

The Battalion

Cadets ready for inaugural parade

By Andrea L. Warrenburg
Reporter

Texas A&M's pride and tradition will be well represented at Friday's presidential inaugural parade when three groups from the Corps of Cadets participate in the march down Pennsylvania Avenue.

President-elect George Bush will review the Ross Volunteers, the Aggie Band and Parsons' Mounted Cavalry as they pass in formation by his stand.

It was the second invitation the Cavalry has received to go to Washington, D.C. The first was for Ronald Reagan's 1985 inaugural parade, but the group had to cancel because of severe weather.

The Cavalry, whose invitation was finalized before the Christmas holidays, has been busy with special preparations including rebuilding trailers to carry the horses and putting borium on the horses' shoes to prevent slipping in case there are icy roads.

The Ross Volunteers and the Aggie Band did not receive the final word on their invitations until after Christmas.

"We knew the Cavalry received theirs, so we were home just waiting and hoping for ours," John Heye, executive officer of the RVs, said. "I was almost in disbelief when it came. But it made people motivated and excited to come back early."

Allan Hess, commanding officer of the Aggie Band, said, "We haven't had too much time to prepare. But the band is experienced with parades and we're looking forward to it."

The groups will be traveling by car and trailer, bus and airplane. Because the trip will cost thousands of dollars, a fund-raising campaign began as soon as the invitations arrived.

"We sent the guys home for the holidays to raise \$300 apiece in donations," Scott Armstrong, executive officer of the Cavalry, said. "We also bought advertisements to be played on radio stations in Houston and Dallas asking for donations."

The Association of Former Students provided a \$30,000 gift to help the students.

Congressman Joe Barton, who wrote a letter of recommendation to the parade committee on behalf of the Cavalry, will be presented with an appreciation plaque Thursday.

After Friday's parade, the students said they are hoping for time to sightsee.

"It's a great chance for some of the guys to see a new place," Hess said. "And marching in the parade is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. The inauguration of a president doesn't happen every day or even every year."

"It's been a lot of hard work," Armstrong said. "But we're excited and honored."

The 252 musicians, 90 members of the Texas governor's color guard, and the 32 Cavalry cadets with 26 horses, the cannon and the wagon will not march one after another in the parade, but will follow different groups.

Live coverage of the inaugural festivities begins Friday at 9:30 a.m. on KBTX-TV Channel 3 and continues until 3 p.m.

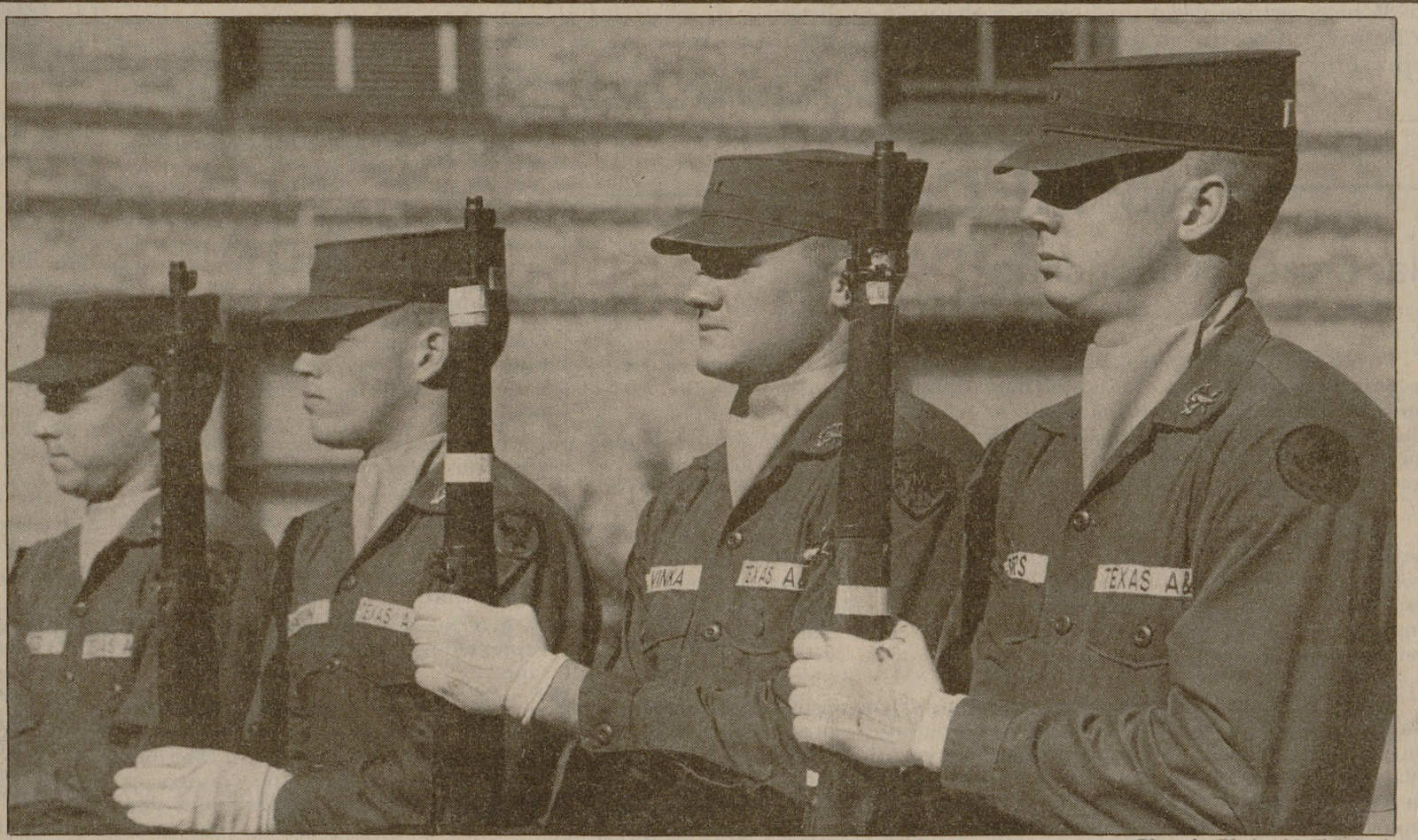


Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Members of the Ross Volunteers prepare for their part in Friday's inaugural parade in Washington, D.C. The Aggie Band and Parsons' Mounted Cavalry also will take part. Pictured from left are juniors Carlos Tamez, Brian Robinson, Kenneth Hlavinka and John Albers.

Man attacks schoolyard, kills 5 youths

STOCKTON, Calif. (AP) — A young drifter wearing combat fatigues opened fire with an assault rifle at screaming children in an elementary school yard Tuesday. Five children, all refugees from Southeast Asia, were killed and 30 people wounded before the gunman shot himself to death.

The gunman, identified as Patrick Edward Purdy, 26, originally of Stockton, had an "extensive criminal history" but police had no idea of a motive, said Lucian Neely, deputy police chief of this agricultural city 60 miles east of San Francisco.

Lori Mackey, who teaches deaf children at the Cleveland Elementary School, said she ran to her window when she heard what she thought were firecrackers.

She said she saw a man standing in the schoolyard, spraying gunfire back and forth from a Russian AK-47 assault rifle as 400-500 pupils from grades 1-3 played at recess. She said when she realized what was happening, she took her 10 students into a rear room where they couldn't be seen.

"He was not talking, he was not yelling, he was very straightforward, it did not look like he was really angry, it was just matter-of-factly," she said of the gunman, whom she described as about 5-10 with short dirty-blond hair.

"There was mass chaos. There were kids running in every direction," she said.

Purdy, also known as Patrick West, had lived most recently in Lodi, about 15 miles northeast of

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Riots continue to spread in Miami

MIAMI (AP) — Looting and vandalism spread Tuesday and seven people were shot, one fatally, in the second day of rioting sparked by the fatal shooting of an unarmed black motorcyclist by a white policeman.

Schools were closed, a professional basketball game between the Miami Heat and the Phoenix Suns was canceled, and some fans were stranded in the arena. Snipers fired at police, who cordoned off a 130-block area of the predominantly black Overtown neighborhood.

After nightfall, authorities told law-abiding citizens to remain indoors and began a block-by-block sweep.

"For the sake of our city, I appeal to every citizen regardless of race to stay calm, get off the streets and stay in your homes," Miami Mayor Xavier Suarez said in a televised appeal Tuesday night.

"We are arresting people and we are being

a lot more aggressive in the enforcement of the law and I think we have to be," Suarez added. "I don't think this will continue after today."

Authorities said Overtown, just north of downtown, was largely quiet after police entered. Within three hours about 56 people had been arrested. Most of those arrested were charged with looting violations.

But the violence already had spread to Liberty City, a separate black community several miles to the northwest, where looting and gunfire continued Tuesday night.

Police said they made an arrest in the fatal shooting of a young black man in Liberty City at 10:20 p.m., but hadn't determined if it was related to the rioting.

Officer Eric Butler, wearing a bulletproof vest, was shot in the vest at 9:30 p.m. by a sniper who was later arrested on top of a

three-story building. Butler was not seriously injured.

Plans were made for up to 500 National Guard troops to be mobilized within two hours if the violence continued, said Brian Ballard, a spokesman for Gov. Bob Martinez.

Top police officials said the tough stance would not bring a violent reaction by rioters because only a few people were violating the law.

Trouble erupted again Tuesday afternoon when a white man in a luxury car reportedly fired into a crowd of blacks in the area, wounding one person before driving away.

"All I know is that one person was hit in the side," police spokesman Angelo Bitis said, adding that the unidentified victim was hospitalized in fair condition.

Sporadic gunfire continued throughout the day. Police said officers rescued one shooting victim while under fire, and re-

turned fire at another man, injuring him in the leg. Later, a man with a bullet wound in his leg was arrested when he showed up at a hospital for treatment. A sixth person was shot in the leg in Liberty City.

About 25 youths shattered car windows outside the Miami Arena on the border of Overtown, where the National Basketball Association's Miami Heat was scheduled to play the Phoenix Suns Tuesday night. The game was canceled.

A meat truck was looted and one white motorist was beaten after his car broke down in Overtown.

The car of Associated Press photographer Mark Pesetsky was burned and he was roughed up by a mob but not seriously hurt when he attempted to take pictures of the crowd that had gathered near the site of Tuesday's shooting.

Texas A&M begins construction of \$2.1 billion biotech complex

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas A&M University on Tuesday broke ground for a \$2.1-billion Institute of Biosciences and Technology, touted by officials as a project that would make Texas a national leader in biotechnology research.

"This is the celebration of a dream come true," A&M System Chancellor Perry Adkisson said. "It is a dream of expanding our own growing efforts in biotechnology. It is a dream of expanding our firm commitment to the citizens of Texas — a commitment to the economic growth of this state."

The 1.5-story, 210,000-square-foot research center is being built at the south end of the Texas Medical Center in Houston at the site where the

famed old Shamrock Hilton stood. The hotel was razed last year.

At ceremonies in the one-time parking lot of the hotel, nearly three dozen school, state and local officials turned a pile of dirt with silver shovels adorned with the Texas A&M logo and decorated with large maroon ribbons. The goal of the center is to emphasize gene mapping and sequencing, gene therapy, and investigate animal models of human diseases like muscular dystrophy, Alzheimer's disease and Down's syndrome.

Other work is to deal with molecular and cell biology, including embryo transfer and fertility research, and protein engineering, which involves development of improved di-

agnostics, therapeutics and vaccines for illnesses such as AIDS and hepatitis.

"Biotechnology could be the shot in the arm needed for Texas," U.S. Rep. Bill Archer said. "Texas not only has a tradition of rallying support for technology causes but the resources to get it done."

Archer compared the start of the center to that of the Johnson Space Center, which came to Houston 25 years ago.

"It's enormously important, not only to Texas and A&M, but to the world," he said.

School officials estimated the fledgling biotech industry will grow to a \$200 billion enterprise nationwide by the end of the century. They

noted the federal government already is making research grants totaling \$3 billion annually.

The center would supply a link between traditional animal and plant research conducted at A&M and human health research at the medical center. Houston's Medical Center is the largest medical complex in the world, employing 58,000 people. The A&M facility will be the 39th in the center.

"It's research that will provide a better quality of life for all of us," David Eller, chairman of the A&M Board of Regents, said.

"Bioscience research is not a shade-tree enterprise," he said. "Significant advances will not be made by lucky amateurs."

Bentsen Sr. dies in car at age 95

EDINBURG (AP) — Lloyd M. Bentsen Sr., father of Sen. Lloyd M. Bentsen and an early developer of Texas' Lower Rio Grande Valley, was killed in a traffic accident Tuesday, police said.

The senior Bentsen, 95, died in a two-vehicle collision at a rural intersection between Edinburg and Mission, Edinburg Police Chief A.C. Gonzales said.

Bentsen remained active in his farming, ranching and real estate interests until his death.

"He was here two or three times a week, sometimes every day," said Bud Williams, foreman for the past 25 years at Bentsen's 16,000-acre La Coma Ranch in Hidalgo County, one of six ranches Bentsen owned. "He was one of the biggest developers down here, cleared thousands of acres."

Bentsen was on the podium during much of last summer's Democratic National Convention, where his son was named the party's vice presidential candidate.

Sen. Bentsen's Washington office said he left immediately for Texas after learning of his father's death.

In Austin, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby said he would ask Gov. Bill Clements to order flags flown at half-staff the day of Bentsen's funeral. Clements said Bentsen was "a great Texas entrepreneur who contributed much to the people of our state, particularly those in South Texas."

Sen. Phil Gramm, in Washington, said Bentsen was "an entrepreneur whose leadership and character have long since made him a legend in Texas. Texas has lost a true pioneer and a great citizen."

Meese found guilty of ethics violations

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Justice Department concluded Tuesday that former Attorney General Edwin Meese III violated federal ethics standards five times in six years and that his relationship with E. Robert Wallach "dictated government action" in major cases.

Meese's assistance to scandal-plagued Wedtech Corp. and his efforts on behalf of a proposed Mideast oil pipeline involved "three instances in which friendship" between him and Wallach caused federal actions, said the report by the department's Office of Professional Responsibility.

Wallach, who collected \$1.3 million from Wedtech from 1982 to 1986, is awaiting trial in New York on racketeering and other charges. He is accused of peddling his Meese connection.

"As a direct result of the preferential, improper efforts of Meese and his staff, the Army" awarded a \$32 million engine-building contract to Wedtech in 1982 while Meese was counselor to President Reagan, said the ethics report on Meese.

Meese also violated ethics requirements, the report said, by failing to report a stock sale on his 1985 federal tax return and by participating in a Justice Department decision favoring the regional Bell telephone companies in which he held \$14,000 in stock at the time.

"(The report) details conduct which should not be tolerated of any government employee, especially not the attorney general of the United States."

—Justice Department

If Meese were still attorney general, "we would recommend (to the next ranking department official) that the president take disciplinary action," the report concluded.

A department statement said no further action against Meese is warranted because he is no longer a government employee.

Independent counsel James McKay decided last summer not to prosecute Meese, although McKay concluded Meese had probably twice violated conflict-of-interest laws in connection with his Bell holdings and had violated tax laws in connection with failing to report the stock sales.

McKay's report "far from vindicates Mr. Meese," the new Justice Department report said. "It details conduct which should not be tolerated of any government employee, especially not the attorney general of the United States."

Attorney General Dick Thornburgh disagreed with one aspect of the report, saying that Meese's failure to dispose of his financial interest in the regional Bell companies resulted from a failure to get adequate legal advice rather than from intent to violate ethics standards.

At the White House, spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said President Reagan believes "this

report was unnecessary, partly because Mr. Meese has not been in the office for some time and partly because it was unwarranted."

Fitzwater said Reagan believes his longtime friend did nothing wrong.

The former attorney general, who resigned last year, immediately attacked the report through his attorneys, who called it "a travesty of justice." Meese spokesman Patrick Korten said there is an "emotional undertone" to the report that seems designed "to slam him personally."

Meese, according to the report, violated ethical standards which require government employees to avoid the appearance of impropriety when carrying out official duties.

But Korten said such a requirement is "a lousy standard." He said appearance is a "subjective matter. It is not an objective measure. What appears improper to one person may look OK to another."

"He had a close personal relationship with Mr. Wallach," said Korten. "I don't see why you can begrudge somebody of those friendships."