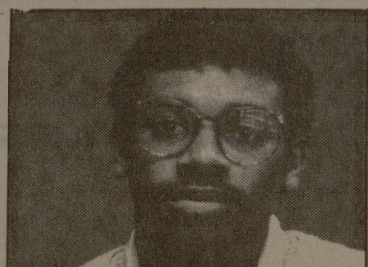


MSC president says people important to union's success

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Aggie netters coast to wins in home-opening matches

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# Texas A&M The Battalion

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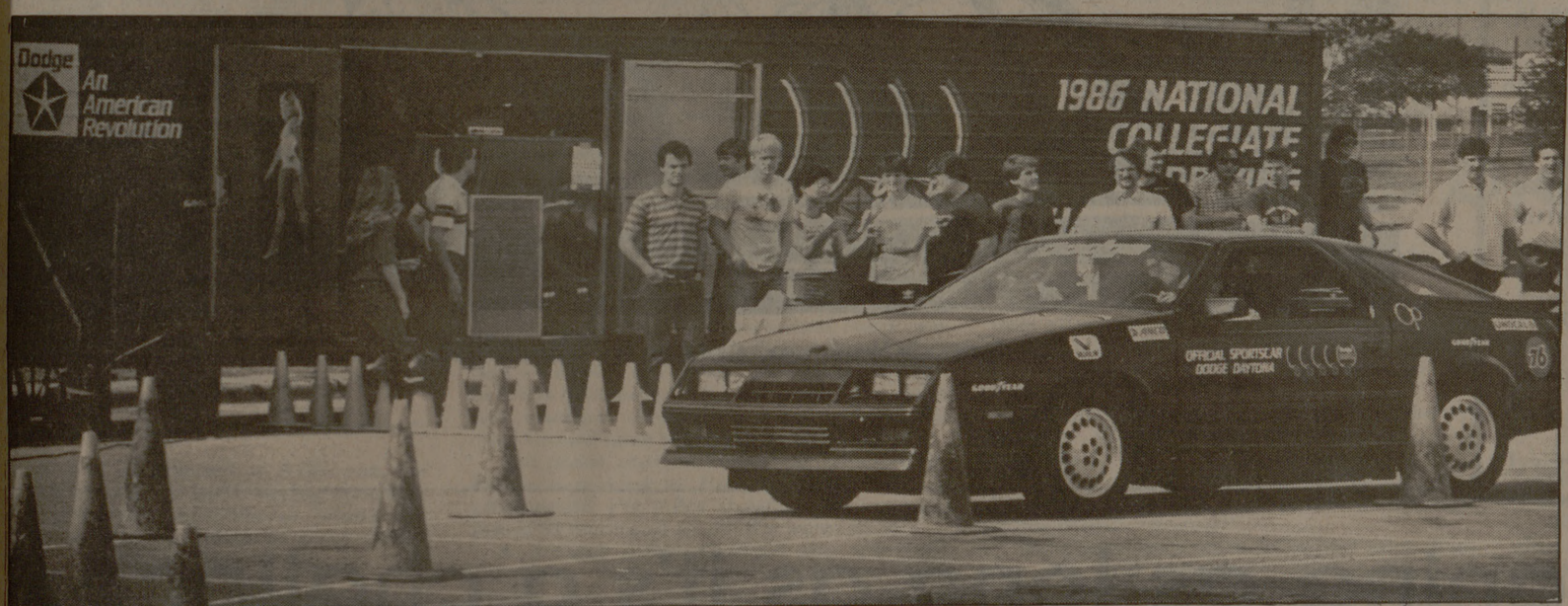


Photo by MICHAEL SANCHEZ

## Cruisin' For Daytona

Contestants compete in the National Collegiate Driving Championship for a chance to go to the finals in Daytona, Fla. The

local contest was held last weekend and was hosted by the Texas A&M Sports Car Club.

## NASA officials believe rocket was ruptured

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — NASA officials, increasingly confident they can identify the cause of Challenger's disaster and fly again soon, believe a rupture in the right rocket booster may have triggered the explosion that destroyed the shuttle and killed its crew.

NASA sources apparently feel so close to a solution to Tuesday's tragedy that they are talking about flying again as early as June if the testing and correction procedures are completed.

A flight that had been scheduled by the shuttle Columbia for June 24 appeared to be the earliest possible.

Search teams, fighting strong Atlantic currents, continued to bring in Challenger's spreading debris Sunday, including a five-ton rocket fragment. The search area was extended to more than 40,000 square miles.

The apparent rupture in the strong rocket casing — whether at a seam or elsewhere — had the effect of pointing a torch at the side of Challenger's fuel tank. The theory is that the flame either burnt through the tank or a "destruct package," causing the explosion, or raised the tank pressure to intolerable limits with the same result.

This theory remained just that. NASA's acting administrator, William Graham, the only agency official speaking on the record, said Sunday that the agency still is looking for other causes for the explosion.

Photographs released by NASA show a tongue of flame apparently lashing upward from the exhaust of the right booster rocket into an area that films of previous launches showed to be clear of fire or flame.

The flame was "somewhere in this vicinity," Graham said as he made the rounds of Sunday television talk shows. He pointed to a "field joint" — the seam between the lowest segment of the right booster and the second segment.

"We haven't yet finished the analysis and measurements on film to identify the exact point at which the plume (of flame) appeared," Graham said on CBS' "Face the Nation." And on NBC's "Meet the Press," he said "we haven't done the measurements yet to see whether it was at the seam or near the seam."

There has been published speculation, based on unidentified sources, that the finger of flame either burned through the fuel tank wall and ignited its huge supply of liquid hydrogen, or that it set off the destruction mechanism by lighting a primer cord.

But Charles Redmond, a NASA spokesman, said just heating the tank would have turned the liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen to gas, thus increasing the pressure beyond the bursting point. Hydrogen must be kept at minus 423 degrees Fahrenheit and oxygen at minus 297 degrees to stay liquid.

Graham, asked how soon shuttle flights might resume, replied that there was "no way to say what time we can go forward."

But he added, "This is a fundamentally sound system. It's gone through 24 successful flights. There was obviously an accident. There is a problem there. But the overall configuration and design, we believe to be fundamentally sound and we believe it won't take a very long time to get this problem corrected."

See related story, page 10

## Salaries still below national average

# Texas paying profs 5.1 percent more

By SONDRA PICKARD

Staff Writer

Professors teaching in Texas public universities are getting paid an average of 5.1 percent more than in 1984, but probably not enough to keep Texas from falling behind other states in recruiting and retaining quality educators, says a survey by the Texas College and University System Coordinating Board.

The survey indicates that the 1985 salary increase rates are above the minimum levels funded by the Texas Legislature, but Higher Education Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth says the figures are insignificant in comparison to increases of up to 6 percent across the nation.

| Institution                                   | Average Salaries for University Faculty 1985-86 |                      |                      |
|---|---|----------------------|----------------------|
|   | Professors                                      | Associate Professors | Assistant Professors |
| Texas A&M University.....                     | \$44,521  | \$33,588             | \$27,405             |
| Texas Tech University.....                    | 43,869  | 32,502               | 27,372               |
| University of Texas at Austin.....            | 48,315  | 33,204               | 29,280               |
| University of Texas at Dallas.....            | 46,628  | 34,023               | 28,947               |
| University of Houston at University Park..... | 47,060  | 34,279               | 28,795               |

Ashworth says every Texas university is trying to pay its faculty as much as possible with available funds. But in order to do this,

schools, including Texas A&M, have been forced to borrow money from sources not designated for salaries. "The institutions realize that

Texas is slipping from the national average," Ashworth says. "Other See Low salaries, page 14

## Phillipine group trying to stop election fraud

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — Government and independent election officials agreed Sunday to share early returns from this week's presidential election to prevent fraud. But some opposition leaders said pro-government news media could use selected returns to declare President Ferdinand E. Marcos an early winner.

Officials of the Commission on Elections and a private watchdog group, the National Movement for Free Elections, or NAMFREL, met for more than four hours to negotiate a unified "quick count" of Friday's election.

Representatives of both sides said they agreed to share early returns from the nation's 90,000 precincts, which sometimes have trouble communicating with the capital.

In other developments Sunday, about 6,000 students and workers of the militant group Bayan (Country) marched on the presidential palace and burned effigies of Marcos and President Reagan as they called for an election boycott. Rally leaders said they expected Marcos, president for 20 years, to rig the election. Some Bayan leaders, however, have resigned to back his rival, Corazon Aquino.

NAMFREL's role has been tacitly endorsed by both the Roman Catholic church and the U.S. government, which is sending a 19-member delegation to observe the election.

Marcos supporters accuse NAMFREL of favoring Aquino. Her supporters say cheating was widespread in past elections and that they do not trust the commission.

## Curfew issued in Haitian community

Associated Press

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — The government Sunday ordered a partial curfew in Cap Haitien, a flashpoint of demonstrations against President-for-Life Jean Claude Duvalier of Haiti, and restricted foreign reporters to Port-au-Prince.

Government-owned Radio National said Cap Haitien's 80,000 residents have been ordered to keep indoors between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. No reason for the curfew was given, and it was not known immediately if it would be enforced for more than one day. It was the first curfew officially ordered in Haiti since Duvalier declared a 30-day state of siege Friday in the impoverished nation.

Cap Haitien, Haiti's second largest city, is about 125 miles north of Port-au-Prince on the Atlantic coast.

The government communique also ordered all owners of radio transmitters to report their location to authorities.

Eleven people have been killed since demonstrations began a week ago in Cap Haitien. Three people were shot to death there last Monday, and three people were trampled to death

Wednesday when demonstrators mobbed a CARE warehouse. Five people died Friday in demonstrations in Port-au-Prince.

Haiti's Information Minister Adrien Raymond announced Sunday in a second communique distributed by his office that all foreign journalists had been restricted to the capital.

Guy Mayer, the ministry's director-general, said "We are asking journalists to register and ask permission of this office before they try to go to the rural areas and other cities."

No reason was given immediately for the order, nor was there any indication how long it would remain in force.

An uneasy calm settled on Port-au-Prince Sunday. Heavily armed members of the uniformed militia, called the Volunteers for National Service, kept patrol in small, unmarked cars, firing at random.

Disturbances were reported in Cap Haitien Saturday where funeral services were held for three people killed last Monday.

The U.S. Embassy said it received reports that security forces used tear gas and gunfire to control an early morning demonstration, but there were no reports of casualties.

Missionaries used a ham radio to report anti-government demonstrations in Gonaives, 60 miles northeast of the capital, and in St. Marc, 50 miles north of Port-au-Prince. Gonaives is where the protests began Nov. 28.

Jackson Snyder, 55, and his wife Betty, co-directors of Mission Possible, said their missionaries reported protesters controlled the highway between Gonaives and St. Marc, having erected at least 15 roadblocks with tree trunks, debris and burning tires.

The missionaries said the mob that broke into a government warehouse Friday night at dockside in Saint-Marc either destroyed or looted eight vehicles and \$500,000 worth of donated food, medicine and other supplies belonging to Mission Possible, a Protestant charity based in Fort Pierce, Fla.

In an address to the nation Friday, Duvalier pledged to rectify the "unequal and shocking" distribution of wealth among Haiti's 6 million people. Most Haitians have a per capita income of less than \$150 a year.

Duvalier was expected to reveal a new economic plan Monday or Tuesday, Raymond said after the address.

## U.S. official expecting largest defense cut ever

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Caspar W. Weinberger will seek a \$320 billion defense authorization this year but Congress likely will respond with the largest defense cut in U.S. history, according to the chairman of the House Armed Services Committee.

Rep. Les Aspin, D-Wis., said Weinberger can expect to receive no more than \$260 billion for fiscal 1987 beginning Oct. 1 because of the severe limits posed by the Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction plan. And he said cuts in defense authorization could range from \$60 billion to \$90 billion or more.

Cuts of that magnitude will force Congress to probe the foundation stones of Reagan administration de-

fense and national security policy, questioning, for example, the nation's continued ability to pay for extended U.S. military commitments around the world or for the Pentagon's drive to build a 600-ship Navy, Aspin said.

In an interview, Aspin, who has headed the Armed Services Committee for the last year, appeared to relish the consequences of Gramm-Rudman.

Referring to the defense secretary by his nickname, "Cap," Aspin said: "Old Cap is up there smoking about \$320 (billion). How do you get through to the guy? We're going to go down to \$260 (billion). Yoo hoo Cap, here we come.

"Can you believe where they are," Aspin laughed. "They just have got

themselves in an awful mess. It's unbelievable. This is going to be the most interesting year you have ever seen."

"I am taking more than a perverse delight in this," Aspin said, responding to more questions.

Although administration sources said President Reagan will propose a fiscal 1987 budget calling for defense spending of \$282 billion, Aspin contended Weinberger is seeking defense budget authority of some \$320 billion.

In Aspin's analysis, large cuts will now be made in defense this year regardless of whether the automatic sequestration provisions of Gramm-Rudman are triggered largely be-

See Congressman, page 14

## U.S. Army seeking to prove tank-like taxi not a deathtrap

Associated Press

FORT HOOD — Green-faced camouflaged soldiers scampered through the brush, their M-16 rifles blazing. Tanks shrouded by smoke advanced on a "Soviet-controlled" hill as a line of Bradley fighting vehicles blasted enemy positions and delivered infantrymen to the front.

The Army played out a war on the Central Texas range last week.

The objective: Force the retreat of Congressional critics who say the Bradley, a \$1.5 million tank-like troop taxi, is the Pentagon's latest lemon.

The tactic: let reporters kick the treads, fire the 25 millimeter cannon, give it a spin around the prairie past cattle and mesquite trees and see the controversial weapon in action.

A made-for-television war.

The aluminum-sided Bradley, which can travel at 40 mph, kick up a huge cloud of dust and give you a ride similar to a New York subway, is likely to go to battle again in Washington budget hearings this spring.

Critics say it's too vulnerable on the modern battlefield, a weak-sided, fire-prone deathtrap for

the soldiers it is designed to carry to the front.

But the Army, which has already bought more than 2,000 Bradleys and wants a total of 6,832, says it would have to change its tactics if Congress kills its high-tech, high-speed baby that fires on the move and fights at night.

And the Pentagon has launched an all-out offensive to keep the Bradleys coming off the assembly line. Last week's rough-riding was officially called a "media visit," but the troops dubbed it

See Army, page 14