



Texas A&M The Battalion

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College Station, Texas

Tuesday, February 11, 1986

Snow, ice hit Texas Cold snap halts traffic

Associated Press

Snow covered the Panhandle and South Plains and icy roads created hazardous driving conditions across sections of Texas on Monday. Clear skies prevailed after the precipitation. Travel advisories were posted for the Panhandle, South Plains, North Texas and portions of West Texas including the Concho Valley and the Permian Basin.

Snow piled up to more than a foot in many areas of the Panhandle and South Plains over the weekend, closing schools Monday and stranding travelers.

Northerly winds at 10 to 20 mph dropped temperatures to the teens in the Panhandle, the 20s in North Central Texas, and into the 30s and 40s over the remainder of the state. Extremes at 3 p.m. were 18 degrees at Amarillo and 53 at Corpus Christi and Kingsville.

The forecast called for decreasing cloudiness and continued cold. The Texas Department of Public Safety said crews reopened a 120-mile section of Interstate 40 from Amarillo west to Tucumcari, N.M. shortly before midnight Sunday.

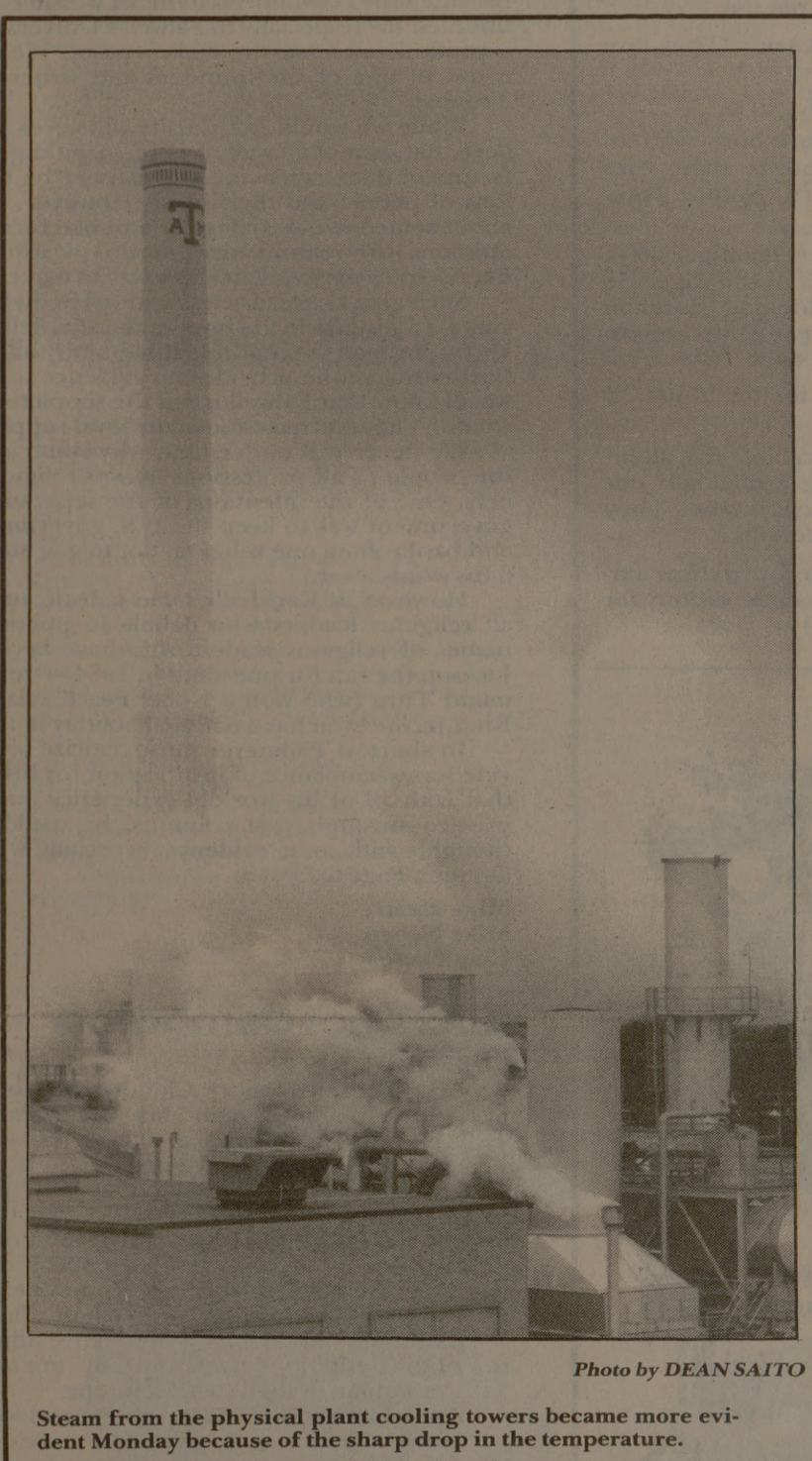
Officials at West Texas State University in Canyon, south of Amarillo, led off classes Monday. Police said many area school districts were also closed. Several schools closed Friday when the snow first hit.

Classes also were called off Monday at Amarillo College and in Amarillo public schools.

In Lubbock, where over a half inch of snow had fallen, Texas Tech University was closed Monday, along with Lubbock Christian College and Lubbock public schools.

The weather service said Borger

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Steam from the physical plant cooling towers became more evident Monday because of the sharp drop in the temperature.

Photo by DEAN SAITO

Official vote canvass begins in Philippines

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — The government-dominated National Assembly held the first meeting Monday on its official vote canvass, which by law will determine who won the disputed presidential election.

In the slow count of ballots cast last Friday, the government election commission showed President Ferdinand E. Marcos leading by 53 percent to 47 and an unofficial count by a citizens' poll-watching group of more votes showed challenger Corason Aquino ahead by the same margin.

The election was marred by violence, which continued Monday. A gunman fired at about 50 Aquino supporters in an open truck from which Aquino had delivered a speech earlier, killing a 20-year-old man and wounding a woman.

At the gathering in suburban Ma-

kati, Aquino had told 2,000 cheering supporters she was "claiming the people's due," and pledged: "We are going to take power. The people have won this."

Aquino accuses Marcos of widespread election fraud in attempting to extend his 20 years of rule over this archipelago of 7,100 islands.

Both Aquino supporters and official U.S. election observers called the slow count an attempt by Marcos to manipulate the results. The observers left for home Monday.

In Washington, a senior Reagan administration official appealed to Filipinos "not to have violence, not to have demonstrations in the street just because you didn't like the election (outcome)."

"Get on the team and work with the government to form a government, whether it's Marcos or Aquino," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

National Assembly members, two-

thirds of whom are from the president's New Society Movement, spent four hours Monday debating rules for the canvass and then adjourned until Tuesday afternoon. The galleries were packed with Marcos supporters and Aquino loyalists who chanted their candidates' names. Thousands more gathered outside.

Returns at the end of the day from the so-called quick count by the government commission gave Marcos 4,017,277 votes, or 53 percent, to 3,610,099, or 47 percent.

A count by the National Movement for Free Elections, a poll-watchers' group known as Namfrel, had Aquino ahead by 6,658,838 votes to 5,971,693, a 53-to-47-percent lead, with 60.4 percent of precincts reported.

The election commission's count was suspended after 30 computer operators walked out Sunday, charging fraud in the tabulation that showed Marcos leading.

Faculty Senate Input sought in department head choices

By SONDRA PICKARD Staff Writer

Texas A&M faculty members will have broad participation in the selection of department heads, and a uniform policy on granting emeritus status to professors will go into effect if two resolutions adopted by the Faculty Senate Monday night are approved by A&M President Frank E. Vandiver.

Also, the Senate approved recommendations giving academically superior undergraduates the chance to apply graduate-level courses toward their undergraduate degree program.

After almost two hours of debate, the Senate voted unanimously to give faculty members a significant

role in a department head selection process that is not currently regulated by the University. Instead, the selection process is determined by the deans of individual colleges, and in many cases involves little, if any, faculty input.

The proposal was described by Dr. Jaan Laane, Senate speaker, as probably the most significant resolution ever passed by the Senate.

When a department head position becomes vacant, the proposal suggests the establishment of a faculty search committee elected from the department, which would meet with leading candidates, evaluate them and deliver a report of its findings to the dean.

The resolution proposes that the department head's normal tenure in

office be from four to 10 years, and that he will serve with the approval of the faculty, dean, provost and president. Periodically, the faculty of each department will evaluate the head. The dean, in compliance with faculty sentiment, will decide if a new head is needed.

In other business, the Senate approved a professor emeritus status proposal which states that, at the time of retirement, professors holding a tenured appointment at A&M who have served here at least 10 years must be considered for emeritus status. However, individuals who have served less than 10 years also may be considered.

A committee of faculty members

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NASA says rocket may have pivoted into fuel tank

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — NASA investigators believe Challenger's right booster rocket may have pivoted into the huge space shuttle's fuel tank, crushing it and setting off the reheat that destroyed the ship and killed its crew.

A space agency source, who declined to be identified, said such a scenario — first outlined Monday in the industry magazine Aviation Week and Space Technology — is the possibility under examination.

A major focus of the investigation has

been the possibility that a leak between segments of the right booster allowed a plume of flame to spurt toward Challenger's liquid fuel tank, either puncturing it or raising the pressure inside to cause the explosion.

The source said other avenues of investigation include wind shears aloft as the 4.5-million-pound shuttle stack climbed through a period of maximum stress and a seal leak between two segments of the booster rocket that caused a sideways thrust and put additional structural loads on the ship.

The presidential commission investigat-

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- 3 shuttle flights cancelled
- Trust fund set up to replace Challenger

ing the Jan. 28 accident met in secret session Monday to discuss an internal memorandum last July warning officials of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration that shuttle flight safety was "being compromised by potential failure" of booster seals.

"Failure during launch would certainly be catastrophic," one NASA analyst warned in a memorandum, according to The New York Times.

Arriving for Monday's commission meeting, chairman William P. Rogers said the Times story gave the impression that NASA had not told his panel everything it knew about the boosters' history.

"That's not the case and I hope we can correct that," he said, adding that the public will learn more about the documents at an open meeting Tuesday.

Aviation Week said a redesign of the

joints might cause the next shuttle mission to be postponed a year.

The magazine said NASA's interim accident review board believes that the plume of fire jetting out of the side of the right booster rocket caused the bottom half of the rocket to separate from the tank.

"The lower portion of the booster then rotated outward from the climbing vehicle," Aviation Week said. "As the bottom of the booster moved outward, its top section pivoted into the external tank and crushed the upper right side of the tank."

Paper: Shcharansky will be traded early

Soviets agree to release dissident

Associated Press

BERLIN — Soviet officials have agreed to release dissident Anatoly Shcharansky moments before three Western spies in the expected East-West prisoner exchange because the United States insisted he not be treated like an undercover agent, a newspaper said Monday.

A U.S. official, meanwhile, commented at a news briefing that Shcharansky would be part of the swap, expected to take place today on the Biennicke Bridge between West Berlin and Communist East Germany.

"He will be on the bridge," the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. "The exchange will be made and the cars will drive out."

A U.S. diplomatic source in Berlin, speaking on condition of anonymity, told The Associated Press, "It will happen on the bridge before noon."

The Hamburg newspaper Bild said in an article written for today's

"The exchange was in real danger once again in the last few days. The Soviets insisted that Shcharansky would be swapped 'as an agent, like the others.' "

— the German newspaper Bild.

editions, "An agreement has been reached so that Shcharansky will clearly be freed before the other prisoners."

The newspaper did not identify its sources, but it has had other exclusive reports from the Soviet Union that have turned out to be accurate.

Bild said the swap will begin at 11 a.m. (5 a.m. EST) today.

"U.S. and Russian military vehicles will drive to the middle of the bridge from both sides — then the passengers will be handed over," Bild said. "The East bloc will let So-

viet rights activist Shcharansky free first."

"The exchange was in real danger once again in the last few days. The Soviets insisted that Shcharansky would be swapped 'as an agent, like the others,'" Bild said. The Americans objected, saying Shcharansky is a human rights activist, according to Bild.

Shcharansky, 38, was convicted in 1978 on a charge of spying for the CIA and was sentenced to 13 years in prison and labor camp.

Shcharansky, a mathematician and computer scientist, has said his

only crime was seeking to emigrate from the Soviet Union to Israel.

Western specialists on the Soviet Union have said Moscow hopes by freeing Shcharansky along with imprisoned spies to convey to the world its position that he is a spy, too.

Bild quoted an unidentified West German official as saying, "Whether the Soviets stick to the plan (to free Shcharansky first), only God knows."

Reporters have been positioned at the Glienicke Bridge since Bild reported Feb. 1 that an exchange was pending.

The newspaper said then that the East would free two East German citizens and a West German in exchange for five agents imprisoned in the West.

U.S. sources, speaking on the condition they not be identified, have confirmed the West will trade five people.

Five 'Legion of Doom' members plead guilty

Associated Press

FORT WORTH — Five teenagers pleaded guilty Monday to charges stemming from their participation in a group known as the "Legion of Doom" that used vigilante-type activities in a misguided effort to end crime and drug use at their high school.

State District Judge Don Leonard ordered a pre-sentence investigation for each defendant and admonished them to "behave yourselves."

Leonard said he would take at least a month to decide on the sentences for the teenagers.

Although some of the felony counts are punishable by up to 20 years in prison, Leonard could either probate the sentences or order a type of probation by which the defendants eventually could have their records wiped clean.

In a variety of felony and mis-

demeanor charges, the young men were accused of threatening another student with a gun, making bombs, bombing cars and other property, damaging school property and killing a cat and leaving it in a car, according to indictments returned last year.

Entering pleas were James H. Mathis Jr., 18; Darren K. Dietrick, 18; Joe David Dorris, 17; James A. Turner, 18; and David Edward Norman, 18.

Two other defendants, Charles Fillmore, 18, and Michael Taw Guthrie, 17, were scheduled to appear before Leonard today.

The case of Bradley James Biells, 18, who was indicted on a single misdemeanor charge will be settled later, according to Scott Wisch, an assistant Tarrant County district attorney.

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