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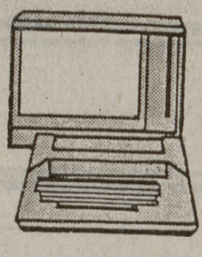
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125 new computer terminals  
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— Page 3

A&M-Arkansas game best  
the SWC has to offer this week

— Page 13



Texas A&M  
**The Battalion**

Friday, November 15, 1985 College Station, Texas Vol. 82 No. 55 USPS 045360 14 pages

# 20,000 feared dead after volcano eruption

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia — A volcano that had been rumbling for months erupted early Thursday, melting its snowcap and hurling down torrents of mud that buried four sleeping towns in an Andes mountain valley. Early estimates of the dead reached 20,000.

Blazing volcanic ash cascaded into the valleys Wednesday night. A few hours later the mud avalanche crashed through the towns, which had a combined population of 70,000. Lava began flowing from the cone Thursday afternoon.

If the death toll equals the estimates, or climbs beyond them, the eruption of the Nevado del Ruiz volcano will rank as one of this century's great natural disasters.

The Languilla River became a rushing wall of mud that destroyed at least 85 percent of Armero, a coffee-farming town of 50,000 people 30 miles from the volcano and 105 miles northwest of Bogota.

"Armero doesn't exist anymore," Red Cross rescue worker Fernando Duque said in an interview from the scene on Todelar radio.

A Civil Defense spokesman, Maj.

Hugo Ardila, told a midday news conference in Bogota that about 10,000 people had been found alive in Armero up to that time.

They climbed trees, clung to roofs above the mud, and huddled behind a sturdy concrete cemetery wall that didn't fall.

One of them, Edelberto Nieto, told IRCN radio: "We heard a frightening noise, and then a blast of wind hit us and we saw fire falling from the sky. It was horrible, so horrible! My wife was killed. My mother was killed. My little girl who would have been four years old tomorrow

died. One of my sisters was killed and one of my little nephews."

Marina Franco de Huez told the radio: "The ash rain increased and the whole world began to scream. I woke up my daughter and we ran out to one of the streets around the cemetery. More than half of the population was buried under a torrent of mud that came with a horrible noise. It dragged houses, cattle, tree stumps and gigantic rocks. The church was buried, the school, the theater."

Ambulances and rescue workers had trouble reaching the town be-

cause the avalanche destroyed the highway and five bridges leading to it, Caracol said, quoting Civil Defense workers.

"Some of the bodies had been under mud for six hours when we dug them out. We weren't even able to tell if they were men or women. They were just a mass of gray," Duque said.

There was no late, accurate count of the number of bodies recovered.

The Defense Ministry said 21 of the most seriously injured people pulled from the mud in Armero arrived on a military plane in Bogota Thursday night.

"The mass of mud is up to five yards high in some areas," said Paul Ramirez, who was among the first on the scene. "Some people were able to escape and climb over walls that weren't covered by the avalanche and were rescued with the help of ropes and horses."

The last great eruption with casualties and damage of the magnitude that appeared to be emerging in the Andes was in 1902 at Mount Pelee on the Caribbean island of Martinique.

## President OKs raising debt limit

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The government narrowly averted default as President Reagan signed interim legislation Thursday night raising federal borrowing authority — the national debt limit — to \$1.9 trillion.

The White House released a brief statement shortly after 8:30 p.m. EST, saying the president had signed the measure.

Earlier in the day, with no debate and only about two dozen members present, the House, on a voice vote, approved the legislation that postpones a credit crunch through Dec. 6 by raising the government's \$1.824 trillion line of credit by \$80 billion. The Senate passed it on a voice vote Wednesday night.

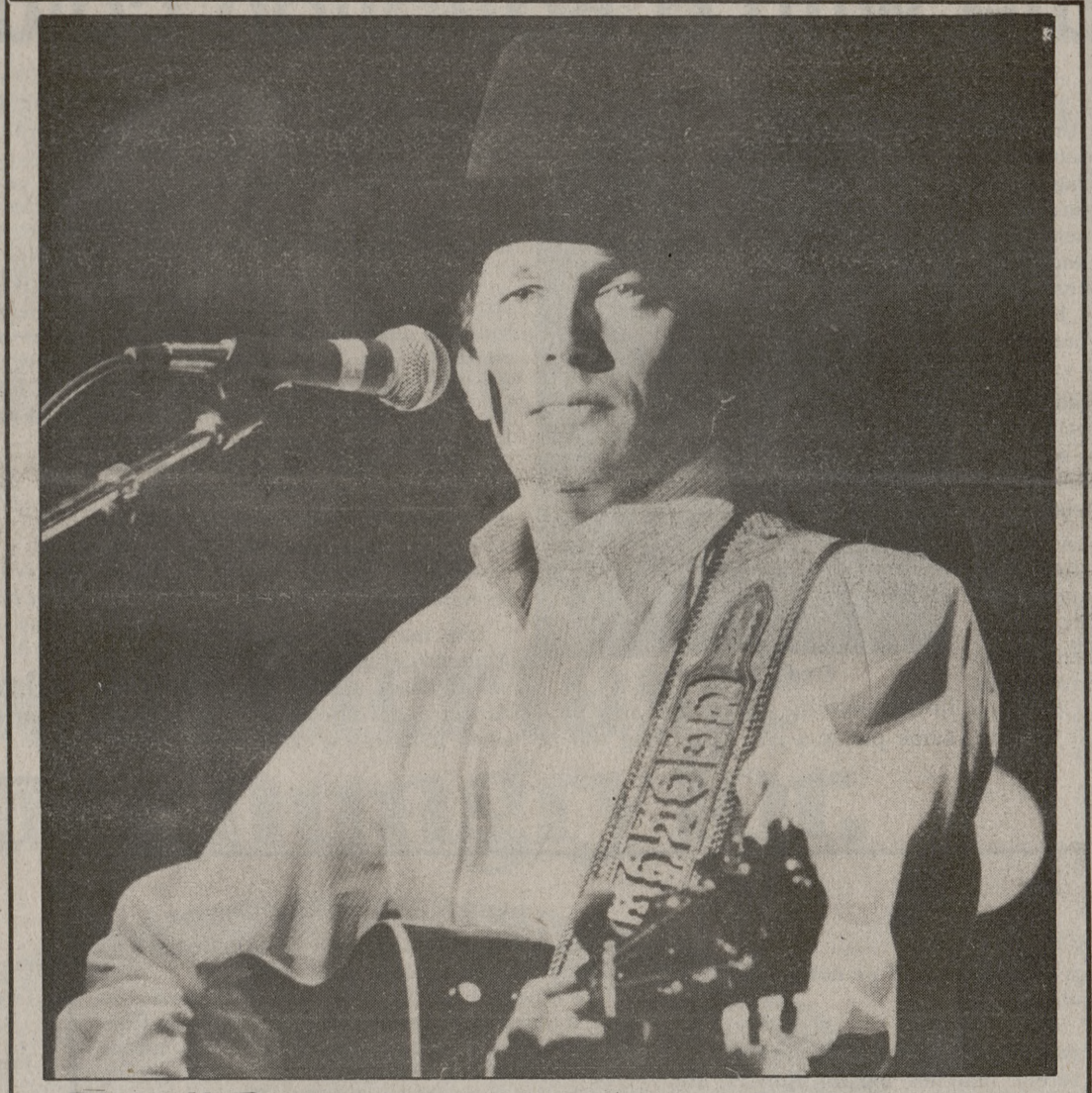
The action temporarily cleaned up the government's latest fiscal mess and cleared the decks for the president's meeting next week in Geneva with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev.

Without action, the government would have been in default. The president had ordered federal agencies to stop issuing new checks starting Friday if Congress had not increased the debt limit.

Attached to the legislation is an extension until Dec. 15 of the 16-cent-a-pack federal tax on cigarettes. Congress has not completed action on pending legislation making the 16-cent tax permanent and without the extension the tax would have dropped to 8 cents per pack after midnight Thursday.

The temporary bill also would extend until Dec. 14 a government program of aid to workers and companies hurt by competition from imports, a limit on the size of federal Medicare reimbursements to doctors and hospitals, and the method of calculating benefits for unemployed railroad workers. Those programs also were expiring Thursday.

In September, the Reagan administration asked Congress to increase the debt limit from its current level to \$2.078 trillion. But that necessary legislation has become tangled in congressional wrangling over rival plans passed by the House and Senate to force a balanced budget by the end of the decade.



**Play It George**  
Women young and old were delighted when Country Music Association's Male Vocalist of the Year, George Strait, performed many of his biggest hits Thursday night in G. Rolie White Coliseum. A capacity crowd welcomed Strait to Aggie-land. See story pg. 6.

## Geneva trip is peace mission for U.S., Soviets

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan told the nation Thursday evening he is going to Geneva and his first summit meeting with a Soviet leader to search for "undiscovered avenues" of cooperation and to propose broad cultural exchanges of American and Soviet students, sports teams and musicians.

"My mission, stated simply, is a mission for peace," Reagan said in a speech prepared for national broadcast from the Oval Office.

"Despite our deep and abiding differences, we can and must prevent our international competition from spilling over into violence," Reagan said. "We can find as yet undiscovered avenues where American and Soviet citizens can cooperate, fruitfully, for the benefit of mankind."

Like the "Open Skies" proposed by President Dwight D. Eisenhower at a similar summit conference three decades ago, Reagan called for an "Open World" where communication between the two nations can increase and "we can lessen the distrust between us, reduce the levels of secrecy."

Jimmy Carter suspended following the Soviet military push into Afghanistan in 1979.

Although he referred to regional strife throughout the world, including Afghanistan, he did not specifically point to the continuing presence there of 100,000 Soviet troops.

"I don't underestimate the difficulty of the task ahead," Reagan said, noting that eight of his predecessors "sought to achieve a more stable and peaceful relationship with the Soviet Union (and) none fully succeeded."

"So I don't underestimate the difficulty of the task ahead," he continued. "But these sad chapters do not relieve me of the obligation to try to make this a safer, better world."

Reagan said he goes to meet Gorbachev "with an appreciation born of experience of the deep differences between us — between our values, our systems, our beliefs. But we also carry with us the determination

See Reagan's, page 12

## Alcohol at A&M

Officials creating new guidelines for student organizations

By TAMARA BELL  
Staff Writer

A new interpretation of an old liquor law will not cause either the Department of Student Activities or the Department of Student Affairs at Texas A&M to enact a new policy, says Jan Winniford, assistant director of student affairs.

But the departments are creating

new guidelines for A&M student organizations and residence halls suggesting what the groups should and shouldn't do when planning parties, Winniford says.

The new interpretation of the law says that an organization can't use membership dues or activity fees to buy alcohol for its members, she says. If fees are used to buy alcohol, the organizations can be charged

with selling liquor without a license.

To comply with the law, the departments came up with three options to help groups when they plan parties, Winniford says.

"The most obvious option is not to have alcohol at the party," Winniford says. "If alcohol isn't available at the party, then the group can use any University facility."

The second option involves an or-

ganization renting a facility that has a liquor license, she says.

"Simply use the facility and the club can sell the liquor," she says. "Just remember that different clubs have different licenses. One club might have just a beer license, and another might be able to sell mixed beverages."

See Drinking, page 12

## Bullock backs lottery to help state finances

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — A state lottery could be the best way to alleviate a financial crisis, says Texas Comptroller Bob Bullock, who predicts such a crisis will face Texas by 1987.

Bullock, speaking at a Rotary Club meeting here Wednesday, said he would not bet on pari-mutuel wagering to bolster state revenues and help meet the ever-increasing demand for state services.

But Bullock endorsed a state lottery, saying it could generate "lots of money" when the eco-

nomic outlook suggests the next Legislature will encounter a tougher budget-cutting process than was experienced this year.

Bullock said a lottery could net Texas as much as \$600 million within four years. He was supportive of the pro-lottery movement during this year's legislative session.

More Texans favor a state lottery than favor pari-mutuel betting on horse races, public opinion polls have indicated.

Gov. Mark White has opposed a state lottery, saying it would be a breeding ground for corruption.

## San Antonio City Council OKs age restrictions at concerts

Associated Press

SAN ANTONIO — The San Antonio City Council passed an ordinance Thursday night barring unescorted children from attending city-arena rock concerts with sexually explicit lyrics.

"What we are saying with this is that we as a council do not approve of blatantly and purposely obscene performances where children are present," Mayor Henry Cisneros said.

The new rule would restrict the attendance of those 13 and under at rock concerts at the city-owned Convention Center Arena if those con-

certs contained songs with lyrics that refer to obscene acts.

Members of the public and council voiced their views for about three hours before a 7-3 vote enacted the ordinance.

The original proposal would have barred children younger than 13 from concerts where certain sexual and violent acts are simulated on stage. The proposal specified sadistic or masochistic sex, rape, incest, bestiality and exhibitionism.

"Your foresight and concern for decency will set a precedent in America," said Nancy Myers of Con-

cerned Women of America.

She also urged the council to raise the age limit to 18.

"We're not against all rock'n'roll," said Bobbie Mueller, another proponent of the rule. She said she was against "the kind of concerts that may contribute to teen-age pregnancy, drug abuse and suicide."

But Michael Courtney, an opponent of the plan, said, "I like heavy metal, quite a bit. This kind of music doesn't affect the way a person acts or thinks. If the music is what causes this, why doesn't it affect everyone the same way."

## Some area phone prefixes change Sunday

By BRIAN PEARSON  
Senior Staff Writer

About 3,100 General Telephone customers will be affected Sunday when some telephone numbers with the prefixes 775, 779, 822 and 823 will be changed to numbers beginning with 774 or 776.

John Wallace, public affairs manager of GTE, said the change, which will occur at 2 a.m., is being made to expand and improve the current telephone system.

"We've spent over \$40 million to expand the local telephone network," Wallace said. "It will create a fully digital local telephone network for Bryan-College Station that will be linked by fiber optic cable."

Part of the expansion includes the opening of a new switching center on Booneville Road. The 3,100 customers affected by the number change reside in the area to be serviced by the new center.

The number changes had to be made, Wallace said, because prefixes cannot be duplicated when they are being handled by a new switching center.

On Dec. 7, about 1,000 customers will be affected when 693, 696 and 764 exchanges will become 690 numbers. These customers, who will be served from the Spring Creek switching center, already have the new numbers listed in GTE's November 1985 issue of the Bryan-College Station telephone directory.

In May 1986, 400 customers will be affected when a 774 or 776 prefix replaces their 693, 696, or 764 exchange. These customers have a dual telephone number listing in the current directory.