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# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Bush visits Texas town for GOP rally

Associated Press

HEBBRONVILLE — Vice President Bush and a corps of Republican officials courting Hispanic voters came to this rural South Texas community to issue a partisan message — the GOP is the party of the people.

Bush was invited to Hebronville by Tony Salinas, the local GOP chairman and a personal friend of the vice president.

"Vice president and Mrs. Bush mi casa es su casa (my house is your house), but by the same token I hope you don't make me the same offer because I'll take you up on that," Salinas said at the event on Saturday.

Bush said he was glad to be deep in the Lone Star State.

"I guess the thing that unites us today, transcending parties or political ideology, is this question of family and patriotism and love of family and these are the reasons I feel so at home here in South Texas because those values . . . are what South Texas are all about," he said.

Salinas, the publisher of the Jim Hogg County Enterprise, sent out thousands of invitations throughout South Texas and about 2,000 people showed up at his ranch outside of town.

Marching bands, drill teams and Republican officials also were part of the ceremonies.

Also attending the event were U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas and Texas GOP chairman George Strake. They were joined by U.S. Rep. Tom Loeffler, R-Hunt, and former congressman Kent Hance, a Democrat-turned-Republican.

Loeffler and Hance are making plans to run for the GOP gubernatorial nomination next year.

Loeffler said the Republican contingent traveled to Hebronville to prove a point.

"It means that the Republican Party is the people's party, that we really care and that we have brought better times for all Texans than ever before," Loeffler said.

Gramm, who introduced Bush, also is a converted Republican, who chastised his old party for not doing enough for the people.

"We knew the problem was the government, not America and so in the time honored tradition of democracy we changed the government. . . we elected Ronald Reagan and George Bush and under their leadership we've brought the inflation rate to a standstill," Gramm said.

Bush talked about the struggles of migrant farmworkers, education and foreign policy.

"I believe in strong good relations with our neighbors . . . it's absolutely certain, absolutely essential to our foreign policy, that we continue to keep these good relations and make them even better," he said about the U.S.-Mexico relationship.



Photo by KYLE HAWKINS

## Putting on the Ritz

Larry Lovelace and Bobby Oubre of Walton Hall, get dressed quickly in the 'Get Up Late for School' competition Saturday afternoon. The contest was part of the first Clements Hall Olympics. About \$250 was raised in the games with 20 percent of the funds going to purchase Thanksgiving turkeys for needy members of the community.

## Freight train derailed, spills acid into river

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A Southern Pacific freight train derailed on a trestle, spilling up to 200,000 gallons of sulfuric acid into a river, causing fish to "disintegrate" and forcing the evacuation of about 300 people and closing a school, officials said Sunday.

No serious injuries were reported, and officials said the spill had been contained by earthen dams.

Art Henson, superintendent of the San Antonio division of the Southern Pacific Transportation Co., said Sunday afternoon that work crews using 10 vacuum trucks had removed about 25,000 gallons of acid from the immediate derailment area on the Medina River south of San Antonio.

But he said the evacuation would continue until at least 8 a.m. today, forcing the closing of Southwest High School in southwest Bexar County. The school is about a quarter of a mile from the spill.

An official with the Environmental Protection Agency, said the spill would not threaten deep water wells that draw from the Edwards

Aquifer. But he said it could affect shallow water wells near the riverbanks.

In addition, the Texas Department of Water Resources issued a warning against irrigation from the river downstream.

An EPA on-the-scene coordinator, Pat Hammack, said the accident had produced a "major fish kill."

He said some of the fish "disintegrated" from the hot and highly explosive acid, and it sheared small trees as it ran into the river.

Henson said almost 1,000 tons of lime are being added to the water to neutralize it and that the PH level of the water had returned "more toward normal" by Sunday afternoon.

Several people who complained of skin irritation from the acid's fumes were treated by emergency medical workers, said Bexar County sheriff's Sgt. Ray Gerlach.

Bexar County Fire Marshal Carl Mixon said evacuations were ordered within one mile of the accident.

Railroad officials said they didn't know exactly how many of the 21 acid-laden tankers had ruptured. In

all, 29 of the 100 train cars derailed, officials said.

The acid leaked for about six hours after the accident, which occurred about 11 p.m. Saturday, officials said.

George Stevens, an investigator with the Bexar County fire marshal's office, said that officials said a load may have shifted on one of the flat-bed cars, possibly causing the derailment.

The first train car that derailed was a flatbed carrying wood, Southern Pacific officials said.

The Medina flows into the Guadalupe River, the source of water for the town of Port Lavaca, more than 100 miles southeast of the spill, Francis said.

But there was no danger to the town's 11,000 residents because the river water is tested and treated before it enters the water supply, he said.

Skip Francis, district manager of the Texas Water Commission, said the accident site is not over the Edwards Aquifer, which provides drinking water to San Antonio and four neighboring counties.

## Reagan to submit plan to toughen trade policy

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan plans to present a new, somewhat tougher trade policy next week that administration strategists hope will help head off stronger protectionist legislation now before Congress.

A senior administration official, speaking on condition he not be identified, said Reagan would call for new legislation and administrative action to "give us more discretionary clout" in dealing with unfair trade practices.

But the source said the legislation was unlikely to be ready for submission to Congress when Reagan announces his plan, now scheduled for Sept. 23.

White House Chief of Staff Donald T. Regan said at week's end he hopes to have a bill "as quickly as possible." But he added: "It's impossible to tell how you get down to crafting it. There are a lot of players, and you have to talk to a lot of people."

The House Ways and Means Committee is scheduled to vote Thursday on a bill limiting textile

imports, despite strong administration opposition.

"We don't want to see quotas," Regan said. "We don't want to see any 25 percent tariff coming."

One official, speaking privately, compared White House strategy to that used last week when Reagan announced limited executive actions that blocked a congressional attempt to invoke sanctions against racially separated South Africa.

Beryl Sprinkel, chairman of Reagan's Council of Economic Advisers,

See Reagan, page 10

## Sprint takes '86 fuel mileage race with 60 mpg

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A model of the Chevrolet Sprint won the government's top fuel mileage rating for 1986 cars and is the first auto to score 60 miles per gallon on the highway, the Environmental Protection Agency said Sunday.

The Sprint ER, a Japanese-built minicar that dethroned the Honda Civic Coupe HF from the top spot it held for the last two years, gets 55 mpg in city driving, according to annual test results released by the EPA. The Civic HF last year was rated

at 49 mpg in the city, 54 mpg on the highway. This year, the best Civic HF got ratings of 52 mpg and 57 mpg.

The Sprint's city rating of 55 mpg is the first time the 50 mpg mark has been passed since the EPA applied new deflation factors to the ratings for 1985 models.

A Honda had achieved 51 mpg on the city test in the 1984 model year.

The Sprint is built in Japan by Suzuki Motors Corp., a General Motors affiliate. It was sold only on the West Coast in the 1985 model year, but

GM plans to offer it across the country in the new model year.

The California list was dropped because new cars now being sold in that state contain the same pollution-control systems found in cars sold elsewhere, said Greg Dana, policy analyst in EPA's air pollution division.

Cars sold in California have to meet different pollution standards, in some respects more strict than the rest of the country. Several years ago, this usually meant similar models would get 3 mpg or 4 mpg less than cars sold elsewhere.

As usual, the top 10 fuel misers were dominated by foreign cars with small engines. The only U.S.-made model in that group this year is a diesel-powered Ford Escort FS, with an engine built in Japan. It is rated at 41 mpg in the city and 49 mpg on the highway. The Escort FS is ranked ninth, or fifth if ties are accorded the same rank.

The top five domestic models all are diesel-powered — a Chevrolet Chevette, a Volkswagen Golf, Ford Escort sedans and wagons and their Lincoln-Mercury twins, the Lynx,

and the Ford Tempo and its Lincoln-Mercury twin, the Topaz.

The top gasoline-powered domestic model is the Wisconsin-built Renault Alliance-Encore line, which scored 35 mpg in the city and 44 mpg on the highway.

As usual, the worst mileages were recorded by large luxury cars whose buyers generally can afford the special "gas-guzzler" tax. That tax has been gradually increasing and reaches its final form for 1986, initially a \$500 penalty for each mile per gallon the car is short of the un-deflated rating of 22.5 mpg.

## Legislature broke constitutional law

### A&M Faculty Senate plans lawsuit

By MARYBETH ROHSNER  
Staff Writer

Texas A&M Faculty Senate members Friday affirmed plans to sue the state on the premise that the Texas Legislature has broken constitutional law by eliminating accrued sick leave for approximately 1,700 members of A&M's faculty.

Faculty Senate secretary Jerry Gaston said that although a lawsuit has not yet been filed, attorneys are now researching the possibility of suing the state for passing an *ex post facto* law and denying due process of law.

"We intend to pursue (the case) instantly," Gaston said. "There are no indications that it won't go to court . . . this isn't a scare tactic."

Sen. John McDermott, proponent of an emergency resolution that suggested the Faculty Senate take legal action, said he wanted to see the law rescinded quickly.

"We want to send a signal to the Legislature that we're tired of being crapped on," McDermott said. "They've violated our contracts, and we can't wait two years until the next session."

Senate Speaker Jaan Laane said the group is approaching the case with caution. An ad hoc committee was formed to handle the issue.

"We're mad, but we're not going to make fools of ourselves," Laane said.

The legislation the senate is protesting was rec-

ommended by the State Auditor's Office and was passed as a rider to a 600-page appropriations bill. Until the law went into effect September 1, faculty members accrued one day of sick-leave per month. However, the law eliminates sick leave for all faculty that have nine-month or 10½ month contracts. Those faculty members now are required to have colleagues teach their classes on a temporary basis and if that becomes impractical because of long-term illness, emergency sick leave may be granted by the administration. In addition, professors who had accrued sick leave before Sept. 1 are not allowed to use their sick leave credit unless they are moved to 12-month status.

Richard Robertson of the Auditor's Office said the rider was added because of problems of keeping records of faculty absences. Gaston, however, said that the Legislature had no legal right to pass the law because the faculty received their contracts in March before the law was passed and the provision took away sick leave benefits without due process of law.

Before taking the state to court, however, the Faculty Senate must tackle the problem of finding funds to pay law fees and other expenses. Because the lawsuit will be filed against the state and Texas A&M is a state institution, University funds cannot be used. The lawsuit must be filed

by groups of individual employees instead of as A&M employees as a whole, Laane said.

"This will be a concerted effort of groups around the state," he said.

Laane said the sick leave issue will be the main topic of discussion at the next meeting of the Council of Faculty Government Organizations, which includes representatives from faculty senates across the state.

University of Houston Faculty Senate Chairman and law professor Stephen Huber said the changes may bring about serious problems in recruiting at Houston.

"It's appalling that we don't get sick leave," Huber said. "It's the future of our universities. What do you tell prospective faculty? . . . 'Oh, by the way, there's no sick leave here.' This will kill recruiting."

Huber added that the issue is turning into "a highly visible political issue" and that teachers and other state employees are "natural allies" for the faculty groups.

Both Huber and Laane said that their administrative staff have been supportive. Texas A&M Provost Gordon Eaton said during last week's Faculty Senate meeting that President Frank Vandiver would work with the faculty in granting emergency sick leaves on a "case-by-case" basis.

## Student killed in fall from dorm window

By BRIAN PEARSON  
Staff Writer

A Texas A&M student died Sunday morning from massive internal and head injuries suffered from a fall out of a campus dorm room.

Travis Douglas Scribner, 18, fell out of his dorm window on the fourth floor of Walton Hall at 4:15 a.m. Saturday.

"Our investigation reveals that it was an accident," said Bob Wiatt, director of Security and Traffic.

Wiatt said Scribner, a freshman general studies major from Forney, had been to a dorm mixer and another party Friday night. Before going to bed around 3 a.m., Scribner visited with friends in his dorm, Wiatt said.

"At about 4:15 (a.m.), somebody in that dormitory (Walton) heard the sound of a body striking the ground, looked out the window, saw him (Scribner) and

called us," Wiatt said.

Wiatt said there are theories but no definite conclusions about how Scribner fell out of the window. Scribner's roommate was out of town at the time.

"He had been drinking, according to witnesses, but he was not intoxicated," Wiatt said.

Greg Phelps, a resident adviser at Walton, said, "The detective on the scene thinks that for some reason he (Scribner) was leaning out of the window or was in a sleepwalking kind of state."

Phelps said Scribner's bed was placed next to the window. He said Scribner might have wanted to get some fresh air, opened the screen, leaned out, lost his balance and fell.

Scribner was taken to St. Joseph Hospital by a University ambulance where he died at 11:25 a.m. Sunday, about 31 hours after the fall.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday at Parson's Foske Funeral Home in Olton.