

Campus kept alive at night  
by physical plant workers

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Texas A&M

# The Battalion

Serving the University community

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## Shuttle lands safely after toughest flight

**United Press International**  
WHITE SANDS, N.M. — The space shuttle Columbia streaked in over the Southwest from eight days in orbit today and glided to a day-late landing at 11:04 a.m. EST on a makeshift desert base, ending its third and toughest test flight.

With astronauts Jack Lousma and Gordon Fullerton at the controls, the rocket plane crossed over Mexico's Baja California and dashed over southern Arizona and New Mexico before arcing around for the landing.

The spacecraft had covered 3.9 million miles and circled the Earth 129 times since blasting off from Cape Canaveral, Fla. Scientists called the mission outstanding and engineers called it a successful test.

It was a fitting climax to a flight that began on its scheduled launch date for the first time for the reusable, 105-ton rocket plane.

Monday's landing attempt was called off because of 55 mph winds and

near zero visibility in blowing white sand. It was the first time an American manned spaceflight had been extended because of bad weather.

The astronauts returned to Earth with enough fuel and supplies to have stayed up at least two more days.

Monday's problems prompted officials to seriously consider sending the Columbia to Cape Canaveral's 3-mile long concrete runway if bad weather had closed White Sands today.

## Former student says A&M on two roads

Texas A&M University is making a desperate attempt to pursue a liberal education and the education of technicians and mechanics at the same time, the former president of the University of Nebraska System said Monday night.

Dr. D.B. Varner, speaking at the Ramada Inn to the members of the Texas A&M Target 2000 group, said the University needs to reach several groups of goals in order to achieve both these objectives.

"The undeniable fact is that Texas A&M University today is a very good institution of higher learning," Varner said.

Varner, a 1940 graduate of Texas

A&M, listed three groups of observations for the committee to consider.

In the first group, Varner placed priority on quality holdings in the University library, a wide range of curriculum, and a first-class student enrollment and quality graduate programs.

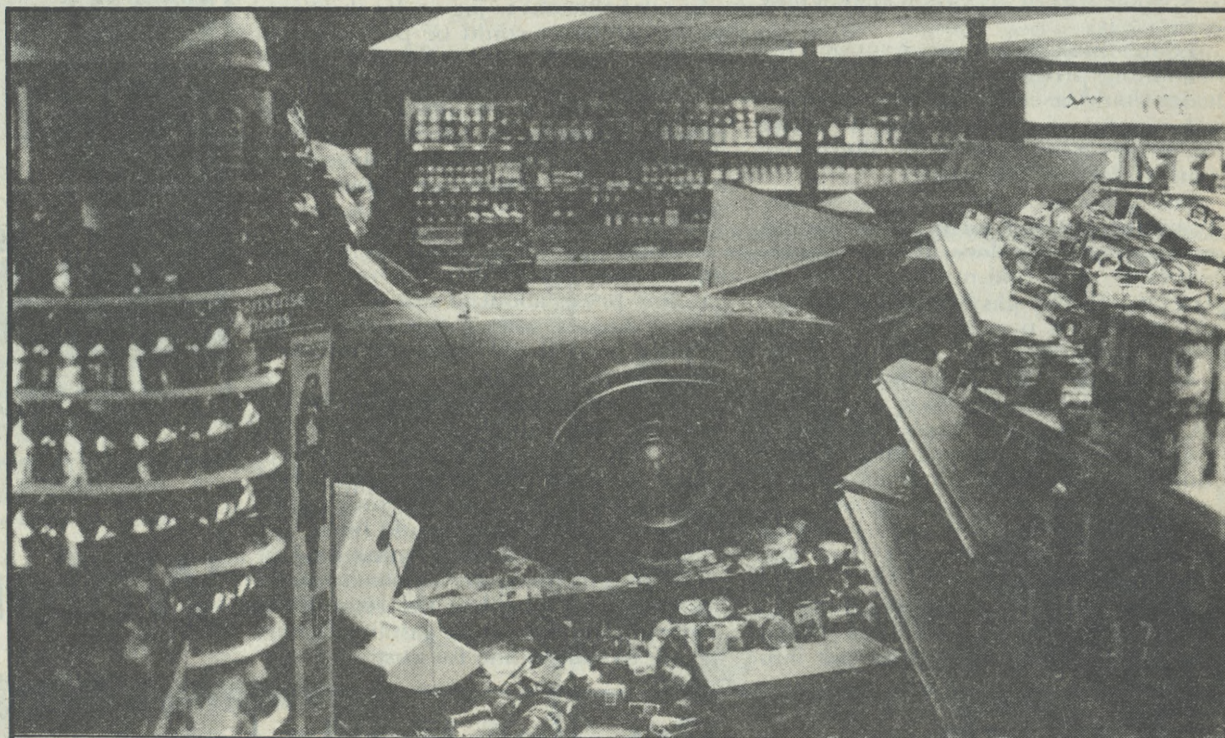
Varner's second group included University "environmental" interests — a stable relationship between all divisions of the University.

"For whatever reason, it seems to have become a favorite indoor sport of the governing board of this University to fire presidents and chancellors with amazing regularity, often with minimum grace, and with pre-

dictable public turbulence," Varner said. He said that either the initial choices have been poor, or the judgment of the governing board has been faulty.

Saying that he probably didn't know all that was involved, Varner said: "I am certain that this institution can never achieve the level of distinction, which all of us would like, unless we find some basis for a more stable administrative environment than has been characteristic."

In his third group, Varner said the University needs to identify several areas in which it has a strong base and lift these components to national stature.



New Drive-In

staff photo by David Fisher

A car went through the front window of the U-Tote'M on the corner of Wellborn and Jersey Monday afternoon.

They now have the convenience of a new door but a mess to go with it. No one was reported injured at the accident.

## City taxes touchy issue with proposed Hilton

*Editor's note: This is the second of a two-part series on the proposed University Hilton.*

by Daniel Puckett  
Battalion Staff

Bryan-College Station has a chronic shortage of hotel rooms, most local hotel operators agree. But does the area need a privately-owned hotel on campus?

Some operators worry that a hotel on Texas A&M University land might enjoy tax breaks that would give it an unfair advantage over operators who pay city taxes.

"If they're going to operate here, they should operate like the rest of us," said Mike Pharr, Texas district manager of Rosco Inns and manager of the Aggeland Inn. "College Station should get its share of taxes from the Hilton, just as it does from other hotels."

Earline Ashby, manager of the College Station Holiday Inn, agreed.

"They should have to pay the same taxes as the rest of us," she said.

The questions about taxes arise from an uncertainty about the hotel's legal status.

Only one other hotel operates on public university land in Texas; that is the hotel school at the University of

Houston and, as a school, has a different legal status from a private venture. Hotel schools provide hands-on experience for students who actually run the school hotel and its restaurant.

The tax liabilities for such an operation are still uncertain. State land is exempt from paying city taxes, and it has not been clear whether the exemption would apply to the hotel.

"Without researching it, I'd say that anyone enjoying a leasehold interest has a taxable interest," said James Bond, System vice chancellor for legal affairs.

City Manager North Bardell said the hotel at the Memorial Student Center now pays the city's hotel-motel room tax, and he expects that the Hilton would have the same obligation.

"That's something we'd have to get a ruling on," Bardell said.

He also raised the issue of planning and utility service.

"We've asked to be included in the University's planning process," Bardell said. "And occasionally they've consulted us about a new structure. But to say that we've generally been excluded from the planning process would be the understatement of the year."

"I don't know how they're going to

provide utilities for the structure; we can't provide sewer service to that site without some off-site construction.

"So much more can be accomplished by cooperative rather than unilateral actions."

Bardell was referring to regents Chairman H.R. "Bum" Bright's charge to the study committee that it determine only the University's interests in the matter, not those of the local community.

But Bond, a member of the regents' committee, said Bright's directive to the committee has been misread.

"Our committee is charged to figure out strictly if there are any overriding benefits to the University from this proposal," Bond said. "Once that's settled, that certainly doesn't mean community input won't be acknowledged."

"The regents will have to balance a number of factors, including community views on the project."

Others object to the hotel for other reasons. Mark Holubec, freshman student senator at-large, introduced a resolution against the hotel at the Student Senate meeting Wednesday. The resolution passed over the objections of

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## Debate to give varying views on Mid East status

by Laura Williams

**Battalion Staff**  
MSC Political Forum Committee will sponsor a debate entitled "The Middle East: Where to Draw the Line," in Rudder Theater tonight at 8:00.

David Schoenbrun, a free-lance broadcaster, and Dr. Hatem I. Hussain, director of the Palestine Liberation Organization's Palestine Information Office in Washington, D.C. will address the controversial struggle in the Middle East.

Schoenbrun has covered the struggles and events in the Middle East, and is an advocate of recognizing Israel's frontiers and right to peace. He has written several books includ-

ing a best-seller about young people born after the creation of Israel in 1948 entitled *The New Israelis*.

Hussain and his family was forced out in 1948 after Israeli forces occupied it. He has written several booklets and articles on the controversy in the Middle East, such as *Toward Peace in Palestine*. He has also served as delegate to the United Nations Habitat Conference and the PLO delegation to the UN.

The debate is a follow-up to a poll conducted by the MSC Political Forum concerning the division of the Middle East. Those students polled were asked if they thought the partition should agree with the UN plan of

1947, the territories obtained by Israel in 1948-49, the territories obtained by Israel in June 1967, or if the Sinai should be turned over to Egypt in April.

Of the 910 American students polled, 15 percent favored the 1947 plan; 17 percent, the 1948-49 plan; 28 percent, the 1967 plan; and 29 percent the Camp David Plan.

Forty-four percent of these students said they felt they had a good understanding of the problem.

Fifty-nine percent of Arab students polled favored the UN plan. Five percent agreed with the 1948-49 plan; 16 percent with the Camp David Plan and none with the 1967 plan.

## Long-dormant Mexican volcano erupts, coats region with ash

**United Press International**  
TUXTLA GUTIERREZ, Mexico — A long-dormant volcano erupted today near Mexico's southern oil fields, showering the region with cinders and forcing terrified peasants to flee from their homes, authorities said.

Officials in the state of Chiapas, which borders Guatemala, said the

7,300-foot El Chichon volcano erupted shortly after midnight, blasting volcanic ash over the highlands of the Mayan Indian region.

They said the Red Cross evacuated about 5,000 peasants from the villages of Chapuletenango, Nicalta and other nearby hamlets, all covered with foot-deep volcanic ash.

One Mexico City television station

reported four peasants were injured by flying rocks thrown out during the eruption, but the report could not be independently confirmed.

Geologists said that shortly before the volcano exploded, the towns near El Chichon were shaken by an earthquake registering 3.5 on the Richter scale.

## Arabs go on general strike in Israel, spurn troops

**United Press International**  
TEL AVIV — Israeli Arabs hurled stones and burned tires today in defiance of 10,000 government troops sent to contain violence in a general strike and protests in sympathy with Palestinians in occupied territories.

The general strike reported by Radio Israel was the first inside Israel

in six years.

One Arab was injured, Israel Radio said, and eight others were arrested and later released in Nazareth. The detainees included the director of mayor Tewfik Ziyad's office and the mayor's wife.

Israel massed an unprecedented 10,000-man force across Galilee to

control the general strike called by Israel's Arab citizens to show support for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, officials said.

The violence came on the sixth anniversary of the deaths of six Arabs during 1976 demonstrations in Israel's northern Galilee region over the seizure of Arab land.

### Student elections begin today for '82-83 officers

Voting began this morning for more than 175 candidates seeking student leader positions for the 1982-83 school year.

Polls are open at the Academic and Agency Building, Zachry Engineering Center, the Memorial Student Center, Heldenfels Hall, Harrington Classroom Center, Sterling C. Evans Library and Sbsa Dining Hall. In addition, polling will be done at the Veterinary Medicine Complex today only, and at the Kleberg Animal Center Wednesday only.

All polls will open from 9 a.m. to 6

p.m. today and Wednesday, except the library site, which closes today at 1 p.m. That poll will be open again between 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Results will be posted outside the Student Programs Office, 216 MSC Wednesday night, Election Commissioner George Crowson said. Results also will be published Thursday in *The Battalion*.

Run-off elections are scheduled for April 6 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Results of the run-off elections will be posted the night of the election, Crowson said.

### New publications editors picked

Diana Sultenfuss was elected 1982 summer and fall editor of *The Battalion* and Donn Friedman was elected 1982 Aggeland editor by the Student Publications Board Monday afternoon.

The editorships are subject to the approval of Dr. Charles McCandless, interim vice president for academic affairs.

Sultenfuss, who was unanimously elected, is a junior journalism major from San Antonio. She is assistant city editor of *The Battalion* and was page one editor of *The Battalion* last

semester. Sultenfuss said she encourages student input to *The Battalion* and hopes the newspaper can continue to fill student and community needs.

Friedman, also unanimously elected, was sports editor of this year's Aggeland. Friedman is a sophomore journalism major from Alief.

"I feel privileged to be given this chance to help create a memorial to the traditions that are Texas A&M University," Friedman said.

Members of the board that voted were Jeff Bissey, student government

executive vice president; Gary Halter, associate professor of political science; J. W. Hanna, assistant professor of recreation and parks; alternate Dr. R. William Barzak, associate professor of English; Cindy Heep, MSC Council vice president for public relations and Todd Hedgepeth, public relations director for the Corps of Cadets.

Carolyn Adair, director of student activities and a member of the board, was not present. Bob G. Rogers, head of the Department of Communications, is a non-voting member of the board.

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### forecast

Today's forecast: Cloudy, mild, and windy with light rain and drizzle; high today near 80 with a low tonight in the mid-60s. There is a 20 percent chance of rain tonight and Wednesday.