

WEATHER

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:
Mostly cloudy and cool
HIGH: 64 LOW: 40

CIA: Red threat eases as Europe greets freedom

WASHINGTON (AP) — The director of the Central Intelligence Agency told Congress Tuesday that Eastern Europe's tumultuous push for democracy has cut the Soviet threat to the West and that "we can probably expect a continued diminution."

William Webster, in an unusual public appearance before the Senate Armed Services Committee, said that as unchallenged communist control comes to an end in the Eastern bloc, those nations' links to Moscow have been radically changed.

The result, he said, is a severe blow to the Soviet Union's certainty that Eastern Europe will respond to Moscow's military directives.

The armed services committee is beginning work on writing a defense budget for fiscal 1991 with an assessment of the Soviet threat to the West.

"Overall, the conventional threat to the United States and our alliance partners in Europe has decreased as a result of changes in Eastern Europe and Soviet force reductions," Webster told the panel.

The CIA director cautioned, how-

ever, that the Soviet Union is vigorously upgrading its strategic forces.

Webster cited the Soviets' deployment last year of two new, silo-based, nuclear missiles; the continued deployment of SS-25 and SS-24 rail-mobile missiles; and the launching of new Typhoon and Delta-IV ballistic missile submarines.

The Soviets also have made considerable gains in the anti-submarine effort, but they still "will be unable, at least in this decade, to threaten U.S. subs in the open ocean," Webster said.

In what appeared to be a plea to head off budget cuts for the CIA and other intelligence agencies, Webster said the United States must maintain its intelligence capability. He pointed to the continued Soviet strategic modernization and to terrorism, illegal drugs, uncertainty in Latin America, Asia and the Middle East, and weapons proliferation.

Intelligence operations are hidden in the Defense Department budget, which faces significant cuts on Capitol Hill this year.

In through the out door

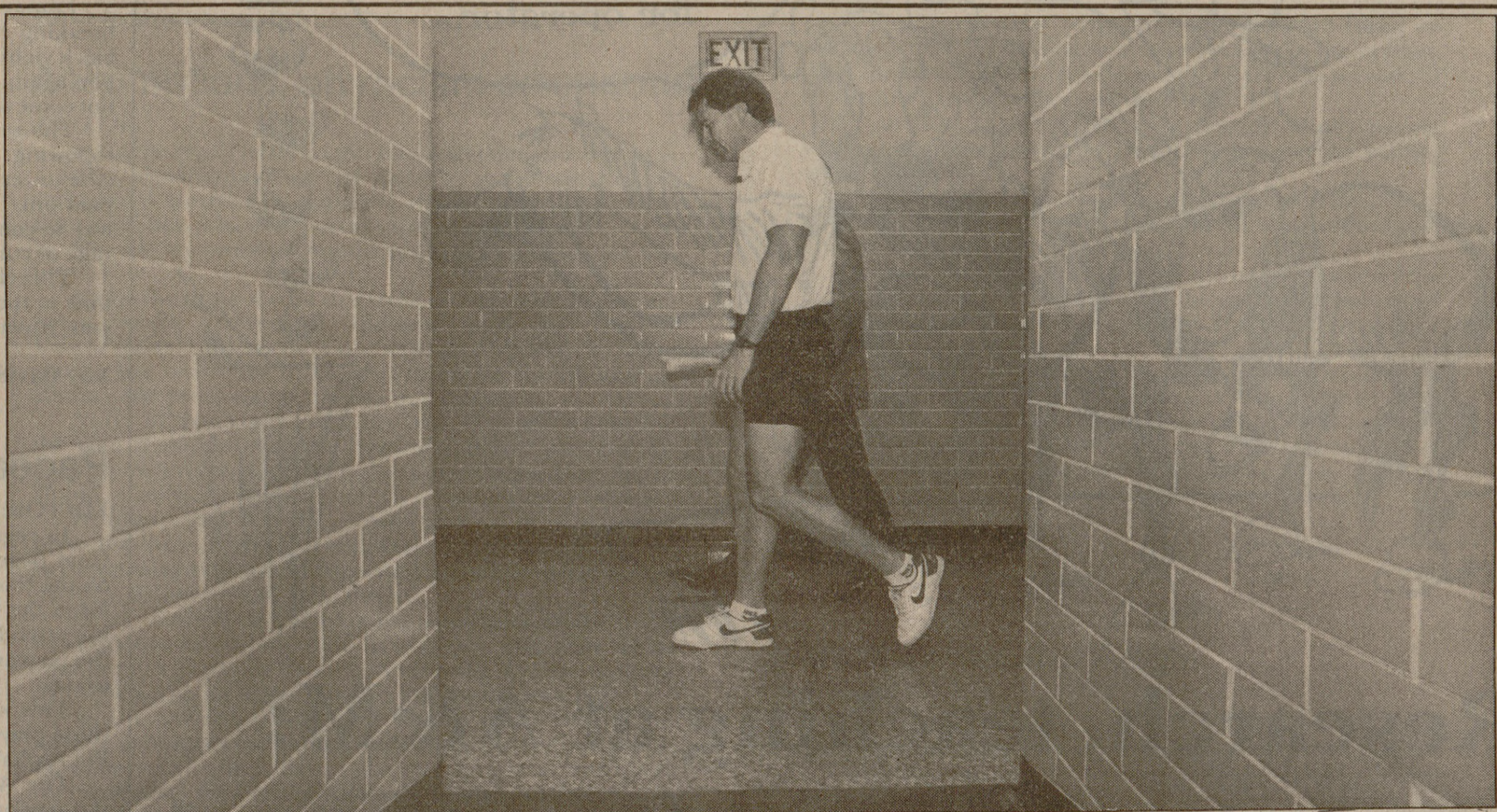


Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

A&M basketball coach John Thornton takes his first steps in G. Rollie White after being named interim head coach, succeeding Shelby Metcalf. The basketball team will play tonight for the first time under Thornton's leadership. Game previews on page 7.

Fee increase subject to student vote

The Student Senate unanimously passed a resolution to place a health center fee increase proposal on the ballot of the next student general election. The proposed increase would raise the health center fee \$10, from \$15 to \$25.

According to Texas law, students must approve any health center fee increase at a state-supported university. The Senate's resolution to place the issue up for referendum is only the first step in a long process to raise the fee.

Senate Finance Committee Chair David Wieland, who introduced the bill, said A&M currently has one of the lowest health fees in the nation. The increase in the health center fee, should it eventually pass, would be partially offset by a decrease in student services fee allocations to the A.P. Beutel Health Center.

According to Wieland, the student services fee allocation would be decreased by approximately \$4.50 making the net increase in fees to students about \$5.50.

In other Senate business, Kevin Buchman, student body president, assured the senate that the rumors about the George Bush Presidential Library being located in Houston were false, and to his knowledge there has been no word as to where it will be placed.

Also, Mark Werner resigned as speaker pro-tempore of the senate, citing personal reasons.

A&M's research funding exceeds \$250 billion mark Expenditures put University in top 10

By ANDY KEHOE
Of The Battalion Staff

For the first time ever, Texas A&M's annual research expenditures have topped the quarter-billion dollar mark, placing it among the top 10 research universities in the nation.

According to the expenditure report recently submitted to the National Science Foundation, officials at A&M show funding for fiscal year 1989 totaling \$250,706,000.

This is an increase of more than \$19.5 million over 1988's \$231,200,000. That number helped A&M achieve its ranking as eighth in NSF's annual survey for that year.

Most of the funds were the result of grants and contracts from federal and state agencies, with some coming from the private sector and research consortiums.

The expenditures were used for hundreds of new and continuing research programs at A&M. Among the new programs is the Offshore Technical Research Center and the Computer Visualization Center in the College of Architecture.

Texas A&M was the fastest-growing research university in the country throughout the last decade. For example, the 1980 expenditure total of \$72.2 million is less than one-third of the present amount.

"It is important to continue to grow in our research volume," Dr. Duwayne M. Anderson, A&M's associate provost for research and graduate studies, said. "Our position near the top shows that A&M is dedicated to keeping its place among research universities."

If the 1989 expenditures were applied to the NSF amounts for 1988, Texas A&M would advance one place to seventh, just ahead of the University of Michigan and slightly behind the research volume of the University of Minnesota, which presently ranks sixth in the

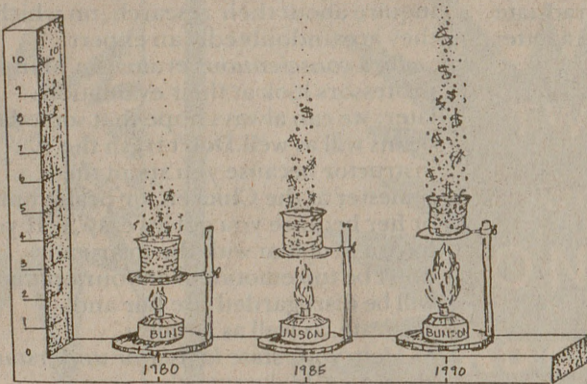


Illustration by Doug LaRue

nation. The list is headed by Johns Hopkins University with \$557 million in expenditures. In second place is Stanford, with \$277.5 million, followed by Cornell, with \$271.7 million. Next is University of Wisconsin, with \$271.4 million, and MIT, with \$270.6 million.

The University of Texas at Austin ranked seventeenth with expenditures of \$172,608,000.

Anderson said it is too early to say what the figures for 1990 will be.

"We are in the midst of some planning that will result in comparable increases next year."

Flu season fear Physicians remain alert for epidemic

By KEVIN HAMM
Of The Battalion Staff

Although many people are sick with flu-like symptoms, physicians won't know for another week if they are facing an influenza epidemic, the acting associate director of the A.P. Beutel Health Center said.

"It takes 10 days to two weeks for enough (students) to come down with (influenza) to really project what you're dealing with," Dr. J.M. Moore said.

He said it takes this long because an epidemic works in a geometric progression: students who already have the virus spread it to other students, where it incubates for three to five days before spreading to other students. It takes about two weeks before a significant number of cases are registered, he said.

Moore said he is very careful about declaring an influenza epidemic.

"Yes, we're seeing some flu cases, but I don't (believe) we're seeing any more than we saw at this time last year," he said.

Last week the health center reported 116 suspected flu cases, and probably about half of those are influenza, Moore said.

Though some have reported an epidemic, it is still too early to tell, he said. The discrepancy lies in the way different physicians report influenza. Moore said some doctors report any upper-respiratory problem

as the flu, when it might be any number of viruses.

"We don't have any quick, accurate tests to differentiate them," he said. "It's a clinical judgment."

Symptoms that should prompt a student to go to the health center include:

- a harassing cough.

"Yes, we're seeing some flu cases, but I don't (believe) we're seeing any more than we saw at this time last year."

— J.M. Moore,
associate director of
A.P. Beutel Health Center

- a fever of 101° or above with chills and sweats.
- muscle aches, especially in the back.
- headaches.
- head-cold symptoms.

Moore said it's probably too late to escape the flu with an immunization shot because that takes two to three weeks to take effect. But if a student is inoculated and contracts influenza within that time, the vaccination might lessen the severity of the illness.

The health center is providing immunization shots to students for \$5 on a walk-in basis.

Student sees changes, ecstasy in German homeland

By CHUCK SQUATRIGLIA
Of The Battalion Staff

Going home for Christmas is usually pretty mundane - once you get there, you find that things usually are exactly as you left them. When Belinda Sloan went home for Christmas, she found an entire country had changed.

Sloan, a junior microbiology science major, was born and raised in Frankfurt, West Germany. During the Christmas break she went back to visit her mother and witnessed, first hand, some of the changes sweeping East Germany.

Sloan had been following the events unfolding there with great interest, and was surprised when, on November 9, the Berlin Wall finally came tumbling down.

"I never even thought about it coming down," she said. "It was just there. It was something so permanent, something nobody ever thought about changing."

Most of her fellow Germans felt the same way, she said.

"I think most people just accepted it," Sloan said. "They didn't do anything about it. They were upset about it, but they would never go out and demonstrate. But in East Germany, they just got fed up — they had had enough. They didn't like Hoeneker. After that, everything changed. They began to think, 'Hey, we have a chance to change things.'"

Sloan said that after the Wall came down, things were much more cheerful in Berlin.

"Everybody was ecstatic," she said. "A lot of younger people were thinking, 'Yeah, we're going to change the world.' Older people think it's good, but they want to stay in East Germany. They are happy because they can now visit relatives in the West."

New Year's Eve was especially cheerful in Berlin this year, she said.

"It was raining champagne," Sloan said. "It was very crowded. Everybody went there. There were lots of tourists from all over the world, and a lot of West Germans who thought they had to see it. I think the East Germans were kind of ticked off about it, because it was so crowded."

Indeed, all of Berlin has been crowded lately, Sloan said. The city is full of tourists, and many East Germans, for the first time in their lives, are going to visit their relatives in the West.

"The people from East Germany who have relatives in West Germany can finally travel," she said.

The West German government even provided a little spending money to the East Germans. Because East German currency is worthless in the West, the West German government gave each East German \$50 when they entered West Berlin, Sloan said.

So, with 50 bucks in their pockets, what was the first thing the East Germans bought



Photo by Jay Janner

Belinda Sloan shows a piece of the Berlin Wall.

when allowed their first taste of capitalism? Nintendo systems? Designer jeans? Walkmans? French perfume?

Nope. "We saw people with boxes of oranges and bananas travelling over to East Germany because they don't have those there," Sloan said.

Sloan even contributed to the destruction

of the Wall.

"I took a hammer and chisel to it," she said. "We had the hardest time getting anything off because it's just solid cement. It's not supposed to be broken up, it was made to be there forever."

Yet despite all of these changes in East Germany, some things still haven't changed. Sloan said it is still difficult for foreigners to reach Berlin because the city is located within East Germany.

"If you want to get from West Germany to Berlin, you have to go through East Germany," she said. "There's only one train that goes to Berlin. They close all the doors and won't stop. They'll just go through to Berlin. If you're a foreigner, you have to buy a transit visa to get there. That hasn't changed yet. A lot of things are still going to be the same."

While getting into East Berlin is much easier than ever before, it is still time consuming if you are a foreigner, Sloan said.

"We went over to East Berlin," she said. "We had to take a street car to get there. The border (between the two cities) is between two stops. You get on at one stop in West Berlin and get off at the stop in East Berlin. They (officials) check you when you get out. East Germans and West Germans are allowed to pass, but we had to stand in line and buy a visa to get into East Berlin."

The visa cost Sloan five Deutsch Marks

— about two-and-a-half dollars.

Sloan said she found many of the East Germans wary of capitalism. They like some aspects of their socialist system such as socialized medicine and a highly regulated for education, and dislike others.

"Education is held in high regard," she said. The government supports education, and other social programs through subsidies. Sloan said she bought eight textbooks for 28 Deutsch Marks — about \$18 in American currency.

Because the government controls commerce, prices for goods are the same throughout the country, Sloan said.

"That's something the East Germans don't want to change," she said. "They don't want these private institutions who can do whatever they want to do."

Sloan said East Germany isn't suffering the drain of skilled laborers that was originally feared when the Wall came down. West Germany currently has a great need

for skilled laborers, but very few are leaving the East.

"There were many skilled laborers who came over from East Germany, but not nearly enough to cover the big hole we have in that," she said.

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