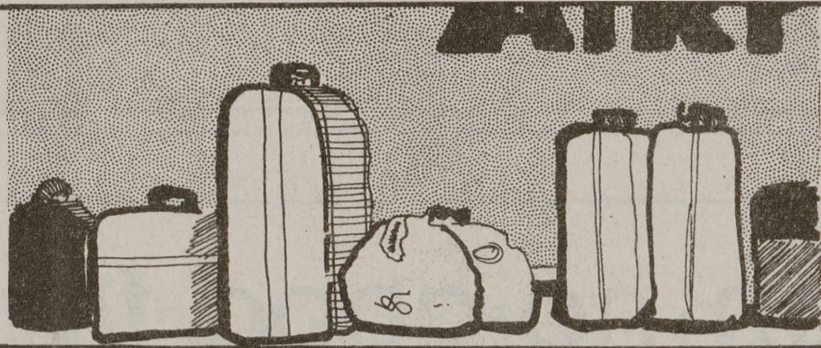


## Engineers to Europe

See page 3



## Celebrate Black history this month

See page 3

# Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol. 75 No. 88 USPS 045360 14 Pages

College Station, Texas

Wednesday, February 3, 1982

## Bush's 'bullet' only a rock

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — Hours after a "loud bang" on the roof of Vice President George Bush's car triggered fears of a possible assassination attempt, authorities determined the noise was caused by a fallen rock or stone.

"There was no assault on the vice president," law enforcement officials said, saying the object apparently dropped from an overhead construction site.

Bush said Tuesday's incident was "nothing to laugh about," but added: "There wasn't anything scary about it."

It all began at about 7:15 a.m. while Bush was en route to work in his armored limousine. As the car pulled alongside the construction site a "thud" was heard by Bush and two Secret Service agents.

The vice president's car proceeded to the Executive Office Building next

door to the White House where Bush went about his normal business. Security, however, was tightened.

At first, officials called the object that hit Bush's car "some kind of projectile" and left open the chance it was a bullet.

"We were just driving to work and heard a loud bang and that was it," Bush told reporters. "I just asked what it was and nobody was sure, so we just drove on to work ... I thought it might have been a shot or something."

Officials later said what the vice president heard actually may have been construction site nail guns used to drive anchors into masonry.

Shortly before 4 p.m., Bush's office issued a statement saying, "The Secret Service has received information from the FBI based on laboratory tests that the object that struck the vice president's vehicle ... was a brick or a stone."

## First Lady's china to debut tonight

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — After months of being the object of public sneers and barbs, Nancy Reagan's new \$1,000-a-plate-setting of red and gold china make its debut tonight.

The occasion is a White House state dinner for Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, who, along with other guests, will now have the opportunity to see matching dishes.

One of the reasons President Reagan gave for buying the 4,000-piece Lenox china, at a cost of \$209,508, was that so much of the old sets were broken that they had to be mixed when a big crowd was invited for dinner at the White House.

Despite Reagan's explanation and his staunch defense of his wife, Mrs. Reagan was heavily criticized.

"Nancy's taken a bit of a bum rap on that," Reagan told an October news conference. "There has been no new china for the White House since

the Truman administration and the truth of the matter is that at a state dinner we can't set the tables with dishes that match."

And Mrs. Reagan herself, discussing in an interview all the improvements she was making to the White House, said she believed she was only doing "the things that had to be done."

Each plate has a raised, gold presidential seal and the pieces have a red, gold-etched border. Red is Mrs. Reagan's favorite color.

Sheila Tate, the first lady's press secretary, said the Lenox china adorned with the presidential seal began arriving at the White House Monday and Tuesday.

Funds to purchase the china were donated by Robert and Antoinette Vojvoda of the KNAPP Foundation. They have been invited to dine on the china for the first time with some 130 other guests at the Mubarak dinner.



staff photo by David Fisher

### Umbrellas: order of the day

Umbrellas could be seen all around campus Tuesday as rain poured down most of the day. This was the scene from the fourth floor of the Reed McDonald Building.

## Dozier ignored Italian warnings

**United Press International**  
VICENZA, Italy — U.S. Gen. James Dozier blamed himself for not heeding Italian warnings of a terrorist plot but anticipated a hero's welcome today in Washington and a return to work as soon as possible.

At a wide-ranging news conference Tuesday on his 42 days of captivity, Dozier, 50, described his Red Brigades captors as well-organized and smart.

"I didn't make friends with them and they sure as hell didn't make friends with me," he said.

The general planned to leave the U.S. Army base in this northern Italian city with his wife Judith, 47, today, on a military flight to head for the United States after a brief stopover at a U.S. facility in West Germany.

As Dozier spoke Tuesday, police continued a nationwide manhunt for Red Brigades suspects and news reports told of new arrests. Police maintained an official blackout but did confirm the smashing of three more hideouts in Rome.

They said a large cache of weapons and documents was confiscated in the

raids in the capital, in which three people were arrested.

The Italian news agency ANSA said among documents seized in the Padua apartment raid when Dozier was rescued was a draft communique announcing Dozier's "execution" that told where Dozier's body could be found.

The general flew to Rome after Tuesday's news conference to thank President Sandro Pertini and Prime Minister Giovanni Spadolini for the successful Italian rescue Thursday in Padua.

At the Vicenza news conference, Dozier said he wanted to return to his job as chief of staff for logistics and administration at NATO's southern European land forces headquarters in Verona as soon as possible.

He took full responsibility for not heeding the warnings he said Italian authorities gave him about a possible terrorist attack.

"The experience in the past had been that these folks didn't have U.S. personnel in mind and quite frankly I was so busy I paid no attention to the warnings," he said.

## Ford to compete with GM rebates

**United Press International**  
DETROIT — Ford Motor Co. is going against its sales philosophy and offering car buyers rebates ranging from \$750 to \$2,000 to compete with industry-leading General Motors.

The announcement Tuesday came just after the conclusion of a day of negotiations between Ford and the United Auto Workers on an early contract agreement designed to help pull the auto industry from its worst slump since the Great Depression.

The two sides planned today to break up into subcommittees to discuss issues including how the company can stay competitive with other domestic and foreign producers.

GM last week initiated price cuts after negotiations with the union broke off and immediately grabbed a price advantage over the No. 2 automaker.

In order to keep up, Ford will give cash rebates of \$750 on Mustang, Fairmont, Granada, Capri, Zephyr and Cougar cars, which range in price from about \$7,000 to \$10,000. Selected trucks also will be included.

Purchasers of luxury Continental models listing at around \$22,000 will get \$2,000 back.

Philip Benton, Ford vice president of sales operations, said the rebates, which run through April 3, go against the company's sales philosophy.

"I do not believe in rebate programs except to respond to competition," Benton said. "We would not have chosen to offer rebates had GM not offered them."

The company also is extending through April 3 an offer of two years

free maintenance and a 5 percent price cut on Escort and Lynx. List price for each car is about \$6,500. Also added to the plan, originally scheduled to expire March 13, were the two-seater EXT and LN7 models.

Escort and Lynx sales have nearly tripled since the program began two weeks ago. Ford officials have been disappointed in the slow sales of the two-seaters.

Bargaining Tuesday was devoted to getting organized into subcommittees that will examine eight contract issues.

The group on "enhancing competitiveness" will look at ways to improve plants that have been inefficient and have had quality problems, said Ford Labor Relations Director Ernest Savoie.

Ford in the past year has closed four aging plants and is threatening to close a fifth at Sheffield, Ala.

Union bargainers also acknowledged the possibility of a brief "three-tier" system of wages and benefits at the Big Three automakers if a contract agreement is reached at Ford.

"It would be a temporary departure but it would not detract from our ability to bargain," said UAW President Douglas Fraser. "In fact, I could argue that it might be better to take Ford out and then bargain with GM alone."

"Now that won't always be the case but I think that's the case now."

Union chief negotiator Donald Ephlin added the two sides were trying to reach agreement "as expeditiously as possible."

## Weather

### January a cold record-breaker

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — The government says January was one of the worst winter months in memory, costing \$5 billion in economic losses and making life miserable for millions from the Rockies to Florida.

More cold is expected for the eastern four-tenths of the country this month but long-range forecaster Robert Dickson says it should not be as bad as the record-breaking cold and snow that hit last month.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's environmental

data service said the unusually severe weather during the first three weeks of January produced an economic loss of \$5 billion in crop damage, increased energy consumption, damaged roads, cars and buildings and production losses.

January began with a storm which brought heavy snow to the Central Plains on New Year's weekend and by Jan. 3 was a major storm system affecting much of the nation.

Then arctic air blasted through the eastern United States over the Jan. 9-10 weekend setting all-time, record-

low temperatures.

A new storm raced across the Plains states Jan. 12 and a secondary storm developed off the Carolinas to bring snow to the East Coast. Bitter cold gripped the northern states as the week of Jan. 18 opened and it was followed by another major storm that swept across the nation's midsection to the Mid-Atlantic states.

"Before it (January) was over, ice, snow, freezing temperatures and wind-chill made life miserable for millions of Americans from the Rockies to the East Coast and as far south

as Florida," NOAA said.

Dickson, deputy chief of the long-range forecast office, said the cold weather patterns are now being disrupted east of the Rockies and more relatively warm weather is likely to be interspersed with additional cold.

"It looks to us, all things considered, the eastern four-tenths will average below normal, but we do expect to have disruptions of this pattern from time to time," he said.

"The history of this whole winter has been one of changefulness."

## Short-term loans available to Aggies

by Robert Curlin  
Battalion Reporter

Aggies in need of quick bucks can tap into several available loan funds through Texas A&M University.

The Short-Term Emergency Loan, offered through the Student Financial Aid Office, gives qualified students a viable source to help cover both the expected and unexpected costs of a college education.

The program was temporarily shut down in January because of the heavy load of students applying and a lack of funds, said Dr. William E. McFarland, director of the Student Financial Aid Office.

"We loaned \$182,374 during the period between Jan. 13 and Jan. 26," McFarland said, "and that caused us to close down between Jan. 20-26. We had to ask the president

for more funds from the G. Rollie White Fund."

McFarland said the program has expanded tremendously since he began his position in December 1979. The department loaned nearly \$700,000 during the fiscal year 1979-1980.

The next year, however, the department issued between \$1.2 million and \$1.3 million in loans, McFarland said. More than 4,000 loans were made during 1980-1981, he said, with the average loan totaling around \$320.

McFarland said the loans have increased because of changes in the procedure to get a loan. In the past, an interview was required on every loan, but now interviews are not required for loans under \$400 that can be repaid within 90 days.

The money for the loans comes from sev-

eral different University funds. The primary fund is the Association of Former Students' Short-Term Loan Fund.

There is an interest rate on most of the loans of 6 percent per year; however, most of the loans are repaid within 90 days with a service charge of \$1 per \$100 borrowed, McFarland said.

Two types of educational loans are offered, both with a maximum of \$750, McFarland said. Qualifications of the applicant range from being a full-time student with a grade point ratio of 2.0 or higher to being a Texan or a citizen of the United States.

The educational loans for first semester students are limited to students who are Texas residents.

McFarland said the reason for this limita-

tion is because of a stipulation in the G. Rollie White Fund, which supplies the money for the program.

"The G. Rollie White will had a provision which stipulated the money should be used for the benefit of the residents of the state of Texas," McFarland said. McFarland said he would like to see a similar program established for out-of-state students.

The educational loans for upperclassmen are not so limited, yet the same basic qualifications must be met by the applicants. The upperclassmen loans are available to students who meet the basic academic qualifications and are U.S. citizens.

There are several other non-educational loans offered, such as the "little loan" of \$30 for 30 days. This program has a service

See LOANS page 14

## inside

Classified	page 11
Local	page 3
National	page 8
Opinions	page 2
Sports	page 12
State	page 5
What's Up	page 6,9

## forecast

Wednesday's forecast: partly cloudy skies, with the high near 50 and the low in the upper-20s. Thursday forecast calls for colder temperatures, with the high in the mid-40s.