

# The <sup>Texas A&M</sup>Battalion

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## Explosions reported on first day of strike

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Bombs exploded on buses and trains Monday, the beginning of a three-day strike by hundreds of thousands of black workers and students in defiance of government emergency regulations.

Manpower Minister Pieter du Plessis said the protest was illegal and that workers who took part might be fired.

Many factories were closed, including all seven major auto plants, but the mining industry said it was virtually unaffected, with only 9,000

of 550,000 blacks at major companies missing work. Mining earns 80 percent of South Africa's foreign exchange.

Police in the KwaZulu black homeland said a firebomb wounded five bus passengers. The homeland government, which opposes the strike, said nine were hurt.

No injuries were reported in several other bombings of buses and of railroad cars, tracks and stations.

Scores of schools were empty in black townships around Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban. Sev-

eral universities delayed final exams or canceled classes.

Buses were stoned and there were reports of police gunfire in Guguletu township near Cape Town. Police and soldiers patrolled in greater numbers and stood guard at some train stations.

A three-day strike would be the longest nationwide protest since an emergency was decreed June 12, 1986 to thwart a black revolt against apartheid, the policy of race discrimination that reserves power for South Africa's 5 million whites and denies the 26 million blacks a voice in national affairs.

It is the most ambitious opposition effort since the banning in February of political activity by major anti-apartheid groups and the largest black labor federation.

Among the main targets were those prohibitions and proposed legislation that would curtail the ability of labor unions to strike.

Black union leaders had called for a "national protest" without specifying a strike. They said they hoped to pressure business leaders into demanding the government ease restrictions on the anti-apartheid movement.

"This expression of opposition is one of the few remaining avenues of peaceful and legitimate protest available to us," said Jay Naidoo, head of the predominantly black Congress of South African Trade Unions, the nation's largest labor group.

If the labor congress is barred from such protests, "then the new era of labor relations is doomed and industrial stability is seriously jeopardized," he said in a statement.

Unions have accused employers of aiding an alleged government effort to weaken the black labor movement, which became legal only nine years ago. The strike is viewed as a test of strength for the unions and their allies.

Employers normally have a "no work, no pay" policy in illegal strikes but have reacted more strongly this time. Some obtained court orders prohibiting calls for strikes at their plants. Others threatened to dismiss absentees or cancel union contracts.

## Reagan claims treaty remains an uncertainty

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan said Monday that while the Moscow summit produced "important additional strides" toward a strategic arms treaty, "we still don't know" when it can be achieved.

In a post-summit assessment of his talks with Soviet Communist Party General Secretary Mikhail S. Gorbachev, Reagan acknowledged that completion of the less-ambitious Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces, or INF, treaty was "the event that held perhaps the most immediate historic importance."

Reagan looked rested and refreshed after a quiet weekend at the White House, and spokesman Martin Fitzwater said the president "feels very good, in fact, frisky."

The 77-year-old chief executive had seemed fatigued at times last week, and he spoke in a hoarse voice during an address in London on Friday, the day after the summit ended.

In his speech Monday to the World Gas Conference, Reagan said "the significance of this (INF) treaty

can hardly be overstated." "These missiles will not simply have been shuffled around on the map or placed in storage; they will have been destroyed," he said.

Although the two sides remained far apart on many matters involving a Strategic Arms Reduction, or START, treaty slashing up to 50 percent of the U.S. and Soviet stockpiles of the most dangerous missiles in their arsenals, Reagan did say that he and Gorbachev had made progress.

Gorbachev had voiced disappointment in Moscow that the talks did not move further, lamenting "missed opportunities."

Among other things, the two sides failed to narrow differences over the inclusion of sea-launched cruise missiles in such a treaty.

At the outset of his speech to the members of natural gas associations from some 45 countries, Reagan noted the presence of Soviet delegates.

## Center plans dig at unexplored site in Alamo's plaza

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Archaeologists hope to find out more about the famous Alamo battle when they begin excavating a previously unexplored site in the tourist-laden Alamo Plaza.

The \$20,000 excavation, expected to begin this week in a small area in the plaza's center, is being funded by the city as preliminary work for the plaza's re-planting.

The work will be done by professional and student archaeologists from the University of Texas at San Antonio's Center for Archaeological Research.

"This is another piece of the puzzle we're trying to put together to better understand what happened there," the center's Acting Director Jack Eaton said.

Bulldozers are scheduled to begin moving the top 30 inches of earth from the area before students and archaeologists begin digging the area by hand, Eaton said.

The excavation area — in between a gazebo and a cenotaph — has been documented as the site of the south wall of the Alamo

complex and where the main wooden gate to the old mission quadrangle was located.

Old maps also indicate the possibility that an acequia, or irrigation ditch, and battle trenches could be uncovered in the excavation, which will be funded through July 8.

"We have three or four old maps," Eaton said. "And would you believe all of them are different? But if we find trenches, we'll probably find artifacts in them."

Eaton said the maps indicate that the trenches were intricately designed to keep invaders away from the Alamo.

He said that could mean that Mexican troops placed the trenches there during the December 1835 Battle of Bexar when the Mexican army had control of the Alamo.

The archaeologist said Mexican troops at the Battle of Bexar led by Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna's brother-in-law, Gen. Martin Perfecto de Cos, included military engineers who would understand the importance of building a trench to make it more difficult for the enemy to reach the Alamo.

## Test: Basic skills aid minorities

AUSTIN (AP) — Educators' increased focus on basic skills is narrowing the achievement gap between Texas minority students and their classmates, educational leaders said.

Recently released results of the Texas Educational Assessment of Minimum Skills test show that a growing percentage of black and Hispanic students are mastering math, reading and writing skills in the third, fifth, seventh and ninth grades.

"We've got a lot farther to go, but actually the (achievement) gap has been closing for a period of several years," Texas Education Commissioner William Kirby said Sunday.

Minority students improved in all categories in the four grades, except in the ninth-grade reading category. Their improved scores helped raise statewide test results for the second consecutive year.

Despite the gains in achievement, scores for both minority groups still lag behind those of white students.

For example, 82 percent of white fifth-grade

students mastered all TEAMS tests, while 60 percent of the Hispanic and black students passed the test this year.

In comparison, 68 percent of the white students passed the reading, writing and math sections in 1986, compared to 43 percent of the Hispanic students and 42 percent of the black pupils.

A number of factors are thought to have caused the improved student performance.

"We want to attribute the increase to better-quality instruction," said Marvin Veselka, the Texas Education Agency's assistant commissioner for assessment and evaluation.

For example, in the 1985-86 school year, Texas for the first time implemented a statewide curriculum that told teachers not only what subject to teach but which "essential elements" to teach within the course.

"In the past, teachers would teach the areas they liked the best," said Bernice Hart, an Austin school board member and former educator. "Now you can't just skim over something."

Veselka said the TEAMS test results provide teachers with information about each student's academic strengths and weaknesses.

Ms. Hart said teachers, armed with that diagnostic information, "are utilizing better methods of getting at the kids' weaknesses."

Kirby said small class sizes mandated in kindergarten through second grade by the 1984 educational reforms may also be contributing to the higher scores of all third-grade students. He noted that some of the biggest achievement gains among Texas students have come at that grade level.

For instance, 17 percent more black third-grade pupils mastered the math section of the TEAMS test this year than did in 1986. Twenty-one percent more Hispanic third graders mastered basic writing skills in 1988 than in 1986.

"The business of achievement is a lot more highly correlated to poverty than it is to race. Since minority kids disproportionately tend to be poor, that's why disproportionately ... minority kids have trouble in school," Kirby said.



Up, up and away

Roger W.W. Garrett, disc jockey at KORA, looks to the ground while KORA business reporter David Decker gives a thumbs up to the

'Swizzle Stick' chase crew as they launch from Iola Monday. The broadcast was the first to be aired from a balloon over the Brazos Valley.

Photo by Jay Janner

## Texas universities pay less despite gains

AUSTIN (AP) — The gap is narrowing, but Texas' state university faculty members are still paid less than their counterparts in other states, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board said Monday.

The 1987-88 average salary for professors, associate professors, assistant professors and instructors at Texas state universities was \$37,091, a 10.5 percent increase from the previous year.

That moved Texas to within 4.1 percent of the national average of \$38,669. In 1987-88, the average Texas salary was 8.9 percent below

the national average.

"Adequate compensation is critical to our efforts to attract and retain outstanding faculty at Texas universities. The Legislature made a major effort last year to start to close the gap in faculty salaries. I am hopeful additional improvements will be possible," said H.M. Daugherty Jr., chairman of the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The Texas average salary is 10.8 percent below the \$41,568 average for the 10 most populous states other than Texas. Last year, the Texas average was 15.7 percent below the 10-state average.

Kenneth Ashworth, state higher education commissioner, said the comparison to the other large states is a crucial one.

"The 70th Legislature appropriated money for faculty salaries as part of a long-range strategy to bring our salaries in line with faculty salaries in the other key states that are our competitors economically and educationally," he said.

Ashworth said revised funding formulas recommended in January by the coordinating board "would accomplish this goal by 1991."

"If we can continue to move for-

ward, Texas will be able to maintain the educational system needed to support our economy," he said.

The coordinating board study released Monday showed California with the highest average salary — \$47,220. New Jersey, with a \$45,196 average, was second.

Texas' \$37,091 average was also below the average salaries paid in Massachusetts, New York, Ohio, Michigan, Florida, Pennsylvania and North Carolina.

Only Illinois, with a \$35,687 average, trailed Texas among the most populous states.

James R. Harrison, former Premier Bank chief executive officer.

The three have been named in a 14-count indictment and charged with illegally funneling \$955,000 they believed were drug profits through Premier and other local banks during a two-year undercover operation.

All three men have pleaded innocent. Armstrong said in an interview Monday that he was snared in a fed-

eral sting aimed at drug dealers after he cooperated with an undercover federal agent.

"They knew and we knew we were working for the government. They knew and we knew there was no dope money involved," Armstrong said. "They were trying to get dope dealers, but they never did do it."

Armstrong, 63, his wife Harriet and members of the Crouch family said they were unhappy about press reports of the trial.

"Garbage," Thomas Crouch's father, Lloyd Crouch, said of the publicity around the case.

Armstrong said he was disturbed that only the prosecution's case was being presented in the newspapers.

"It's one side," he said. Armstrong said he helped a federal agent who told him he was posing as a drug dealer.

Crouch, Armstrong and Harrison are accused of depositing money at Premier and other banks between March 1986 and January 1988 in a conspiracy to violate federal currency transaction laws.

Under federal law, all financial institutions must file reports on every transaction involving more than \$10,000.

The indictment alleges that Crouch and Armstrong created bo-

gus business accounts with local banks to launder money. The pair allegedly took a 6 percent laundering fee and thousands of dollars for opening accounts under false names.

Crouch, Armstrong and Harrison were arrested in January along with Joe Blanton of Tulsa, Okla., after federal officials revealed details of the undercover operation that began in Dallas and spread to Tulsa, Atlanta, New Orleans, Miami, Baltimore and Boston.

About 40 people have been named in the money laundering scheme, which began with a federal informant posing as a Florida-based representative of drug dealers, authorities said. All of those charged have pleaded innocent.

Organized crime figures or their associates in New Orleans and Los Angeles were indicted as part of the crackdown, and documents show other mob ties are under investigation. The informant is expected to testify in the trial as a witness for the prosecution.

Crouch is a former Dallas County Republican Party chairman who screened State and Justice Department appointees for the Nixon Administration in 1973.

Judge Sanders said he expected the trial to last seven or eight days.