



A pint low?

Michael Tenuta of the Wadley Blood Center checks Melissa Bechtold, a junior health education major, for the

amount of blood she has given Monday. The blood drive will continue throughout the week.

Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Record number of Texans expected to cast votes today

AUSTIN (AP) — After months of campaigning, voters finally get their chance to speak Tuesday, and Texas' secretary of state is predicting a record number will go to the polls to do so.

An early indication of voter interest came in the number of absentee ballots cast in advance.

Jim Warren, spokesman for Secretary of State Jack Rains, described the absentee voting that ended Friday as "phenomenal," and said more than 100,000 absentee ballots were cast in several large counties.

Rains has forecast a total turnout of 5.98 million Texans, predicting voter turnout will "shatter" previous records.

The presidential campaign had a Texas accent — with Texan George Bush heading the Republican slate and Texas Sen. Lloyd Bentsen as running mate to Democratic nominee Michael Dukakis.

Between Labor Day and Election Day, Bush made three trips to the state and planned to spend Tuesday night in Houston. Dukakis was in Texas nine days.

Bentsen, whose job was to carry Texas for Dukakis, spent 26 days campaigning in his home state and planned to spend Tuesday night in Austin awaiting the returns. GOP vice presidential nominee Dan Quayle was conspicuous by his absence, making only a single two-day trip to the state.

All opinion polls from late summer until Sunday showed Bush ahead in Texas, but Bentsen insisted Monday that the race was winnable for the Democrats. "It's in your hands to win it," he told a crowd at a Dallas rally. "You can do it."

The presidential contest isn't the only one being decided.

Bentsen also is on the ballot for re-election to a fourth U.S. Senate term, facing Amarillo Congressman Beau Boulter. The Republican's battle was uphill all the way, and a final pre-election poll for the *Dallas Morning News* and *Houston Chronicle* showed him trailing Bentsen 58 percent to 35 percent.

An unprecedented six seats on the Texas Supreme Court are at stake. Both Chief Justice Tom Phillips, a Republican, and his Democratic opponent, Justice Ted Z. Robertson, raised more than \$1.8 million to finance their bids.

Other statewide offices are up for grabs as well.

Three seats on the state's highest criminal court bench, the Court of Criminal Appeals, will be filled.

Kent Hance, a former Democratic congressman and U.S. Senate candidate who sought the Republican gubernatorial nomination in 1986 after switching parties, is running to keep the Railroad Commission seat to which he was appointed last year after Democrat Mack Wallace resigned. His opponent is state Rep. Clint Hackney.

Railroad Commission Chairman Jim Nugent's regular term is ending, and the

Democrat is seeking re-election against a former state representative, Republican Ed Emmett.

Fifteen seats in the Texas Senate and all 150 seats in the Texas House are up for election. GOP state Chairman Fred Meyer predicted last week that his party's candidates might increase their 56-seat House delegation to as many as 66.

The 15-member State Board of Education will be elected for the first time since the school reform legislation of 1984 turned it, temporarily, into an appointed body.

New York officials hand out needles to combat AIDS

NEW YORK (AP) — New York City on Monday began a pilot program to stem the spread of AIDS by providing drug addicts new hypodermic needles in exchange for their used ones.

Although the program, aimed at reducing needle sharing among addicts, is intended to serve as many as 200 intravenous drug abusers, by early afternoon no applicant had appeared at Health Department headquarters in lower Manhattan.

"Today, we're going to have only a handful," Dr. Stephen Joseph, health commissioner, said. "We're going to build slowly up over a period of weeks or months, he predicted.

Under the \$240,000 program, which has drawn heated opposition from conservatives and some minority group organizations, addicts also will receive counseling on AIDS and drugs. Another 200 addicts will receive only counseling; over time, their rate of infection will be compared with the infection rate of those receiving needles.

The program is open only to addicts over age 18 who have applied for drug

treatment and been denied immediate admission to the city's overcrowded programs.

Anyone wishing to apply Monday had to locate a small room down a first-floor corridor marked "Employees Only." No sign announced the location of the room, and applicants had to ask for directions and pass several police officers to reach the program's office.

Applicants would be asked to fill out a consent form, learn about the program and take a blood test. They would receive a kit including a condom, sterile water and pamphlets about safe sex and needle hygiene.

An addict who tries to get a new needle without returning the old one will be expelled from the program, Joseph said.

City officials say the program is believed to be the first of its kind in the United States, though similar programs have operated in Europe. In Boston, Mayor Raymond Flynn backed a similar proposal, but it was rejected by the city council earlier this year.

Corps schedules march-in inquiry

By Stephen Masters
Senior Staff Writer

An investigation into Corps march-in policy was scheduled to begin Monday after an accident involving four Parsons' Mounted Cavalry horses left three injured before Saturday's game, the unit's adviser said.

Lt. Col. Ronald Westervelt, adviser

for the cavalry, said the investigation would begin with regularly scheduled meetings Monday and would likely continue for three or four days.

The cavalry is an honorary unit of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets.

One or more of four horses pulling a small trailer was "spooked" and the entire team ran from the Quadrangle. The horses turned west onto Joe Routt Boulevard and knocked over a street sign that struck three bystanders.

A Humana Hospital official said Monday that George Rippey, 70, and his wife Margaret, 69, were listed in serious but stable condition.

Rippey suffered injuries to the chest, spine and neck and his wife suffered head injuries in the accident. Their 46-year-old daughter, Carol Linton, was listed in stable condition with injuries to her neck and leg. All three were guests from San Antonio.

First 3 amnesty applicants made permanent residents

HOUSTON (AP) — Although only three amnesty applicants showed up Monday to obtain permanent residency status, immigration officials here expect thousands more to do the same in the coming months.

Monday marked the first day that applicants could be granted permanent residency under the historic amnesty program. But only those illegal aliens who signed up May 5, 1987 — the first day of the program — were eligible to apply.

"This is a really significant time for us," said Ron Parra, district director for the Immigration and Naturalization Service. "I think this program is extremely far-reaching."

More than 1.7 million people who entered the United States illegally before 1982 applied for amnesty nationwide by the May 4 deadline. The Houston INS office handled more applications than any other single immigration office in the United States — some 125,000.

Those who applied for amnesty must wait 18 months after their original application before obtaining permanent residency, meaning only the ones who submitted their applications on the first day were eligible to get permanent residency Monday.

On May 5, 1987, 13 people applied for amnesty in Houston and three of those showed up Monday to get residency status, including Stephen Buttery.

The 26-year-old French Guiana native arrived illegally in the U.S. eight years ago when he jumped off a cargo ship in Jacksonville, Fla.

Scheduling for exams approved

A final final examinations schedule, approved by A&M President William H. Mobley, may be released early next week.

Finals will be administered Dec. 9 and Dec. 12-14. Exams will not be held after dusk.

The previous schedule, which proposed that final examinations be given Dec. 12-16, conflicted with the presentation of diplomas at graduation and military commissioning schedules.

Northside deliveries completed

By Fiona Soltes
Staff Writer

Confusion caused by constant detours on Houston, Hogg and Asbury streets is now over — delivery of the northside residence hall modules is complete.

Keith Chapman, manager of construction, said that completion of the deliveries means that module delivery to the south side of campus can begin. The large crane used in construction was moved from the north to the south side of campus late Friday night. Deliveries will begin this week.

"We originally wanted to move the crane early last Saturday morning, but we couldn't be sure the streets would be open for the game," Chapman said.

He said he expects delivery of modules to the south side to run through February, since four halls are being constructed in that area.

"Of the 600 total modules to be delivered, we've still got 480 to go," he said.

Tom Williams, director of Parking, Transit and Traffic, said that Moshier Lane and Spence Street will be closed to parking.

"These streets weren't supposed to be open for parking at all this semester," Williams said. "We've been saying we would close them for quite a while, and now is the time."

Williams said shuttle buses will return to their original routes as soon as the construction site is completely clear, but he said no problems with the converted routes have been reported.

"Any time you have animals involved, you have the potential for this type of problem. When one of them gets nervous, they all get nervous. When one of them runs, they all run."

— Lt. Col. Ronald Westervelt

Two members of the cavalry, Travis Reynolds, a junior range science major, and Loyd Smith, a sophomore general studies major, were on the trailer when the horses bolted. They suffered cuts and bruises but declined medical treatment, Bob Wiatt, University director of security, said.

Westervelt said there was a new horse in the group at March-in, but could not confirm whether the new horse was the one which was "spooked." The horse was used during practice, which includes the use of music to simulate the noise level, but Westervelt said there is no way to prepare the horses completely.

Westervelt said he had no knowledge of any past accidents involving cavalry horses, but said investigation is necessary to prevent future problems.

"We're looking at this just like they (the Federal Aviation Administration) look into an airplane accident," he said.

He said a decision on the March-in policy would be made following the investigation.

"It's been a long 1 1/2 years, but I guess that's all over with," Buttery said after he successfully answered questions about the U.S. government while a dozen reporters and cameramen watched.

Legalized immigrants can apply for permanent residency 18 months after they first applied for amnesty and must

apply within one year or lose their legal status.

Since many illegal aliens were reluctant to apply for amnesty at first and only came forward as the deadline neared, INS officials expect to be processing more people in the coming months. On the last day, 7,000 people applied at the Houston office.

On the civics test given at the INS cen-

ter, applicants must answer at least six of the 10 questions correctly to pass. Another requirement is that legalized aliens have a knowledge of English.

Immigrants can either attend special classes and present a certificate of completion when they apply for permanent residency, or they must pass the test on the subjects given by INS clerks when they apply.

Gramm, Bush Jr. make quick pitch at airport

By Sherri Roberts
Staff Writer

George Bush Jr. and Sen. Phil Gramm thanked an enthusiastic crowd at Easterwood Airport for their support of George Bush Sr. and asked for continued efforts until the polls close today to get him elected.

"Let's not bring the ball this far and then lose it on the goal line," Gramm told an group of about 200 in a brief stop yesterday afternoon.

Bush claimed an early victory for his father, noting, "This is really kind of a sad moment for me. It's the last speech I'll make before George Bush becomes president — and what a fitting place to do it at — where he'll receive 70 percent of the vote."

Gramm, a former economics professor at Texas A&M, said he had worked with the elder Bush for eight years, and that the presidential candidate was interested in A&M and its needs.

"The fellow from Massachusetts does not know where we are — but then we know where he's going — back to Boston, Massachusetts," he said, receiving thunderous applause from the audience.

Recalling Bush's Odessa oil business and his experiences as a naval aviator and vice president, Gramm said Bush had succeeded in every mission he had been given.

Americans, he said, will elect Bush as president because they want to move forward.

"Dukakis wants to take us back to the policies of Jimmy Carter, and we do not want to go," he said.

Individuals in Nicaragua, Central Europe and the Soviet Union, he said, share the American dream. Until the dream comes true for these countries, the work of U.S. government officials will not be finished, he said.

The younger Bush said his father was motivated not only by his political philosophy, but also by a love for his family and for God.

Action, he said, rather than hollow words, will characterize the Bush presidency.

A&M Athletic Director Jackie Sherrill, making a brief appearance at the rally, presented Bush and Gramm with Twelfth Man jerseys.

"I have one here for President George Bush," he said. "He's been our Twelfth Man in Washington."

Sherrill drew a resounding "Howdy!" from the crowd when he noted, "One thing neither one of them said was 'Howdy.'"

A quartet of A&M students known as "After Class" sang a barbershop version of "God Bless the U.S.A." and led the audience in singing "God Bless America" at the close of the rally.

