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Photo by Sarah Cowan

Aquaman

Outdoor education 230 instructor, Tom Meinecke, leads members of his scuba class in Cain Pool.

Stock market regains half of record loss

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors flocked back to the world's stock markets Wednesday, shaking off a trillion-dollar panic and sending indexes to record gains in New York, London and Tokyo.

The Dow Jones industrial average, climbing halfway back from Monday's historic 508-point collapse, rose 186.84 points to 2,027.85. The index had risen a record 102.27 points Tuesday.

The partial recovery in New York Tuesday contributed to record gains Wednesday in indexes on the Tokyo and London stock exchanges. The improved attitude carried over into trading in the United States.

Analysts speculated that investors may have been pleased by world leaders' responses to the market's panic, which erased more than \$500 billion from the value of U.S. stocks and more than \$1 trillion from world stocks in 24 hours.

The Dow industrials' plunge Monday wiped out 22.6 percent of the index's value — a bigger one-day decline than during the 1929 crash.

West Germany took a small step this week to hold down its interest

rates, and President Reagan and leaders of Congress recommitted themselves to whittling away the federal budget deficit.

Reagan said Wednesday he has not eased his opposition to higher tax rates.

Nevertheless, economists said there was no major news event to account for either the plunge or the partial recovery.

Trading volume was 449.35 million shares, higher than any day except Monday and Tuesday, when the volume passed 600 million shares.

The value of all U.S. stocks, which fell \$503 billion Monday, gained \$60 billion Tuesday and another \$183 billion Wednesday, according to the Wilshire Associates 5,000 Equity Index of stocks traded on the New York and American exchanges and over the counter.

Market spirits were boosted by the Federal Reserve's commitment to inject money into the financial system to avoid any crises and by the commitments of nearly 100 corporations to repurchase their own stock.

Iran renews threat as ships pass ruined platforms

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — A convoy of reflagged Kuwaiti tankers and American warships steamed south Wednesday past the two Iranian oil platforms destroyed by U.S. Navy artillery. Iran renewed its threat of reprisal.

Shipping sources in Kuwait reported a loud explosion off the

southern coast, near the Mina Saud oil port, but said they did not know the cause.

Iraq said its aircraft raided two tankers off Iran — one Tuesday night and the other Wednesday night — but neither strike was confirmed by gulf-based shipping executives.

A senior Iranian diplomat said the response to Monday's attack on the oil platforms would "not necessarily be limited" to the Persian Gulf region, where Iran and Iraq have been at war since September 1980.

"Iran has several plans under consideration and will soon act to make the United States pay for its actions,"

Ali Ahani, the Foreign Ministry's director for political affairs, told reporters in Bonn, West Germany. "The United States will regret this action."

Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, sent a letter to the United Nations claiming the U.S. attack violated the Security Council's

unanimous cease-fire resolution of July 20 and demanded a council protest.

The convoy is expected to complete the 550-mile trip out of the gulf Thursday.

It is the 12th in the three months since U.S. warships began escorting Kuwaiti-owned tankers, registered

in the United States and flying American flags, to protect them from Iranian attack. The convoys have logged more than 7,000 miles.

Iran began regular attacks last year on ships owned by or serving Kuwait. The Iranians accuse Kuwait of receiving arms shipments for its neighbor Iraq and otherwise aiding Iran's enemy.

FAA says number of near misses increased 50 percent in 9 months

WASHINGTON (AP) — The number of near-collision reports involving commercial aircraft jumped nearly 50 percent during the first nine months of this year, according to Federal Aviation Administration figures.

There was disagreement Wednesday, however, among aviation-safety experts on the significance of the increase on air

The chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board said the sharp rise in near collisions shows that travelers were exposed to an "increased risk" of an aerial collision during the past summer, but the head of the FAA called the statistical jump "not in itself very meaningful."

According to the FAA, the agency received 857 near-collision reports from pi-

lots during the first nine months of the year, a 37 percent increase over last year. The number of such reports involving planes carrying revenue-paying passengers increased even more sharply, from 258 last year to 383 this year, up 48 percent.

During the busy summer months — June through August — there were 159 near-collision reports involving at least one com-

mercial plane, an increase of 50 percent over the summer of 1986. The sharpest increase — 69 percent — came in August when there were nearly two such incidents reported a day, according to the FAA figures.

Jim Burnett, chairman of the NTSB, said, "If you look at near midair collisions, they continued throughout the summer at

very high levels. Somehow we're going to have to get a handle on that."

But FAA Administrator Allan McArtor said that while the increase during the nine-month period, compared to the same months in 1986, is a matter of concern to his agency, he does not consider the figures in themselves "very meaningful" because actual collisions continue to be extremely rare.

Seven colleges show increase in number of students enrolled

By Susan C. Akin
Reporter

The large enrollment increase at Texas A&M, the downturn in Texas industry and fluctuations in research funding all have played a part in the enrollment figures, for better or worse, for each of A&M's 11 colleges.

Of the seven colleges that show enrollment increases this year, the College of Liberal Arts had the largest with 1,171 new students, reflecting a 29.6 percent increase and has been A&M's fastest growing college since 1984, said Dr. Charles Stoup, senior academic business administrator for liberal arts.

"Our enrollment went up 18.2 percent in 1986 and 29.6 percent in 1987," Stoup said. "And our freshman class increased 41 percent this year with bountiful enrollment."

Stoup credits this great increase to nationwide trend toward traditional liberal arts disciplines.

"Other schools have increasing liberal arts programs too," he said. "People are starting to realize it's OK to go to A&M for liberal arts. It's a dramatic event at A&M because we're not so small."

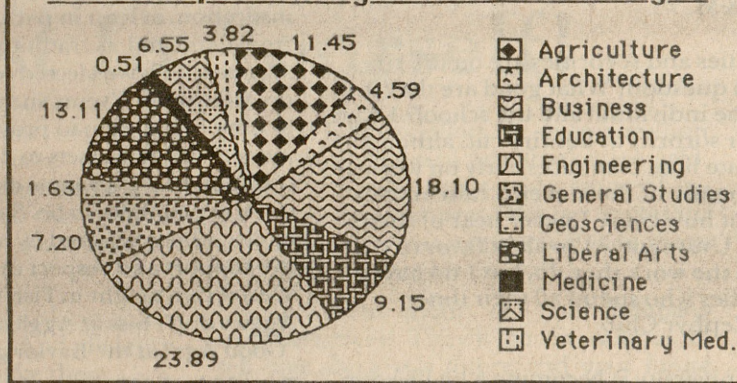
But the liberal arts college isn't the only one with bountiful enrollment.

The College of Education's enrollment rose 11.8 percent this year, giving the college the second place spot in terms of enrollment increases.

Dr. Dean Corrigan, dean of the College of Education, said teaching is becoming a more recognizable profession, raising the popularity of the college and the number of students by 376.

"Things are happening in education to improve the conditions of the teacher," Corrigan said. "People are in-

Student percentages in A&M colleges



Graphic by Susan C. Akin

terested in quality teaching so salaries are better now. Without good teachers we have almost nothing else.

"Quality begets quality. Every time we raise our standards we get more students who want to enroll in our programs. Currently we produce more teachers than any other school in Texas."

Another college having an abundant student enrollment, up by 659 students this year, is the College of Business Administration with a 10.3 percent increase.

Dr. Samuel Gillespie, assistant dean in the business administration college, said his concerns grow as the enrollment in his college increases.

"First we're concerned with being able to accommodate all those new students," Gillespie said. "Then we're concerned with the business college's 3,000 student limit, which is currently at 2,868."

Gillespie explained that the busi-

ness administration college does not allow more than 3,000 students into its majors or upper division courses. Students who meet the University entrance requirements enter the college with a business administration classification, he said. When students complete the college's requirements they are allowed to apply to upper division, he said.

"With all the freshmen who have entered the business college this year, it may not be possible to accommodate them all into the upper division when they get there," Gillespie said. "We're happy with the student turnout, but I'm sure the students aren't."

The College of Science is also trying to attract the best students to their programs and has succeeded in gaining 234 new students this year.

Dr. Carlton Maxson, associate dean in the College of Science, said the college's 10.1 percent increase in student enrollment can be attributed

to its excellent programs, to \$16.9 million in research funding and to new facilities.

"Our biology, chemistry, math and physics departments have all experienced great growth in the past few years," Maxson said. "Physics has increased 65 percent since 1984. A lot of the growth is an increase in graduate student numbers. Graduate students supplement the research programs we have."

"We also have state-of-the-art undergraduate facilities. Students are working on the frontier of their research, so they want to come to a university where they get that type of environment. Our new chemistry building and 2-year-old physics building house modern equipment so students can get hands-on experience in their field."

One of the places more students are going to find out about programs like the sciences is the College of General Studies, which had an enrollment increase of 5.8 percent, or 154 new students, this year.

"Our enrollment increase reflects the general increase across campus," said Scott Shafer, academic counselor for the general studies college. "We encourage students to enroll in general studies, help them make a choice and encourage them to leave."

"We are primarily a counseling service to help students explore different academic areas. Students' main opportunity here is being in a place where they will feel no pressure from any one college and to have the choice to look at different areas of study."

Another area of study that has seen a small increase of 3.2 percent, or 46 new students, is the College of Veterinary Medicine.

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Firefighters say they have 'no confidence' in Bryan chief's ability

By Richard Williams
Reporter

All firefighters under the command of Bryan Fire Chief Claude Jenkins III have signed a petition, presented to Bryan city officials Monday, stating the firefighters "have lost total and complete confidence in Chief Jenkins' ability to be an effective administrator and Fire Chief."

The petition, addressed to City Manager Ernest Clark and Director of Personnel Services Georgia Langston, further states the petition "will serve as a vote of no confidence in regards to Fire Chief Claude Jenkins III."

At a press conference Wednesday night Nick Pappas and C. Warren Fowler, spokesmen for the Bryan firefighters, said the firefighters want to let the city officials handle the situation.

"This is a very serious issue and the city of Bryan is taking it very seriously," Fowler said. "We were assured by Mr. Clark there will be a complete and thorough investigation of all allegations."

Clark was out of town Wednesday and could not be reached for comment, and Marvin Norwood, the deputy city manager issued a "no comment" statement.

Jenkins could not be reached for comment on the petition.

The firefighters are not putting any pressure on the city to give them an answer, Pappas said. "It is very important that the city handle it, and we do have the trust in the city to handle it properly," he said.

The petition states the signers feel "the attitude and actions of the fire chief have jeopardized

not only our safety, but more importantly, the lives and property of the citizens of Bryan."

Pappas said the firefighters would continue to work and that it would be "business as normal." He said the petition would have no effect on the firefighters' ability to do their jobs.

The firefighters say in the petition that the "fire chief has destroyed our respect and confidence in a number of ways."

Among the ways listed are: a lack of "departmentwide comprehensive and viable training program . . . in the areas of fire suppression, safety inspections and emergency medical services;" that "he has been unresponsive to suggestions for improvement that have been submitted in good faith;" that he has been "inconsistent in his treatment of employees in regards to disciplinary matters" and that "he has acted in a manner wholly inconsistent with our prime objective of public safety."

The firefighters are writing up a list of exact events for the city, and the individuals involved will be available to sit down with a grievance committee to discuss the events, Pappas said.

The petition states that "regardless of the direction of change that would be placed upon him by his supervisors, we feel that no amount of time or other disciplinary action could reverse the amount of damage this man has caused."

When asked what action the firefighters wanted to take place Fowler said, "I believe that is pointed out pretty clearly in the grievance letter itself."