

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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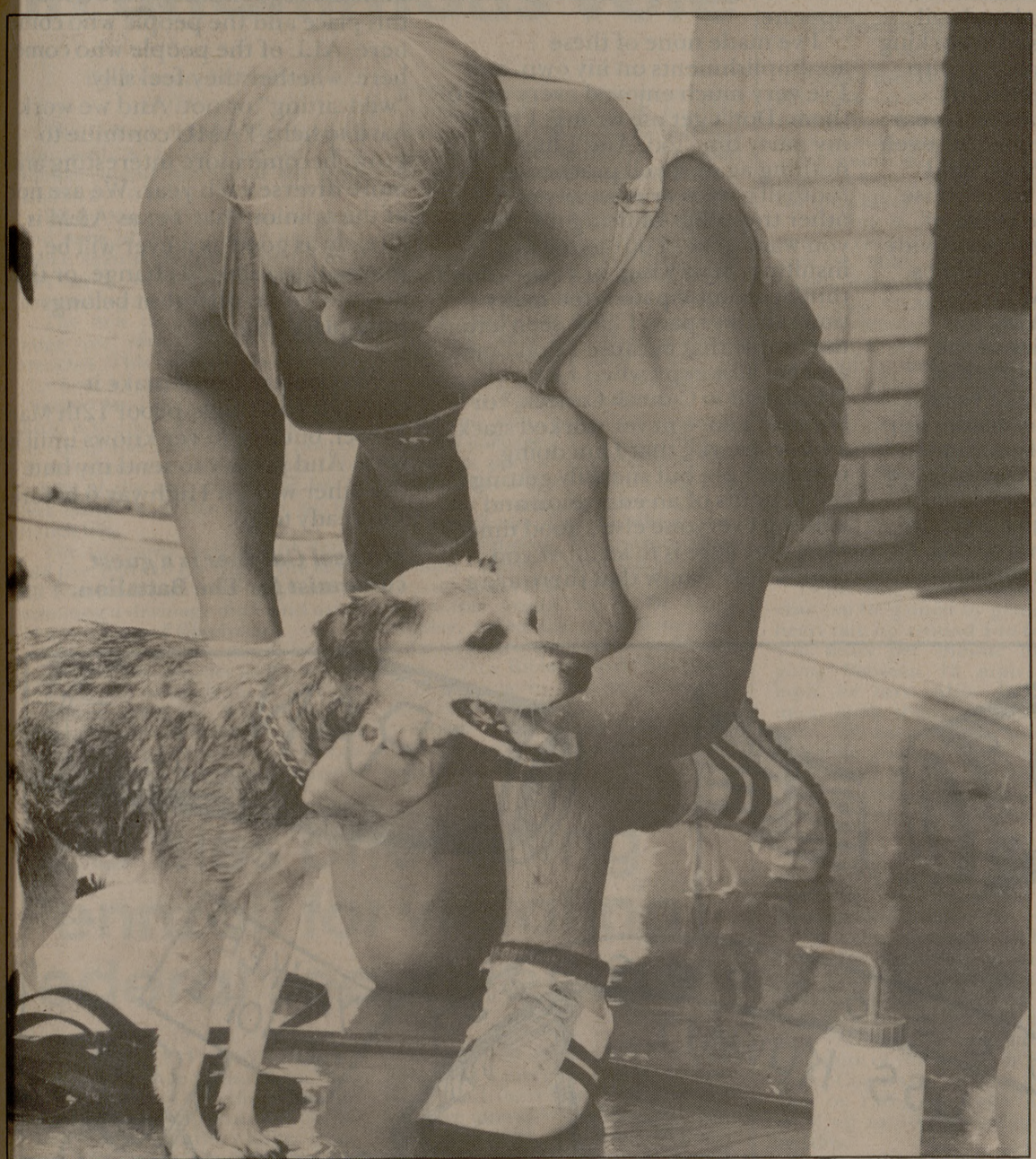


Photo by Sondra Pickard

## Suds MacKenzie

First year veterinary student Carl Clary scrubs a mutt as part of a summer dog wash sponsored by the Texas A&M chapter of the American Veteri-

nary Medicine Association auxiliary. For just \$5, vet students and their spouses wash and dip dogs every third Saturday at the vet school.

## Test for entering freshmen won't affect A&M students

By Kirsten Dietz  
Senior Staff Writer

A basic skills test for entering college freshmen won't have much effect on Texas A&M students, says Tom Matthews, associate director of A&M's Measurement and Testing services.

The test, approved by the 70th Texas Legislature, will go into effect in Fall 1989. It will identify students who need remedial work or special placement in reading, writing and math.

Matthews says that because about three-fourths of A&M students come from the top quarter of their high-school class, he expects to have few remedial students identified at A&M.

"The idea of having good information about a student is a sound one," he says. "This particular test, though, is designed to identify students that we don't have a lot of at A&M."

He says his office tests entering freshmen to determine which math course they should enroll in and also conducts credit by examination for a number of subjects.

The bill creating the basic skills test was written by Rep. Wilhelmina Delco, D-Austin, chairman of the House Committee on Higher Educa-

tion. Sen. Carl A. Parker, D-Port Arthur, chairman of the Senate Committee on Education, introduced the bill in the Texas Senate.

While Matthews thinks A&M doesn't have a problem with remedial students, Parker thinks many college students in Texas are not adequately prepared to succeed in college and, therefore, do not get the full benefit of their college courses.

"We're graduating a lot of college graduates who can't read or write," Parker says. "It's embarrassing. We are letting a lot of people stumble through college that were not adequately prepared when they got there to succeed."

"With this basic skills test it will identify the problem areas for students and mandate that various colleges and universities address those deficiencies so they can succeed and they can recognize the full benefit of the courses they take."

Parker says the burden of instilling these basic skills really rests with the secondary schools. But, he says, "We can't get to them."

While high-school seniors are required to pass an exit test to graduate, Parker says, "But that's just a test to see whether they function in society more or less, not one to determine whether or not they're ad-

equately prepared to succeed in college."

"We finally decided without regard to whose responsibility it should have been that this (the new test) is a practical way to address the problem."

Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan, a member of the Senate Committee on Education, and Rep. Richard Smith, R-Bryan, voted for the bill mandating the test.

While it is known what skills the exam will test, it is not yet known how they will be tested.

The first steps toward the development of the test begin today at a Texas College and University System Coordinating Board meeting in Austin.

It is expected that a liaison committee between the Board and the State Board of Education will be authorized to begin screening bids from six companies competing to develop the test.

While the committee will recommend which company to award the bid to, the State Board of Education will make the final decision, says Janis Monger, a spokesman for the Coordinating Board.

The chosen company will work with college educators during the next year to develop the test.

## Reagan administration suspends \$26 million in Panamanian aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Reagan administration, escalating pressure on Panama to reduce military influence in governing the country, has suspended a \$26 million aid program and told American diplomats to shun the powerful Panamanian defense chief, U.S. officials said Thursday.

The moves were the latest in an effort to show U.S. dissatisfaction with the behind-the-scenes rule of Panamanian Gen. Manuel Antonio Noriega, who has been accused by a former high-ranking military officer of complicity in the murder of an opposition figure, corruption and vote fraud.

The level of administration ire rose considerably last month when an anti-American demonstration allegedly arranged by pro-Noriega factions caused an estimated \$106,000 damage to the U.S. Embassy in Panama City. Administration officials, speaking on condition of

anonymity, said the aid freeze was instituted without fanfare after the demonstration and was to be lifted once Panama fulfilled promises to reimburse the United States for the embassy damage.

The suspension stops new contracts under an aid program worth \$20 million in economic support and \$6 million in military programs for Panama in the fiscal year ending Sept. 30. The Reagan administration request to Congress for the next fiscal year was \$33 million, which also would be halted if the suspension continues.

In a more personal move, U.S. officials have been asked to limit participation in events at which Noriega is a participant.

Shunning Noriega is part of the U.S. policy of registering displeasure with his role. "We sometimes have to deal with him, but we are keeping these contacts very discreet," a State Department official said.

## Shultz says advisers deceived president

WASHINGTON (AP) — Secretary of State George P. Shultz testified Thursday that President Reagan was deceived by his closest advisers about his administration's Iran-Contra activities and that "I've never seen the president so mad" as when Shultz laid out some details of the story.

He also said, in a day when one disclosure tumbled over another, that he three times tried to resign his post, including a time in August last year.

"You can't do the job well if you want it too much," he said. "You have to be willing to say goodbye."

In the August instance, he said, he perceived that other officials thought he was out of step with the administration and he felt he had become the target of "guerrilla warfare." He said Reagan stuck the resignation letter in a drawer, said "You're tired, it's about time to go on vacation" (and) nothing ever happened."

Shultz said he waged "a battle royal," against others who had the president's ear, to persuade Reagan to get the facts out last November after a Lebanese newspaper revealed the United States had sold arms to Iran.

He said he told Reagan directly last November, "We've been deceived and lied to," and he cautioned the president against making any more declarations that there had been no arms-for-hostages dealing.

In Shultz's words, Reagan reacted "like he had been kicked in the belly" when he was told about another secret proposal, the barter of American hostages for the

freedom of terrorists held in Kuwait for the 1983 bombings of the U.S. and French embassies there.

"His jaw set and his eyes flashed and both of us, I think, felt the same way about it," the secretary said.

Shultz characterized the clandestine attempts to free Americans held hostage in Lebanon — by making deals with Iran — as pathetic and said the "people who were doing this, they got taken to the cleaners."

Shultz, who testified for seven hours and will return for more on Friday, made clear his support for the Contra rebels.

"But I don't think that the desirable end justified the means of lying, deceiving, of doing things that are outside our constitutional process," he said.

He defended Elliott Abrams, the assistant secretary of state who admitted misleading Congress about some aspects of the affair.

"He made a mistake, he knows it and he is full of remorse about it," Shultz said.

He told the congressional Iran-Contra committees that he felt National Security Adviser John Poindexter and CIA Director William Casey "had a conflict of interest with the president" in trying to persuade him to hide the truth from the country and to "bail them out."

Both Poindexter, who resigned as the affair was officially disclosed on Nov. 25, and Casey, who has since died, approved of the diversion of arms-sale money to the Nicaraguan rebels at a time when official government aid to the Contras was banned.

## Radio station airs single by Jackson by mistake

By Kirsten Dietz  
Senior Staff Writer

At 9:20 a.m. Monday, local radio station KKYS played a promotional single it thought was by Stevie Ray Vaughan.

Instead, listeners heard Michael Jackson singing "I Just Can't Stop Loving You."

The mistake was a "Thriller" for T.J. McKay, the station's program and music director.

"The thing that is neatest about this is that we have since found out we were the only radio station in the world to air the song," McKay said.

The Jackson single was supposed to be released at 8 a.m. CST Wednesday. The record played by KKYS disc jockey Ken Casey had Stevie Ray Vaughan's name on it and was for promotional use. By accidently playing the mismarked record, KKYS got a two-day jump on all other radio stations.

"It's very important when a major hit comes out, like this is probably going to be, that all the radio stations in the country get it at the same time," McKay said.

He said the station cannot legally get in trouble for airing the song ahead of its scheduled release.

"We had every reason to (play the record) because they loan them to us for promotional use," McKay said. "If we are mailed a record, we have a right to air it."

"If they'd have sent us one that said Michael Jackson and a warning, then we couldn't have played it. But since it had something else on it and it was for promotional use, we played it."

Bob Altshuler, a spokesman for CBS-owned Epic records in New York, said the company is trying to determine how the mistake was made. If an honest mistake was made, no one can be sued, he said.

But what has drawn nationwide



Photo by Tracy Staton

T.J. McKay, KKYS program director, holds the new single by Michael Jackson in his office at the radio station.

attention is not just that KKYS first aired the song, but that the station now has a rare item — the mismarked record.

McKay said Epic records has called "about 1,000 times" asking him to return the station's copy of the single. McKay said he is not going to return it right now, even though he said the record does legally belong to the company. He also said MTV is interested in an interview, and New York radio station WHTZ, the most listened-to station in the country, has shown an

interest in flying McKay and disc jockey Lauren St. James to New York to see the record and do some on-the-air promotions.

After the station realized it had the Jackson single, copies of the single were sent to some Austin and Houston stations so they also could play it early.

"We have friends in radio there," McKay said.

He said the station heard such immediately favorable response from listeners that the record was played every 1 1/2 hours Monday.

## Soviets: Superpowers can reach agreement on banning missiles

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet officials said Thursday that the superpowers can reach a quick accord to ban medium- and shorter-range nuclear missiles but that the United States must yield on four points they say have stymied agreement.

One obstacle in the way of the agreement — and a potential summit meeting between Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev and President Reagan — is the Soviet insistence that U.S.-controlled warheads on Pershing 1-A missiles in West Germany be scrapped.

In remarks made public Wednesday night, Gorbachev offered to eliminate Soviet medium-range nuclear missiles in Asia if the United States does not insist on keeping 100 medium-range warheads outside Europe.

The Soviet leader also said his country would scrap its shorter-

range SS-12 and SS-23 rockets east of the Urals, which the United States has regarded as a threat to China and Japan.

The superpowers have been negotiating a ban on medium- and shorter-range rockets in Europe since Gorbachev announced Feb. 28 that the Soviet Union would no longer insist on an accord also encompassing strategic and space weapons.

Like Gorbachev's February offer, the Soviet proposal for banning the missiles in Asia as well as Europe seemed designed to put pressure on the United States by removing a point of contention the Americans had said was frustrating progress in negotiations.

Observers also have said Gorbachev wants an arms control agreement in order to divert resources from the military to the country's social and economic needs

and to further cement civilian control over the Soviet military establishment.

Since he became Communist Party chief in March 1985, Gorbachev repeatedly has stressed the Kremlin's desire for a total end to nuclear weapons, and accused the United States of frustrating progress toward disarmament.

Yuli M. Vorontsov, the chief Kremlin arms negotiator, told a news conference called to explain Gorbachev's latest proposal, "We hope for a new impulse to the arms talks. We're looking now for a political decision from the American side."

Vorontsov, the first deputy foreign minister, said two months should be sufficient to reach agreement. He indicated an accord could lead to a summit meeting between Gorbachev and Reagan before the end of the year.