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Quake devastates California town

United Press International
COALINGA, Calif. — Rescue workers with bloodhounds searched for victims of a severe earthquake that crumpled brick buildings, scattered toys, injured at least 60 people and started fires that burned out of control for hours.

The quake, which measured 6.5 on the Richter scale, shook all of California Monday and devastated the small town of Coalinga where fires still raged today under the rubble of what had been Main Street. Heavy black smoke hung over the scene and steam poured from fissures ripped in the earth.

Roy Manning, emergency services coordinator for Fresno County, said early today at least 60 people were injured.

Most of the injuries were bruises, cuts and broken bones, although two people were seriously hurt. No deaths

were reported.

The quake, the most destructive in California since 1971, left the town of 6,500 people in the San Joaquin Valley with limited power and phone service and no water.

A 12-block area in the business district of Coalinga, on the western edge of the San Joaquin Valley 50 miles southwest of Fresno, was heaped with rubble from crumbling plaster and brick buildings. Entire walls fell from

two-story buildings, leaving the interiors exposed.

Rescue workers used earthmoving equipment to clear the streets and National Guard units trucked water and emergency power generators into the city.

Bob Semple, the public information officer for the Coalinga Police Department, said, "There are 2,500 homes in the city and I don't know of any that didn't suffer some kind of

damage. Some of the wooden homes held up well but they suffered damage to the contents inside.

"Fifty percent of the commercial buildings were damaged with collapsed walls and roofs. There's no chance any of these buildings will be able to be restored."

About 20 commercial buildings were leveled and officials said 150 structures were damaged or destroyed. Buildings that did not col-

lapse were hurled off their foundations. Roads buckled and split.

"We haven't received any reports about people believed to be missing and I guess we can take that as a blessing," Semple said.

State Assemblyman Jim Costa, D-Fresno, said the damage would be in the multimillions, and California Gov. George Deukmejian declared Fresno County, in which Coalinga is located, a disaster area.



staff photo by Guy Hood

Spit and polish

Cary Jay Cross, a junior agricultural economics major from Dallas, polishes his senior boots in anticipation of Final Review and the Class of '84 Boot Dance on Saturday. Cross has been shining his boots since his sophomore year, but was prohibited by Corps tradition from bringing them to his dorm room until spring break of this year.

Driver, grounds worker tangle

by Kathy Wiesepepe

Battalion Staff
Texas A&M grounds maintenance supervisor and a shuttle bus driver have filed charges of assault against each other after a confrontation at the corner of University Drive and Agronomy Road.

Joe McNulty, a Texas A&M student, said he was driving an empty shuttle bus to the Veterinary Medicine Complex on Friday afternoon. A construction crew was working at the center, he said, and a flagman started there to direct traffic would let him turn into the entrance. McNulty said he then made a U-

turn and entered the complex coming from the opposite direction, and the flagman yelled some obscenities at him. He pulled over and asked the supervisor of the construction crew for the flagman's name so that he could report him, he said, but the supervisor would not cooperate.

McNulty said he then asked for the supervisor's name three times, and the man began to push him around. When McNulty turned to go back to the bus, he said, the supervisor blocked his way and started to hit him with his radio.

"I got in one good lick at him, but it was way too late," McNulty said. "I managed to get him off of me. He had this fiery look on his face, and I kicked him across the bus."

Kenneth L. Rhea, the supervisor, has also filed assault charges, claiming that McNulty hit him first. He refused to tell his version of the incident.

"It's a damn shame a guy can't work up here without getting jumped on," he said.

McNulty received a four-inch cut in his right temple and had to have ten stitches. He also said that he blacked out for a few seconds. Rhea said only his pride was injured.

Eugene Ray, the director of grounds maintenance, said the police are having a hard time trying to find witnesses to the beginning of the confrontation.

Since two divergent reports were filed, both men involved need witnesses to prove their cases. The construction workers at the scene said that they didn't see who was hit first.

McNulty said that there were plenty of people around at the time. "There were lots of people driving by, but no one stopped," he said.

Anyone having information about the incident should contact the University Police Department.

Reagan confident of tax cut

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan is confident he has enough Republican congressional backing to sustain a veto of any attempt to cancel the 10 percent tax cut scheduled July 1.

He planned a meeting today with GOP leaders to find out where he stands on the 1984 budget and requests for additional military aid to El Salvador and funds to build the MX missile.

Reagan received two letters Monday from Congress pledging to fight any attempt to repeal the third installment of the tax cut. One came from the Senate with 34 Republican signatures and the other from the House with 148 signees.

The president expressed his appreciation for what he called two belated "valentines" from Sen. William Roth, R-Del. and Rep. Connie Mack, R-Fla.

The letter presented by Roth said, "We firmly believe the third year of the individual tax cuts and the tax indexing legislation are critically important to the American people and our economy."

"Should Congress pass any legislation which either modifies or repeals the third installment of the tax cut or indexing, we urge you to exercise your veto authority and we offer our support and pledge that we will vote to sustain your action."

The tax cut scheduled July 1 brings the three-year reduction in rates to 25 percent. Indexing, to take effect in 1985, provides for automatic adjustment of taxes to offset inflation.

Mack told Reagan the Republican signers "are firmly behind you on any tax cut."

"I can't tell you how much I appreciate this," Reagan responded. "This may be a little late for Feb. 14, but they're both nice valentines."

After the Oval Office session, Roth told reporters:

"The importance of this letter is that it shows we have the strength to sustain any veto that might become necessary. I don't think it's going to be necessary, because hopefully we will be able to reach agreement in the Senate on the budget."

Coupon entrepreneur at it again

Dallas housewife starts club for shoppers

United Press International
GARLAND — Max Bryan is still trying to be the Exxon of coupons.

The former airline attendant and busy mother of two had a flourishing cottage industry last summer out of her suburban Dallas home with her newsletter of coupon-collecting tips.

Her savvy and enthusiastic self-promotion got her on several national television programs. At one point, she said, her newsletter was teaching more than 10,000 people the complex art of buying groceries and house-

hold goods for virtually nothing, if you have the time and patience to clip hundreds of coupons a month.

She and her partner, Jeani Lawson, sold the business in March because it was taking up too much of their time. So what did the enterprising Bryan do next? Get involved in another coupon business, of course.

This "club" is promoted through multi-level marketing. If Bryan persuades you to sign up, she gets \$5. If you persuade another person to join, you get \$5 and Bryan gets \$1. If that

person gets another to join, he or she gets \$5, you get \$1 and Bryan gets \$1. It may sound like a pyramid scheme or chain letter, but she's ready for that question.

"A lot of people say it's illegal, and it's not. Most of the time the controversy is the lack of knowledge about multi-level, period," Bryan said Monday.

"A pyramid is when you give your money in the hope that you'll get something back, but with this you get a product and a service."

For an initial \$15 fee, the subscriber gets a year's worth of a New York newsletter, "The Cents-able Couponer," that has been published for more than eight years but only recently expanded into the multi-marketing area.

Along with the newsletter comes a book on smart shopping, instructions for \$200 worth of refund offers and \$15 worth of coupons the subscriber chooses from a selection of more than 1,600, Bryan said.

Computers finding their way into classroom use

Editors note: This is the second of a three-part series on computerization at Texas A&M University.
by Brigid Brockman

Battalion Staff
Each of the colleges at Texas A&M has become more computerized in the past year — mostly on an administrative level — but some of the individual departments now are using computers for teaching and research.

Some of the administrative uses include figuring and recording grades, computing budgets and typing and producing manuscripts. The computer reduces many such tedious paperwork jobs.

Carol Jean Rhodes, staff assistant in the Soil and Crop Sciences Department, said many secretaries are using computers.

"Most of our secretaries have pushed their typewriters aside. They love the computers. In fact, we have reduced our secretarial load by five secretaries," she said.

But many departments lack the funds to obtain computers for secretarial use even though they would like to expand in that direction.

Instead, most departments are expanding their use of computers on an instructional basis.

Terry Larson, an associate professor for the Department of Environmental Design, said students are enthusiastic about courses that integrate computers within the context of the subject matter.

Students in the architecture and environmental design departments have used computers in some of their classes, Larson said, but it wasn't until last year that the Department of Urban and Regional Planning and the Department of Landscape Architecture integrated computers into their classes.

Larson said 90 percent of their computer use is for teaching purposes. He estimated that there are 160 students using the system each semester for class assignments and projects.

One of the major research projects on their computer is a hurri-



staff photo by Mike Davis

David Olson, assistant professor in the department of business analysis, demonstrates the use of a computer terminal in his office. Office use of computers at Texas A&M is increasing along with instructional use.

cane vulnerability study in the Houston-Galveston area. "We are using computer graphics to make maps, and computer analysis to depict the amount of destruction that could occur should a hurricane strike," Larson said.

Dr. John J. Dinkel, interim associate dean of the College of Business Administration, said about 80 percent of their computer use is for instruction, and about 20 percent is for research.

The most significant change has been the addition of 45 microcomputers in the academic computer center to meet the needs of students taking a business analysis course in which they learn the lan-

guage BASIC, he said. The college of business administration also has its own computer which is used for research. It also is used to teach FORTRAN, COBOL, and PL-1, which is a combination of FORTRAN and COBOL.

"Computers are absolutely essential to our departments. We cannot graduate students into the business world without their having some knowledge of computer languages," Dinkel said.

Francis E. Clark, director of the educational technology program, said there is a trend in education to become more computerized.

The college of education has ac-

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forecast

Clear to partly cloudy skies today with a high of 80. Northwesterly winds of 10 to 15 mph. Mostly clear tonight with a low near 55. Mainly sunny skies Wednesday with a high near 83.