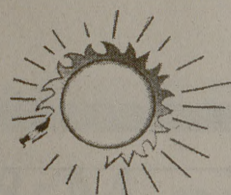


Weather

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, highs in the 90s to near 100
— National Weather Service



Blowing smoke

"Regardless of their anti-smoking message, David Kessler and Joycelyn Elders are rarely role models, unlike Mel Gibson and Sharon Stone."

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MLB Draft

Trey Moore is one of the A&M baseball players

drafted to the major leagues

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THE BATTALION

TUESDAY

June 7, 1994
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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

Abortion protestors arrested

Demonstrators hoped to be first to break new federal legislation

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Six anti-abortion demonstrators were charged Monday with blocking access to a women's clinic in the first application of a federal law providing stiff penalties for the offense.

The demonstrators had chained and cemented themselves to two cars in front of a clinic Saturday near downtown Milwaukee. The clinic was closed for about 90 minutes before police and firefighters pried the protestors loose.

Carl Stern, a Justice Department

spokesman in Washington, said the charges were the first under legislation signed by President Clinton on May 26.

The law prohibits protesters from blocking access to women's health clinics or threatening patients and employees. A first offense carries a maximum penalty of six months in prison and a fine of up to \$10,000.

"This isn't just a legal issue," said U.S. Attorney Thomas P. Schneider, who announced the charges at a news conference.

"There were real patients who were prevented from getting reproductive health care. There were real doctors who were prevented from treating patients."

Opponents contend the law interferes with free speech, and some have gone to court to block it. Members of the group who blocked access to the Milwaukee clinic said they wanted to be the first to break it.

Twenty to 25 demonstrators from several area anti-abortion groups gathered at Affiliated Medical Services for Saturday's protest.

Those arrested used cement and chains to fasten themselves to two vehicles parked in front of the clinic entrance. Firefighters cut and pried the vehicles apart to remove those inside.

Chinese airliner crashes, kills 160

BEIJING (AP) — A Chinese airliner crashed shortly after takeoff Monday in northern China, killing all 160 people aboard.

Among the dead were two Americans, an Italian family of four and two young British male tourists, their embassies said.

The Soviet-built TU154, operated by China's Northwest Airlines, was flying a popular tourist route from Xian to the southern city of Canton.

Flight 2303 was in the air less than 10 minutes when it crashed at 8:20 a.m., said L.Y. Wang of the Civil Aviation Administration of China, which oversees airline operations.

Wang said the crash site was a two-hour drive over rural roads from the airport. Another CAAC official said an investigative team had been sent.

Authorities said the crash was under investigation and refused to comment on possible causes.

The China Daily said experts were analyzing the "black box" flight recorder recovered from the wreckage. It quoted three witnesses as saying they heard two loud explosions in the clouds



AP graphic

and then saw a ball of fire crashing to the ground, scattering debris over a wide area.

But video tape of the crash site broadcast on state television showed little evidence of an explosion.

A man who answered the telephone at the airline's headquarters said the plane crashed in a rural area about 600 miles southwest of Beijing.

Chinese officials blame an alarming increase in the frequency and seriousness of accidents over the past two years on the rapid growth in air traffic, which has overstrained the supply of experienced pilots, air traffic controllers and ground crew.

Freshman 'made a difference'



Stew Milne/The Battalion

By Traci Travis
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M freshman Debbie Perez made history last year when she became the first freshman to have a Fish Camp named after her.

Perez, an agricultural development major and staff assistant at the Les Appelt Aggie Visitor Center, was honored in the spring of 1993 by being chosen as one of many to have her last name screamed in the rhythmic Fish Camp yell at the summer orientation program.

Perez, a full-time A&M staff member who runs the visitor center, said her staff was behind her having a Fish Camp named after her.

"Several of the students working for me at the time were either Fish Camp counselors or co-chairs," she said. "The theme for the year's Fish Camp was people who make a difference. I guess they thought I had made a difference."

Yell Leader Trent Ashby, a senior agricultural economics major and employee of the visitor center, said Perez represents the "ideal" Aggie.

"No matter how stressful or strenuous things get on campus, she always has an encouraging word to offer along with a smile," he said. "I've never walked out of her office without feeling better than when I walked in."

Perez said she began working at the visitor center in July 1990 after working in several other offices on campus.

Please see Perez, Page 4

Debbie Perez has worked at the Les Appelt Aggie Visitor Center for 16 years and had a Fish Camp named for her in 1993. Perez is an agricultural development major.

World leaders gather to honor WWII vets

UTAH BEACH, France (AP) — The nations that allied to crush Hitler's Germany returned to the wind-swept, mist-covered cliffs and beaches that their troops stormed on D-Day 50 years ago today to pay tribute to those who died for freedom.

Ceremonies marched along a 60-mile strip of coast at some of the crucial invasion sites seared into the memories of the aging veterans who returned, many probably for the last time, to relive their roles in history.

President Clinton, Queen Elizabeth II, French President Francois Mitterrand and other leaders gathered to honor the veterans as U.S., French and other troops marched in ceremonial parades.

The heads of state walked past French and U.S. honor guards standing at attention in front of three grandstands near a monument to dead U.S. soldiers.

Other U.S. Army soldiers stood in knots of three at different positions on the hill coming up from the beach.

Clinton traveled by helicopter to Pointe Du Hoc, where 225 U.S. Rangers had used grappling hooks, ladders and ropes to scale a 120-foot-high cliff under German fire in one of that day's bloodiest clashes.

"The most difficult days of your lives bought us 50 years of freedom," Clinton told Ranger veterans. "You did your job, now we must do ours."

Throughout the region, there was fog, mist and light rain, the kind of weather that delayed the invasion 50 years ago.

At Utah Beach, veterans huddled against a foggy, drizzly cold in hats and windbreakers emblazoned with military logos and pins.

Please see D-Day, Page 6

RWANDA: Government counterattacks encroaching rebel fighters

KIGALI, Rwanda (AP) — The army has launched a major counter-attack in southern Rwanda, the first big offensive by besieged government forces since the civil war with rebels resumed two months ago.

"Obviously they want to push back the whole of the RPF (Rwandan Patriotic Front) forces from the south," Canadian Maj. Jean-Guy Plante, a military spokesman for the 450-man U.N. force in Rwanda, said today.

In two months rebels have swept government and civilian militia forces from much of the north and east and part of the south, and by late last month had captured about half of the country.

Plante said there also was heavy fighting about 12 miles

north of Kigali but had no further details.

Fighting has been intense around the city of Gitarama, the provisional seat of the Hutu-dominated government. The Tutsi-led rebels captured the nearby town of Kabgayi last week, but rebel forces there are still coming under shell fire.

Plante said the army's mortar attack on a U.N. flight carrying an Italian delegation Sunday at Kigali airport may have been part of the overall plan to boost the morale of government troops.

Two shells exploded around the plane just after it arrived, and the United Nations issued a strong protest. The plane was forced to leave without unloading passengers or cargo. There were no injuries.

Sunday's attack on the Kigali airport led to suspension of all relief flights. The United Nations announced that beginning today it was instituting fuel rationing on U.N. personnel.

Plante said the United Nations would begin using Entebbe airfield in neighboring Uganda and truck supplies to troops in Kigali.

Northside construction to last all summer

By Jan Higginbotham
THE BATTALION

Texas A&M University faculty and students will likely have to deal with major construction and parking changes on west campus and Northside this summer.

Tom Williams, director of Parking Transit and Traffic Services, said the construction, which is currently affecting students who park near the Northside residence halls, is scheduled to be completed before the fall semester begins.

"This is a very tight-scheduled project," Williams said. "Supposedly, it will be completed by the time school starts in the fall."

He said the changes in the parking lots are a result of the Physical Plant's co-generation project on campus.

In trying to accommodate the project, PTTS has made changes in student and faculty/staff parking, he said.

About 100 student parking spaces have been changed from student to faculty/staff spaces in Parking Lot 30, which is located behind the north area residence halls.

Another 160 student parking spaces were lost when Lots 2 and 3 were closed.

Williams said PTTS has not received any major complaints and has had few additional parking violations as a result of the construction.

"Students have been very cooperative," he said. "We really appreciate both the student and faculty/staff patience with this project."

"They picked the very best time of the year to do this construction," Williams said. "If it runs over into the fall, we're certainly going to have some major problems." PTTS is trying to alleviate some parking problems by requesting a shuttle bus to run from remote parking areas to the Northside residence halls.

"We have requested that the contractor of the co-generation project run a shuttle bus from west campus to those north dorms,"



John Williams/The Battalion

Construction on campus near the English Annex continues during Monday's afternoon heat.

Williams said. "This will be primarily at night to ensure people's safety."

Doug Williams, manager of Bus Operations, said on May 24 he requested and is waiting for approval of the bus shuttle project from Tenneco, the vendor for the co-generation project.

The bus service will begin as soon as he receives approval.

"They (Tenneco) are expected to fund any requirement that comes from their part of the project," he said. "They've already accommodated the parking needs."

"This service is intended for students so they will have access from remote parking areas to the Northside residence halls,"

Doug Williams said. "The security is more of an issue than the parking."

The service, upon approval, would run until Aug. 8 from 7 p.m. until midnight, Sunday through Thursday, and would be similar to the Dial-A-Ride service.

Parking services will be expanded on west campus with 500 additional parking spaces for the Student Recreation Center scheduled to be open in the spring of 1995. Four hundred additional faculty/staff parking spaces will be available with the opening of the new College of Business next spring.

Another parking garage will also become available on campus next year by the Sterling C. Evans Library.

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