

Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 87 No. 77 USPS 045360 12 Pages

College Station, Texas

Wednesday, January 20, 1988

Senates work on schedule for finals

Senior exam trial run receives F for failure

By Karen Kroesche
Staff Writer

Both student and faculty leaders agree that last semester's trial run of a senior finals schedule ran less than smoothly, and they are working together to find a more acceptable alternative.

Speaker of the Faculty Senate C. Richard Shumway said the Faculty Senate did not originally anticipate

the scope of the problems that senior finals scheduling would create for students.

Shumway said he is anxious to work with students and iron out the conflicts.

"I think it's got to be worked out jointly between the Student Senate and Faculty Senate," Shumway said. "And we are meeting as officers of

the Faculty Senate with officers of the Student Government to see if there are some alternatives that could be considered."

Speaker of the Student Senate Jay Hays said Faculty Senate and Student Senate leaders will have a summit of sorts Friday to compare notes and try to hammer out a senior finals schedule that is agreeable to both parties.

"We have a meeting scheduled with Dr. Shumway to go over these alternatives," he said. "And hopefully after coming out of that meeting, we'll have one recommendation to give to each Senate for approval."

Both Hays and Shumway said last semester's trial run of the senior finals schedule created time problems for both students and faculty.

"It pointed out a lot of problems in the practical application of the schedule," Hays said. "There

weren't any drastic, serious, University-stopping problems, but it caused a lot of inconvenience and a lot of students felt that they were rushed in the finals with the shortening of dead week and then turning right around and having to take finals. . . ."

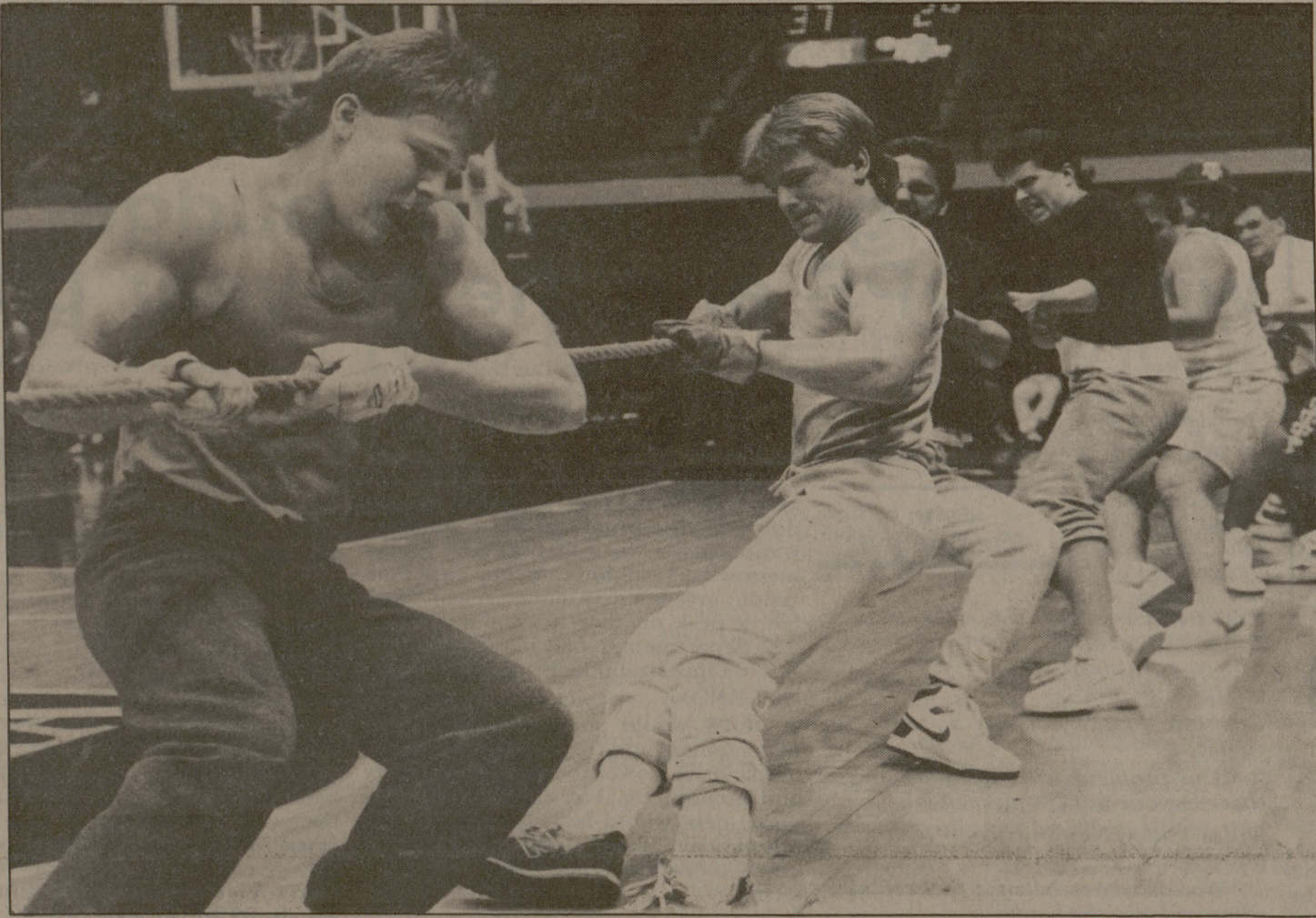
"A lot of students felt like they were really cramped by the schedule," he said.

Shumway agreed that students did not have time to prepare for finals, and he said the trial run came

at a pretty high cost, to both students and to faculty.

"Some thought it went better than expected, but there's been a fair amount of concern about it," he said. "We're anxious to try to work out an alternative that would be more satisfactory to both students and to faculty."

Shumway said, "Our preliminary discussions with student leaders would indicate that there are some alternatives that may be preferable to both groups."



Give 'n take

Steve Grychka, a sophomore biomedical science major, leads his team, the Crocker Wildcats, as they compete in a game of tug o' war against

the Walton Schopros during halftime at the Lady Aggies basketball game Tuesday night.

Photo by Jay Janner

GOP's decision prompts du Pont to return to race

AUSTIN (AP) — Presidential candidate Pete du Pont, one of the prime beneficiaries of the Texas Republican Party's decision to ignore forged signatures on petitions, said Tuesday the GOP shouldn't have abandoned verification efforts.

But the former Delaware governor said the decision puts him back in the race for Texas delegates to the Republican National Convention.

"Now voters will get the chance to determine the much larger question of who should serve as the Republican Party's standard-bearer in the

1988 presidential election," said du Pont, who on Saturday had withdrawn from the Texas primary after reports of forged signatures on his ballot petition.

Reporters had found apparent forgeries on petitions submitted by du Pont, U.S. Rep. Jack Kemp, U.S. Sen. Robert Dole and Alexander Haig. The Texas GOP initially decided to verify the required 5,000 signatures for each candidate. Such action would leave any candidate without enough verified signatures on the ballot but ineligible to earn delegates.

Reagan endorses weapon airdrops to Contra rebels

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan on Tuesday authorized the CIA to resume airdrops of weapons to Nicaragua's Contra rebels, as congressional opponents worked to offset an expected presidential lobbying blitz for an extension of military aid.

"This is really a gut issue for the president," said Rep. Lee Hamilton, D-Ind., an opponent of the aid renewal Reagan is expected to seek for the rebels on Jan. 26.

"It is his highest foreign policy objective," he said. "The administration will pull out every stop in order to win this vote."

The House will vote Feb. 3 on Reagan's request for an undetermined amount of new military aid. If it approves the request, the Senate will vote the next day.

The rebels are currently operating on short-term humanitarian aid approved before Congress' recess. The airdrops had been suspended for the past week because of the weekend meeting in Costa Rica of the five Central American presi-

dents who signed a peace accord Aug. 7.

Under the law, Reagan must ask for any new military aid next week, triggering votes in Congress the following week.

But the administration's task in winning new lethal aid was made difficult when Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega promised to make concessions to keep the peace process alive.

Ortega vowed to lift the state of emergency in his country that has curtailed civil liberties, to hold direct talks with the rebels aimed at reaching a cease-fire and to release political prisoners when a truce is arranged.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Tuesday that the amount and composition of the new aid request will be determined by what Ortega does between now and then in fulfilling those promises, a view shared by aid opponents.

Administration officials call the promises a ploy to lure Congress into a cutoff of Contra aid.

Initial Corp dorm renovation completed

By Lee Schexnaider
Staff Writer

The initial phase of a \$31 million five-year dormitory renovation plan has been completed with the work on two Corps of Cadets residence halls, said George Thomas, Corps of Cadets area coordinator.

Students have already moved into Dorm 12, Utay Hall, Thomas said. Dorm 10, White Hall, will be ready for occupation in two weeks, he said. The entire long-term project, ex-

pected to be completed in 1991, includes renovations of 16 residence halls, including the 12 Corps of Cadets dorms and the four Corps-style dormitories on the north side of campus.

"It is a total renovation," Thomas said. "Other than the installation of air conditioning somewhere in the late fifties, there's been no real renovation done to the dorms other than normal maintenance. So this is the first real facelift of the whole interior."

Thomas said the reaction from the Corps cadets has been positive.

"You're living in something that hasn't been totally renovated in forty-something years, and now it is totally renovated with all new equipment," he said. "Their reaction is great. It's like walking into a brand new building."

Mark Andress, a senior aerospace engineering major and a regiment commander, said he was pleased with the changes.

"They are plush," he said. "They

look like you just checked into a hotel room."

Jim Lane, assistant Corps area coordinator, said the renovation started in August 1987 and involved all parts of the buildings' interiors.

"The rooms were completely gutted," Lane said. He said the work included all new furniture, heating, ventilation, air conditioning, plumbing and electricity.

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UPD allows grace period for parking

By Richard Williams
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M University Police Department is not going to issue parking tickets to cars without parking stickers parked in red, blue and green lots until Monday, said Bob Wiatt, director of traffic and security.

Cars not parked in the spaces provided will still be ticketed and are subject to being towed if they are blocking the flow of traffic, Wiatt said.

The grace period provided by the UPD doesn't extend to brown or yellow staff lots, he said.

Individuals parking improperly or parking in staff lots or reserved spaces are subject to the towing and ticketing regulations normally enforced, Wiatt said.

The UPD usually provides a grace period during the first week of every semester to allow individuals who haven't yet picked up their stickers to park on campus without getting tickets.

Court clears way for investigation of Oliver North

WASHINGTON (AP) — Marine Lt. Col. Oliver North failed Tuesday in a bid to have the Supreme Court block a criminal investigation into his role in the Iran-Contra affair.

The justices, without comment, refused to disturb a ruling that Attorney General Edwin Meese III properly delegated authority to independent counsel Lawrence E. Walsh to conduct the inquiry.

The high-court order clears the way for Walsh to seek indictments against North and other key participants in a scheme to divert the proceeds of secret U.S. arms sales to Iran to the Nicaraguan Contra rebels.

Indictments are possible in the coming weeks against North, former national security adviser John M. Poindexter, retired Air Force Maj. Gen. Richard V. Secord and Secord's business partner, Albert Hakim.

Jim Wiegart, spokesman for

Walsh, said, "We are pleased that any question as to the authority of this office to carry on its investigation of the Iran-Contra matter has now been laid to rest by the courts."

In other action Tuesday, the Supreme Court:

- Left intact the perjury conviction of Walter L. Nixon, a federal trial judge from Mississippi. Federal prosecutors now may seek a start to his five-year prison sentence.

- Refused to throw out a lawsuit charging singer-songwriter Lionel Richie with infringing another composer's copyright in his 1983 hit "Stuck on You." The justices, without comment, let stand a ruling that a jury trial is required to determine whether any copyright infringement occurred.

- Agreed to decide in a case from Colorado whether states may bar sponsors of ballot initiatives from paying the people who collect petition signatures.

Campus housing proposals fail to solve student demands

By Kimberly House
Staff Writer

Four proposed civilian residence halls planned for completion in September 1989 will provide accommodations for 1,200 more students on the Texas A&M campus, but this will not completely solve the current on-campus housing demand problem, with an estimated 44 percent of students who requested dorm rooms in the fall were turned down.

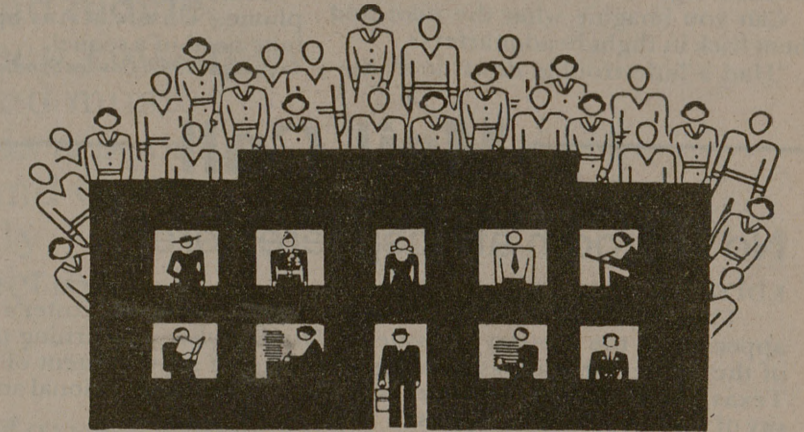
Wesley Peel, vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction, said A&M is opening bids this week on the pre-purchase of prefabricated modules for the new dormitories, which will be similar in style to A&M's five modular female residence halls.

The contract for the building modules will be awarded at the Texas A&M University Board of Regents meetings on Sunday and Monday.

In November, the Board approved plans to commission a design for the four new halls. One will be built east of Haas and McFadden halls near the Fish Pond — housing 238 students — and the other three will be south of the Commons and east of Underwood Hall — housing 962 students.

However, the 1,200 new rooms will not satisfy the current demand for on-campus housing.

John White, housing services supervisor, said there were about



4,000 rejections sent to dorm applicants for the fall 1987 semester. The Housing Office received about 9,000 applications for civilian housing, White said, and only about 5,000 of the 7,102 available spaces were open.

The increased number of freshmen in the fall upped the number of rejections about 33 percent, White said. Before that increase, the number of people applying for dorms had been decreasing since 1984, he said.

The housing office uses a lottery system for assigning numbers to incoming freshmen applicants, White said.

"The incoming freshmen who

wish to get a dorm room can apply through January and all applicants are randomly assigned a number by the computer," he said. "The students with (lottery) numbers up to the number of available rooms are assigned rooms."

White said off-campus students and transfer students are not given a lottery number, but instead are put on a waiting list according to the date of their application.

In a recent Off Campus Center survey of a random sample of more than 400 freshmen, 58 percent of those who responded said the most important reason they were living off campus was that they were un-

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