

The Battalion

College Station, Texas



WEATHER
FORECAST FOR SATURDAY:
A 30 percent chance of rain in the morning with clearing skies by afternoon.
HIGH:63 LOW:45

High failure rate expected on entrance exams

AUSTIN (AP) — Forty-five percent of Texas students are expected to fail the reading section of the college freshman skills test and 46 percent are estimated to fail the math portion under a standard approved Thursday by the Higher Education Coordinating Board.

More than half of minorities are predicted to fail those sections of the test, which will have a 70 percent passing score under a plan approved unanimously in a preliminary board vote.

The cut-off score was chosen over protests from the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, which has sued the state concerning minority education issues.

"We want to send a message to the students that we expect them to try hard on the test, that it is not an easy test and that they should prepare for

"We do not want a score so low that students who need remediation are passed on . . . into college-level courses."

—Kenneth Ashworth, education commissioner

it," said Higher Education Commis-

sioner Kenneth Ashworth. The test will include sections on reading, writing and mathematics.

"We do not want a score so low that students who do need remediation are passed on through the system into college-level courses," Ashworth said.

The test is required for freshman and transfer students entering public colleges in fall 1989, although a person who has earned at least three semester credit hours of college-level work before then is exempt from taking it.

Students must pass the test before taking upper-level college courses. Those found to have deficiencies

must take non-credit remedial courses.

There will be 36 multiple-choice questions in reading and math and 35 questions in writing, plus an essay, on the test to be given for the first time March 4.

In figures presented on the Texas Academic Skills Program test, 55 percent of all students are predicted to pass the reading section. Twenty-eight percent of blacks, 41 percent of Hispanics and 61 percent of whites would pass.

On the mathematics section, 54 percent of all students are estimated to pass. Twenty-six percent of blacks would pass, 37 percent of Hispanics

and 61 percent of whites.

Scoring for the 300-600 word essay would be combined with performance on multiple-choice questions on the writing section.

Because the essay requires a different grading approach, an estimate was not available of those who would pass the entire writing portion, said Ron Swanson, associate TASP program director at the Coordinating Board.

The board can review the passing standards after the first test, Ashworth said. The exam will serve as a substitute for the current test given to education majors, and any eligible student can take it.

"If we find . . . that the test has failed more students than we can provide remediation for, then we can decide at that time whether to reduce the passing score for this year," he said.

MALDEF lawyer Al Kauffman said there is a need to help students with deficient skills. But he urged the board to set lower cut-off scores, at least at first.

He said the standard should be set so not more than 20 percent of any ethnic group would fail, which would translate to requiring students to pass 10 to 15 questions on each section.

Soviet gunners shell civilians in Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Soviet gunners wiped out Afghan villages and shelled a mountain tunnel, killing hundreds of civilians along the key highway carrying Red Army soldiers home from Afghanistan, Western diplomats said Thursday.

In Washington, meanwhile, Secretary of State James A. Baker III ordered the closing of the U.S. Embassy in Kabul, the Afghan capital, because of turmoil from the Soviet troop withdrawal.

Western diplomats in Islamabad quoted Afghan sources and a witness as saying the Soviets and Afghan government troops committed a "major atrocity" in shelling both ends of the 10-mile Salang Tunnel.

The tunnel, part of the crucial Salang Highway that connects Kabul to the Soviet Union, cuts through the Hindu Kush mountains about 60 miles north of the capital.

The diplomats, who spoke on condition of anonymity, quoted a report from Kabul as saying: "After shelling the north and south ends of the Salang tunnel, Soviet and Afghan artillery obliterated all dwellings and villages south of the tunnel."

In Washington, State Department spokesman Charles E. Redman said, "There are eyewitnesses who say no dwellings remain and hundreds of civilians were killed."

A dispatch from Kabul received by one Western embassy quoted reports of witnesses seeing "Soviet tanks rolling over dead bodies of victims" along the highway, which runs for 250 miles between Kabul and the Soviet border.

It said the report of all houses being destroyed came from three sources, including a diplomat who defends the Afghan government.

Afghan media and military officers had reported 377 guerrillas were killed Tuesday along the Salang Highway, where the insurgents have attacked many food and fuel convoys trying to reach Kabul.

Heavy snows also have blocked parts of the road, and Kabul has suffered severe food and fuel shortages as the end of the Soviet military withdrawal approaches.

Moslem guerrillas have fought since a Communist coup in April 1978, and Soviet soldiers joined the battle in December 1979. Last May, the Red Army began withdrawing under a U.N.-mediated agreement and all Soviet military forces are to be gone by Feb. 15.

Link found between MS, AIDS virus

WASHINGTON (AP) — A genetic test of cells in the blood of patients with multiple sclerosis suggests that the crippling disease is closely associated with a virus that is similar to the AIDS virus, researchers report.

E. Prem Kumar Reddy, a researcher at Wistar Institute in Philadelphia, said the genetic study of blood samples from six multiple sclerosis patients provides "direct proof" that the human T-lymphotropic virus, or HTLV-1, is involved in the MS disease process.

"This test for the first time shows that if you do sensitive enough assays you can find HTLV in MS patients," Reddy said in an interview. The same tests on 20 healthy people, he said, detected the virus in only one.

A report on the study will be published Friday in the journal of Science.



From this angle?

Don Wilkins of Madisonville, visiting the MSC on a field trip with his church group Thursday, takes a sideways approach to interpreting

Frances Bagley's wood sculpture titled, "The First Crusade." The sculpture is part of an exhibit at the MSC Gallery.

Photo by Kathy Haveman

Sakharov says Gorbachev will be ousted

PARIS (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev probably will be ousted because he has failed to seek popular support in direct elections, Andrei D. Sakharov and his wife were quoted as saying in an interview published Thursday.

"The conservatives will overthrow Gorbachev or at least impose their views on him," the conservative French daily *Le Figaro* quoted Sakharov, the dean of the Soviet human rights movement, as saying.

Le Figaro said the six-hour interview with Sakharov and his wife, Yelena Bonner, also a prominent rights activist, was conducted over three consecutive evenings at their Moscow home.

The newspaper quoted Bonner as saying, "The only real defense for a chief of state is direct election. Why is Gorbachev afraid? We would elect him: Our country has no other leader."

"I think he will be overthrown soon," she was quoted as saying. "I would not bet 10 rubles on Gorbachev."

Bonner said that if Gorbachev is ousted, "so will (be) all those who believed in perestroika," his program to restructure Soviet society and its economy, the paper reported.

Sakharov, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1975, said the West must continue to pressure the Soviet Union on rights issues, at least until an international human rights conference that is scheduled in Moscow in 1991.

He said the meeting, which initially was opposed by Britain and the United States, "should only take place if the (human rights) situation in the Soviet Union is truly satisfactory."

Four local men considered for A&M Board

By Stephen Masters

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

At least 51 candidates are being considered to fill the two positions on the Texas A&M Board of Regents that will be vacated Feb. 1, including four local nominees, according to a list published in the *Bryan-College Station Eagle* this week.

The six-year terms of Board Chairman David G. Eller and Dr. John B. Coleman, both of Houston, will expire Feb. 1. Both were appointed in 1983 by Democrat Mark White and are not expected to be re-appointed by Gov. Bill Clements, who is a Republican.

James Huffines, Clements' appointments secretary, has been quoted as saying the appointees will be Republicans and supporters of the governor. But he said the appointments may not necessarily come from the list of candidates.

Clements was criticized earlier this month for appointing acquaintances to the University of Texas Board of Regents. Critics also charged that at least one Hispanic should have been appointed to represent the interests of the Pan American University System. U.T.'s Board of Regents last year voted to merge with the Pan Am System.

A&M's regents voted in November to merge with the University System of South Texas. There are no Hispanics on the A&M Board, but the names of two appear

on the list: San Antonio Mayor Henry Cisneros and Hector Gutierrez of El Paso. Cisneros served briefly as a regent from 1986 to 1987 to complete an unexpired term.

State Sen. Kent Caperton (D-Bryan) has suggested appointing a local candidate, but Huffines said Clements has not committed to any such qualification.

The local candidates named are M. Bookman Peters, Class of '59, Dr. Richard H. Harrison III, Class of '47, Phil Adams, Class of '50, and Frank G. Anderson Jr., Class of '50.

Five current and former regents have been renominated: Eller, Coleman, Cisneros, William McKenzie of Dallas and Wayne Showers of McAllen.

McKenzie and Showers were appointed in 1987. McKenzie is considered the top choice to replace Eller as chairman.

Also nominated is Fred McClure, Class of '76. McClure was A&M's first black student-body president. He was recently selected as President George Bush's legislative assistant.

The list also names four women as candidates: Maurine Brown of The Woodlands, Elizabeth Grist of San Antonio, Donna Reed of Dallas and Lynda Stansbury of Dallas.

Other nominees include Richard Wainerdi, president of the Texas Medical Association and associate member of A&M's Association of Former Students, Michel T. Halbouty, Class of '30, and Arno Krebs Jr., Class of '64.

Applicants, Nominees

The following is a list of applicants and nominees for the two positions on the Texas A&M Board of Regents being vacated Feb. 1. The list does not necessarily reflect the preferences of Gov. Bill Clements.

- Phil Adams, College Station.
- Robert Allen, Houston.
- Frank Anderson, Bryan.
- Gabe Anderson, Bovina.
- Mike W. Baggett, Dallas.
- Earl Bradley, Eastland.
- Maurine Brown, The Woodlands.
- Henry Cisneros, San Antonio.
- John Clark, Livingston.
- John Coleman, Houston.
- James Cook, Amarillo.
- David Eller, Houston.
- Jack Fritts, Austin.
- Preston Geren Jr., Fort Worth.
- Elizabeth Grist of San Antonio.
- Hector Gutierrez, El Paso.
- Michel Halbouty, Houston.
- Andrew Hansen, Lubbock.
- Richard Harrison, no city listed.
- Bill Hipple, Galveston.
- Roy Huffington, Houston.
- Arno Krebs Jr., Houston.

- Amos Landry Jr., Beaumont.
- John Lindsey, no city listed.
- Jack Little, Houston.
- Ross Margraves, Houston.
- Fred McClure, Washington D.C.
- William McKenzie, Dallas.
- Joe Moore, Austin.
- Michael O'Conner, Victoria.
- Robert Parker, Paris.
- Bookman Peters, Bryan.
- Lonnie Pilgrim, Pittsburg.
- Gerald Puckett, Fort Stockton.
- Carl Raba, San Antonio.
- Donna Reed, Dallas.
- Edwin Ruhman, Kenedy.
- Charles Scruggs, no city listed.
- Hughs Sewald, Amarillo.
- Sam Seymour, Columbus.
- Sam Shepard, no city listed.
- Wayne Showers, McAllen.
- Lynda Stansbury, Dallas.
- Charlie Truitt, Pittsburg.
- Jack Tumlinson, Cameron.
- Richard Wainerdi, no city listed.
- Walter Wilkerson, Conroe.
- George Willeford Jr., Austin.
- Charles Wiseman, San Antonio.
- James Witherspoon, Hereford.

House plans strategies to roll back proposed raises

WASHINGTON (AP) — House opponents of a proposed 50 percent congressional pay raise said Thursday they can't stop the increase and are focusing on long-range efforts to roll it back and to change the system of automatic salary hikes.

Rep. Thomas J. Tauke, R-Iowa, a leading opponent of the raise, said he will try to organize a meeting of opponents next week that will assume the raise will become law Feb. 8.

Under a special procedure not used for other legislation, the congressional pay raise would become law unless both the Senate and the House vote to stop it.

The Senate is virtually certain to reject the increase in a vote promised by its leaders. But in the House, Rep. Tony Coelho, D-Calif., the majority whip, has said there wouldn't be a vote, and Rep. Dick Cheney, R-Wyo., the minority whip, advised Republicans that no legislative busi-

ness is expected by the deadline.

"We cannot budge the speaker," Former President Reagan recommended to Congress that rank-and-file lawmakers' salaries be increased from \$89,500 to \$135,000. Federal judges and top executive branch officials also would get 50 percent increases.

Any long-range strategy would focus on finding a legislative mechanism to bring the pay raise issue to the House floor.

Tauke said the Senate could provide such a vehicle by passing legislation introduced Wednesday. The bill, anticipating the raise would become law, would rescind the increase entirely for the executive and legislative branches. It would require recorded votes for any future pay raises.

"We recognize the pay raise is not going to be stopped. So we have to look at alternative strategies. We have to find a method to get a roll

back," said Rep. Robert C. Smith, R-N.H., who has organized a House letter-writing drive to demand Speaker Jim Wright, D-Texas, schedule a vote. Thirty-nine House members, 33 of them Republicans, have signed the letter.

Tauke said, "Next week, we'll have a meeting of members here to develop long-range strategy after the pay raise goes into effect, as it apparently will."