

THE BATTALION

Serving the Texas A&M University community

Vol. 74 No. 61
10 Pages

Monday, November 24, 1980
College Station, Texas

USPS 045 360
Phone 845-2611

The Weather

Yesterday	Today
High 61	High 62
Low 49	Low 42
Rain 0.0 inches	Chance of rain slight

Quake kills more than 400

United Press International
BALVANO, Italy — Black-shawled women wailed in the streets today near a medieval church that collapsed into its congregation under the force of southern Italy's first earthquake this century. The quake killed more than 400 people and injured more than 800 others. The entire village is in ruins, said Don Salvatore Pagano, 61, the priest of the church of Santa Maria Assunta, who left his church Sunday as the quake rumbled through Balvano on its path of destruction through southern Italy. The tremor cut gas mains, left city streets in flames, collapsed nine-story buildings and even triggered two nuclear reactors.

"Half my church collapsed and there are still people trapped in there," he sobbed. "I don't know why us. These people have enough trouble as it is. It's a poor village."

The Interior Ministry in Rome said reports received from the disaster region showed about 440 dead and more than 800 injured in the quake, which struck at 7:30 p.m. (1:30 a.m. EST) Sunday with a force between 6.5 and 6.8 on the open-ended Richter scale.

The ministry official said more than 120 were killed in the Balvano area, Naples, another 80 in and around Naples, and another 100 in the Amalfi Coast resort area between Salerno and Salerno, and 100 more near the town of Bellino in the central mountains. Other deaths were

reported from isolated mountain villages in the region. Rescue workers in Balvano, 75 miles east of Naples, speculated the death toll could easily top 600 by the time they finished sifting through the rubble in the region bounded by Naples on the east coast of Italy and Potenza, 86 miles inland.

The quake was the strongest recorded in the region since a 1908 earthquake killed more than 75,000 people at Messina, Sicily.

But worst hit was Balvano, the mountain village of 2,600 residents, where more than 100 persons were reported killed, many of them in the collapse of a 600-year-old church during evening vespers services.

Tremors hit the region throughout the night, one at 4 a.m. (11 p.m. Sunday EST), shaking automobiles in the streets of the village and forcing rescue workers to safety in open squares.

Sunday evening's quake was felt by residents as far south as Sicily and as far north as Trieste near the Yugoslav frontier, and was measured by scientists in geophysical observatories as far away as the United States.

Apartment buildings as high as nine stories collapsed in the Naples area. The quake triggered a riot among inmates in the Poggioreale men's prison and women's detention center at Naples and police using tear gas had to be called in to restore order.

In Balvano, the priest, Don Salvator Pagliuca, said: "The

center of town is no longer recognizable."

The gray-haired cleric, his black, floor-length vestments torn and covered with dust, sobbed as he told how he walked out of the church, turned around and saw the roof collapse on about 300 of his most faithful parishioners.

Rescue workers, including a battalion of Italian Army infantrymen, picked through the collapsed stone walls of the medieval buildings in search of bodies by the harsh glare of gasoline generator-powered arc lights.

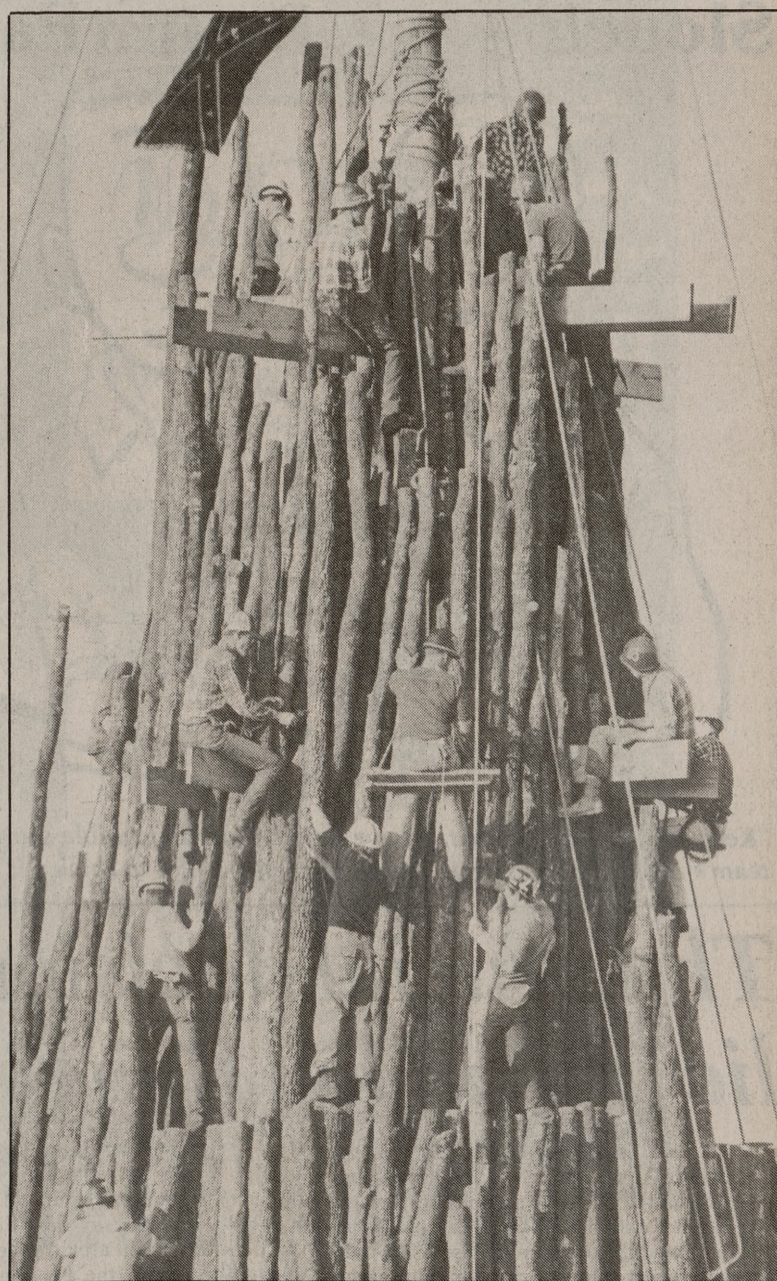
As bodies were pulled from the wreckage and carried to a nearby square, piled up and covered with white sheets in the village, black-clad women, most of them in their 60s and 70s, wailed in the streets for their missing relatives, peasants who grew olives in the nearby rocky hillsides.

"I want to die, I want to die," a woman in her 80s moaned. Small children ran through the narrow alleyways crying, their faces caked with dirt and blood.

The scene was repeated in scores of towns and villages from Naples to Salerno at the southern end of the Amalfi Coast resort area.

The quake hit as Italians were finishing their evening meal and settling down in front of the television set to watch the nightly news programs.

Air controllers at Leonardo Da Vinci international airport near Rome, feeling the jolts sharply atop their 260-foot control tower, abandoned their posts and closed down the facility for 40 minutes before resuming work.



Staff photo by Pat O'Malley

In a hurry

Work was in full swing on the bonfire stack during the weekend, and bonfire workers say it appears much of the heavy work will be completed long before the Tuesday night burning. From a distance these workers on the stack resemble a small swarm of ants.

Texans who escaped fire feel 'lucky'

United Press International
Some of the Texans lucky enough to have escaped the MGM Grand Hotel fire believe it was just that — luck — which saved them from an inferno they say the huge hotel's management did nothing to warn guests about.

Linda Ivy and her husband were on the 21st floor of the Las Vegas hotel when the fire broke out Friday morning and had to fight for their lives for three hours while trapped inside a smoke-filled room.

There was no warning of the fire, no fire alarm, no safety instructions, not even diagrams of fire exits anywhere," said Mrs. Ivy. "And that's such a large hotel, you can easily go in the wrong direction."

Mrs. Ivy said she and her husband believe

hotel officials made a decision not to warn guests about the fire because of a higher concern for corporate profits than the safety of guests.

"If they wanted to, they could have evacuated the entire hotel just after the fire broke out," she said. "But instead, we think they were concerned with their money and their reputation. They thought they probably could put out the fire quickly, and only a few people would know about it."

Mr. and Mrs. Ivy praised firefighters, paramedics and helicopter crews. They described how they used wet towels to keep as much smoke as possible out of their room and covered their faces. They hugged the floor, breathing increasingly thin air until firefighters finally broke down their door.

"When I got up to run to the door, I passed out, and a fireman had to carry me down 21 flights of stairs," Mrs. Ivy said.

Dr. Ammanullah Khan, a cancer researcher at the Wadley Institute of Molecular Medicine, and his eight-months-pregnant wife escaped after being awakened by "crackling noises" in their fifth floor room.

"They inched their way through 'horrible, thick, thick smoke' the length of the hotel corridor to an emergency exit with 30 other guests.

"I felt like we might die; I thought about our two kids," said Mrs. Khan.

When they finally managed to get outside, she said, "You have no idea how it felt to smell the fresh air, knowing, oh my God, we made it."

Diana Hanson of Lewisville, Texas, said she was trapped with four friends for almost three hours in a 20th floor suite. She credited a light-sleeping friend with saving her life.

"If Eva (Clifton) hadn't awakened us, we'd all be dead now," said Hanson, 24. "You can't wake me up with a bulldozer. There were no fire alarms — nothing. Believe me, I won't stay at a hotel without smoke detectors again — I'll ask about it."

Delores Mack of Beaumont, Texas, who went to Las Vegas with her husband Roger to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary, died when she fell while attempting to climb down a rope ladder.

Reagan says his record should reassure blacks

United Press International
LOS ANGELES — Speaking to allay the fears of black Americans, Ronald Reagan says his record as California governor would reassure them of his concern for their needs, and he hopes "to do even better" as president.

NAACP President Benjamin Hooks said Saturday there was "hysterical fear" among blacks that Reagan's actions will hurt them and the programs designed to help minorities. He urged Reagan to go on television and reassure blacks he cares about them.

"Well," Reagan told reporters outside the Al-R Presbyterial Church Sunday, "I

think my record indicates that — what we did in California — and I hope to do even better on the national level."

He did not amplify. But when one of Reagan's advisers was asked the same question on ABC-TV's "Issues and Answers" Sunday, former HEW Secretary Caspar Weinberger said, "There is no man who is more concerned with the welfare and with the human condition of everybody than Governor Reagan."

Weinberger also said despite the new administration's drive to cut the budget, Reagan will not touch social programs that help people.

Tea-sipping contest staged for Tuesday

As a kind of pre-University of Texas game "psyche," the MSC Recreation Committee is sponsoring a tea-sipping contest Tuesday at noon.

The contest, held at Rudder fountain, will consist of two heats of 10 contestants each to determine the fastest tea-sipper.

The contestants are required to suck cinnamon tea from baby bottles. The first one finished will win a gift package donated by Prioriteas in Bryan.

Honorary judges of the event are Head Coach Tom Wilson and Athletic Director Marvin Tate.

Entries for the competition are still being taken, but there is a 20-contestant limit. Students wishing to enter may sign up in MSC 216. In case of bad weather the contest will be moved to the MSC lounge.

President candidates total more than 500

Nominations and applications for the presidency of Texas A&M University now total more than 500, the search committee advising the Texas A&M University System Board of Regents was informed Friday.

Clyde H. Wells, chairman of both the search committee and the board of regents, said several individuals were nominated more than once, but the total number of persons suggested for consideration still approaches 400.

The 22-member advisory committee, meeting for its third time since being appointed in August, spent most of the day

screening material concerning the most viable candidates, Wells said.

"We're making excellent progress," he said, "and anticipate that the search committee will conclude work in January and make recommendations to the board of regents."

Wells said the search committee will next meet Dec. 11.

The search committee was appointed in August to recommend a slate of candidates for the University presidency to the Board of Regents. Dr. Charles Samson has been acting president.

Clayton makes \$4,000 as backers 'say thanks'



Staff photo by Jeff Kerber

Bill Clayton, left, speaks with Rep. Bill Presnal at an appreciation barbecue dinner held at Texas Hall of

Fame on Saturday. Clayton, speaker of the Texas House, is a 1950 graduate of Texas A&M University.

By LIZ NEWLIN
Battalion Staff

Bill Clayton stands to make at least \$4,000 from a barbecue held for him here over the weekend.

Clayton, speaker of the Texas House and a 1950 graduate of Texas A&M University, was honored at an appreciation dinner Saturday. Profits will go to Clayton and will probably be used to pay legal fees. He was acquitted last month of federal racketeering charges filed after the FBI's Brilab investigation.

Irene Little, a Texas A&M graduate student and the chairman of the event, said she collected about \$8,000 herself. The catering, she said, cost about \$4,000 for the 1,350 servings ordered. Little said money for the appreciation dinner was also collected by other people and some was sent to the speaker's office in Austin.

"The more I dig into it, the better it gets," she said Saturday night after counting money. "I was really thrilled. There were a lot of people there."

A plate count by the caterer showed about 1,000 came to the Texas Hall of Fame to "say thanks" to the speaker.

Although Little, a student, first proposed the barbecue, few students came. But Texas A&M was well represented by administrators, deans and prominent alumni. Most of the regents, who are meeting today and Tuesday, also came. Regent H.C. Bell of Austin said the dinner was intended to show appreciation for what Clayton has already done, not try to persuade him to help Texas A&M in the Legislature.

Bell said Clayton has always helped the school. The session that opens in January, however, will be one of the most important for the Texas A&M University System. At stake will be Texas A&M's share of the Permanent University Fund (PUF), the \$2 billion endowed fund divided with the University of Texas.

Other state universities are expected to challenge for a share of the fund. In the last session they lost their assured funding from state property taxes and must now ask the Legislature for all their money. They would prefer to have an independent source of money like the PUF.

If, as expected, Clayton becomes speaker of the House for an unprecedented fourth time, he will be in a powerful position to influence legislation. Does he think the PUF will be a sticky issue for the University?

"I ain't gonna let it be," he said, flashing an impish smile and hustling off to shake some more hands.

Earlier during the program, Reagan Brown, Texas Commissioner of Agriculture, said that in the 4½ years he watched the Legislature, nothing intended for Texas A&M was vetoed. He was among the several state officials, including a dozen or so legislators, who ate barbecue with the speaker.

Bill Hobby, Texas lieutenant governor, praised Clayton as "one of the ablest, most hard-working legislators" he's ever seen. Nobody publicly mentioned the trial or the charges that Clayton accepted a \$5,000 bribe. One organizer of the event did say that more people were willing to help with the barbecue after the innocent verdict was announced.

The barbecue was postponed in October because Clayton could not attend. He had to be in Austin on weekends to attend budget sessions scheduled then since he was in court during the week.

Little was happy about Clayton's innocent verdict, but she said the appreciation dinner would have been held even if the speaker had been found guilty.

Saturday was declared "Speaker Bill Clayton Day" in Bryan-College Station and Brazos County.

Klan faction said dangerous by Justice Dept.

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A Ku Klux Klan group that has set up a commando training camp and whose members say they are getting ready for a race war is the most violent of the current Klan factions, reports the Justice Department.

A department review found Bill Wilkinson's Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, the most dangerous of several Klan splinter groups because Wilkinson "really does very much promote violence," one law enforcement source said.

"Wilkinson's group is the much more serious and bears watching," the source said, adding most of the factions in the white supremacist organization seem to be operating independently.

Wilkinson's Invisible Empire has set up a commando training camp near Cullman, Ala., where followers carry guns, wear army fatigues and say they are preparing for a race war.

The Justice Department review found that two other Klan-related groups — Robert Shelton's United Klans of America and former Klan wizard David Duke's new organization, The National Association for the Advancement of White People — are less violent.

The study, which will be given to the new administration for review, was conducted at the request of Justice Department civil rights chief Drew S. Days III.

"Resurgence is not a correct way to describe it," said one official familiar with results of the review. "There's not a massive turning toward the Klan. It's very much dependent upon the media for its existence."

The six-month review was done mainly by Louis M. Thrasher, former Justice Department civil rights lawyer.