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The Weather

Today		Tomorrow	
High	68	High	70
Low	50	Low	53
Chance of rain	10%	Chance of rain	10%

Strake running for Texas' best kept 'secret' job

By DANIEL PUCKETT

Battalion Staff
The lieutenant governor is Texas' most powerful official and he is doing a bad job, a former Texas secretary of state said Tuesday night.

Speaking to about 35 people in Rudder Tower, George Strake, who is a candidate for the 1982 Republican nomination for lieutenant governor, said the lieutenant governor serves as president of the Senate, appoints members of Senate committees, appoints their chairmen, assigns bills to committees and serves on the Legislative Budget Board. The board, Strake said, is responsible for determining the level of state spending.

"In that job, he (the lieutenant governor) has his thumb on the state's spending level and the number of employees it has," he said.

And Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby has handled the job badly, Strake said.

He said Hobby allowed the recent proposal for a Texas water program to pass the Senate and then campaigned against it. Hobby also sent strong anti-pornography bills to the Jurisprudence Committee of the Texas Senate, whose chairman, Strake said, is "an ultraliberal opposed to such measures."

In addition, Strake said, Hobby allowed the number of state employees to grow by 50 percent in the 1970s, while the state's population grew by 26 percent.

Saying he could do a better job, Strake said one of his purposes is to help carry out the conservative programs proposed by President Reagan and Gov. Bill Clements. If elected, Strake said, he will favor a number of measures to help solve the state's problems.

He said he would push for formulation of a new water plan, one substantially different from the one Texas voters defeated in November and one which can easily be explained to citizens.

Strake also plans strong anti-crime bills and measures to reduce drug traffic through arrests of major pushers. He would also assist the passage of bills dealing with the problem of child pornography, a problem he said is epidemic in major urban areas.

"If I become lieutenant governor, any bill which has to do with controlling drugs or pornography, which will stem the tide of crime or which will help ... small business ... will get as much push through that Senate as (I) can possibly give it," Strake said.

In an interview earlier Tuesday, Strake stressed the importance of the lieutenant governor's race and called the power of the office "the best-kept secret in the state of Texas."

Even with a strong governor like Clements, Strake said, the lieutenant governor has a powerful voice in shaping Texas policy. And with the problems Texas faces — water depletion, flooding, energy costs and a rapidly growing population — the state needs effective leadership, which he said Hobby has not provided.

The question of Hobby's performance is one which affects Texans both young and old, Strake said, and he stressed the importance of students' involvement in politics and in his race.

"People your age have more to lose if things go down the drain; you'll be around longer to suffer the consequences," he said.

When asked how much chance he



Former Secretary of State George Strake

has of becoming Texas' first Republican lieutenant governor since Reconstruction, Strake said his campaign, though probably not as well financed as Hobby's will be, has a stronger organization and a better volunteer base.

"I've got a better organization than Gov. Clements had at a comparable point in his campaign," he said, "and I

have the advantage of running with a popular governor — who, polls show, has a 68 percent approval rating.

"But I have the disadvantage of running against the name Hobby," Strake said. "His dad was governor, his family owns the Houston Post and a television station.

Reagan considers anti-Libya moves

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan mullied over possible economic and political sanctions today against Libya in retaliation for alleged plots by that nation to assassinate him and other U.S. officials.

White House Communications director David Gergen said Reagan would brief Democratic and Republican congressional leaders either today or Thursday on options he is considering.

Libyan leader Moammar Khadafy denies having made any plans to assassinate U.S. officials, but the administration says it has evidence of such plots — including the dispatching of hit squads.

The Republican congressional leadership was to meet today with Reagan on matters before Congress, but the Libya matter was expected to come up for discussion.

Late Tuesday, Senate Republican Leader Howard Baker caused a stir when he said the White House told him a final decision on the entire situation would be made within 24 to 48 hours.

The White House, however, said Baker misunderstood. It said no immediate decision was expected and that

a congressional briefing — not a final verdict — would be held within two days.

Afterward, Baker won an agreement with Sen. Gary Hart, D-Col. to postpone a resolution cutting off Libyan oil until after the briefing.

"I think it would be premature to have that kind of a vote before the review is completed," Gergen said.

"We are not trying to stir this matter up ... to hype this thing," Gergen told reporters. "We're trying to convey that the atmosphere here is not one of high tension and great drama."

Baker told the Senate the president may very well decide to embargo Libyan oil. Senate Republican sources said it would be part of a package of economic sanctions against Libya.

The Boston Globe reported the administration will try to get the more than 1,500 Americans still in Libya out before taking any action. It quoted officials as saying the administration plans to call on U.S. oil companies to get their people out of Libya.

State Department spokeswoman Anita Stockman said she knew of no such plans.

Paperwork halts mailing of new schedules to 600

By STEPHEN M. WARD

Battalion Reporter
About 600 students who have preregistered for spring semester classes at Texas A&M University will not receive a schedule with their fee slip in the mail.

Effective this fall, the fiscal department mails a copy of the student's schedule with each invoice. This is to let students know early which classes they are paying for and which ones they may need to add or drop.

However, students with last names falling alphabetically between White and Wood, inclusive, will receive their fee slips in the mail but will not receive their class schedules, said Bob Piwonka, manager of student financial aid services in the fiscal office.

Those students can pick up copies of their schedules in the Coke Building.

Piwonka said that because the added paperwork involved in sending students' schedules with invoices is so expensive and time consuming, the fiscal office stopped with 600 students remaining. Those students were mailed only their fee slips.

The fiscal office mailed the last of

24,000 fee slips Saturday, in order to mail them to each student's local address before the end of school.

Now the Coke Building office is starting to receive a barrage of students who want to pay their fees before Christmas break.

However, Piwonka asks that students not make over-the-counter payments to cashiers at the Coke Building, but he encourages students to pay their fees through the mail or drop their payments in a fee slip box provided in the building.

Piwonka said the fiscal office cashiers, who are swamped with end-of-the-year paperwork, are not set up to handle the students who want to pay fees in person. He also said the cashiers do not have direct access to the unpaid fee slip file.

However, a separate group of temporary workers, primarily Texas A&M students, are presently employed to process payments received by mail.

"This lessens the aggravation of students having to stand in line," Piwonka said.

Recession won't hurt holiday buying

By ANJALIE ABBOTT, PAM BARTA and JOHN WAGNER

Battalion Reporters
Area merchants are expecting a profitable Christmas season despite national predictions that the sluggish economy will condemn retail sales across the country to a slow year, especially during the Christmas season.

Robert Ortner, chief economist at the U.S. Commerce Department, said: "Christmas sales will be mediocre at best."

And a Gallup Poll conducted in September for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce says 55 percent of the consumers polled feel now is a bad time to purchase expensive gifts. This is a 7 percent increase in the number of consumers that have become pessimistic about buying, since a similar poll was conducted in June by the Chamber of Commerce.

However, the prediction that retail sales will be down drastically this year doesn't seem to be scaring area merchants at all. In fact, many merchants are preparing for a holiday boom.

Ron Morton, operations manager at

J.C. Penney in Manor East Mall, said his store is enjoying a good year. He attributed increases in sales to what he calls a "pretty stable economy" in the area.

Another local retailer, Judy Rush, owner of R. Rush & Co., said her store is doing excellent business.

"I expect a 50 percent increase in sales this month," she said.

In contrast, Robert Mooney, corporate economist for New York City, predicts only a 3 percent sales increase after inflation, for the nation next month.

The fact that more than 50 percent of the population here is employed by or enrolled in some kind of public educational facility is the main reason the recession has not hurt locally, said Robert Nelson, spokesman for the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce.

Other merchants in the Bryan-College Station area agree that the local economy will not suffer during the Christmas season. Dennis Driesbach, manager of the Safeway supermarket in Culpeper Plaza, said he expects peo-

ple to spend just as much, despite the slumping economy.

"The one thing people don't cut back on at Christmas is food," he said. Driesbach said he expects customers to spend less on major variety items and general merchandise and more on special holiday goods.

But, unlike clothing and department stores, Driesbach said he expects his total business to drop 20 to 25 percent when students go home for Christmas.

Jim Hayes, assistant manager for Re-

bels Restaurant and Bar in College Station, said that although he will lose business during the Christmas break, he expects to make more money because customers will spend more of their income on entertainment during the holiday season.

The fact that the Bryan-College Station area is one of the fastest-growing areas in the nation keeps the economy booming in spite of a national slump, Nelson said.

College crime rate indicated

By DANIEL PUCKETT

Battalion Staff
Houston has not only been setting a new record for the number of murders this year, but it may also have been the location of the state's most violent college campus in 1980.

Figures released by the Texas A&M University Police show that, of the 33 colleges and universities reporting, the University of Houston led the state in the combined rate of murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.

But, in non-violent crime, the figures indicated that Texas A&M had the fifth highest crime rate of any campus in the state, with Baylor University leading in that category.

Baylor, UH lead statistics

University crime figures

Violent crimes (murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault)

School	Number of crimes per 10,000 students
1. University of Houston	13.4
2. Sul Ross University	12.1
3. Pan American University	11.8
4. Texas Tech University	11.3
5. Lamar University	10.7

Non-violent crimes (burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft)

School	Number of crimes per 10,000 students
1. Baylor University	445.8
2. Sul Ross University	394.5
3. Southern Methodist University	387
4. Lamar University	337
5. Texas A&M University	322.6

Buffington said the new programs have already resulted in a sharp drop in most forms of crime on campus. When measured against figures reported at this time last year, he said, robberies are down 59 percent, assaults are down 47 percent and vehicle thefts are down 31 percent.

And though three rapes have already been reported this year, as opposed to two all last year, Buffington said this is probably because more crimes are being reported.

"Rape is generally under-reported," he said, "and when people don't feel the police can do anything about it, they report it even less."

"But they see us out there now; they know we're doing something about crime, so they feel reporting a crime will get something done about it," Buffington said.

Despite its high incidence of violent crime in 1980, UH showed a lower rate of non-violent crime — 218 per 10,000

students — than did Texas A&M, which reported 322.6 crimes per 10,000 students. The categories studied were burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.

The non-violent crime rate at Texas A&M was the fifth highest reported in the state, but University Police Chief Russ McDonald said those figures could be deceiving.

McDonald questioned the accuracy of reporting techniques at other universities, and said he was sure the techniques at Texas A&M are totally factual, giving rise to the impression that the crime rate is higher than that at other universities.

"I do not believe we have more crime at A&M than they do at UT or the University of Houston," he said.

Baylor University showed the highest rate of non-violent crime in the three categories studied: 445.8 per 10,000 students.

Baylor's Director of Security Services, E.B. Myre, said crime at the Waco campus was high because of several special problems.

He said Baylor students own more cars per capita than do students at other universities, and said professional car thieves have been stealing cars and car parts from campus parking lots.

Furthermore, Myre said, Baylor has about 33 percent of its students living on campus, which is a higher percentage than at most other schools.

He said the larger number of students living in dormitories means a larger number of crimes of all sorts being reported on campus.

Overall, Myre said, the most serious campus security problem is non-students.

"We've got a lot of people on campus who shouldn't be," he said.

In sharp contrast to the high incidence of crime on other campuses, Texas Women's University in Denton reported the state's lowest overall incidence, with 1.3 violent crimes, 29.4 non-violent crimes and 30.7 total crimes per 10,000 students.

John Erwin, captain of the University Police at Texas Women's University, attributed the university's low crime rate to one fact: the school's students are all women.

"The social norm is that females will not have as many problems with the law as males of the same age," Erwin said.

He also credited police crime-prevention and crime-awareness programs with holding the campus crime rate to a low level. Erwin said a very strong rape-prevention program, which includes a police escort service, has made TWU one of the safest campuses in the country for women.

"We encourage our students to watch out for people who shouldn't be on campus and for suspicious activities," Erwin said. "I think we've done very well."

He defended crime-reporting techniques at TWU, saying they are as good as those at any other university.

Projected deficit leads to new budget proposals

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Projections of a record federal deficit in 1982 has the Reagan administration again studying ways to cut the budget — by slashing defense, further cutting non-defense programs or raising taxes.

Amid estimates that the 1982 budget deficit could reach \$109 billion, President Reagan met with top economic advisers Tuesday to consider new austerity moves and the increasing likelihood of a tax hike.

The president — who in September assured the nation he would hold the current deficit to \$43.1 billion and have enough money to pursue a U.S. military buildup — got the bad news from budget director David Stockman.

Chief White House spokesman David Gergen refused to confirm or deny that the bottom line for 1982 would be \$109 billion in red ink, as official administration sources reported earlier in the day.

The budget forecast, which Lawrence Kudlow of the Office of Management and Budget called "just staff options of no consequence," also projects a \$152.3 billion deficit in 1983 and \$162 billion in 1984 — the year Reagan had hoped to balance the budget — unless further spending cuts are made.

House Speaker Thomas O'Neill said he was not surprised by the latest deficit estimates, which bear out what he pre-

dicted earlier this year.

Democratic leader Jim Wright of Texas called the deficit numbers "telling figures."

"It must be a terrible embarrassment to the president, who has staked his claim to a balancing of the budget for first deficit of his administration to be the largest in the history of this nation," he said.

Gergen acknowledged little can be done about the budget for fiscal 1982, which has already begun. The focus of the current discussions, he said, is on 1983 and beyond.

Murray Weidenbaum, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, told the American Enterprise Institute Tuesday the administration is studying possible ways to increase tax revenues by overhauling tax breaks given to businesses or individuals for special purposes.

Gergen confirmed that "the question of taxes is going to be considered seriously during this review process."

But he said it is clear the president "feels strongly that the tax decreases that are in place ... particularly those on the personal side ... should remain in place and are an important element in the recovery."

Weidenbaum also said the large deficit now is not that harmful, but must be reduced in later years.