



**All in vain?**

Four A&M fans get fired up before the game against Louisiana State University despite rain. Over one thousand A&M students attended

the game at Tiger Stadium in Baton Rouge, La. on Saturday. The Aggies were outscored 27-0.

Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

**Marines**  
We're looking for a few good men and women.



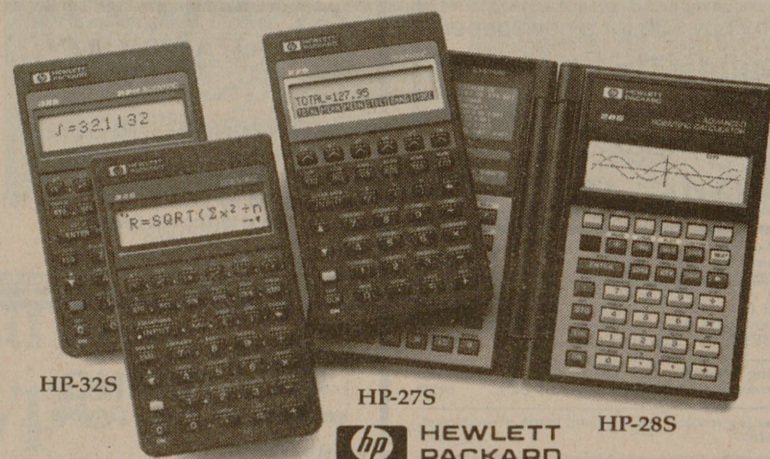
Capt. Mahany '77 846-9036/8891

MSC  
**TOWN HALL**  
concert committee

is now accepting  
**NEW MEMBERS**

APPLICATIONS WILL BE AVAILABLE  
in the Town Hall Cube located in the  
MSC Student Programs Office until Thur. Sept. 8th.

**NEW** from Hewlett-Packard

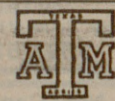


Model	Category	Price
HP-225	Scientific	
11C		\$46.00
22S		\$49.95
32S		\$59.95
15C		\$64.00
27C		\$89.95
28S		\$185.00
HP-275	Scientific	
12C	Financial	\$64.00
17B		\$89.00
19B		\$142.95

September 6-Northgate-8 a.m.-4 p.m.  
Hewlett Packard Factory Rep. Roy Brezowski  
Texas Instruments Factory Rep. John Fairchild



**University Bookstores**



THREE CONVENIENT LOCATIONS

**NORTHGATE SHOPPING CENTER**  
400 University Drive  
409/46-4232

**CULPEPPER PLAZA**  
Texas Avenue & Hwy. 30  
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**VILLAGE SHOPPING CENTER**  
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across from the Hilton  
409/46-4818

**Principal helps fight drug war**

DALLAS (AP) — His arms were tired, driving punch after punch into Toro's face, but Frank Romero could not stop. Finally he had the oversized gang leader's shoulders pinned to the floor in his office.

Toro, an eighth-grader, a man-boy, had taken on the principal. In a test of strength, Toro had taken the first swing. If Toro won, Romero would still be the principal. But Toro and his gang would run L.V. Stockard middle school.

Romero won. He won because there was no other way.

Stockard lies far across the Trinity River from the great glass towers of 01802401downtown Dallas, in west Dallas, an expanse of projects, tenements and faded little houses forsaken by better times.

Drugs have invaded schools in all neighborhoods, rich and poor. But, in the declining years at Stockard, they have become an institution, hastening a tragic deterioration. Yet there is success, however limited.

Every day, violence and despair tug the school back toward the hell Romero found when he arrived five years ago. To keep it from falling, to prove to the seventh- and eighth-grade kids who see no hope that

*"He's tough on everybody. He gets what he wants. He's been through what we're going through."*

— Rene Esqueda

Stocksdale Middle School student

someone does believe they stand a chance, Romero must win — every day.

He has had scalding water slung in his face. He has taken pistols from young men. He has waded into gang fights alone with a stick.

Each time he has won.

Romero grew up one of 15 children. He was raised in a two-room house and endured the roughest of times. He is not big but rather bearish with dark, short hair gone silver at 54. His eyes can twinkle and he can laugh. His face can be impassive as a judge when he hears the latest excuse of one of his regular truants.

Eighty percent of Stockard's 1,100 students are Mexican-Americans, the same culture Romero grew up in El Paso.

And this is his magic: He can sense unspoken signals and find a way to reach students when every-

one else has given up. Students know Romero is willing to go to the source of their trouble.

He has confronted local merchants he suspects of selling dope to kids, squared off with brutal fathers, cussed out negligent mothers.

For a certain fragile segment of Stockard's student body, the principal is a source of moral support.

"He's tough on everybody," Rene Esqueda, 14, said. "He gets what he wants. He's been through what we're going through."

It is not like adolescents to make it easy, though.

Romero said, "Some need a chewing out. Some need a paddle and you hit 'em hard."

"The bottom line is you don't let a kid in seventh and eighth grade think he can outsmart you," he said.

He has initiated special tutoring and mentoring programs that iden-

tify troubled children and help them — programs successful enough to be emulated at 25 other Dallas schools.

But it is the violence, the drugs, the poverty — "the basics," he calls them — that have been Romero's continuing challenge.

Stockard had chewed up seven school administrations in the 10 years before Romero came. After 1983, his first year, Romero was honored as Principal of the Year in the Dallas school district.

"They think that I deserve this. I don't," he said. They believe you can change things overnight, in a year, but I didn't.

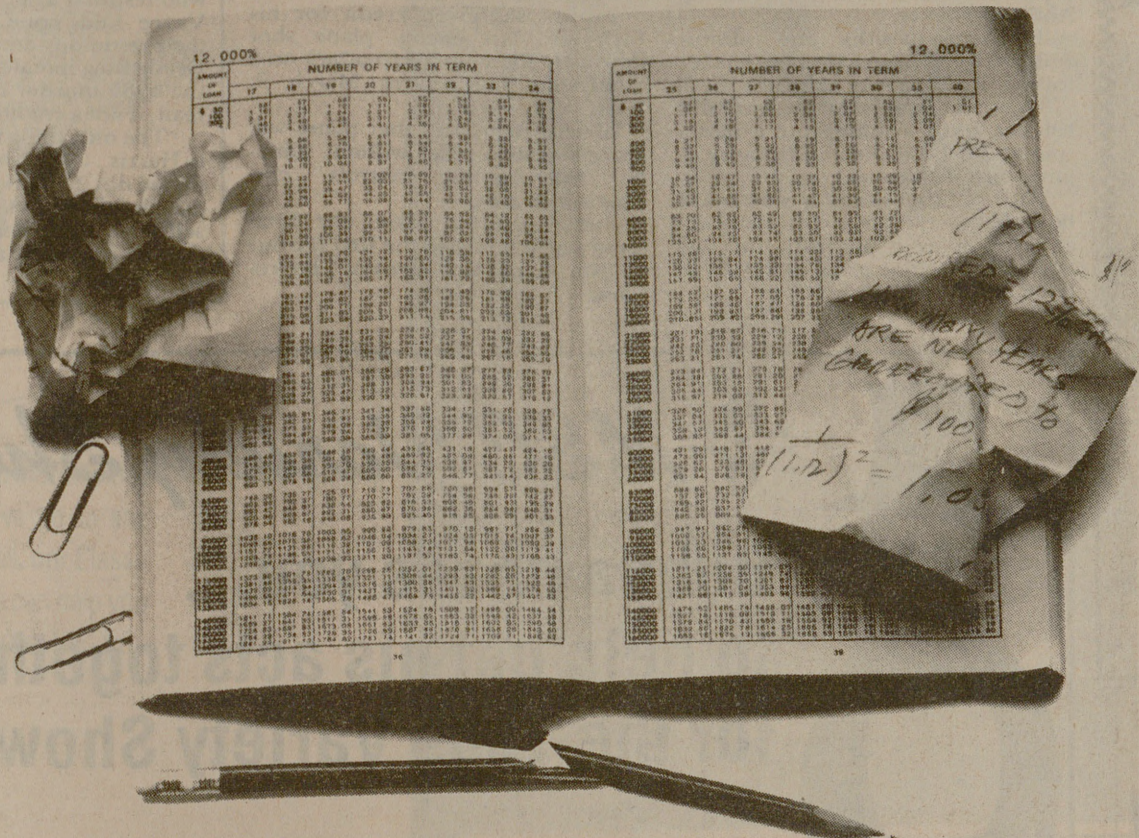
"There are probably more kids doing drugs here," he said, comparing his school to others.

"We may not have made big changes but we got a handle on it. They believe in us. Nobody gets away with squat around here."

Before and after school, during classes and in between. Sometimes he carries a walkie-talkie, sometimes his oak paddle. He is never out of touch for very long with a front office that is more like a crisis center. And the students are never out of step when they see him coming.

**Old Business.**

**New Business.**



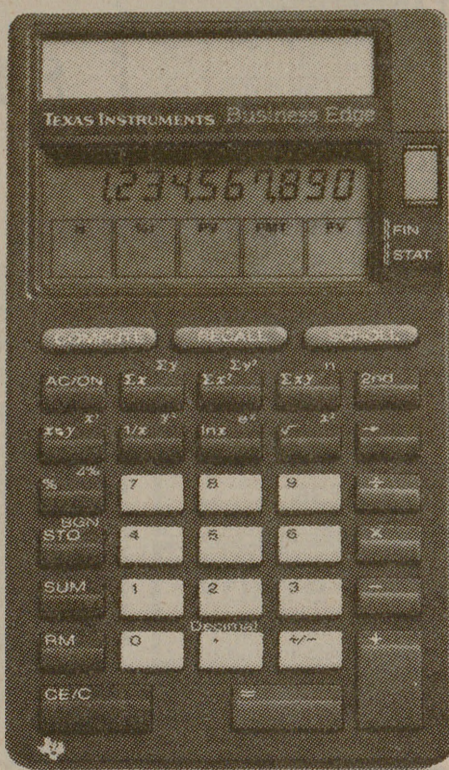
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**TEXAS INSTRUMENTS**