

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Wet Behind The Ears

Aaron McDonough does the backstroke during the A&M swim team's Thursday practice. McDon-

ough is a member of the men's 400-yard freestyle relay team which qualified for the NCAA finals.

Photo by Bill Hughes

## Reagan assures veto of trade retaliations

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan promised Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone on Thursday he would veto legislation requiring trade retaliation against Japan, but he refused to lift sanctions already in place without evidence Tokyo has stopped unfair sales practices.

In a move that pleased U.S. officials, Nakasone told Reagan he had directed the Bank of Japan and the Finance Ministry to lower short-term interest rates.

Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said lower interest rates would stimulate economic growth in Japan, providing "a major opportunity for increasing markets for U.S. goods, for increasing the buying power of Japan."

Vice President George Bush said, "Anything that stimulates markets abroad is good news for American workers and American products."

Reagan and Nakasone met at the White House against the background of the sharpest trade friction between the two countries since World War II, fueled largely by America's huge trade deficit with Japan, which totaled \$58.6 billion last year.

The meeting came one day after the House approved legislation that would trigger trade retaliation against countries, such as Japan, that maintain large trade surpluses with the United States.

Reagan told Nakasone he would veto the measure if it reached the White House, and noted that its narrow margin of approval — just four votes — insured that the veto would be upheld.

At welcoming ceremonies on the South Lawn, under a brilliant sun,

Reagan told Nakasone that "even the closest of friends have differences" and "we must address the current unsustainable trade balance."

He said the trade deficit with Japan "has spawned calls for protectionism that would undo the shining economic accomplishments we've achieved together."

The president said "the answer is not in restrictions but in increased opportunities" and called for Japan to open its markets more to trade and commerce.

In response, Nakasone said, "I am deeply concerned the serious frictions on the trade and economic issues are on the rise between our two countries. We should not allow such a situation to undermine the friendship and mutual trust between our two countries."

Nakasone urged Reagan to lift \$300 million in sanctions imposed on Japanese products in retaliation for the alleged violation of a 1986 agreement not to sell computer chips at unfairly low prices.

The two leaders are to meet again Friday.

## House approves trade bill, ignores Reagan veto threat

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House on Thursday approved, 290-137, a sweeping trade bill with stiff retaliatory features, defying a presidential veto threat and forecasts that the Senate would wipe out its most stringent provisions.

"Although you may not like parts of the bill, let's move it along, get it into the process," Speaker Jim Wright, D-Texas, urged before the House acted.

"Surely the other body (the Senate) will make modifications," he said.

Rep. John J. Duncan, R-Tenn., declared before the 900-page measure won approval he doubted that "anybody in this House today believes this bill will go through the Senate and be signed by the president in its present form."

"I hope all of you realize that this bill isn't going anywhere."

The vote for the measure represented two thirds of the 435-seat House, the margin needed to override a presidential veto.

On the roll call, 247 Democrats and 43 Republicans voted for the measure, while six Democrats and 131 Republicans voted against it.

Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone, who met earlier with President Reagan, visited senators shortly after the House acted.

The Senate Finance Committee, which is drafting its own trade legislation, may take up a punitive provision similar to one sponsored by Rep. Richard A. Gephardt, D-Mo., and adopted by the House on Wednesday by a four-vote margin.

## New tuition plan for state colleges gets House support

AUSTIN (AP) — The House advanced a bill from Speaker Gib Lewis Thursday that would allow state colleges to double their tuition without legislative approval.

The provision, part of a comprehensive bill resulting from the Select Committee on Higher Education study, was opposed by lawmakers who said it could make tuition too expensive for many Texans.

Also Thursday, the House voted tentative approval to a select committee recommendation for a required basic skills test for college students. Students must have to pass the test before they could take junior-level courses.

## Senate bill to censure physicians for abortions

AUSTIN (AP) — Physicians who perform abortions during the third trimester of a woman's pregnancy could lose their medical licenses under a bill that a Senate committee approved Thursday.

Sen. Ted Lyon called the bill a victory for anti-abortion groups, despite its variations from his original bill.

"Carrying this bill was like wrestling with an 800-pound gorilla," Lyon, D-Rockwall, told the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services. "Every time I grabbed hold of it, it has thrown me up against the wall."

The original bill made it a felony for physicians to perform abortions on a fetus capable of living outside its mother's womb except when necessary to preserve the mental or physical health of the mother.

But an amendment offered by Sen. Hugh Amner dropped the criminal penalties. The amendment also would allow doctors whose medical licenses are challenged to defend themselves by proving the abortion was performed before the third trimester.

Lyon said that latter provision of the amendment violates the U.S. constitution because it defines viability of a fetus.

In a rare move, Lewis came down from his podium to present his bill, which won preliminary approval in a 98-10 non-record vote. The bill faces another House vote which could send it to the Senate.

Under the bill, state university boards could set tuitions up to twice the minimum set by lawmakers. Tuition could not be set below the minimum. State college tuition is now \$16 per semester hour. Lawmakers in 1985 set a schedule that will bring the minimum up to \$24 an hour in 1993.

Rep. Eddie Cavazos, D-Corpus Christi, was among House members who complained that tuition should remain a legislative decision.

"If we think that higher education is wasting money, and then we give them the authority to raise tuition, it's like telling your teen-age son, 'Look you're spending too much money so I'm going to raise your allowance,'" Cavazos said.

House Higher Education Committee Chairwoman Wilhelmina Delco, D-Austin, defended the proposed system as the best way to handle the differing costs at state universities. Gov. Bill Clements said he likes the idea.

"Having this as a more flexible situation for the administration and for the systems of higher education on tuition, I think, is a step in the right direction," he said.

Rep. Al Luna, D-Houston, said the new system would make it difficult for poor students, including many minority students, to afford college. Delco said they would be helped by a program in which 20 percent of any tuition increase would be put into a special fund to help poor students.

A Cavazos amendment that would have kept lawmakers in charge of setting tuitions was killed in a 79-41 vote. Lewis said letting college boards set tuition would "get it out of the political arena where many times the emotion overrides what should take place."

Lewis said the change would not spark increased tuition if the bill is approved and goes into effect in September.

"I hope you all don't headline the story with tuition increase because that is a small, small element of what we did here today, and you probably will see absolutely no increase at all on college tuitions," he told news reporters.

## Official: Reagan not involved in fund fraud

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan had no part in conservative fund-raiser Carl R. Channell's conspiracy to defraud the government in raising weapons money for the Contra rebels, White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Thursday.

"In the legal view of the White House, the president is not a part of this conspiracy," Fitzwater told reporters.

Channell, who pleaded guilty to a single conspiracy charge on Wednesday, set up meetings between Reagan and supporters of Channell's tax-exempt foundation at the White House in 1985 and 1986, but Reagan he was thanking the supporters for purchasing commercials for the Contra cause, the spokesman said.

Fitzwater said several such meetings occurred. He said he could not immediately provide an exact number.

Channell pleaded guilty to conspiracy to defraud the government of taxes on \$2 million in contributions for military aid to the Nicaraguan

rebels. He cited former White House aide Lt. Col. Oliver North as a fellow conspirator.

In the first criminal charge brought in the Iran-Contra affair, the fund-raiser agreed to cooperate with independent counsel Lawrence Walsh's investigation.

Channell did not implicate Reagan in the illegal activities.

Congressional Iran-Contra investigators have said one crucial aim of their probe is to learn whatever they can about possible presidential involvement, but they declined comment Wednesday when asked if Channell was expected to testify during public hearings that began next Tuesday.

Fitzwater, citing a statement Reagan made at a March 19 news conference, said, "It was his understanding the money was being raised for advertisement purposes."

At the news conference, Reagan had been asked about a North memorandum, quoted in

the report of the presidentially-appointed Tower board, saying: "The president obviously knows why he has been meeting with several select people to thank them for their support for democracy in Central America."

North was fired and National Security Adviser John Poindexter resigned last November after disclosure of plans to divert profits from the secret Iran arms sales to the rebels battling the government of Nicaragua.

Reagan also was asked at the news conference if he knew about solicitation of money from private sources for the Contras.

"I knew that there were many people privately giving money to things of that kind," the president responded. "But when I met with them, I met with them to thank them because they had raised money to put spot ads on television in favor of the Contras in an effort to try and influence Congress to continue giving aid. And I thought that was worth a thanks."

## New A&M political alliance created

### Group formed for black students

By Kysa L. Anderson  
Reporter

A newly formed Texas A&M organization — the Black Student Alliance — plans to be the political voice for A&M's black students by speaking out on issues affecting them.

Kevin Johnson, a senior environmental design and construction science major, is the creator of the alliance.

Black students do not have an avenue to turn down when faced with problems at A&M, he says, so the BSA will provide that avenue.

"One of the goals of BSA is to magnify the black student voice on issues and policies relevant to blacks at TAMU," Johnson says. "At the present time, BSA will only be able to take political stands on campus issues."

"As far as national issues — those will come later on down the road. I don't think BSA is big enough to deal with national issues yet."

But Keith Kenebrew, 1987-88 National Society of Black Engineers president, has his reservations about the BSA being a political voice for A&M's black students.

"The BSA is in such a preliminary state that it's hard to determine its political effectiveness," Kenebrew says. "However, my fear is that BSA won't evolve into a political organization, but I hope it will."

Kenebrew believes it is impor-

tant for everyone to have a political voice.

"Black or Hispanic — no matter who you are — you need a political organization and a political backing," he says. "Political backing is important because everything is political. Hopefully, BSA can teach students to survive politics."

Because black students represent such a small percentage of

financially agreed from South Africa.

"Because BSA is a combination of the majority of blacks on campus, it can voice the overall opinion of blacks," Burton says.

Also, Burton would like the BSA to put pressure on *The Battalion* to publish more stories about black students.

"I hope BSA can have some impact on campus media," Bur-

ton says. "There needs to be more coverage about black activities in the newspaper. There are always articles about the recruitment of black students at A&M, but there aren't many articles about what blacks are doing here at A&M."

Johnson, a former MSC Black Awareness Committee chairman, says there has been an organization similar to the BSA at A&M — the Black Organizations Association — which was formed under the BAC. But because BAC is part of the Memorial Student Center, he says, it is not permitted to take political stands on issues.

Although politics will be a major function of the BSA, Johnson's primary motive is to prevent conflict between events conducted by black organizations. Because black students are the major supporters of black organizations' activities at A&M, conflicting events would create factionalism, he says.

"One of BSA's purposes is to be a coordinating body of participating black organizations and to provide unity and support for each organization and its activities."

Members of the BSA will submit calendar dates of their organization's event. If two organizations have an event planned for the same day, Johnson says, they will need to compromise as to which activity will happen that day. The BSA will be a mediator if any problems occur between the organizations' conflicting dates, Johnson says.

Johnson says the BSA will send a monthly newsletter to each black student at A&M and to his parents. The newsletter will report events among black students at A&M for that month.

"BSA will serve as an information source for students, parents and participating organizations about issues and social events on campus," Johnson says. "I feel that this aspect of BSA will have a major impact on the students' social life. It will make them more aware of what's going on around campus."

Burton says the success of the BSA depends on student participation and on how well the BSA functions.