

# The Battalion

### WEATHER

FORECAST for THURSDAY:  
Mostly cloudy with slight chance  
of snow flurries or rain.  
HIGH:mid 40s LOW:mid 30s

## Record cold spell leaves nation on ice

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Idaho National Guard troops Tuesday helped rescue livestock stranded by 15-foot snow drifts that have buried hundreds of other animals, while the nation's deadly cold snap pushed temperatures to record lows in several states.

Some California citrus growers feared the arctic air has caused millions of dollars in crop damage. And in Las Vegas, which dropped to a record-low 16 degrees, sheets of ice covered casino fountains and backyard swimming pools.

But Mardi Gras revelers didn't let a little cold stop them. Men in mini-skirts pranced through New Orleans' French Quarter in near-freezing weather, as others pitched tents along parade routes.

"I live to just go up and down the street and get my picture taken," said a man in black lace corset, garters and goosebumps who declined to be identified.

At least 79 deaths have been blamed on the cold weather since Jan. 31, when frigid air blew out of Alaska and into the lower 48 states.

Schools were closed in parts of Alabama, Colorado, Idaho, Mississippi, New Mexico, Oregon, and Texas. Scattered power outages were reported in several states, including Texas, Utah, Colorado and Mississippi.

Snow fell over parts of New Mexico, Texas, and northern New York state across northern Ohio, the upper Great Lakes, Minnesota and North Dakota.



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Freshman Bryan Chee of Squadron 1 braces himself for a hard spill Sunday afternoon outside Dorm 5. Chee, on his way to lunch, "fell" victim to the icy conditions that hit the Bryan-College Station area last weekend.

### Weather leads to student death

By Richard Tijerina

STAFF WRITER

A Texas A&M student was killed and another seriously injured Sunday night in a traffic collision on U.S. 190 in Milam County.

Valerie Hurta, 21, a junior marketing major from Jersey Village, was killed when the car in which she was riding skidded on the icy roads and collided with an oncoming car.

The driver of the car in which Hurta was riding, Jana Rae Debord, 20, a junior secondary education major from Pasadena, suffered broken ribs and a lung injury. She was in fair condition Monday night at Scott and White Hospital in Temple.

The driver of the other car, Thomas Fleck, 40, of Fort Hood, was listed in fair condition Monday night. He suffered bruises and possible internal injuries.

Although Hurta's death was the only fatality reported among A&M students because of the weather, icy roads and extremely low temperatures were responsible for numerous accidents on campus.

Statistics for the total number of students treated at the health center for weather-related injuries, and the total number of traffic accidents that the University police were called to, will be made available today.

Dr. Jack Moore, clinic director of the health center, said most students who came in for treatment over the weekend had injuries resulting from the weather conditions. He said that none of the injuries were serious, and most were caused by students' horseplay on the ice.

"It was young people who were mostly acting foolishly and trying to

ice-skate in their shoes," Moore said. "They'd just end up busting their chins and eyebrows."

However, Dr. Malon Southerland, director of the health center, said all of the accidents reported to the center were not necessarily caused by recklessness. Rather, they resulted from the ice on the ground causing students to lose their balance.

"A lot of them (accidents) happened just strictly because of the weather — not because of horseplay," Southerland said. "You're walking down the street and you just fall down. You fall on your face and bust your teeth out. There were potential broken wrists, light concussions and just a myriad of accidents that were related to falls."

Southerland said the health center treated 78 students on Monday, although most were only minor cuts that simply required suturing. He also said the center treated at least one student with a broken collarbone.

The University Police Department also was busy this weekend. UPD officers on patrol spent much of their time helping students involved in traffic accidents.

Numerous students ran into problems when they lost control of their cars on the icy roads. FM 2818 was closed Monday night when conditions became too hazardous to drive. Traveling on area roads was discouraged by local authorities because of unsafe driving conditions.

A spokesman for the UPD said most of the accidents were caused by hazardous road conditions.

"Obviously, most were caused by the ice, both getting stuck and by losing control and hitting something," Mike Buckley, a patrol sergeant for the UPD, said.

## Congress, Bush kill pay increase

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress voted Tuesday to take away its 51 percent pay raise, and President Bush signed away the controversial measure hours before the midnight deadline.

Lawmakers were anxious to end the public outcry against the \$45,500 increase, which left them feeling, in the words of one representative, like "cannon fodder for trash television and talk radio."

First, the House voted to reject the raise by a vote of 380-48. Less than three hours later, the Senate followed suit by a vote of 94-6.

The raise would have become law at midnight without Bush's signature on the resolution rejecting it. Bush had supported the raise but went along with Congress, signing the measure hours after the congressional votes.

The congressional votes also denied raises for top federal executives and federal judges. Some lawmakers predicted that defeating the raises would accelerate an exodus from government service.

Indeed, Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist said in a statement, "I deeply regret the congressional action, which has prevented the federal judges in this country from receiving a well-deserved pay raise. . . . We will not be able to attract and retain the kind of judges we need . . . unless we pay our judges fairly and equitably."

Senate Minority Leader Bob Dole, R-Kan., said Bush told Senate Republicans Tuesday he

might ask Congress to approve lesser raises for the judges and executives.

With its votes, Congress rejected raises proposed by a presidential commission and endorsed by then-President Reagan. Senators and representatives would have seen their salaries rise from \$89,500 to \$135,000.

During less than 30 minutes of debate, the Senate heard Jesse Helms, R-N.C. and a foe of the raise, proclaim that the vote shows the American people that "you can fight city hall and you can take on the Congress of the United States with all its legerdemain and all its legislative ability."

The Senate last week voted 95-5 against the raise, but the wording of that resolution differed from the House version approved Tuesday. Sen. James Jeffords, R-Vt., who had voted against the raise, voted for it Tuesday.

Jeffords said he cast his vote Tuesday to make clear his view that judges are badly in need of a pay raise and because, unlike last week's measure, this one did not curtail lawmakers' rights to make speeches for fees.

The other senators voting to sustain the raise were Democrats Christopher Dodd of Connecticut, Edward Kennedy of Massachusetts and Spark Matsunaga of Hawaii; and Republicans Frank Murkowski of Alaska and Ted Stevens of Alaska.

Despite the overwhelming House margin, members were clearly torn between their desire for a pay raise and the public scorn heaped upon them for considering the increase.

The chamber applauded loudly when Rep. Dan Rostenkowski, D-Ill., told colleagues in a rousing speech before the vote, "Each member of this House, Democrat and Republican, is worth a salary of \$135,000 a year."

The irony of the House's dilemma was reflected when Rep. Vic Fazio, D-Calif., a pay raise defender, introduced the resolution to reject the increase — but voted against the resolution.

Fazio chided his colleagues for not having "the courage to speak out" in their own defense and said, "We became cartoon cannon fodder for trash television and talk radio."

He added, "There are Supreme Court justices who make less than their clerks the day after they (the clerks) retire and go into private practice."

Left dangling by Congress' action were ethics reforms that lawmakers had hoped to pass once the raise became law.

These included a ban on fees for speeches and appearances in both houses. A bipartisan House negotiating group also had agreed to do away in 1991 with a legal loophole that allowed 190 House members — those in office before 1980 — to accumulate \$39 million in leftover campaign cash, which can be converted to personal use.

## Bush budget freezes defense spending

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush plans to send Congress a \$1.16 trillion budget for fiscal 1990 on Thursday that would freeze military spending at the level of inflation to help pay for new domestic initiatives, administration aides said Tuesday.

Bush himself said his budget would make a "strong beginning" toward the major campaign promises he made during a 1988 campaign in which he repeatedly evoked a "kinder and gentler nation."

In a major change of emphasis, Bush will reject former President Reagan's call for a 2 percent rise in defense spending above inflation and propose increases in dozens of categories that Reagan sought to slash, said officials who spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Bush's budget outline, a 125-page rewrite of the lame-duck budget Reagan submitted last month, was pronounced "pretty well finalized" by Bush on Tuesday.

He spoke briefly with reporters during a final budget session with Budget Director Richard G. Darman, Vice President Dan Quayle, Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and White House economist Michael Boskin.

Then, Bush went to Capitol Hill, where he told both Republican and Democratic groups he would reach out to Congress to try to forge a consensus budget.

"I am under no illusions that we are going to keep everybody happy," Bush told a luncheon of Senate Republicans.

Of his new budget plan, Bush

said, "It will meet my fundamental commitments made to the American people in terms of not going out there and raising taxes. It will make, I think, a strong beginning in some of the areas that a lot of us talked about in the past campaign: the environment, education, certainly anti-narcotics . . ."

Bush also visited with the Senate Democrats, delivering essentially the same message, and then met in closed sessions with House Republican leaders and House Speaker Jim Wright.

House Minority Leader Bob Michel told reporters afterward that Bush also mentioned child care in his list of initiatives that would be reflected in Thursday's budget plan.

Bush decided on the defense freeze in budget sessions over the weekend, including one attended by Defense Secretary-designate John Tower, sources said.

Defense spending would be held to the rate of inflation for fiscal 1990, then allowed to rise slightly over inflation in later years, the sources said.

Reagan, in a budget largely ignored by Congress, had proposed increasing defense spending authority to \$315.2 billion for the fiscal year that begins next Oct. 1 from \$298.8 billion in the current year.

In holding defense spending to the level of inflation, Bush would free up a potential of about \$6 billion in spending authority.

However, in terms of cash "outlays" that could actually be spent in

fiscal 1990, the amount gained by Bush from the maneuver would be closer to \$2 billion.

Bush will squeeze another several billion dollars from other areas of the budget by making use of what one budget official described Tuesday as a "wiggle room" in the Reagan plan.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democratic chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee said Tuesday he has lingering concerns about allegations against John Tower, but GOP senators said an FBI report provides no grounds to disqualify the defense secretary-designate.

Sen. Sam Nunn, D-Ga., said he has "general concerns" and that while they include the most recent allegations of drinking and womanizing, they are "not limited to them."

"As much pressure as there is, we ought to do something that is unusual in Washington — we ought to let the facts support the conclusions," Nunn said. "What we have to do this once is to let the time-honored procedures go forward."

Sen. John Warner of Virginia, the ranking Republican on the committee, said he was briefed by the White

## GOP senators: FBI report clears Tower

Nunn says concerns lingering about allegations

House and, in turn, briefed the GOP members of the committee about the latest FBI inquiry into the allegations.

"The preliminary report provides, at the judgment of White House counsel, no basis on which senators could find the factual situation that would amount to any disqualification," Warner said.

The allegations center on womanizing and drinking by the twice-divorced Tower, according to congressional sources. The committee last Thursday put off a vote on whether to recommend full Senate confirmation and asked the FBI to review the allegations.

President Bush met with Nunn for about 45 minutes — a meeting requested by the committee chairman, Warner said. The Tower nomination was among the topics discussed, he said.

Warner said he has asked that

Nunn be briefed by the White House and that the full committee assemble to see the written FBI report.

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— Sam Nunn, Senate Armed Services Committee chairman

port, which was expected later in the day.

But Nunn expressed irritation at not being informed about the briefing.

## Blood drive benefits B-CS area residents

resources, said Bryan-College Station has used more than 1,000 more units than the community is donating and that other communities are having to meet the needs of Bryan-College Station.

Officials said every 17 seconds someone is in need of blood, and in order to maintain a stable blood supply in the Central Texas Red Cross Region, 170 units must be collected per day. It serves more than 30 hospitals in 29 counties.

The goal for this week's drive at A&M is 800 units.

"This is where students should realize that they can make the difference," Faulkenberry said. "What many students and faculty don't realize is that whether they give or not, they and their immediate families are covered by the Central Red Cross Blood Program on the basis that they have residency in Brazos County."

Faulkenberry said even if a patient needs blood outside the area, they merely need to notify the Central Texas Red Cross to arrange it.

"All we ask in return is that able residents place back in the system what the community is using," Faulkenberry said. "And the community can not do that unless the University is helping them."

Julie Wall, a senior Spanish major

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