

# Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 88 No. 12 USPS 045360 12 Pages

College Station, Texas

Tuesday, September 13, 1988



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

## Pitching for a restaurant

Houston Astros pitcher Charlie Kerfeld signs an autograph for Robert Moore, a senior construc-

tion science major, Monday. Kerfeld was promoting the grand opening of Wings 'n' Things.

## Ex-foreman claims payoffs kept plant defects hidden

FORT WORTH (AP) — An ex-foreman for Brown & Root Inc., who complained of safety defects at the troubled Comanche Peak nuclear power plant, claimed Monday he was later paid for his silence by the project's manager and a subcontractor.

Joseph Macktal, former electrical foreman, and his attorneys have filed a motion with the U.S. labor secretary to strike restrictive portions of a settlement agreement, which Macktal alleges paid thousands of dollars to him.

"I own property within 30 miles of the plant, Macktal said. "I own acreage there and that was my motivation in bringing my allegations forward. I told people, 'Hey, guys, we're not doing these things right.' They wouldn't listen."

Macktal and one of his attorneys, Stephen Kohn of Fort Worth, released copies of the agreement and an affidavit at a news conference on the steps of the Tarrant County Courthouse.

"The settlement agreement is proof positive that whistle blowers are given money to withhold from

the Nuclear Regulatory Commission unresolved safety concerns," Kohn said, and called the new claims "Comanchegate."

"This is the very surface indication of a massive cover-up of health and safety concerns at Comanche Peak," he said, adding he hopes other whistle blowers now can come forward with new information. "Using money to buy silence is the most dangerous mechanism of all."

Macktal claims he was forced by his former attorneys to sign the restrictive agreement with Texas Utilities and Brown & Root, the subcontractor at the plant, in settlement of a labor case.

"The agreement required that he agreed never to voluntarily testify in any court or administrative proceeding concerning Comanche Peak," David Colapinto, a Washington labor lawyer for Macktal, said.

"In effect, it was a gag order on his testimony of safety concerns about the nuclear power plant," he said.

Macktal claimed that, in the agreement signed in January 1987, his attorneys were paid \$35,000 by

TU and Brown & Root. Of that, he received \$15,000. Macktal said he was discharged from the subcontractor in January 1986 after raising safety concerns about the plant.

Meanwhile, the Fort Worth-based Citizens for Fair Utility Rates filed a request Monday with the NRC to reinstitute licensing proceedings in the Comanche Peak case.

"That is what is so criminal about that (the agreement); I wanted to go to the NRC and I couldn't," Macktal said.

Hearings scheduled before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, an arm of the NRC, on the plant were dismissed in July after Citizens Association for Sound Energy reached a \$10 million agreement with TU officials.

Claims have repeatedly surfaced on safety and construction defects at the project, which is more than nine years behind schedule and, at \$9.1 billion, about 10 times the original price projection.

Macktal said unresolved safety allegations about the project have never been addressed by the NRC because of the settlement's restrictive terms.

## Heat, drought raise food prices

WASHINGTON (AP) — Drought and hot weather nibbled at the nation's corn and soybean crops last month, but new Agriculture Department estimates hewed Monday that most of the damage had already been done in June and July.

Officials held to an earlier prediction that consumer food prices will go up an average of only 3 percent to 5 percent this year, with about 1 percent of the rise caused by drought. A further increase is expected in 1989.

The department estimated the corn harvest, which is under way, at a five-year low of 4.46 billion bushels, down 37 percent from 7.06 billion bushels harvested in 1987.

The new crop projections, based on Sept. 1 surveys, were down by less than 1 percent from the forecast a month ago.

In May and June, before the drought tightened its grip, USDA projected the corn harvest at 7.3 billion bushels, based on trends and an assumption of normal weather.

Those projections were revised downward in July to

5.2 billion bushels, assuming farmers got normal weather the remainder of the season. In August, the forecast was lowered to 4.48 billion bushels, the smallest harvest since 1983, when drought and federal acreage curbs reduced output to 4.17 billion bushels.

The soybean harvest was estimated at a 12-year low of 1.47 billion bushels, down 23 percent from 1.9 billion bushels produced last year but virtually unchanged from the August forecast. Estimates last spring called for about 1.88 billion bushels, and the July projection was 1.65 billion bushels.

Production of all wheat was projected at 1.81 billion bushels, down 14 percent from 2.1 billion produced in 1987 and 1 percent below the August forecast.

In May and June, USDA forecast this year's wheat output would be up slightly. The July projection was 1.84 billion bushels, and the August forecast was 1.82 billion bushels.

Overall, the department's Agricultural Statistics Board said U.S. crop production this year is expected to drop to 88 percent of a 1977 base used as a comparison. That would be the lowest since 1983.

## Mobley: Constituents should provide advice

### President outlines goals at meeting

By Laura White  
Staff Writer

The Faculty Senate, students, staff and administrators will be looked to for advice on issues facing A&M, President William H. Mobley said Monday afternoon.

Mobley shared his views on leadership and outlined his primary goals in a guest presentation to the Faculty Senate in Rudder Tower.

"There is no question in my mind that the Faculty Senate has a legitimate and important role to play in our University," he said. "I look forward to receiving your advice on issues of importance to you."

Mobley said he plans to get the constituent groups involved in the decision-making process.

"I am a strong believer in participative management," he said. "I expect and value broad-based participation in the governance process from all constituent groups, including the Faculty Senate."

Mobley also stressed the importance of establishing short- and long-term goals to measure the effectiveness of any new programs.

A major goal for the administration in the coming years will be to obtain more money from sources other than the state, Mobley said, and a major capital campaign will be recommended to the board in the coming months.

"A priority goal . . . will be to accelerate the development of the exter-

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— President William Mobley

nal resources needed to supplement the increasingly tight state resources," he said.

Mobley referred again to increasingly tight state resources when asked about the future of the Sterling C. Evans Library.

The library, which ranks 48th in the nation in terms of quality, is in need of more holdings and space, he said.

"The library will be put high on the list of things donors could support," Mobley said. "Since this is a state-wide problem, it would help if the state would help out."

"It seems to be a zero-sum game," he said. "Out of marginal resources, a greater percentage will go to the library, at the expense of something else."

Mobley said he looks forward to working with the Faculty Senate in the future.

"Working together, I believe we can take full advantage of the opportunities ahead for this institution and the state and nation it serves," he said.

In other business, the Faculty Sen-

ate discussed the lack of faculty input in the recent NCAA decision.

The Committee of the Whole made and approved a motion that the Executive Committee negotiate a primary role for the Faculty Senate in the Athletic Council's oversight of the University's athletic program.

The motion is an attempt to improve communication between the Athletic Council and the Faculty Senate. It will be forwarded to Mobley who will consider forwarding it to the System policy makers.

The Senate also added six new history courses, eight theater arts courses, two sociology courses, 12 women's studies courses, an anthropology course and an graduate-level mechanical engineering course to the University curriculum.

In addition, the Senate made minor changes in 13 existing courses.

In further action, the Senate approved the Graduate Council's suggestion that Medical College Admissions Test scores be accepted in place of Graduate Record Exams for students applying for the combined medical-doctorate program.

## Ershad asks for more aid to compensate for flood

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — The president of Bangladesh appealed Monday for more foreign aid to feed more than 40 million people left homeless by the flood, and doctors tried to halt an epidemic of diarrhea.

More than 250,000 people were suffering from diarrhea, the health center said, with nearly 36,000 new cases reported in the last 24 hours. Many got the disease by drinking water contaminated by raw sewage and flood waters.

A senior doctor who declined to be identified said about 5 percent of the diarrhea patients have contracted cholera.

President Hussain Muhammad Ershad said the \$280 million in aid so far promised to his country was not enough even to rebuild roads washed away by flood waters that cover three-fourths of the country.

He said it was too early to estimate the total amount of funds needed.

"For centuries the people of Bangladesh have lived with floods, but never before have the rivers unleashed such fury on her people," the 59-year-old former army general told a news conference.

The government puts the official death toll at 881 from the floods, which started June 13 and reached new heights in late August.

The health control center said 138 deaths were from diarrhea, while the others were caused by drownings, houses collapsing and snake bites.

Daily tallies in Dhaka newspapers, however, put the death toll at 1,647, without giving a breakdown by category.

A substantial amount of emergency flood relief arrived Monday in a giant U.S. military cargo plane.

The C-5a Galaxy contained water purification units, water storage tanks and 10,000 five-gallon water containers.

The plane also brought the deputy U.S. aid director, Jay F. Morris, and doctors from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, water purification specialists, and Defense Department transport and logistics specialists.

The International Center for Diarrheal Disease Research, funded primarily by foreign aid, said it had admitted 550 patients with diarrhea in the past 24 hours, compared with an average of 155 patients a day last month.

The senior doctor who reported the cholera problem said it was typical that 5 percent of the diarrhea cases would turn out to be cholera.

### Local brief

The Bangladesh Student Association will continue raising funds to aid victims of floods that have left more than 21 million people homeless in that country.

The group will sell bangles and crafts and take donations in the MSC through Friday.

The group has raised about \$610 already for relief of flood victims.

Dhaka newspapers also have reported isolated cholera cases from people drinking flood-polluted water.

Ershad said there are only 8,000 doctors in Bangladesh, a nation of 110 million people. He said 30 million to 40 million people were marooned by the flood or in need of help.

He also said the flood had destroyed or damaged 8 million houses. Since the average size of a family in Bangladesh is six people, that would appear to mean that 48 million are homeless, up from the 25 million reported previously.

## Dukakis claims Bush ruined battle with drugs, terrorism

Associated Press

Democrat Michael Dukakis charged Monday that an unsteady George Bush botched his assignments in the battle against drugs and terrorism, while the Republican nominee challenged Dukakis to state his views on the U.S. strike against Libya and invasion of Grenada.

Bush also named a panel of national security advisers including former Secretaries of State Henry A. Kissinger and Alexander M. Haig as well as Zbigniew Brzezinski, who was Democrat Jimmy Carter's national security adviser.

Dukakis, launching a three-day counter-offensive against Republican charges he would cripple American defense and foreign policy, told 200 supporters at a union hall in Philadelphia that Bush was disastrously and completely and unforgivably wrong for not warning President Reagan against selling arms to Iran in an attempt to free hostages.

Dukakis said he would restore respect for America, which he said had been undermined by Reagan-Bush failures to combat terrorism, come

to grips with the trade deficit and stop the avalanche of drugs . . . pouring across our borders.

"In each of these areas, George Bush has failed," Dukakis said.

"I want to beat our foreign competitors; he's willing to settle for second best. I want to crack down on terrorism; he knuckled under to the ayatollah. I want a real war on drugs; his answer to drug kingpins like (Panama leader Manuel) Noriega is J. Danforth Quayle."

Bush, at a news conference in Washington and later at a rally before 1,000 flag-waving Cuban-Americans in Union City, N.J., cudgeled Dukakis on defense and foreign affairs as well as the economy.

"I will really admit that I am having trouble pinning down the liberal governor of Massachusetts on his defense," Bush said in New Jersey.

Bush demanded that Dukakis spell out whether he supported the 1983 U.S. bombing raid on Libya and the invasion "to free Grenada from its Cuban masters."

"I support those things; now, does he support them? Let's ask him that

question," Bush said. If the answer is no, he said, Dukakis would show himself to have veered outside the bipartisan mainstream on national security issues. He also asked whether Dukakis would admit that your support for a nuclear freeze was a mistake.

Dukakis had his own questions for Bush, ranging from the Iran-Contra affair to why the Reagan administration cut funds for the Coast Guard and aid for state and local drug agencies while it put General Noriega on its payroll. Noriega is under indictment on drug trafficking charges.

"What kind of judgment is this?" Dukakis asked. "What kind of priorities are these? . . . We need better leadership from the next president."

Earlier, introducing Brzezinski as one of his advisers, Bush said his objective was to shape a foreign policy built on the principles of bipartisanship . . . realism, strength, dialogue and engagement.

"The U.S. must live up to its responsibilities in the world," Bush said.