contras

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan asked Congress on Thursday for the final installment in a \$100 million aid package for Nicaragua's Contra rebels, while House Democrats sought to drive home the point that past aid money remains unaccounted for.

Meanwhile, Attorney General Edwin Meese said he was taking action to secure the authority of Lawrence Walsh, the independent counsel investigating the Iran-Contra affair. Walsh supported the move although there had been criticism in advance that the action could compromise his independence.

The president, one day after saying in a major speech that the Iranian initiative was a mistake, declared it was time to move on to other matters.

Vice President George Bush said he was "catching the dickens" from some people for not stopping the Iran initiative but declared the administration wouldn't be judged in the long run on "the agony of the Iran affair."

On the subject of U.S. aid for the Contras, Reagan sent Congress a certification that there is "no reasonable prospect" of peaceful settlement and a democratic Nicaragua unless the aid is continued. The certification automatically triggers \$40 million in additional aid unless Congress disapproves it within 15 days.

The Democratic proposal, on the other hand, would shut off aid to the rebels until previous aid is accounted for, including any money diverted from Iranian arms sales or solicited from private sources.

"We as a party need to make a statement on this issue," said Rep. David Bonior, D-Mich. However, he said, aid opponents probably do not have the votes to override an almost certain presidential veto of their action, which is expected to pass in the

## Congressman seeks Reagan impeachment

WASHINGTON (AP) — Articles of impeachment charging President Reagan with misconduct in office because of his actions in the Iran-Contra affair were introduced in the House on Thursday by a Texas Democrat. But they were given virtually no chance of being approved.

The impeachment resolution was introduced by Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, D-Texas, who also asked the House to impeach Reagan after the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983.

The six-article resolution accuses Reagan of violating U.S. law and of acting "in a manner contrary to his trust as president and subversive of constitutional government."

Specifically, it accuses Reagan of misconduct in secretly selling arms to Iran, of allegedly diverting the arms sale payments to Nicaragua's Contra guerillas and for failing to inform congressional intelligence committees of his activities.

"The Congress must stop a president who has a heedless disregard for the constitutional responsibility of the Congress..." Gonzalez said.

The articles were not expected to be approved and were not presented in a forum to be taken seriously by the House leadership.

Gonzalez made his remarks at a time in which the House had concluded its official business for the day and a handful of members were making speeches.

Gonzalez told reporters he decided to introduce the impeachment resolution after reading the Tower commission report on White House involvement in the Iran-Contra activities and after viewing Reagan's address to the nation Wednesday evening.

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## Clements seeks ouster of UT system chairman

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Bill Clements has told Jess Hay, chairman of the University of Texas System that he will do everything he can to get Hay replaced as chairman, according to Hay.

Hay told several Texas newspapers that Clements called him shortly after the governor's Feb. 4 State of the State budget speech and said he was "very upset" with the aggressive, high-profile campaign Hay had waged to try to restore higher education funding.

Hay, an active Democratic fundraiser who has been regents chairman for two years, said the Republi-

can governor probably will succeed in persuading a majority of the nine-member board to vote against him.

The chairman of the board is elected by the other board members.

The campaign by Hay, which included establishing a political action committee to raise money to help legislative candidates who favored higher education funding increases, implied support for additional taxes, Hay said Clements told him.

"He was most upset by my reaction to his proposal in the budget message that a portion of the Perma-

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## College of Architecture plans degree to emphasize fine arts applications

By Frank C. Hada  
Reporter

Although the Texas University and College Coordinating Board won't allow Texas A&M to have a fine arts department, the College of Architecture and Environmental Design is developing a visual studies degree program that will emphasize fine arts.

Edwin R. Hoag, associate dean of academic affairs in the college, said the board policy, which was enacted when Texas' higher education system was conceived, is designed to avoid duplication of programs.

The Coordinating Board won't let A&M de-

velop a fine arts department because the University of Texas already has one, Hoag said.

"It makes as much sense as saying UT teaches English, therefore we should not offer it," Hoag said.

The issue, he said, is a question of values and priorities in education.

"It's a question of the quality of life led here in Bryan-College Station," he said. "There is no telling how much good a fine arts program including music, dance and theater could do for the community."

Some people feel a fine arts department could improve the University, Hoag said, so there currently are steps being taken toward establishing

some form of art department at A&M, even if it is only in the strictest technical sense, he said.

The architecture college is developing a proposal for a new program that will emphasize a highly technical application of graphic and visual communication using computers and video cameras, Hoag said.

Before the proposal is authorized, however, it must first be approved by several administrative entities, including the architecture executive committee, the University curriculum committee, the president's and chancellor's offices and the Coordinating Board, he said. If it passes all these hurdles, it still won't go into effect until Spring 1989, Hoag added.

## Bureau reports Harris County has most debt

WASHINGTON (AP) — Nearly 15 percent of the nation's county government debt is concentrated in seven metropolitan areas, and Houston's Harris County is the deepest in debt, according to the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

Overall, the nation's county governments owed \$72.3 billion in fiscal 1985, the most recent detailed figures available, the Census Bureau reported. That total was up \$8.5 billion from the year before.

The report says Harris County owed more than \$2.2 billion in long-term debt, which works out to \$828 for each person living in the county. Of that, \$101 million, or \$37 per person, was earmarked for interest on the debt. That debt was up from \$1.2 billion a year earlier.

Nationally, counties had debt averaging \$339 per resident, with the highest amount at \$408 per person in counties with more than a 500,000 residents.

## Officials say truancy, skipping class aren't same

### Truants 'don't realize importance' of school

By Janet Goode  
Reporter

Children who are real truants are having a difficult time realizing what they want out of life and probably don't understand the importance of an education, a local school official says.

Dianna Frieda, associate director of personnel in the Bryan Independent School District, says truancy is an extended intentional absence from school, which should be distinguished from skipping out for just one period.

Jerry Ellis, assistant principal of Bryan High School, agrees, saying when a child is really truant, the problem runs deep, and detention hall won't work — the children just skip out of detention.

"We want kids to come to school," he says, "but we can't drag them up here."

"We have to put the burden on the parents. If we can't get the parents to cooperate, we're fighting a losing battle."

Lora Powell, a counselor for the College Station Independent School District, says if children are absent constantly, it can mean that either they are sick and not getting the

medical attention they need, or their parents just don't care if they attend school.

"Cutting out of school is the symptom, not the problem," Powell says. "We could be looking at a possible victim of neglect."

At Bryan High, Ellis says, the parents are contacted on every level of discipline, either by a letter, a phone

#### Truancy among local children Part two of a two-part series

call or if necessary a visit to the home.

Gloria Collins, a juvenile probation officer for Brazos County, says although some kids are just rebellious, there are usually other problems that come into play.

"It's usually something going on in the home, or it's the child's low self-esteem," she says. "These kids are not involved in school, church, or anything. They are not motivated to do anything."

According to the summer 1986 edition of the journal *Adolescence*, most truant youth have disruptive family backgrounds. The article shows that 48 percent of males and

73 percent of females who are truant are from single parent and step-parent families.

Ron Burk, eighth-grade assistant principal of Stephen F. Austin Junior High School in Bryan, says problem students usually come from poor home environments in which education isn't a priority.

"(The child's) parents probably were not successful in school and have hard feelings toward school," he says.

Burk also has seen many cases where both parents, as well as the children, have to work to support the family.

"The children are needed to work for extra income," he said, "and to the parents this is a top priority."

Sandra Petty, eighth-grade assistant principal for girls at the junior high, says sometimes the parents work late and just don't take the responsibility to get their child to school.

"A child who has to get himself up and fix breakfast will be less likely to go to school," Petty says. "It's pretty hard for a 14-year old kid to be that responsible."

Powell says she has seen few parents who don't care, but has seen many who have given up. She says it's easy to give up on these kids because not many of them reform. And the success rate of reforming truants is only 20 percent.

"It takes a big attitude change and that doesn't happen much," she says.

Ellis says the rate is about the same in BISD, but says at sixth, seventh, and eighth grade, the salvage rate is higher because this is where the problems start.

"Most of the older kids have values already set," he says. "They think they know what is best."

Powell says it's harder to break a habit like truancy in high school because the student has been into the behavior longer. Truancy starts in the junior high and is more prevalent because there are more children under 16 and under the compulsory attendance law, she says.

But, she says, ninth graders are the trouble spot. In CSISD these children attend high school, but in BISD, ninth graders are in junior high.

Burk says he feels serious truancy occurs more often in junior high but that "skipping" class is more a high-school preoccupation. The children in junior high don't have cars and can't really go anywhere, he says.

Although Powell agrees, she says kids in junior high are braver, more adventurous and more prone to peer pressure.

Ellis says some students skip school because of family and emotional problems, but the biggest problem is that kids are just mixed up. They don't know if they want to go to school or not, he says.

"At the high school age, children are where they have to start making decisions for themselves," Ellis says.

Powell says she used to think the problem always stemmed from the family, but now she feels a lot of times it is due to peer pressure.

"A kid will get mixed in with the wrong group, especially if he's a new student," she says. "There's one group that will go out and recruit new members — its the trouble

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