

# THE BATTALION

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## Wichita Falls flash flood claims 3 lives

**United Press International**  
A woman, her young daughter and another child were swept away in flash flooding in Wichita Falls and another woman was injured in a tornado at rural Whitt as a result of vicious thunderstorms that raked northern Texas Wednesday.

In Wichita Falls, haunted by a year-old memory of a screeching black tornado that killed 46, sirens began screaming at midday and residents watched the sky turn dark and dump torrential rains.

A police spokesman said one frightened woman with a 3-month-old daughter abandoned her car when she heard the sirens and took shelter in a ditch swelling with rain. The two were swept away in the rising water and their bodies were recovered

hours later about a mile away.

The spokesman said another woman with a 17-month-old baby also took shelter in a drainage ditch as the water rose and that the baby was swept away. The woman was safely pulled from the ditch.

The ditches were about 10 feet wide and 6 feet deep. No tornado ever hit.

Wichita County Sheriff's Deputy Vernon Bennett said residents still were frightened by the memory of a tornado that gnawed through the city on April 10 last year, killing 46.

"A lot of people still get pretty panicky," he said. "They're going to be like that for

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## U.S. promises restraint to Iran

**United Press International**  
The United States has promised restraint "in our words and actions" on the Iranian crisis in apparent response to the latest demands from President Abolhassan Bani-Sadr for the transfer of U.S. hostages to government custody.

At the same time, Bani-Sadr indicated he had received a private message from Carter.

"We asked for Carter to say he would not say anything and he has sent a note saying he accepts that," The New York Times and Washington Post quoted him as saying in Tehran.

The White House refused to discuss Bani-Sadr's claim, but some officials in Washington admitted a "government-to-government" message had been sent to Tehran, the Washington Post said.

White House press Secretary Jody Powell read the public statement Wednesday: "We intend to continue to be restrained in our words and actions so long as ... real progress is made in resolving the crisis and bringing our people home."

The hostages in the occupied U.S. Embassy in Tehran entered their 152nd day of captivity today as the diplomatic efforts continued for their transfer from the militants to Iranian government hands — believed the first step toward their eventual release.

Bani-Sadr, who faces power struggles in Iran between the more moderate forces he represents and hard-line Islamic fundamentalists, early this week declared the willingness of his government to take custody of the captives until Iran's Majlis (parliament) meets, two or more months from

now.

But Tuesday, he said he wanted more assurances from the White House it would refrain from "provocation or propaganda" against Iran.

The White House statement appeared to be a response to Bani-Sadr's demand, but Powell would only say "no nuance was intended." He did not elaborate.

Carter Tuesday decided to hold off imposing new economic sanctions against Iran in reaction to Bani-Sadr's statement on the hostages.

A spokesman for the Moslem militants holding the hostages said Wednesday they would be turned over to the ruling Revolutionary Council when the government asks for them. The day before, the militants had indicated they might resist such an order.

"If the government asks us to turn over the hostages, it will be done without any problem," the militant spokesman, reached by telephone from London, told UPI.

The main advantage to the government's taking custody of the hostages would be government-to-government negotiations could proceed without fear of being vetoed, as in the past, by the militants. The hostages' conditions also could be improved.

Irish statesman Sean MacBride met with Bani-Sadr Tuesday and urged the United States and Iran to begin negotiations immediately in a bid to speed up a solution.

He said he gave Bani-Sadr a detailed plan for a Nuremberg-style international tribunal to try Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi in absentia for his alleged crimes in return for freeing the hostages.



### Ready for rain

This trio of ducks was among the few creatures ready for the amount of rain that has fallen in the Bryan-College Station area in the past two days.

They sat under a picnic table near the College Station Police Department. More rain is expected in this area this afternoon, as a front moves in from Northern Texas. See story at right.

Staff photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

## The prime rate is up, and so is oil, and Saturday mail delivery is out

**United Press International**  
Inflation-weary American consumers probably won't have to worry about getting their bills on Saturdays — or any other kind of mail — beginning next October.

The Senate Budget Committee voted Wednesday to cut \$600 million from the Postal Service subsidy in fiscal 1981 to make certain Saturday mail delivery is eliminated. The House Budget Committee voted to eliminate the entire subsidy.

Fiscal year 1981 does not begin until October, which means Saturday mail delivery will continue until then. But there also is the possibility Americans will be paying more for stamps. Postal Director William Alger said a price hike may be needed to meet an expected deficit.

On Wednesday, hard-pressed consumers found out:

— The prime rate on large bank loans reached a record 20 percent, double the rate charged in late 1978 and further squeezing both consumer and business borrowing. And economists expect the rate to go even higher.

— Nigeria, America's second largest foreign oil supplier, raised its crude oil prices by 51 cents a barrel, but analysts said the increase will cost U.S. motorists less than a penny a gallon at the pump.

— The American Automobile Association said it will cost the average driver \$3,176 this year to operate a 1980 model car, including payments for insurance, gasoline, upkeep and loans.

— Frederick Schultz of the Federal Reserve Board said the board's new credit control program during the next few months will hurt farmers and small businesses the most, and some will probably go bankrupt.

— In response to the general increase in interest rates, the government raised the maximum allowable rates for government-insured home mortgages by 1 percent in most categories.

— President Carter signed a proclamation implementing his March 14 announcement of a \$4.62 per barrel fee on crude oil imports used for gasoline. The 10-cent per gallon increase the fee will produce will

show up at the gas pump May 15.

But there was some good news, however meager.

A&P, the country's third largest supermarket chain, announced price cuts for 200 products to begin next week and Safeway, the biggest food retailer, extended its price freeze on 190 basic items for another 30 days.

Safeway said its price freeze begun in March will continue for another 30 days on up to 190 basic food items carrying the chain's Scotch Buy label.

A&P, which froze prices on 1,600 items last month, said the freeze will expire as scheduled Sunday but prices on 200 items carrying both Ann Page and name-brand labels then will be cut for an indefinite period.

Other retailers that also announced freezes last month said they were consider-

ing extensions.

In Washington, the Federal Reserve Board changed its anti-inflation credit rules to protect consumers from suddenly having to pay off existing credit card balances under stiffer terms. The board said credit card holders must be given 30 days notice of any tightened terms for repayment imposed by creditors.

In Sullivan, Mo., the Bank of Sullivan is refusing to make mortgage loans.

"The mortgage rates are astronomical," said George Kemp, vice president of the bank.

At 14 percent interest rates, Kemp said monthly payments on a 25-year mortgage for an \$80,000 home would be \$963.02. This means an individual would be paying \$288,906 for an \$80,000 home, or \$208,906 in interest alone.

### Bergland sees woes for farms

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — Agriculture Secretary Bob Bergland predicts high interest rates and tight credit will force some farmers out of business.

During a radio hookup with several farm broadcasters throughout the Midwest Wednesday, Bergland said those with the largest farms will face the most difficulties.

"I suspect they'll be some people forced to sell because they can't get credit," he said.

And others will be forced out because of poor judgment, he added.

"Breaking the back of inflation is not an easy proposition," Bergland said. But if inflation had been permitted to continue unchecked, "in time that would bring the country down in ashes."

He said most farmers will be able to secure commercial loans at higher interest rates or get Farmers Home Administration economic emergency credit loans provided by a newly signed law.

In response to questions about rapidly falling grain prices, Bergland predicted, "My judgment is those prices will strengthen with time."

Bergland said the situation would have been more promising if more farmers had participated in last year's farm program by cutting back production. Those who participated in the farm program and are eligible for price supports produced just 20 percent of the corn crop.

"If we'd had 80 percent set aside last year we wouldn't be in this mess," he said.

Bergland said high interest rates also have caused grain prices to fall because speculators have been driven out of commodity markets and grain users are not buying inventories.

## Smith, Van Winkle set for runoff next Tuesday

Rip Van Winkle and Brad Smith will be in the runoff election for student body president April 8. Van Winkle received 2,676 votes and Smith got 2,092 votes.



Brad Smith, vice president for student services, came in second for student body president with 2,092 votes.

A total of 7,141 students voted.

Kathleen Miller was elected Student Government vice president for academic affairs, and David Collins got vice president for external affairs.

The new vice president for finance is Tracy Cox. Vice president for rules and regulations will be Julie Spinn and next year's vice president for student services is Eric Langford.

Seniors Mark Outlaw, Ed Franza and Dan Quinn will be yell leaders next year, as will juniors Chris Walker and Mike Thatcher.

For the Class of '83, Mike Lawshe will be president and Mike Plank and Dale Whitaker will be in the runoff elections for vice president.

Sherry Ackles and Dianna Horadam will run off for Class of '83 secretary-treasurer. Social secretary will be Kathy Bartholomew.

Bubba Correa and Gary Branch will vie for Class of '82 president in the runoff elections. The new vice president is James Bond and secretary-treasurer is David Moyer. Susan Pavlosky was voted social secretary.

The Class of '81 elected Jess Mason president, Kathy Rivera vice president, Patti Heaton secretary-treasurer, Nancy Kelly social secretary and Sean Rudolph historian.

Next year's Off-Campus Aggies president is Paula Sorrels and vice president is Robyn Weber. Marty Blaise will be secretary and Laura Anthony will be treasurer. President of Residence Hall Association

will be Sherrie Balcar and vice president will be Gordon Frutiger. Michele Rowland was elected RHA secretary.

More election results on page 4.



Senate speaker Rip Van Winkle led all candidates with 2,676 votes. His runoff with Smith is scheduled for next Tuesday.

## All of Wild Bill's girls wear mink

**United Press International**  
RICHMOND, Va. — "Wild Bill" Kindervater is a retired milkman, but all the women in his family wear mink. How does he do it? By spending the bitterest mornings of each winter treading through Virginia's marshy bottomlands.

Kindervater, 67, has been a professional trapper for five decades. He is as much a mink reader as a mink trapper, on a trail as he is discussing the reproductive organs of otters.

And he speaks with authority. "It's a cold job, trapping is," he said, holding aloft a boot with a long, razor-like slit in it from the teeth of a female gray fox.

The fox missed his toes by a hair's breadth before Kindervater "dispatched" her, the term he prefers for killing the animals caught in his traps.

He has no patience for those who question the humaneness of his trade.

"The main thing they're after is getting money out of little old ladies," he said. They talk about clubbing baby seals but these same people don't turn down a steak at a restaurant. How do you think cows are killed in a stockyard? Somebody hits them in the head with a sledgehammer."

He holds the view trapping is one of the best ways to check disease brought on by overpopulation in fur-bearing animals, an opinion supported by state officials.

"We're just allowing trappers to harvest a surplus every year," said Jack Rayburn, wildlife chief of the Virginia Game and Inland Fisheries Commission. "If we didn't, the first thing you know, the animals would

be eating you out of house and home. Ask any farmer about that."

Fur trapping is big business across the nation. Virginia provides a relatively small share of the wholesale market — \$2.1 million in 1976-77, for example. Louisiana leads the Southern states with about \$20 million annually in wholesale revenues, with many times more than that being made in the fur-rich Pacific Northwest.

The fur industry goes on because the demand stays high and because trapping gets in the blood of those like Kindervater, who still remembers the first mink he trapped when he was 12.

How does he know where to set his traps?

"Let's see," Kindervater said. "Skunks are famous for digging little holes in the ground to catch insects and the like. So you learn to recognize the holes. Now, they're easy to catch. The trouble comes after you catch them."

"When you're out for fox, you look for tracks in sandy areas. Foxes love to walk on sand. But he's a hard boy to catch — you have to boil your trap and handle it with gloves to lose the human scent."

As for beaver and muskrat, Kindervater said a trapper merely looks near water for damage to trees and crops.

"All of them were put here for man's use," he said. "You just can't stockpile wildlife. If you hold him in a trap for a few hours before you dispatch him, that's better than letting him take weeks to die of a disease."