

**SPECIALS GOOD THRU** WED., MAR. 3

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## Explosion, fire damage building

todial workers narrowly escaped serious injury last night about 6:30 when a small explosion occurred on the 4th floor of the Oceanography and Meteorology Building.

Harry Davis, College Station fire marshal, said two women were emptying trash from room 403A, an oceanography laboratory. One of them had just finished dumping trash into a plastic garbage container in the hall and had walked only five feet back into the lab when the con-reaction, could not have been extintainer exploded.

Both were only shaken up in the incident. Three men who were working in rooms at the other end of the hall heard the blast and attempted to tiles.

Two Texas A&M University cus- put out a small fire that followed the explosion. The men used four dry-chemical extinguishers but failed to put out the blaze. They then called the College Station Fire Department, which extinguished the fire

> A professor who has been conducting experiments in the lab said a chemical reaction between the trash and some percloric acid which had been dumped into the container probably caused the explosion and fire. The blaze, if caused by such a guished with the conventional dry chemical extinguishers, he said.

Damage to the hallway was restricted to nearby walls, the vinyl flooring and a few acoustical ceiling



Fire!

An explosion and fire in a trash can left this mess on the fourth floor of the Oceanography Building Tuesday night. The fire may have been caused by percloric acid leaking from containers in the trash.

## Psychiatrist says Hearst 'shattered'

SAN FRANCISCO — Patricia Hearst was a confused young woman with "a variety of behaviors" and virtually no identity of her own in the weeks after her arrest, says a courtappointed psychiatrist.
Dr. L. J. West, a professor of

psychiatry and an expert on prisoner of war torture, spent the entire day fear for her life that charac much of her own testimony. Hearst's trial for bank robbery. Asst. U.S. Atty. David Bancroft,

who repeatedly questioned West's interpretations of Miss Hearst's mental state, planned to continue his cross-examination today.

During direct questioning by de-fense counsel F. Lee Bailey, West portrayed Miss Hearst as a "shattered" survivor of a 19-month ordeal in the terrorist underground.

West said Tuesday that Miss Hearst, who had been given the name "Tania" by her Symbionese Liberation Army captors after she proclaimed her allegiance to the terrorist band and took part in the bank robbery, became "Pearl" for much of

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Miss Hearst testified earlier that dolph and Catherine Hearst as "one SLA member Emily Harris gave her the name "Pearl" after the May 17, 1974, shootout in which six SLA members died in Los Angeles.

West said the heiress had made a 'remarkable improvement" in her condition in the past few months but still showed signs of anxiety and the fear for her life that characterized

West was one of three psychiatrists appointed by U.S. District Court Judge Oliver J. Carter last fall to help determine whether Miss Hearst was competent to stand trial. He spent a total of 23 hours examining the 22-year-old defendant and was called as a witness for the de-

The other two experts who examined her on behalf of the court have not testified at the trial.

Bancroft attempted Tuesday to discredit West's sympathetic picture of Miss Hearst and elicited the fact the psychiatrist had written the Hearst family months before he ever met the defendant.

West defended his letter to Ran-

parent to another," written some-time while Miss Hearst was sought as a fugitive.
"I think I expressed some sympathy and told them they should not

despair of their daughter's condition because if she were ever returned to them alive she might be in a condi-tion to be helped and possibly de-fended," he said. West and the judge confirmed that

the court was aware of the letter prior to West's appointment by Carter to the case

The prosecution contends Miss Hearst willingly joined her SLA kid-napers, helped them rob a bank and remained with them on her own volition until her capture last Sept. 18.

Miss Hearst contends she cooperated with her kidnapers and desperately wanted them to believe she had joined their terrorist ranks because she felt it was her only means of survival. Any sign of betrayal or lack of commitment, she said, would mean

West said she "lived for the mo-ment as a sort of psychological ar-mor" to blot out the pain of being a hostage of the SLA and a fugitive of

The defendant has testified that she was raped by now-dead SLA members Donald "Cinque" De-Freeze and William Wolfe twice in the weeks after her Feb. 4, 1974, Monday-Friday and may fulf

She has described surviving SLA member William Harris as a brute who blackened her eye at least four times and who, along with his wife, Emily, kept her in fear after six SLA members died in a shootout in May 1974. The Harrises are now in jail.

During another part of examination, Bancroft mad of mentioning that West is sor at the University of Calif.
Los Angeles and that the deep mother is a UC regent. Heals why the witness had had dim the Hearsts and West sa 'necessary to interview the to gather information Hearst's background."

Earlier Tuesday, West h Miss Hearst initially couldnot some details of the bank role which she is on trial. "It was dream," he quoted her as She did not remember to ders who were shot in the even though she had to ste

their bodies to leave the base "Patricia Hearst, improved is, still trembles at mention SLA," he said.

## A&M offers La

After an absence of man the formal study of Latin is re to Texas A&M.

In September the Moder guages Department will offer 107, an introductory course, s Anne Marie Elmquist, depa

The class will be taught at guage requirement for liber students. Dr. Wulf Koepl

structs. Eventually, the Latin study include four semesters of work vately Formal Latin study has n

practiced at A&M since the Saturday is the applicati

line for the April 10 Graduate Foreign Language Test at A&M, says Urlich Crow, to ministrator. The GSFLT, depending

partmental guidelines, may b as an option in fulfilling do foreign language requirement Students wishing to apply sign up in the Academic Cou Center at the Academic Buil

## Council to stud tax collection The procedure for the collection

the hotel-motel tax will be disc at the College Station City Co meeting Thursday at 7 p.m.

A public hearing on Year I the five-year Community Det ment Program will also be Federal regulations require hearing on the progress of the ram be held every year.

The rezoning of a 2.5-acre

Southwood Valley from an a tural to a commercial-industr trict will also be the subject of lic hearing. The request is name of Area Progress Corpo

The meeting is in the Chambers of city hall.

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