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# Texas A&M The Battalion

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Photo by Mike Sanchez

## Under Cover

Texas A&M students brought out their umbrellas Wednesday to protect themselves from continual drizzle. Today's forecast calls for a high of 72, a low of 60 with a 40 percent chance of rain.

## State's monthly bill higher despite governor's request

AUSTIN (AP) — Checks written to pay the state's bills during March ran 15 percent higher than the bills had averaged over the previous six months, Comptroller Bob Bullock announced Wednesday.

Aides to Gov. Mark White said the report isn't a fair reflection on the governor's executive order to state agencies to cut spending.

March was the first full month state agencies operated under White's order.

Bullock said his bill-paying report also showed that the number of state employees increased by 889 during March, from 186,632 to 187,521. White's executive order called for a freeze on hiring.

In releasing his report, Bullock offered no comment on it. He said

the figures were strictly a job of bookkeeping.

"The agencies sent us their bills and we wrote the checks," Bullock said. "The figures mean nothing more and nothing less. Maybe next month the total will be less, maybe it will be more. That's what this monitoring is all about."

During March, the comptroller's office wrote \$1.6 billion worth of state checks, up \$217 million from the monthly average from September 1985 to February 1986.

White's executive order, issued in February, called on the approximately 200 state agencies and universities to trim spending by 13 percent from March through Aug. 31, 1987, the end of the current two-year state budget.

He issued the order — which asks that agencies obey but cannot require them to do so — after Bullock estimated that plunging oil prices would leave state government \$1.3 billion short of its 1986-87 budget total.

Ann Arnold, White's press secretary, said there were several reasons the figures aren't an accurate reflection on White's order.

She said the checks written encompass spending from all state government funds, including money Texas receives from the federal government.

She also said March spending included quarterly state aid payments to Texas schools, adding that it isn't fair to compare that month's figure with a six-month average.

## Reagan says Libya declared war on U.S.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan said Wednesday night that Libyan Leader Moammar Khadafy had declared war on the United States and this country is ready to respond when it has sufficient evidence that Libya is behind terrorist attacks on Americans.

Calling Khadafy "the mad dog of the Middle East," Reagan said his administration is still gathering evidence that might link the Libyan leader to fatal bombings aboard a TWA airliner and in a West Berlin nightclub.

Asked at a nationally broadcast news conference whether the United States is "in a state of war" with Khadafy, Reagan responded: "He declared it. We just haven't recognized the declaration yet."

"We're going to defend ourselves and we are certainly going to take action in the face of specific terrorist threats," he added.

Earlier Wednesday, Reagan told newspaper editors the United States is "not going to just sit here and hold still" amid mounting threats against Americans. He said he suspects Khadafy is behind surging terrorism.

Vice President George Bush, talking to sailors aboard the USS Enterprise in the Gulf of Oman, had called the Libyan strongman "a mad dog."

Reagan said, "We have considerable evidence over quite a long period of time that Khadafy has been quite outspoken in his participation and sponsoring terrorist acts."

But asked whether he was ready to announce military action in retaliation, Reagan said: "We are not ready yet to speak on that. Any action we might take would be dependent on what we learn and I can't go any further."

The Pentagon said Wednesday the Navy has taken steps to prepare a two-carrier battle group, including an indefinite extension of the carrier Coral Sea's deployment, if Reagan decides to order a military strike against Libya.

On the issue of retaliation, Reagan said: "This is a question that is like talking about battle plans or something. If and when we could specifically identify someone as responsible for these acts, we would respond. So this is what we are trying to do — to find out who's responsible."

In Tripoli, Khadafy said he and his top commanders have completed military plans to challenge the United States.

During a brief question-and-answer session at the annual meeting of the American Society of Newspaper Editors, Reagan said, "We are investigating and trying to gather all the information we can so that we can actually, with solid evidence, point a finger at who is responsible"

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for last week's explosion aboard a TWA jetliner and the bombing of a West Berlin disco.

Asked if the evidence gathered so far points to Khadafy, Reagan replied, "Let me say he is definitely a suspect."

Reagan promised to look into an editor's complaint that journalists covering the recent naval exercises off Libya were taken off the carrier USS Saratoga without being told when an exchange of fire took place between Libyan and U.S. forces.

He said he was unaware that six journalists aboard the carrier participating in the challenge to Khadafy's claim over the Gulf were spirited

away from the region when fighting broke out and were not told of the conflict.

But the president defended keeping some military operations secret, saying leaks can endanger U.S. forces and increase casualties. He called the White House "the leakiest place I've ever been in."

Reagan began his news conference by reading two statements — one urging Congress anew to approve his \$100 million aid package for Nicaraguan rebels, with no strings attached and prodding lawmakers to get on with passing a federal budget.

Noting that Congress appeared likely to miss the April 15 deadline for completing action on a budget for fiscal 1987, which starts next Oct.

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## West Germany ejects 2 Libyan diplomats

BONN, West Germany (AP) — West Germany ordered two Libyan diplomats out of the country Wednesday and said it has "several indications" that Libya was behind the bombing that wrecked a Berlin discotheque frequented by American soldiers.

Chief government spokesman Friedhelm Ost added, however, that the expulsions were not "directly connected" with the bomb attack early Saturday on the La Belle nightclub that killed two people and wounded 230.

In Washington, the State Department said kicking the two diplomats out was "an important initial step."

Ost told a news conference the two diplomats had been under observation for some time "for various activities not in accordance with the norms of diplomatic behavior."

He would not elaborate on his comments and refused to say whether the Libyans would have been ordered out if the bombing had not occurred.

The government spokesman said there were "indications but no concrete proof" that the Libyan Embassy in East Berlin, capital of communist East Germany, was behind the bomb attack.

On Tuesday, a West Berlin Interior Ministry official confirmed a newspaper report that Elamin Abdullah Elamin, a 47-year-old diplomat in the East Berlin em-

bassy, was suspected of directing the attack.

U.S. officials, while welcoming the expulsions, said they would like to see more anti-terrorist measures by the West Germans.

State Department spokesman Bernard Kalb said the West German action, and France's expulsion of two Libyan diplomats last week, represents "increasing recognition" of the threat posed by terrorists.

He would not reveal what information the United States provided to West Germany, saying only that "there is a close working relationship" and exchange of information.

Western diplomatic sources said Ost's statement about no direct connection between the expulsions and the bombing did not seem credible.

"I don't know why they said that. It could be that they don't want to look like vassals of the Americans" one said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

West German officials, also speaking privately, identified the Libyans expelled as Ahmed Omar M. Isaa and Mahmud Ahmed Shibani, both "middle-level diplomats" responsible for administration.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Juergen Chrobog said representatives of the Libyan Embassy in Bonn had denied that staff members behaved improperly.

## Impact with sea shattered module

# Shuttle cabin survived blast

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Challenger's crew cabin structurally survived the Jan. 28 explosion and nine-mile plunge from the sky but shattered when it hit the surface of the Atlantic Ocean, a federal safety expert reported Wednesday.

However, experts do not believe the astronauts survived the fall to the ocean. They believe the seven probably were killed instantly from the shock of the explosion or from aerodynamic forces as the cabin tumbled from the sky.

Terry Armentrout, director of the National Transportation Safety Board's bureau of accident investigation, said the cabin section broke cleanly away from the rest of the shuttle and when it "struck the water, it had some mass inside; that mass was the crew module."

Armentrout said aerodynamic forces rather than the explosion caused most of the initial breakup of Challenger and that the 140-to-180-mph impact with the water did the rest of the damage.

"The external tank did not explode. With all its potential, it would have been a much greater fireball."

— Terry Armentrout, director of the NTSB's bureau of accident investigation.

In fact, he said, there was no large explosion as everyone at first believed. He said it was more of a fireball and that the cloud of smoke and flame resulted from the flames that flashed when liquid oxygen and liquid hydrogen propellant mixed after the huge external fuel tank ruptured.

"There was evidence of explosion visually, but the explosion of the entire shuttle is not something we're seeing," he said. "The external tank did not explode. With all its potential, it would have been a much greater fireball."

Armentrout talked with reporters as he led them through hangars where the shuttle debris that has

been recovered has been laid out over a pattern of 4-foot-square grids.

It was the first public viewing of the debris, and it was a sobering sight to see the remains of the once sleek space plane spread out, battered, jagged and charred.

Most pieces were small, but in the hangar where the orbiter chunks are being examined there were large sections of the fuselage, the cargo bay doors and the right wing.

In a portable hangar nearby are chunks of the external tank, two of the three main engine nozzles and the two forward segments of the

booster rockets. Some of the tank parts are huge rectangular slabs measuring 10-to-25-feet on a side.

The crew cabin debris is being examined elsewhere in the main hangar and was not seen by the reporters. Most of the booster rocket parts are in a secure building because they still contain hazardous fuel.

Divers believe they have recovered all the astronaut remains they are going to find. These are being examined and identified in a medical laboratory here.

An estimated 14 percent to 16 percent of the total shuttle assembly has been recovered. Some was found floating in the days following the accident; the rest has been pulled from the ocean floor.

NASA asked the safety board the day after the accident to help it find the cause of the accident, using its expertise in investigating aircraft crashes.

## Parents' Weekend to start Friday at A&M

Parents' Weekend, a traditional activity at Texas A&M since 1925, begins Friday. The weekend allows parents to visit A&M in the University setting.

The tentative schedule for Friday follows. The rest of the schedule will be in Friday's Battalion.

**Student Government Open House**  
214 Pavilion  
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

**MSC Camera Print Sale**  
MSC 1st Floor  
10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Society for Entrepreneurship and New Ventures Reception**  
1st Floor MSC  
4 p.m.

**Federation of Aggie Mothers' Club Boutique**  
Rudder Exhibit Hall  
11 a.m.

**Meet deans and professors at mining engineering department**  
Doherty Building  
11 a.m.

**Engineers' Week Awards Ceremony**  
Zachry Lobby  
2 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**Sterling C. Evans Library Open House**  
1 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**Federation of Aggie Mothers' Club Meeting**  
Rudder Theater  
1:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Who's Who Reception**  
205 & 206 MSC  
3 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

**PSI CHI Psychology Reception**  
Academic Building 3rd Floor  
3 p.m. - 5 p.m.

**RHA Casino**  
MSC  
7 p.m. to midnight

**MSC Variety Show**  
Rudder Auditorium  
7:30 p.m.

**MSC Aggie Cinema presents "The Jagged Edge"**  
Rudder Theater  
7:30 p.m. & 9:45 p.m.