

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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Photo by Robert W. Rizzo

## Where'd it go?

Texas A&M Lacrosse players Chris Grayson (7) and Pat Brown (80) go on the offense against the Texas Tech team in the 7th annual Fall

Lacrosse Classic Saturday on the main drill field. The Aggies lost 9-7 in overtime against the Tech team.

## President says U.S., Nicaragua may start talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan said Monday the United States would take part in talks with Nicaraguan authorities if they engage in serious cease-fire negotiations with the Contra rebels.

Reagan emphasized that such discussions — the first between the United States and Nicaragua in almost three years — would occur only if representatives of all of the other Central American countries are also present.

The president outlined the U.S. position to a luncheon gathering of Western Hemisphere foreign ministers assembled here for the annual meeting of the Organization of American States. Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto was among the listeners as Reagan spoke.

The United States and Nicaragua have had no substantive bilateral talks since the latter half of 1984 when a series of meetings were held in Manzanillo, Mexico. By insisting that other Central American countries be a part of any future contacts with the Sandinistas, Reagan appeared to rule out a resumption of bilateral discussions.

Reagan's announcement apparently was linked to the surprise statement by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega last Thursday that his government would agree to open, through an intermediary, cease fire talks with the U.S.-backed Contras.

Reagan's remarks were consistent with the previous administration po-

sition that the United States would ease its stand on talks with the leftist Sandinistas only if they first opened a dialogue with the Contras.

Reagan said that Secretary of State George P. Shultz "will be ready to meet jointly with the foreign ministers of all five Central American nations, including the Sandinistas' representative" if Nicaragua engages in "serious negotiations" with the Contras.

The administration, rejecting Sandinista appeals for direct U.S.-Nicaraguan talks, has confined its contacts in recent years to the four friendly Central American nations — El Salvador, Honduras, Guatemala and Costa Rica. In diplomatic jargon, these countries are known as the "core four."

The United States is not a signatory to the peace agreement but has been looking for ways to play a more active role because of what Reagan considers to be important American security interests in the region.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega will address the OAS meeting on Wednesday. Vice Foreign Minister Victor Hugo Tinoco told reporters Monday that Ortega will stress Nicaragua's interest in full compliance with the peace plan.

U.S. officials, insisting on anonymity, ruled out any direct talks with Ortega during his visit, citing the conditions raised by Reagan in his luncheon remarks. But Shultz was more ambiguous on that point in a news conference Monday.

## Committee discusses harassment at bonfire site

By Lee Schexnaider  
Staff Writer

### Women's bonfire participation has increased since '80

By Lyneen Johnson  
Reporter

Despite recent altercations with female photographers inside the perimeter, the role of women in bonfire construction is no longer restricted to cookie crew.

A Battalion article says women were integrated into the building of bonfire in 1980.

was made because of safety considerations.

"This is not male bonfire, this is not female bonfire, this is Aggie bonfire," Murphy said. "Anybody that wants to work and work hard, we want them out there."

He said that there were other things going on and he was unable to divert time away from his work to re-

move the photographer from the area. He noted that another yearbook photographer was injured while taking pictures of the construction of the bonfire. Tim Dorney, a senior electrical engineering major and photo editor for the yearbook, broke his knee and one of his lower leg bones when he fell off a log pile as the logs shifted.

Today, several hundred women actively participate in all aspects of bonfire, head redpot Scott Mallory

says. The actual numbers are impossible to determine because of the variety of activities. Female battalions in the Corps of Cadets, Squadron 14 and W-1, are working on bonfire. "It is mandatory for the whole Corps, so we are all out there unless injured or ill," Wanda Cox of W-1 says. The responsibilities and work

areas are identical for men and women.

"We work right alongside the rest of our outfit so long as we can get an ax, or better yet, a chainsaw," says Cox, a junior sports medicine major.

"The axes and chainsaws in our outfit are issued on a seniority basis, but it's first come, first serve as to where

See Bonfire roles, page 8

procedures tentatively have been approved by President Frank E. Vandiver and are expected to be released late this semester or early in the spring semester.

"Then we're going to publicize them (the policies) widely because we want everybody to have the information, because a lot of the time people don't know what sexual harassment is," Parrish said. "So it is going to take a lot of education to tell people. Even very sensitive people don't understand. They think it (sexual harassment) is the most outlandish overt sexual acts. Well, it not always that way."

"We've got to make sure that everybody is educated on the subject so this (discrimination) doesn't happen at A&M."

Parrish thought the meeting with five senior redpots at the bonfire was successful.

"All I ever wanted to do is show the females in the student body that

See Harassment, page 8

## White House officials question judge seen as front-runner for court choice

WASHINGTON (AP) — White House officials called federal appellate judge Anthony M. Kennedy the front-runner for the Supreme Court nomination Monday and subjected him to new background questioning as other Republicans doled out blame for the collapse of the Douglas Ginsburg nomination.

Kennedy, who was flown to Washington less than two weeks ago to be interviewed for the court vacancy was brought back Saturday by an Air Force jet after Ginsburg withdrew in the uproar following his ad-

mission that he had used marijuana. "I think it's fair to say he is the leading candidate," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said of possible nominee Kennedy of Sacramento, Calif.

President Reagan, meanwhile, said that harassment from outside rather than inside the administration forced Ginsburg to withdraw.

Reagan and other White House officials denied that Ginsburg had been abandoned after his drug-use admission. The president said, "I stood by and declared I would not

whether Helms had changed his mind in light of Ginsburg's withdrawal.

A Democratic source from the Senate Judiciary Committee, speaking only on condition he not be named, said Democratic committee members placed Kennedy in their "least controversial" category among possibilities mentioned by White House officials.

Fitzwater said Kennedy, passed over last month by Reagan for the court vacancy, has been interviewed anew.

## Dole pledges to balance budget if elected

RUSSELL, Kan. (AP) — Senate Republican Leader Bob Dole formally opened his presidential bid on Monday, pledging that if elected he will sit down with congressional leaders "as long as it takes" to hammer out a balanced budget plan.

In his announcement speech, Dole took subtle swipes at chief rival Vice President George Bush, extolling the Reagan administration's record but adding, "It's not something to run on. It's something to build on."

Against the nostalgic backdrop of his hometown of 5,600 in western Kansas, Dole promised a policy of

common sense "molded in America's small-town heartland and tempered during a career of public service."

Dole, 64, the sixth and last major Republican to announce his candidacy, called for tough-minded economic policies, saying the federal deficit "is the single greatest threat to a prosperous and dynamic America."

He said, "I will sit down with congressional leaders during my first weeks in office and we'll stay there as long as it takes, and will not stop until we come up with a renewed commitment to a multiyear plan — a new

compact — that ends with a balanced budget in the near future."

Dole insisted that, if elected, "We will tackle the runaway federal budget head-on — without raising tax rates."

"With the single exception of programs to assist vulnerable Americans, no area of federal spending will be off-limits," he said.

Dole, the GOP Senate leader for the past three years, hammered at the theme that he's been on the front lines during President Reagan's presidency.

He said, "I offer a record, not a

## TDC records say inmates serve less than actual term

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — A life term in a Texas prison can actually turn out to be a little more than a decade behind bars for some convicts, according to Texas Department of Corrections records.

TDC figures released for 1986 — the most recent available — show that the 417 convicts sentenced to life terms and released last year served an average of 11 years, nine months and four days.

Some convictions came before the 1977 aggravated offender laws in which criminals sentenced for aggravated crimes must spend at least one-third of their sentence behind bars. For a life term, considered to be 60 years, that means serving a flat-time sentence of 20 years.

"The average amount of time served has gone up, primarily between 1978 and 1983," said James Marquart, assistant professor of criminal justice at Sam Houston State University. Much of the increase can be attributed to the harsher laws involving aggravated crimes.

But convicts are still serving only one-quarter to one-third or less of their original sentences, the *Houston Chronicle* reported Monday. Non-violent criminals are now spending about one month behind bars for every year assessed.

"It's not long," Marquart said. "I don't think that's shocking."

"It's not like TDC is trying to let them out — what are you going to do with these people?" he said. "The whole system is basically out of control with people. It's more than just a TDC-parole board problem. It's a system problem."

On Sunday, the newspaper reported violent offenders were being included as part of an early-release program intended to discharge 150 inmates for every 150 brought in.

The program, announced in September by Gov. Clements and corrections officials, was intended as a stopgap measure to ease overcrowding. But Clements added only non-violent offenders would be cleared for the early release.