

# The Battalion

## Regents devote A&M resources to aid Texas

By Mona Palmer  
Assistant City Editor

The Texas A&M Board of Regents Monday announced the formation of "Commitment to Texas," a five-year program to commit intellectual and physical resources to helping the Texas economy.

The Texas Legislature recognized the importance of university research to the state's economy in the last legislative session when they passed the Texas Advanced Technology Research Program.

The Board intends to reallocate a total of \$53.3 million in resources — following the lead of the Legislature and goals of the research program.

"This program is going to be the most exciting thing to hit the state in 50 years," A&M President Frank E. Vandiver said.

A&M is in an economic crossroad,

he said, and has the ability to make a difference in the Texas economy.

Vandiver added that the University's role as a Texas resource depends on what it does in the next few years and that the plan is to re-direct University resources to benefit Texas and its people.

"We are teetering on the brink . . . of becoming one of the top five research universities (in the nation)," he said. "We are interested in making a real difference."

A&M Provost Dr. Donald McDonald gave the board a detailed description of the five-year plan.

He said it will pursue areas of research the University already has strength in and research that is important to the Texas economy.

Enhancing A&M's research also will contribute to the fundamental body of knowledge which is a posi-

tive long-term investment, McDonald said.

Regent Henry Cisneros added that the program should include an impact statement to assure Texans that the program is in their best interests.

The Board asserts that the program is good for Texas, he said, but people need to know that they are the top concern.

The Regents also allocated \$410,000 to establish a branch office of the A&M System in the Texas Medical Center in Houston.

Chairman David Eller said that the medical center has formally committed four acres to the University System for the branch office. He said Gen. Wesley Peel, vice chancellor for Facilities Planning and Construction, has been working on a location for the building.

The Board also approved a revision of A&M's investment policy, which will allow proceeds from the sale of bonds and related bond issue accounts to be placed in a common account.

The common account will permit

daily investments or withdrawal of funds on a unit basis.

In other action, the board:

• Approved an expansion of A&M's computer network for a total cost of \$301,656. The program will

expand the Ethernet high-speed computer to computer network and the port selector, terminal to computer, network.

• Approved a holiday schedule for the University's state employees with the total vacation being 15 days.

### 'Excellence fund' will support program

University News Service

The Texas A&M University System's "excellence fund" will be the source of allocations for A&M's "Commitment to Texas" program aimed toward assisting the state in moving forward more rapidly in economic diversification.

Board of Regents Chairman David G. Eller of Houston said

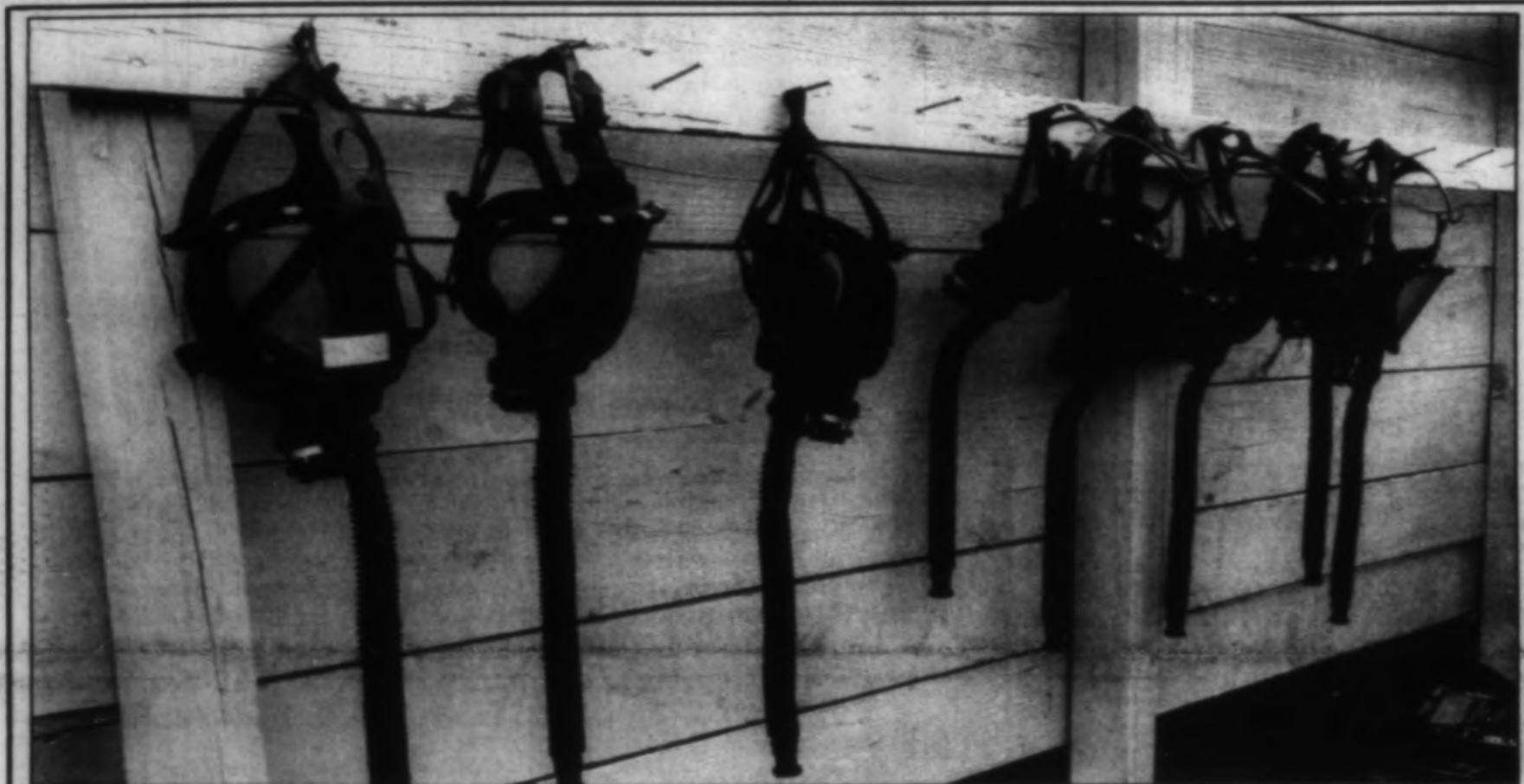
the program calls for the system to redirect a portion of its share of the Available University Fund to help the state overcome its financial crisis by broadening its economic base.

Emphasis will be placed on research and development in promising high-technology areas that could create thousands of new

jobs for Texans over the next decade, he said.

The AUF is derived from the proceeds from the investment of the Permanent University Fund, which includes oil and gas royalties and related income from land committed to providing an endowment for the state's two

(see Eller, page 4)



### Unmasked

These firefighting masks are part of the training equipment used at the Brayton Fireman Training Field. Approximately 2900 fire fight-

ers from 755 cities and 25 states are participating in training sessions at the field this week.

Photo by Tom Ownbey

## 2 severe temblors shake California, felt in Nevada, Utah

BISHOP, Calif. (AP) — A severe earthquake and a powerful aftershock rumbled across California and parts of Nevada and Utah Monday, wrecking up to 20 homes, cutting off a town's water and triggering rockslides in the High Sierra.

One giant fissure — 200 yards long and 150 yards wide — swallowed a parked pickup truck and stranded 50 campers, but no injuries were reported. Later Monday, violent thunderstorms prompted a flash flood warning.

The temblors measured 6.1 and 5.2 on the Richter scale, according to the University of California at Berkeley, and was the second strong earthquake in as many days. It was the fifth-sizeable quake to hit California in two weeks.

The quake struck at 7:42 a.m. in the White Mountains, 240 miles north of Los Angeles and was felt from San Francisco to Las Vegas, Nev., and in Salt Lake City, more than 500 miles away. The aftershock came nine minutes later. Both were centered 15 miles north of Bishop in the same area where a 5.5-magnitude quake hit Sunday, said Dennis Meredith, spokesman for California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

"A number of mobile homes were rocked off their foundations" in Chalfant Valley, 17 miles north of Bishop, Mono County sheriff's Sgt. Terry Padilla said.

"Currently there are about 145 homes in the immediate Chalfant area with about 300 residents," Forest Service spokeswoman Lorraine Parrish said. "Of those, about 50 to 60 are mobile homes. . . . Probably about 50 mobile homes were shaken off their foundations."

Chalfant firefighter Rick Mitchell said 20 homes, mostly mobile homes, were damaged beyond repair. But he said several non-mobile homes also were damaged, and one frame house nearly collapsed.

Customers of the Denny's restaurant in Bishop dove under tables or broke for the doors when the 6.1 quake hit, assistant manager Dave Campbell said.

"They were grabbing hold of each other and just trying to hang on," he said. "Anything that was laying down flat was just going across the counter."

Part of the ceiling caved in at a Burger King restaurant in Bishop, U.S. Forest Service spokesman Brian Miller said.

At Pleasant Valley campground near Bishop, 50 campers were stranded when a crevasse obliterated a road and swallowed a parked pickup truck, Inyo County sheriff's Sgt. Dick Wood said. All those in the camp's 200 campsites were safely evacuated later Monday, authorities said.

Wood said the opening was 150 yards wide and 200 yards long but didn't know how deep, although it was "enough to put a pickup truck down into."

The pickup truck sank about 30 feet deep and caught fire, Parrish said. At least one occupant was removed uninjured and the truck was later pulled out as well, she said.

The Richter scale is a measure of ground motion as recorded on seismographs. Every increase of one number means a tenfold increase in the strength of the shaking. Thus a reading of 7.5 reflects ground movement 10 times stronger than one of 6.5.

An earthquake of 3.5 on the Richter scale can cause slight damage in the local area, 4 moderate damage, 5 considerable damage, 6 severe damage. A 7 reading is a "major" earthquake, capable of widespread heavy damage; 8 is a "great" quake, capable of tremendous damage.

The San Francisco earthquake of 1906 has been estimated at 8.3 on the Richter scale.

## High temperatures force Austin to ration water

AUSTIN (AP) — With high temperatures nearing 100 degrees, Austin residents face fines beginning today for violating provisions of a mandatory water conservation program.

"I guess the day we were trying to avoid has finally come," City Manager Jorge Carrasco said.

The decision to impose mandatory water rationing rules again — as has occurred during the past two summers — was made Sunday after citywide water use topped 155 mil-

lion gallons daily for the third straight day.

Spokeswoman Faith George of the city's resource management department said Austin residents used 161.27 million gallons of water Saturday. Sunday's high temperature hit 100 degrees, the hottest of the year.

Voluntary water controls went into effect May 1. The biggest difference between those restrictions and the Stage 2 rationing plan is that police can issue tickets for violations.

The maximum fine is \$200, George said.

Carrasco said the ability to have adequate water pressure for firefighting was a prime concern.

"We have not experienced any unusual problems, but we feel that because of the hot weather and high demand, the only course of action is to impose Stage 2 mandatory conservation measures," he said.

The city's key problem isn't with water supply but with a distribution system that hasn't kept pace with

Austin's booming growth, officials said.

George said the conservation rules require that residents may use water for outdoor purposes, such as lawn watering, only every fifth day as determined by the last number of street addresses.

Should the controls fail and water use tops 165 million gallons daily for three consecutive days, the city could impose even tougher Stage 3 restrictions.

## System helps predict juvenile behavior

COLLEGE STATION — Brazos County authorities are using a new scoring system created by a Texas A&M criminologist in an effort to predict if juvenile offenders will move on to more serious crimes.

"It's like the actuarial tables used by insurance companies," the system's creator Ben Crouch said.

Crouch received a \$9,200 grant from the Criminal Justice Division of the governor's office to develop the measuring tool that is expected to help juvenile probation officers monitor their charges.

He and E.A. Wentreck Jr., Brazos

County's chief juvenile probation officer, say they expect the test to be accurate 69 percent of the time.

"We can flip a coin and be right half the time," Wentreck said. "With this system, we've improved on that by 19 percent."

The juvenile probation chief asked Crouch to develop the system after reading about a similar program in Calhoun County, Mich.

Crouch and a graduate assistant, with the help of Wentreck's staff, pored through records of 300 juvenile offenders in Brazos County,

checking cases stretching back seven years.

They were looking for more than 100 different variables in each case — such as school background, previous offenses, family history and age. After feeding the information into a computer, they found six factors that suggest a juvenile may have more run-ins with the law.

The factors include crimes committed at an early age, school problems and whether the offender has spent more than 24 hours in a juvenile detention facility, Wentreck said.

Using these factors, Crouch then developed a three-page tool that ranks an offender's probability of future crime.

"Lots of departments in Texas have their own systems, but this is the only one developed scientifically with university research," Wentreck said.

Officials will use the system to help decide what type of probation to give to a client as well as determining a probation officer's workload, he said.

The tests also will alert workers to which youngsters they should spend more time with, he said.

Both men said the system isn't foolproof.

"All of these systems have shortcomings," Crouch said. "You will always have errors. But a tool like this is used in conjunction with the probation officer's common sense and experience."

Although the system is modeled for Brazos County only, it can be modified by plugging local statistics and data into the formula, Crouch said.

## Southeast drought forces farmers to ask for federal aid

(AP) — Farmers in the Southeast need immediate help, beyond loans they can't pay off, for the drought that has dried up their crops, farmers and state officials told a federal task force Monday in the midst of a triple-digit heat wave already blamed for 27 deaths.

"The farmers are absolutely broke," Frank Strickland, who grows tobacco near Lakeland, Ga., told the panel. "We're going to see farmers walk into the bank, throw their papers on the desk and tell the banker, 'Here — take it.' And rural banks can't handle that."

Crop losses in the Southeast's worst drought in 100 years are estimated at up to \$700 million in just Virginia, the Carolinas and Georgia. The drought also is withering crops in parts of Alabama, northern Florida and into Delaware and Maryland.

Some major Georgia rivers are flowing at less than 40 percent of normal, and scattered towns in the Southeast have imposed water-use restrictions.

In addition, temperatures have been near or above 100 degrees for 15 days in parts of the Carolinas and

Georgia, and some cities have had highs above 90 for more than a month.

Although scattered thunderstorms cooled some parts of the region Monday, the official high for the 48 contiguous states was a record 105 at Augusta and Macon, Ga., and at Columbia, S.C., where it tied the record, the National Weather Service said. Atlanta and Columbus, Ga., hit a record 102 and Charlotte, N.C., reached a record 103 degrees.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture task force, headed by Assistant Agriculture Secretary George Dun-

lop, met with Georgia officials and toured an Alabama farm. They also planned to study farms in the Carolinas.

"We're heading for one of the worst disasters Southeastern agriculture has ever experienced," Rep. Lindsay Thomas, who represents southeast Georgia, told the group. "I don't know of anyone with a crop in the ground and a considerable investment in it who can survive this without outside help."

Politicians and farmers asked Dunlop for money, livestock feed and debt restructuring.

"We don't need any low-interest loans," U.S. Sen. Mack Mattingly said. "What we're looking for is free commodities, surplus commodities."

Dunlop touted the Federal Emergency Feed Assistance Program, which provides surplus commodities at low cost, but said there is "no provision in the law" for free commodities.

"We have to recognize that the farm bill provides \$22 billion worth of freebies this year, and many farmers qualify," Dunlop said.

Alabama Gov. George C. Wallace

has already asked for federal drought disaster assistance, but only limited relief so far has been approved.

Two Air Force cargo jets took off for South Carolina Monday with hay donated by farmers in Illinois and other Midwestern states, and a third trip was scheduled Tuesday to Georgia with another flight planned Wednesday.

"Farmers always receive a lot of rhetoric and politics . . . and this is really something concrete," Gov. Dick Riley of South Carolina said.

### Energy summit postponed

AUSTIN (AP) — A second energy summit meeting planned for Thursday in Houston was postponed Monday, Gov. Mark White's office announced.

White's aides said the meeting was being delayed because of the upcoming Aug. 6 special legislative session.

White, who for six months has unsuccessfully urged President Reagan to tax imported oil, organized a summit meeting of oil state governors and energy industry leaders in Dallas last April.