

Flood victims await disaster relief

By Alysia Woods
The Battalion

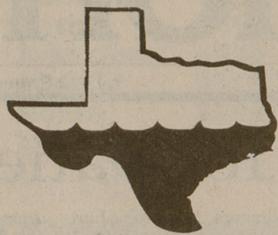
Local farmers are piecing together the flood damage handed to their farmlands in recent weeks as they wait in hopes of state and federal relief money.

Brazos County Emergency Management Coordinator Jake Cangelose said Brazos County has been declared a disaster area, and local officials as well as homeowners have applied for relief money.

"The agricultural people have suffered the most," he said. "It has affected their crops, cattle and most of all their land."

Severe flooding has affected the Navasota and Brazos rivers, with the Brazos River reaching its

highest flood level since 1921, Cangelose said. As a result of the flooding, 32



county roads have been barricaded. Cangelose said officials have

estimated agricultural damages for individual farmers in Brazos County at \$2 million.

The two primary crops affected are cotton and grain.

"We've had damage to fences, hay and cattle," he said. "Due to the flooding, farmland is having to be fertilized all over again and fences are being rebuilt."

Public assistance losses, or damages to public property such as county roads and bridges, has been estimated at \$600,000, Cangelose added.

The relief money comes in different packages because although the county has been declared a general disaster area, individual homes and small businesses affected by the flooding can apply for relief separately, he said. Pub-

lic assistance relief, however, has not yet been approved.

"I guess you could say the process for disaster relief is 'in the mill' right now," Cangelose said.

Additional rains in the past week have not helped matters. The Brazos River rose several feet and agricultural repairs have been delayed.

In addition, more county roads were closed.

"We hope it dries up soon so we can get in there and start repairing," Cangelose said.

He said the good news is that few people needed a place to stay during the flooding period.

"Along with the Red Cross, we established a few shelters but only about eight people needed a place to stay," Cangelose said.

\$270,000 for instruction, research

College of Engineering receives grants

By Gina Howard
The Battalion

Texas A&M's College of Engineering is over \$270,000 richer thanks to various grants and donations designated to enhance instruction within the college in the coming semester.

The petroleum engineering department recently received 100 copies of the 1991 edition of "Log Interpretation Charts" from Halliburton Logging Services, Inc. The charts, worth \$8,000

to \$10,000, will be used by senior lecturer Dr. Ron Brimhall in his logging and log analysis courses. Brimhall said the charts are used as an aid to interpret log data about rock properties.

Hewlett-Packard Company donated a HP Antenna Measurement System valued at \$67,600 to the Department of Electrical Engineering. The system will be used to help the college's efforts to automate antenna measurements in the area of communication technologies.

Dr. J.W. Howse, head of the electrical engi-

neering department, said the gift will be used for both instructional and practical applications.

"Hewlett-Packard is a great friend of Texas A&M," Howse said. "This type of support is invaluable to our teaching and research."

Herbert D. Kelleher, chairman of the board of Southwest Airlines, recently established the Herbert D. Kelleher professorship in transportation. Kelleher began the professorship

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Aggies deliver aid, message to Mexican towns

By Melody Dunne
The Battalion

About 120 members of the Texas A&M Baptist Student Union traveled to different parts of Mexico from Jan. 2 through 9 for a mission adventure.

The organization has made mission trips to Mexico for 20 years, but has gone to this part of Mexico for only four years. The

students were exposed to Third World conditions, said Drew Buckner, associate director of BSU.

The group divided itself into three teams that evangelized, gave medical care, performed minor construction work and built relationships with the people, Buckner said.

Members of the BSU group drove to their border destinations from College Station. One group went to Piedras Negras during the

day, but bunked at Eagle Pass, Texas in the evenings. Another crew was stationed in Acuña, Mexico, a town about 15 minutes from the Texas/Mexico border. Sabinas, Mexico, a city about 90 miles from the border, was the mission destination for the third group.

John Herring, a junior management major from College Station who went to Piedras Negras, said his group had a variety of experi-

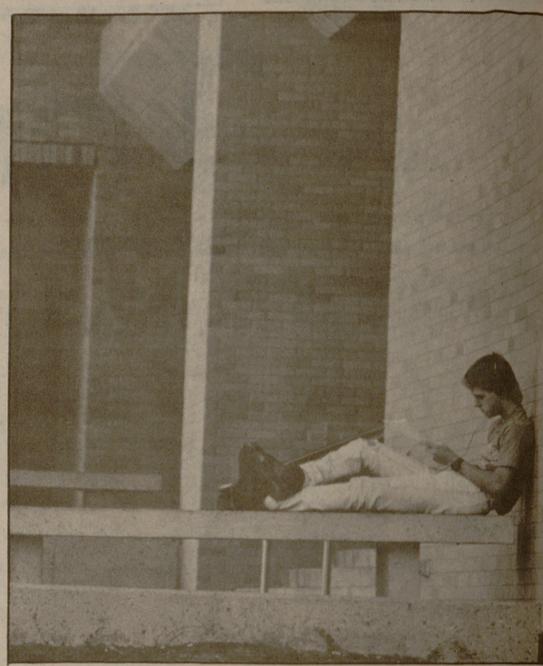
ences during the trip.

"The poverty was tremendous in certain areas," he said. "We distributed clothes and passed out Bibles. We also had some door-to-door evangelism."

Herring said they formed a medical team with a doctor, pastor, two pre-med students and a girl fluent in Spanish.

The medical team treated

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DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Letters home

Chris Ormstrom, a freshman from Ohio, writes to his girl-

friend outside the Sterling C. Evans Library Wednesday.

Dallas council reviews gay police ban

DALLAS (AP) — A Dallas Police ban against homosexual officers during a public test Wednesday facing a packed City Council meeting that drew scores of both gay rights advocates and oppo-

By noon Wednesday, 115 people had already signed up to speak on whether the police should ask job applicants if they are homosexual.

Under current policy, those candidates who admit they are homosexual are removed from job consideration.

People wearing buttons depict-

ing the words "Homo Cop" with a red bar slashed across it began gathering around City Hall by early afternoon.

After hearing testimony, the 15-member council was to vote on Councilman Chris Luna's measure that would eliminate questions about sexual preference.

Shortly before the 4 p.m. hearing began, Luna said he was still at least one vote short of the eight votes needed to pass his measure. When the discussion began, all 25 seats in the council chambers were taken, and about 50 people milled around outside, unable to get in.

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