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The Battalio**n**

Texas A&M

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College Station, Texas

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Portions of Texas flooded

Associated Press

Heavy rains pounded North and Central Texas on Monday, flooding roads and creekbanks, snarling big-city traffic and prompting one community to seek help from the Texas National Guard.

No deaths were reported. More than seven inches of rain fell in less than eight hours in Mexia to the south of Dallas and in Bonham to the north, and four to five inches dropped on numerous other communities, flooding streets and houses.

More than 65 traffic accidents were reported from midnight to 8 a.m. Monday in Dallas as commuters tried to cope with several inches of rain after a dry January — a record — and 51 days without measurable precipitation.

The National Weather Service issued flash flood warnings in numerous counties throughout the day, with scattered thunderstorms throughout much of the state packing winds of up to 50 mph. Afternoon temperatures were in the 60s and 70s.

City Manager Jack Parker in Temple, 60 miles north of Austin, asked the National Guard to provide equipment and help sandbag homes threatened by runoff from swollen creeks. Mike Cox, spokesman for the Texas Department of Public Safety, said four trucks and eight men were dispatched in the early afternoon.

Water from Bird Creek in south Temple flowed over its bank and into nearby houses.

To the east, more than six inches of rain fell in the community of Bonham by mid-morning and although rain slowed to a patter, authorities there warned of potential additional road closures and other problems.

Hazel Graves watched as rain-swollen waters from Lake Bonham completely encircled her home. She had spent the weekend putting in a new garden and piles of peat moss swirled around the knee-deep water in her front yard.

Authorities closed Farm Road 271 leading to Bonham State Park, one of many roads blocked off in north and central Texas due to flooding.

Rampaging waters cut off eastern portions of the tiny city of Mart in southeast McLennan County south of Waco and three families in Stampede Valley near Waco were stranded by rising creeks.

A car was swept off a bridge on a road near McGregor west of Waco, but the driver, who got out when the car's engine stalled, escaped without injury, authorities said.

Another car was washed off a road west of Waco, and one car was swept from a road in Burnet County, authorities said. No injuries were reported.



Photo by DEAN SAITO

Workin' For A Ph.D.

Rosa Llusar, a graduate chemistry student from Valencia, Spain, does inorganic chemistry research in the synthesis of new compounds Monday afternoon in the Chemistry Building. The research is for her Ph.D.

Pathologists studying remains from Atlantic

Associated Press

Pathologists are examining human remains recovered from the Atlantic to see if they are those of Challenger's astronauts, sources said Monday.

NASA said Monday that so far it has recovered no shuttle debris from the ocean bottom despite six days of searching with sonar and robot submarines.

Two promising "targets," the space agency said, turned out to be the old wreckage of a helicopter and a light airplane.

That left 17 other potential targets about 15 miles offshore where photographs and radar indicated that large objects hit the water, NASA said.

But with the sea yielding less debris each day, officials weighed cutting back on the search of the ocean surface.

The Navy was pulling its ships out at the end of the day Monday, leaving the sea sweep to the Coast Guard, which also was reviewing whether to continue.

The sources, who spoke on condition they not be identified, would not disclose how many remains had been found or what they were but said they had been taken to a hospital at nearby Patrick Air Force Base to be preserved and studied.

Seven astronauts died in the space shuttle's explosion a week ago, and parts of the shuttle have been found as far away as 220 miles north of Kennedy Space Center.

"As we move away from this terrible day, we must devote our energies to finding out how it happened and how it can be prevented from happening again," President Reagan said Monday in naming a commission to investigate the cause of the catastrophic independent of NASA.

Whether the human remains were washed up on the beaches or found

at sea, the sources would not say. They would not say when the remains were found. NASA would neither confirm nor deny the report.

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NASA no longer over probe into explosion

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Reagan took the investigation of the space shuttle Challenger explosion away from NASA Monday and entrusted it to an independent board "with no axe to grind."

In an executive order, Reagan directed the panel, headed by former Secretary of State William P. Rogers and former astronaut Neil Armstrong, the first man on the moon, to report its findings within 120 days.

By making the commission independent of NASA, the administration appeared to be trying to avoid criticism that the investigation of the Jan. 28 accident, which claimed the lives of all seven crew members, was one-sided or biased.

Yet, half the 12 commission members have current or past ties to NASA or the space program.

Under Reagan's order, NASA becomes a research arm of the new commission. An interim investigative board set up by NASA on the day of the accident is being abolished.

The commission, which can be comprised of up to 20 members, includes former test pilot Chuck Yeager, astronaut Sally K. Ride, the first American woman in space, and Nobel laureate Richard P. Feynman.

In another development, Capitol Hill sources said Reagan will ask Congress to provide roughly \$7.7 billion for the NASA budget for the 1987 fiscal year.

Speakes said the commission members will serve without pay.

Former students eligible to receive refunds

A&M will return property deposits upon request

By BRIAN PEARSON
Senior Staff Writer

Texas A&M will return, upon request, a \$10 property deposit to former students who have graduated or withdrawn, do not plan to enroll in more classes and who do not owe money for damage to University property.

According to the A&M class schedule directory, "Every student, unless registered in *absentia*, must make a property deposit to protect the University from damage to or loss of University property." Students registered in *absentia* are doing work outside the formal classroom setting.

Students eligible for the return of the deposit must fill out a request form in 004 Coke Building to receive the \$10. Bob Piwonka, manager of the Financial Fiscal Department, said the deposit, which is included in students' first fee payment, will be returned within about 30 days after the request is made.

Quoting from the Texas Education Code, Piwonka said, "An institution of higher edu-

cation may collect a reasonable deposit not to exceed \$10 from each student to insure the institution against the losses, damages and breakages in libraries and laboratories. The deposit shall be returned on the withdrawal or graduation of the student less any loss, damage or breakage caused by the student."

Piwonka said students eligible to receive a refund must request the money since the department doesn't know if they will return.

"You're not eligible to receive it (\$10) until the semester's over," Piwonka said. "At that point, we have to wait until the department has a chance to bill you for any damage for that semester."

"A lot of students stay on and go to graduate school. A lot of students donate their money to the Association of Former Students."

Faye Pruitt, staff accountant in the Financial Fiscal Department, said 362 former A&M students requested their property deposit during the 1984-85 school year. During the 1984-85 A&M school year, 6,242 stu-

dents received bachelors degrees, 1,093 received masters degrees and 282 received their doctorates.

Pruitt said the department does not formally notify students that a refund of the property deposit is available.

Piwonka said all the property deposits are held in an interest-earning account. At the end of 1985, he said that about \$921,000 had accrued.

Besides refunding the deposit upon request, there are two other options for the refund.

One option is to donate the \$10 to the Association of Former Students.

Pruitt said \$350 of property deposit money was donated to the Association of Former Students in 1984. She added that the amount of property deposit donations vary from year to year.

Another route for the refund is through

the Student Financial Aid Office in the Pavilion.

All property deposits not requested within four years from the date the student last attended A&M are forfeited into a student deposit scholarship account.

Lynn Brown, administrator for scholarships and employment in the student financial aid office, said her office receives the interest from the \$921,000 in property deposit money as well as all the forfeited deposit money.

She said the office received \$90,000 of forfeited property deposit money in the 1982-83 school year and \$144,000 in the 1983-84 school year. She said the amount varies widely.

Brown said \$15,000 of the deposit money received goes to scholarships each year.

"The rest of the money goes to grants awarded through the financial aid process," she said.

Sources say East, West to trade prisoners

Associated Press

BONN, West Germany — An East-West prisoner exchange will be made next week on a Berlin bridge, a Western government source said Monday, and the word in Israel was that it includes Soviet Jewish dissident Anatoly Shcharansky.

The source in Bonn said the swap was arranged by U.S., Soviet and West German officials. Officials in Bonn and Washington refused comment on newspaper reports that such a swap was in the making, and White House spokesman Larry Speakes said: "We will have no comment, period. Top to bottom, no comment."

Israel radio said the United States had informed Israel that Shcharansky would be freed in three days as part of an East-West prisoner swap. It said the Reagan

administration sent a message about the plan to Prime Minister Shimon Peres and Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

An Israeli official in Jerusalem, speaking privately, said the deal involved 12 prisoners held in Western countries to be exchanged for Shcharansky and perhaps one other person held by the Soviets.

Shcharansky's wife Avital was not at her Jerusalem home Monday. The radio said she would meet her husband in West Germany.

The Bonn source, who is in a position to know the details of such an exchange, said it would take place Feb. 11 on the Glienicke Bridge linking Potsdam in East Germany with West Berlin. It will involve both spies and East bloc dissidents, he said, speaking

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Past plaguing Cambodian Aggie

By MARY ANN HARVEY
Staff Writer

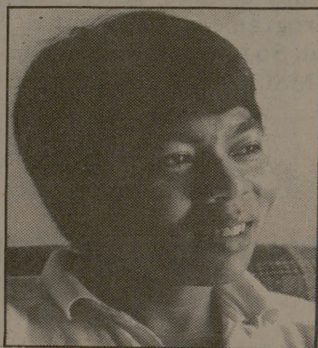
Texas A&M is a long way from Battambang, Cambodia, but one Aggie freshman has found that he can't leave the nightmares of his homeland behind. Just 11 years ago, Chhomrith Un, 19, was witness to the atrocities and horror of the Communist regime in Cambodia.

After witnessing more than 40 executions, the youngster painted pictures of what he saw which attracted the attention of refugee officials and journalists.

Now Un (pronounced oon) struggles with pre-calculus and literature classes while trying to put the images behind him.

Un was separated from his family in 1975 when Communist-led insurgents occupied most of the Cambodian territory. The struggle for political control had begun and Un's life would never be the same.

"About three or four months after they occupied the whole country they separated me from my family



Chhomrith Un

for five years," Un said. "I never saw my family during that time."

Un is the oldest of four boys and three girls. His parents and his siblings were separated from each other and re-located hundreds of miles apart.

Un was placed in a prison where he worked like a slave and was subjected to abuse.

"They put me in jail and tortured me," Un said. "There are several things they did — because I was tortured several times — but they are

things that are hard to tell. I don't like to say them."

It was in this prison that Un was forced to watch the executions of his fellow countrymen.

"Sometimes they'd kill someone right in front of the prisoners to try and scare them," he said.

Un witnessed only one execution where the soldiers used a gun, he said.

"After that, all the executions I saw, they never used a gun," he said. "They tried to do it any way that would make the person really suffer."

"They tortured them to death, sometimes using a plastic bag to cover the victim's head and suffocate him. Other times they would beat him to death."

But before the executioners, who were mostly teenagers, killed their victim, they performed a bloody ritual to show their power.

"Everytime they would kill a man they would chop right here (pointing to his lower back) and pull the gall bladder out and eat it," Un said. "They did this to show that they were cruel and mean."

"Most of the killers were between 15 and 19 years old and they seemed to have fun doing what they did."

Un escaped from the prison several times and tried to survive in the jungles of Cambodia by himself.

"I ate wild fruit and animals in the jungle," he said. An earlier interest in survival techniques became invaluable to his existence in the jungle.

However, despite the young boy's attempts to escape, he was caught and brought back to be punished each time.

Un was finally freed in 1979 when a revolution was organized and a new Communist force took over his country.

Un, who was then 14, was left on his own to find his family and home.

When he located his hometown and family, Un found his parents malnourished and near starvation from the poor treatment they had received in prison camps. Because of the years of separation and drastic weight loss, it was hard for family

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