

# Texas A&M The Battalion

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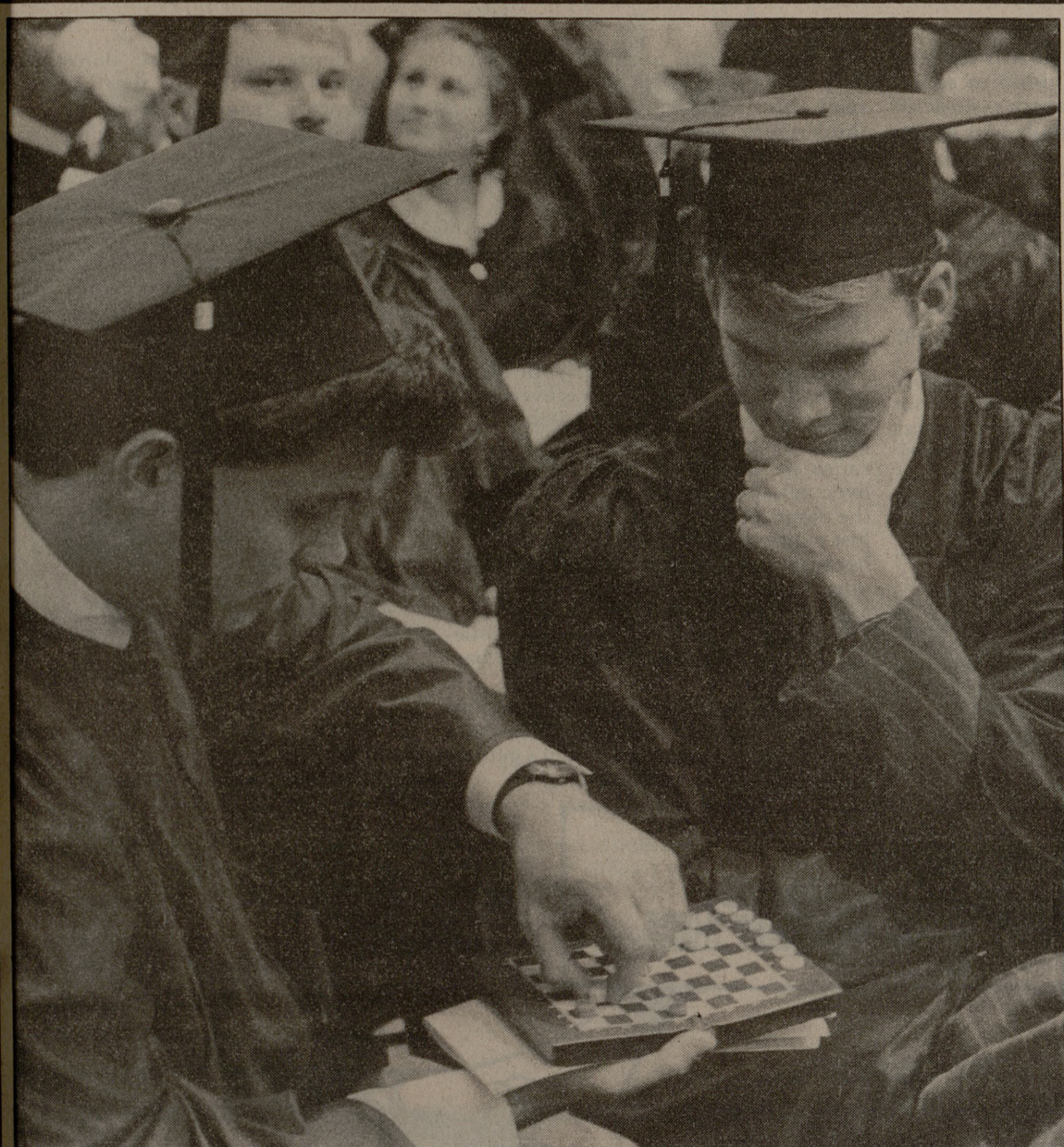


Photo by Jay Janner

Environmental Design majors Joe Vastano of College Station and Mike Zalles of Austin play check-

ers while they wait for their names to be called at graduation ceremonies.

## 3,103 graduate during weekend

By Loyd Brumfield  
Senior Staff Writer

Texas A&M seniors participated in graduation ceremonies over the weekend, and if there was a theme to it all, it would have been challenge, technology and opportunity.

There were 3,103 degrees, including 112 doctorate degrees, awarded in ceremonies on Friday and Saturday in G. Rollie White Coliseum and Rudder Auditorium.

Two hundred and thirty seniors graduated with honors - 43 graduated Suma Cum Laude, 109 graduated Magna Cum Laude, and 178 graduated Cum Laude.

Gov. Bill Clements spoke in Friday's ceremony to advanced degree candidates and undergraduates in the colleges of Liberal Arts and Architecture and Environmental Design.

Clements advised students not to relinquish personal values.

"Let's not forget traditional values like family, Sunday school and the personal values of which the Bible speaks so eloquently," he said. "Challenges will come in many hues and colors, and meeting those challenges takes commitment, character and the personal values I've spoken of."

Today's students will lead the nation into the future, Clements said.

"In the 1920s we developed the assembly line, which led to automation, computerization and finally, robotics," he said. "Television didn't become a household item until the 1950s, and then new technologies developed, like the VCR.

"You will lead us into a century of profound change and challenge.

The foresight of the past helps us evaluate the future."

Clements said no other university in the nation prepares a student for post-college life better than A&M.

"No institution in the Southwest, or even in the nation, develops character as well as A&M," he said. "Without character, you will fail. Remember, the battle of San Jacinto was won after the fall of the Alamo."

Jim Wright, speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, addressed undergraduates in the colleges of Business Administration, Science and Agriculture Saturday.

Wright emphasized a positive self-image and good work habits.

"Accentuate the positives. Don't think on the negatives," he said. "What you think you can do in life is limited by your actions. You need a positive self-image for that."

"What is self-image? Well, it isn't ego and it certainly isn't boastfulness, but it is knowing yourself and believing in your work."

Wright used the Chrysler Corporation as an example to illustrate the power of faith.

"In 1979, Chrysler was \$4 million under," he said. "Some people in Congress thought the corporation was finished. Lee Iacocca didn't think so. He had faith. The Chrysler motto was, 'We can do it, consider it done.' It appeared at Chrysler dealerships all over the country. Faith is contagious."

Like Clements, Wright emphasized the affect new technologies will have on goals and dreams.

"Back in 1961, President John F. Kennedy said we'd have a man on the moon by 1970," Wright said. "That was just nine years away. No-

body knew how it could be done, but the sheer challenge galvanized the Congress and the scientific community into making that dream come true."

In Friday night's ceremony, Edward C. Aldridge, secretary of the U.S. Air Force, told seniors in the colleges of Education, Engineering, Geosciences and Veterinary Medicine that excellence was the key to continued prosperity.

"I challenge this class to build through professional excellence," he said. "Each of you has tasted excellence; now you must continue it. Never compromise the quality of your work."

Aldridge said modern technology has given today's graduates an edge over previous graduates.

"When I graduated, space and science fiction were almost synonymous," he said. "Now, thanks to computers and new advances, there is a significant difference between the two."

"People say if the automobile industry had developed as fast as the Supercollider project, cars would cost \$3 and get a million miles to the gallon."

Aldridge said students must be wary of falling behind in the world market.

"The Class of '88 has committed themselves to expanding their knowledge," he said. "Most of this century our nation has led the world in innovations. Increasingly, though, advances in engineering and other technologies have come from abroad."

"Some say the United States has

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## Export sales high, U.S. trade deficit lowest in 3 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — A record level of export sales gave the United States its lowest monthly trade deficit in three years in March, the government said Tuesday. President Reagan seized the report as rhetorical ammunition against the trade bill.

The Commerce Department reported that the deficit shrank dramatically in March to \$9.7 billion, a drop of 29.5 percent from the February imbalance of \$13.8 billion — statistics which sent the dollar soaring on world money markets.

The improvement came from a 23 percent surge in American exports, which rose to an all-time high of \$29 billion, as demand for U.S. machinery, aircraft, computers and chemicals picked up sharply. This offset a smaller rise in imports, which climbed 3.6 percent to \$38.7 billion.

A month ago, the unexpectedly bad February trade deficit sent the dollar plunging in value and triggered a 101-point drop in the Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks, the fifth-worst loss on record.

The March report was good news for the dollar, which rose sharply

against other major currencies, but the stock market and bond market were decidedly less impressed.

The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks closed down about 21 points, and declining issues outnumbered advances by a nearly 2-1 margin on the New York Stock Exchange.

Reagan, fielding reporters' questions during a brief appearance Tuesday in the White House press room, said the latest report "is clear evidence that the trade balance is improving as our economy continues to grow."

Reagan said his veto message to Congress on the 1,000-page bill "is currently under review" and he expects to issue it "within a couple of days."

"But today's news emphasizes what we have been saying all along, that this is not the time to be imposing restrictions on trade or reducing incentives for free open markets or closing job opportunities," the president said. "We want more jobs, not less."

Analysts said some investors are worried that the export boom will spark another round of inflation in the United States as factories, many already operating at peak capacity, begin to raise prices.

Indeed, the Federal Reserve Board said in another economic report Tuesday that American industry operated at an eight-year high of 82.7 percent of capacity in April, a 0.3 percentage point rise from March.

The high operating rate was solid evidence of the boom in export sales, economists said, but they cautioned that the country is approaching a danger zone when tight labor markets begin pushing prices higher. Unemployment fell to a 14-year low of 5.4 percent last month.

The administration saw no inflationary danger signs in the trade figures, but officials argued that the economy could be derailed if Congress insists on passing the omnibus trade bill over Reagan's veto.

"This is no time to shoot ourselves in the foot and . . . stymie job creation," White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said.

Some analysts said the dramatic improvement in the trade deficit made it all but certain that Congress would not be able to come up with the two-thirds majorities in each house to override the veto.

## Recent immigration law fails to stop flow of aliens

COMBES, Texas (AP) — Undocumented aliens are still pouring into the United States despite a new immigration law that prohibits hiring them, officials said Tuesday after finding 42 people hidden in a north-bound freight train.

Juan Garcia, assistant chief with the Border Patrol's McAllen Sector, said the numbers have even been increasing lately, and agents who stopped the train in the Lower Rio Grande Valley early Tuesday were expecting to find more aliens among the 113 cars that stretched for more than a mile.

"This is an extremely low count," said B.A. French, a supervisory patrol agent with the Border Patrol's Harlingen station.

A recent five-day sweep of trains leaving the Valley netted more than 100 aliens per day, French said, including a group suffering from dehydration in a sealed boxcar.

Among those apprehended Tuesday morning were families and two small children huddled with them in a grain hopper.

The aliens, all from Mexico, appeared stunned as they climbed down a ladder from the grain car while a Border Patrol helicopter circled overhead shining a spotlight on the 4 a.m. scene.

"I came to find work wherever it (the train) stops," Tomas Vega, 21, of San Luis Potosi, Mexico, said while another man from the same city carried a crying 3-year-old boy to the immigration bus.

On hand to observe the operation were Henry Oncken, U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Texas, and Jim Olech, the Border Patrol chief in Washington.

During the first week of May, the Border Patrol's McAllen Sector reported 1,691 apprehensions of undocumented aliens, most of whom were not on trains. Last week, the sector reported 1,080 apprehensions, 204 involving people from countries other than Mexico, said Fred Rangel, a Border Patrol intelligence agent in McAllen.

Rangel said the number of aliens has dropped since the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 was passed, but that the total is higher than a year ago.

Patrol Agent Michael O'Barr with the Laredo Sector said the situation is the same in his area.

"Overall, we're seeing slightly above what we were" last year, O'Barr said. "The new law's had its impact, but still people are willing to take a chance. Unfortunately, we have those employers who are willing to hire them."

The new immigration law makes it illegal to hire undocumented aliens. Employer sanctions under the new law go into full effect June 1.

But aliens keep coming because of the desperate economic situation in Mexico and other countries in the region, O'Barr said.

"We're still catching 500 or 600 a day," said Doug Mosier, with the Border Patrol's El Paso Sector that stretches to the Arizona border.

He said apprehensions are about 30 percent below the rate in 1986, when the sector made 312,000 alien arrests. The numbers include multiple apprehensions of the same person in some cases.

"The situation in Mexico is terrible, and people are caught in a situation where their country has nothing to offer them," said Telma Longoria, director for Catholic Social Services in the church's Brownsville Diocese.

She said the diocese is seeing more Central Americans than ever at its Casa Oscar Romero shelter east of Brownsville, which averages 150-200 aliens at any given time, primarily from El Salvador, Nicaragua, Guatemala and Honduras.

Most do not stay at the sanctuary more than a couple of weeks, she said.

"The people are coming," Longoria said. "There is no doubt about that. We see it all the time."

With the weather heating up, officials said they are checking the trains more often to prevent a repeat of the tragedy in Sierra Blanca, Texas, last year, when 18 aliens suffocated in a sealed, sweltering boxcar.

## Pratt to head 'Aggievision,' provost OKs all 4 nominees

The editors for Aggievision '89, The Battalion and the producer for Aggievision have been approved by Provost Donald McDonald.

The Student Publications Board nominated editors for the 1989 Aggievision and for the summer and fall semesters of the Battalion on April 25.

The board nominated the Aggievision editor on May 10. The approval makes the nominations official.

Cindy Milton, 20, a junior journalism major, was appointed editor for the Aggievision. Richard Williams, 23, a senior agricultural journalism major, is the summer editor of The Battalion and Lydia Berzensky, 20, a senior math major, will be the

newspaper's editor in the fall. Cheryl Ann Pratt, 21, a senior journalism major, was named producer of Aggievision.

However the video yearbook program may be discontinued if the present production does not satisfy the Board, said Dr. Douglas Starr, chairman of the Board. The video yearbook will be evaluated by the Board within the next two months to decide whether the Board will approve financing of the project for an additional two-year period, he said. Starr said the Board decided to possibly evaluate the project over two years instead of the current one year period because the cost of producing the initial Aggievision

would probably not be representative of later costs.

The uncertainty results from a controversy which arose when the University in 1986 approved video yearbooks from both Educational Broadcasting Services and Student Publications. In 1986-87 the student staff of the video yearbook resigned and the project was abandoned for that year. Later a compromise was reached whereby the Student Publications project would rent equipment from EBS. Starr said this caused problems in scheduling and cost. He said equipment specifically for the video yearbook is on order, although he did not know when it will be ready.

## Forces raid besieged Sikh temple

AMRITSAR, India (AP) — Elite security forces closed in on Sikh extremists in the Golden Temple complex Tuesday, capturing two towers and a dining hall that adjoin the inner sanctum of Sikhism's holiest site, police said.

Sikh gunmen had used the minarets as vantage points to fire at police and paramilitary troops who besieged the temple complex May 9.

K.P.S. Gill, chief of the Punjab state police, said the towers overlooking the gold-domed temple were taken Tuesday evening but "operations still are continuing in the basement connecting the towers."

He said about 90 men of the "Black Cat" commandos penetrated the two-level basement, firing gas bombs and incendiary shells to force out the extremists, who are fighting a terrorist campaign for an independent Sikh nation.

Dense clouds of smoke billowed from holes at the tops of the towers. About six militants were believed still in the basement, which the militants had made into a major fortification.

The body of a Sikh militant was recovered from the first floor of one of the towers, Gill said, and police expected to find more. Authorities have reported 36 people slain in the siege, most of them Sikh militants.

Elsewhere in Punjab, attacks by Sikh extremists took 10 lives in the previous 24 hours, the United News of India reported. That followed 44 killings late Sunday and Monday, the highest total in a similar time period since militants began a terrorist campaign for a separate Sikh nation in 1982.

At least 1,018 people have been slain this year and the high rate of killings prompted the Golden Temple siege. The temple is used as a refuge by extremists who would turn Punjab, the only Indian state with a Sikh majority, into the nation of Khalistan.

Tuesday's commando raid was the first major penetration of the temple complex. The minarets are attached to the dining hall on the eastern flank of the pool surrounding the gold-domed inner sanctum.

A senior police official said security forces were keeping a vigil around the Golden Temple with searchlights. He spoke on condition of anonymity.