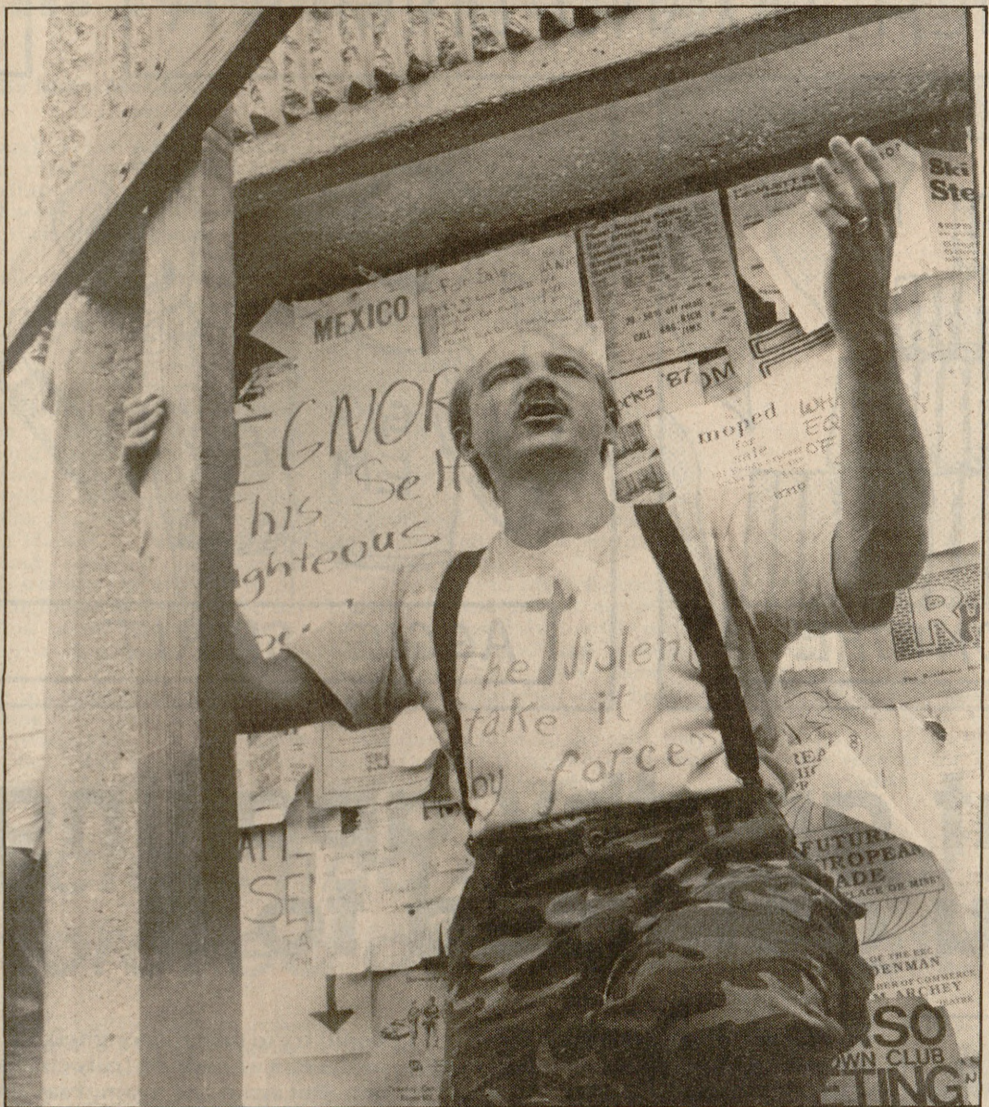


# Texas A&M The Battalion

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## Hear ye, hear ye

Armed with a cross and a Bible, Michael Peter Woroniecki preaches to Texas A&M students Monday at Rudder Fountain. Woroniecki said he feels conformity and hypocrisy are corrupting modern so-

ciety. His religious views, including beliefs in the phroneness of all Christian denominations, the uselessness of a college education and male dominance, were presented in a pamphlet.

Photo by Kristi Outer

## Stock market plunge rivals 1929 plummet

NEW YORK (AP) — The stock market plunged out of control Monday in a selling panic that rivaled the Great Crash of 1929, pushing the Dow Jones average down more than 500 points, draining more than \$500 billion from the value of stocks and sending shock waves around the world.

"Whether today was a financial meltdown or not... I wouldn't want to be around for one worse than this," said John Phelan, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange.

The Dow's plunge to 1,738.74 left it 22.6 percent below Friday's level, a one-day loss far larger than the 12.8 percent drop on Oct. 28, 1929, known as Black Monday, or Oct. 29, 1929, when it fell an additional 11.7 percent.

The Dow average's worst percentage decline ever was on Dec. 12, 1914, early in World War I, when it lost 24.4 percent of its value.

The market fell on itself in wave after wave of selling in the busiest trading day ever on the New York Stock Exchange.

The Dow industrials fell 508.00 points to 1,738.74, a loss of nearly 1,000 points since the market's peak Aug. 25.

The latest decline left the Dow industrial average about 36 percent below its peak of 2,722.42 on Aug. 25 and at its lowest point since April 1986.

The collapse of prices caused long-term damage to the health of stock exchanges and probably destroyed some of the confidence that underpins the growth of the world economy, analysts said.

"We're having extreme panic in the marketplace," said Alfred E. Goldman, director of market analy-

sis for A.G. Edwards & Sons in St. Louis.

"It's like Armageddon," he said.

Analysts were reluctant to compare Monday's plunge with the stock market crash that helped set off the Depression of the 1930s, but they said there were fears in the market that a possible recession in the

United States could snowball into a worldwide downturn.

"In a nutshell, this thing could go further," said Leonard Grimaldi, executive vice president of Amivest Corp. in New York. "There's a domino effect here."

"This is a dangerous day to say the least, and we are not alarmists here," Grimaldi said.

## Professors at A&M say several factors caused record market drop

By Elisa Hutchins  
Staff Writer

Most records are made to be broken but the Dow Jones industrials average plunge from 2,247.06 on Friday to 1,738.74 on Monday, a difference of more than 500 points, was not a statistic that anyone wanted to see.

The one-day record loss, 22.6 percent of the stocks listed in the Dow index, was larger percentage-wise than the Oct. 28, 1929 Black Monday crash of 12.8 percent.

"We feel like this is a panic situation," said Marty Thompson, an employee of Dean Witter Reynolds Inc. in College Station.

"I don't know how to gauge the amount of activity, but we're busier than we have ever been," he said.

The Dow is an index of 30 stocks that are fairly stable and has

acted as an economic indicator since 1884. Some stocks listed in the index include Sears, Exxon Corp., General Motors and AT&T.

Last year on Oct. 20, the Dow stood at 1,837.04.

Arthur James, Texas A&M visiting economics instructor, said the Dow is a good indicator but the point gains or drops do not accurately reflect the market.

"If the Dow drops you have to look at the volume of trading," he said.

"It (Dow) can drop by a lot of points but if trading was light, there is not much of a problem," James said. "But if the volume is high — it matters."

More than 546 million shares were traded Monday, compared with Friday's 263.2 million shares.

See Stocks, page 5

## U.S. ships attack Iranian platforms in Persian Gulf

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — U.S. warships destroyed two Iranian oil platforms in the Persian Gulf on Monday and Navy commandos raided a third.

Iran said the Americans had begun a full-fledged war to which it promised "a crushing response."

President Reagan called the 85-minute attack "a prudent yet restrained response" to Friday's missile strike on a U.S.-flagged tanker off Kuwait.

The Pentagon said no Americans were

injured in Monday's operations. Tehran said the attack wounded some Iranian "civilian crewmen" but did not mention fatalities.

The White House said gunfire wiped out two platforms at one location and U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said the battle area was the Rostam oil platforms.

After some initial confusion, Tehran said the two platforms hit were at the Reshadat, or Rakhsh, field 75 miles east of Qatar and

60 miles from the Iranian coast. Rakhsh and Rostam are about 20 miles apart.

The discrepancy between the Iranian and U.S. reports could not be immediately resolved. On all except very detailed maps of the gulf, the two fields appear to be very close.

The oil platforms, which have an underwater pipeline running to Iran's coastal Lavan island, are among many permanent drilling rigs in the central gulf. Iran is known to have used some for helicopter

and armed speedboat attacks on commercial shipping.

Before darkness fell, salvage tugs and other craft reported columns of smoke rising from the offshore rigs. U.S. warships were warning other craft away from the area, shipping executives in the gulf said.

At 1:30 p.m., the four destroyers moved to within about 6,000 yards of the two platforms, said Fred S. Hoffman, the Pentagon's chief spokesman.

Ten minutes later they broadcast a warning:

"Reshadat, Reshadat. This is the U.S. Navy. We will commence firing on your position at 1400 hours. You have 20 minutes to evacuate the platform."

Weinberger said Iranians on the platforms were then seen scrambling into a small boat and sailing away from the area.

An 85-minute barrage of 1,000 rounds of 5-inch gunfire destroyed the platforms.

## Texas A&M to pump more than \$250 million into county's economy

By Lee Schexnaider  
Staff Writer

During the 1988 fiscal year, Texas A&M will pump more than a quarter of a billion dollars in wages and salaries into the Brazos County economy.

A new breakdown of payroll figures done in A&M's Budget and Human Resources office shows the payroll for this fiscal year beginning last month to be more than \$250 million. Milton Lancaster, vice chancellor of budgets and human resources, said he estimated this is a 6 percent to 8 percent increase over last year.

Patricia Chapman, assistant vice chancellor, said this is the first time A&M has used this type of study, which breaks the Texas A&M University System's payroll into counties. The study is based on last month's payroll figures. In September, A&M paid \$21.6 million to 5,081 employees, which include administration, staff, faculty and student workers.

Chancellor Perry Adkisson said the increase in the overall payroll from last year was largely due to salary increases for A&M faculty and other System faculty.

Dan Parker, assistant provost, said faculty salaries at A&M have risen by an average of about 10 percent.

"We gave about a 10 percent average (payroll) increase to our faculty starting Sept. 1," Parker said. "Of course, everyone did not get a 10 percent increase."

Lancaster said non-faculty pay increases averaged 4 percent.

Parker said the main purpose for the increase in faculty pay is to retain faculty members A&M already employs. Pay increases may help with future faculty recruitment, he said,

but A&M's budget was not approved by the state Legislature until the end of July, he said, so the University didn't have much time for faculty recruitment this year.

Switzer Deason, a member of the executive committee of the A&M-Bryan-College Station Council and owner of Check Worthy Inc. in Bryan, said he was glad to see the new payroll figures. He said any increase in the money A&M generates locally will help bring new businesses into the community.

"I think the importance of the University to the community needs to be emphasized," Deason said. "I don't think that anybody I know had any idea at all what the aggregate payroll was at the University because we tend to think in terms of buildings that are built and total budgets."

"Everyone knows that if a person lives in Bryan-College Station and receives a paycheck from the University, a large part, if not all of the money will be spent in this community."

Lynn Stuart, vice president of economic development for the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce and president of Bryan Construction, said the increases in A&M-generated payroll money would give a boost to the local economy.

"I guess you could say that A&M is the backbone of the economy," Stuart said. "The changes that are happening at A&M, from the Board of Regents level down through the System's administration and the University administration, what all seem to be more aware of, they are going on in the local area."

"They are dedicated to being a full partner in the growth of Bryan-College Station and that is very encouraging."

## CS fire marshal says city doesn't get cooperation needed from University

By Richard Williams  
Reporter

College Station firefighters are fighting the fires at Texas A&M, but the city of College Station is not getting the help from A&M it should, College Station Fire Marshal Harry Davis said.

"The firefighters are putting their lives on the line and A&M doesn't seem to want to help," Davis said.

But A&M Safety and Health Officer Harry Stiteler said the

### Fire safety at Texas A&M Part two of a two-part series

College Station Fire Department and A&M have a good working relationship.

"The College Station Fire Department has been super in working with us," Stiteler said.

Davis has said A&M is not providing enough fire protection in its buildings, while Stiteler believes A&M is "providing adequate life safety" and complies with the codes as much as possible.

State Fire Marshal Ernest Emerson said that because A&M is a state agency, it does not have to follow College Station building codes, and since there are no state-mandated building safety codes, A&M is free to adopt its own codes.

Wesley E. Peel, A&M vice chancellor for Facilities Planning and Construction, said A&M is building all new buildings to meet the Southern Building Congress Codes and the National Fire Protection Association Life Safety Codes. These codes are being used as guidelines, Peel said, not as absolute rules.

Davis said College Station's main complaint is that it does not have significant input in the construction process on campus.

"The biggest problem is that we are unable to control what is built on campus," Davis said. "We provide the fire protection, so we think we ought to have some say as to how a building is built."

However, both Paul W. Stephens, manager of the A&M System Facilities Planning Division, and Stiteler said the CSFD does have some input into what is built on campus. Both said A&M shows the fire department plans for new buildings and asks for suggestions.

But Stiteler said just because the fire department makes suggestions on how to increase safety factors, that doesn't necessarily mean a building is unsafe.

However, Davis said A&M used to call him when planning a new building, but that practice has since been stopped.

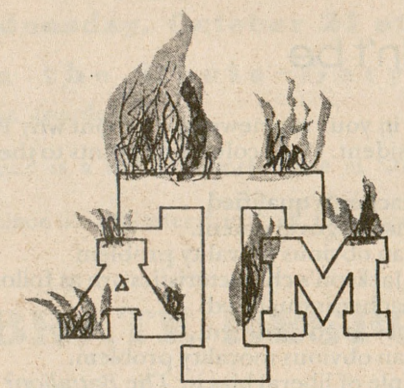
"The last time we got called on was, maybe, five or six years ago," Davis said. "We would go over there and tell them what we wanted and they just said they were not going to change the plans. They don't call anymore."

Peel said he agrees with Davis that College Station officials are no longer notified.

He said A&M has at least four meetings each time a new building is built to review the construction plans. Peel said the meetings are public meetings and "there is nothing to keep them (College Station officials) out."

"We are not going to issue a special invitation to them," he said.

Davis said attending review meetings yields no results for the city.



Graphic by Richard Williams

"We have gone to those meetings before," Davis said. "We have brought up stuff that needs to be done and they don't do it."

Peel said he doesn't understand why city officials are concerned that the University meets SBC Codes. Davis said the CSFD is concerned because it has to fight fires at A&M.

But the situation probably won't change anytime soon.

"I think they realize they're (the CSFD) going to have to live with it," Stiteler said.

Although some think the situation is hopeless, Emerson said a few other states have enacted state building codes.

The sad part of the story, he said, is those codes are usually a reaction to a disaster.

"The codes are... traditionally not enacted until there has been a major fire... in which a lot of people lose their lives," Emerson said.

Davis said he can't do much about the situation because he has no authority over the University. But, he said, he wishes the Uni-

"I'm the one who is going to have to explain to some kid's parents why their kid died," Davis said.

Installation of sprinkler systems in buildings is one area where the building codes A&M uses as guidelines might not be met, Stiteler said.

Without sprinkler systems there is no added danger, Stiteler said, but A&M would be better protected if they were installed.

Stiteler also would like to see A&M use more sprinklers on campus, but he said there are some areas sprinklers can't be used.

"We can't put water in the dorms," he said. "The students would just ruin them."

Fire hoses that used to be in residence halls already have been removed because of vandalism, he said.

"If we could get a little better cooperation from the students, we would be better off," Stiteler said. "Not all of the students are hell raisers. In fact, very few students cause problems."

Many students set off fire alarms by accident, he said. Sawing boards in a dorm room, for example, could cause a smoke detector to go off because of the dust particles it throws into the air, Stiteler said.

One problem between A&M and College Station has been A&M's high percentage of false alarms, or alarms for which there was no actual fire.

Although the actual number of false alarms at A&M has increased over the past year, Davis said, A&M has done a good job in cutting down on the number of

See Fire safety, page 5