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# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Senator unveils new tax bill

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Senate Finance Committee Chairman Bob Dole on Thursday introduced with President Reagan's support a bill that would produce sweeping changes in the federal tax system in more than 30 areas, reducing individual income taxes by an average 8.4 percent.

The legislation would raise consumer taxes on alcohol, tobacco and online and shift to corporations a burden of between \$110 billion and \$185 billion over the next five years. How the excise tax increases would affect the total tax picture of individuals and businesses is a matter of speculation.

Packwood, unveiling the new plan at a news conference, said it would make the tax system more fair, ensure that rich individuals and profitable companies pay a share of tax, and increase incentives for investment in job-creating activities. As for the Oregon Republican, he said the bill "is not more complicated than the present tax code."

The committee will start work on legislation next week; Packwood hopes the bill will be completed by May 1 and ready for Reagan to sign by Aug. 15.

Most changes would take effect Jan. 1.

The bill includes the provisions

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## Where's Springsteen?

Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

A student in Philosophy of the Visual Media, Philosophy 375, gets a little help from his friends to make a video for a class assignment on the steps of

the Chemistry Building. From left, band members are Dick O'Leary, Tom Shutt, Brian Davis, Richard Storm, and Mark Rose.

## Soviets put 1st men in space since disaster

Associated Press

MOSCOW — The Soviet Union launched two veteran cosmonauts Thursday on the first manned space mission since the Challenger disaster at Cape Canaveral, sending them to work aboard a new orbiting lab.

State television broke with custom and provided live coverage of the Soyuz T-15 blasting off from the Baikonur Cosmodrome in Soviet central Asia at 3:33 p.m. Moscow time (7:33 a.m. EST). U.S. television networks also broadcast the launch live.

The first live coverage of an all-Soviet mission showed the red and white craft streaking into slightly overcast skies above the space center in Kazakhstan. It carried commander Leonid Kizim and engineer Vladimir Solovoy to a rendezvous with the new orbiting station named Mir, which means Peace in Russian.

Tass, the official Soviet news agency, said the docking would occur in two days. The Mir was launched unmanned from Baikonur on Feb. 20.

Reporting the docking date was as unusual as televising the launch when it happened. Soviet officials have not explained the departure from customary practice.

Soviet television was quick to show film of the Jan. 28 Challenger explosion, which took the lives of all seven astronauts aboard. It shocked many viewers and prompted some to question why a foreign disaster was reported in detail at once while Soviet space launches, as well as major accidents and natural disasters, get scant coverage that usually is delayed.

Whatever the Kremlin's purpose, the contrast between Thursday's successful launch and the Challenger tragedy was a way to illustrate the Soviet space program's achievements to audiences here and abroad.

Marsha Smith, executive director of the U.S. National Commission on Space, said in Washington that the Soviets could be "trying to demonstrate that their space program is peaceful."

James Oberg, an American space engineer and author of several books on the Soviet space program, said in Houston that the launch broadcast was part of a new openness policy with great propaganda benefits.

"It also shows that they have a greater self-confidence in their program," he said. "It helps concentrate

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## Sources say shuttle flight recorders, computers retrieved

Associated Press

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Divers have recovered all four flight recorders and some of the five computers aboard the shuttle Challenger, and they may provide valuable data about the space disaster, sources said Thursday night.

Although submerged in salt water for six weeks, the instruments may be able to tell investigators about the moments before, and after, Challenger exploded 73 seconds into its flight Jan. 28, killing the crew of seven.

The sources close to the investigation, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the recorders and computers were brought ashore Wednesday night along with more

remains of the crew, parts of the flight deck and other debris.

The recovered monitors could provide information on such things as temperatures, acceleration and structural stresses.

They were being kept in cool water until they could be cleaned and dried under controlled temperature and humidity conditions at a NASA tape-recorder facility.

The computers, which were in complete control of the spacecraft during liftoff, may provide data on how the shuttle reacted during the thousandth of a second after the explosion occurred.

The USS Preserver, which docked Wednesday night with the new debris, headed for the search site again Thursday, but turned back after

winds gusting up to 40 mph churned the seas into 10-foot swells.

The storm stalled plans to recover a 400-to-500-pound chunk, which some officials say could be the segment of the right booster rocket believed responsible for the explosion. The chunk was located Wednesday 32 miles northeast of Cape Canaveral.

The Preserver slipped into port Wednesday night without running lights in an effort to block news photographers and television cameramen from obtaining clear pictures. Debris piled on its fantail was covered by canvas.

Reporters watching from a distance estimated that eight containers were placed in three ambulances that met the Preserver.

## Shuttle panel expects early finish

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Presidential investigators expect tests supervised by outside observers to prove within a month how and why a booster rocket seal caused the space shuttle Challenger to explode.

They expect to be able to finally rule out equipment other than the booster seal as the probable cause within a week or two, well ahead of the June 3 deadline for the panel's report.

"If we need more time, we will ask, but there is no evidence now that we will need it," said a source close to the presidential Challenger commission.

The report is crucial to resumption of space flights, because NASA won't begin changing hardware designs until it is in.

The commission is bringing in an outside expert to supervise, because panel members are skeptical of tests conducted by NASA

and its rocket contractor, Morton Thiokol, Inc., the source said.

The boosters have been the chief suspects all along in the Jan. 28 explosion that claimed seven lives.

But one NASA official testified only last Friday that tests might take three months to firmly establish them as the cause.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the independent observer will likely be a quasi-government agency.

## State cuts funding for women's clinic by about 63.5%

By KIM ROY

Reporter

Some local women will be paying more money for health care at Planned Parenthood of Brazos County because of a drastic cut in the center's state funding, says Sally Miller, director of the clinic.

The clinic, a private non-profit organization that provides female health care, depends primarily on state funds to keep clients' costs to a minimum, Miller says.

The only other sources of funding are private donations from the community and client fees.

The previous three-year contract the clinic had with the state allowed for \$210,000 per each contract year, Miller says.

The new contract, which began Sept. 1, allows for \$76,000 each year for three years, about a 63.5 percent decrease for each year.

"I think it's just another social program being cut," Miller says.

A government contract is like a service contract, she says. A client's cost is determined by a pay

evaluation, which is done before services are rendered.

The evaluation determines if a client is eligible for government assistance by considering such factors as the number of family members and family income.

If it is determined that a patient is eligible for government assistance, a bill is sent to the government after services are completed for its share of the costs, Miller says.

For those who are not entitled to government assistance, there is still a sliding pay scale based on the same factors.

Miller says that even though government funds will run out, the same pay evaluation method will be used to evaluate client need.

Although truly indigent women still will pay less than others who can better afford the services, the increase in costs will be drastic, Miller says.

The exact increase can't be re-

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## Inside A&M steam tunnels

Exploring University from underground an adventure

By OLIVIER UYTTEBROUCK

Reporter

A Texas A&M coed walks near the corner of Nagle and Lamar streets one night shortly after midnight when a hand emerges from a metal grate just a few inches from her feet and waves at her.

She has just fallen victim to an enthusiast of what is surely one of the world's strangest hobbies — steam tunnel exploring.

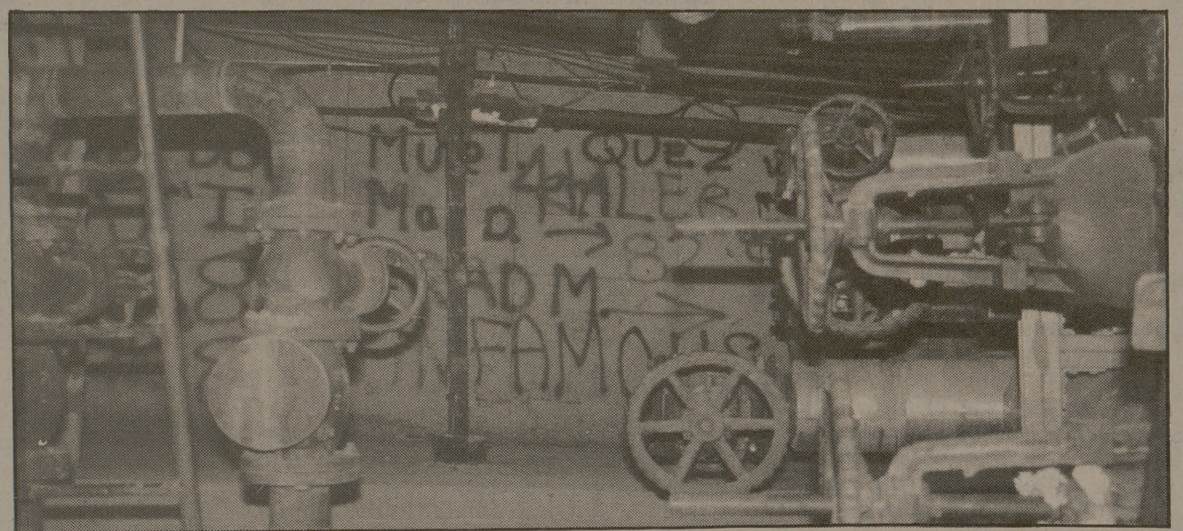
Any honest description of the steam tunnels does not draw an inviting picture of this underground world, at least not in terms of creature comfort.

Since there is no ventilation in most of the tunnels, strong odors accumulate and the air is stiflingly hot and humid. After just a few minutes below, even a T-shirt seems oppressively heavy, and it is quickly drenched in perspiration.

In other tunnels, a current of sultry air from some unaccountable source blows constantly.

During heavy rains, large amounts of mud wash into the tunnels and even after a dry spell, an inch or two of mud remains in some sections. Roaches are common, tunneling enthusiasts say, and certain parts are supposed to be so infested that they are nearly impassable.

A few of the tunnels, such as the one beneath Military Walk, are spa-



A few of the steam tunnels are spacious, but most of the passages are little more than crawlspaces.

not to catch the eye of the campus security guards.

But down they go, taking with them six-packs of beer and paint cans to scrawl their names and messages in the tunnels. Graffiti is everywhere — not just in the bigger tunnels but in the obscure tunnels and hard to reach places as well.

To the uninitiated, it isn't entirely clear what lures these people to slide open the heavy metal grates, at odd hours of the morning, and descend rusty ladders and stairways into the bowels of the University, taking care

not to catch the eye of the campus security guards.

But down they go, taking with them six-packs of beer and paint cans to scrawl their names and messages in the tunnels. Graffiti is everywhere — not just in the bigger tunnels but in the obscure tunnels and hard to reach places as well.

It is no exaggeration to say that hundreds, perhaps thousands of

messages are painted on the walls and pipes and even traced into the thick dust that covers everything in the tunnels. The Corps of Cadets is strongly implicated in much of the graffiti.

One message proclaims: The Army's finest walk these halls.

Another surprising message says:

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