



## WEATHER

FORECAST for THURSDAY:  
Mostly cloudy and warmer. There is a 40 percent chance of showers or thundershowers.

HIGH:65

LOW:48

## A&M hopes to attract Bush library

HOUSTON (AP) — President Bush has been in office a little more than a month and already three universities are making plans to become the site of his presidential library.

Texas A&M University, Rice University and Bush's alma mater, Yale University, all are expressing interest in acquiring the library, which would store Bush's presidential papers, the *Houston Chronicle* reported Tuesday. Newsweek magazine quoted

Bush as saying he has already decided his presidential papers should go to a Texas university but that it was too early for him to make a definite selection.

That is not deterring Yale from seeking the library.

"I'm sure Yale will be making an effort to persuade the president to locate his library here or at least some place near here," Jack Siggins, an administrator of Yale's library, said.

"I believe that possibility has

been mentioned to President Bush — in fact, before he was President Bush — by Yale's president, Benno Schmidt."

Siggins said locating the presidential library at the Ivy League school would be appropriate because Bush received his undergraduate degree there and because he is a native of Connecticut.

In a typical case, funds for construction of a presidential library are raised from private sources, and an institution, such as a univer-

sity, will provide a construction site.

Texas A&M is reported to have approached Bush in reference to the library, the magazine said.

Bryan Jones, head of A&M's political science department, and a colleague, presidential scholar George Edwards, drafted a memorandum urging the University to explore the possibilities of attracting the presidential library to the school.

Having the library on campus would provide an important re-

source for research on the national government and enhance A&M's movement on national prominence as a comprehensive research University," Jones said.

Rice is also a potential site for the library.

"Rice is certainly interested in the presidential papers, and we have initiated conversations with the Bush administration on the matter," Rice President George Rupp said in a prepared statement.

"We are continuing to work on

the opportunity but no one has made a commitment."

Rice partisans note that Secretary of State James Baker, a native Houstonian and a close friend of Bush's, already has begun depositing papers from his public service in the Woodson Research Center at Rice's Fondren Library.

They also note that in 1978 Bush served at Rice as an adjunct professor of administrative science, teaching a graduate-level course in "organization theory."

## Aviation task force tries to ensure safety of aging airline fleet

WASHINGTON (AP) — A task force of aviation industry and government safety experts proposed Tuesday that the world's airlines be ordered to do \$800 million in work on older Boeing 747s, 737s and 727s.

But the task force, moving to ensure the safety of an aging international airline fleet, said none of the proposed repairs was urgent and all could be done over several years' time.

The group, set up by the Air Transport Association, which represents major U.S. airlines, asked the Federal Aviation Administration to issue a massive "airworthiness directive" making mandatory modifications and replacements recommended in 150 Boeing Co. service bulletins.

Transportation Secretary Samuel Skinner applauded the proposal and said the FAA already had begun procedures required to issue the massive airworthiness directive called for by the task force.

The FAA has jurisdiction over planes flown by U.S. carriers. Regulatory bodies in other countries issue the rules under which those nations' planes operate.

The transport association estimated that 30 percent to 40 percent of the affected planes fall under FAA jurisdiction.

The proposed work would apply to more than 1,300 Boeing aircraft worldwide at an average cost of \$600,000 per plane. A Boeing representative on the task force joined in the unanimous vote to make his company's recommendations mandatory.

Clyde Kizer, transport association vice president, said the proposed repairs and replacements would be tied to the number of times an airliner had taken off and landed and its time in the sky.

Emphasizing that none of the work was considered pressing, Kizer told a news conference, "There are no dangerous aircraft out there flying right now."

Parts affected would include joints, fittings, outside skin and some structural materials, Kizer said.

"What we are suggesting," he said,

"is that at some point in an aircraft's history it is no longer acceptable just to inspect."

The FAA now requires airlines to conduct regular inspections of older aircraft and, in most cases, to make repairs and changes when problems are found.

The task force proposal would mandate the replacement of specific aircraft parts according to how much a plane had been used rather than its chronological age.

Kizer said the release of the report, which followed nine months of work, had nothing to do with Friday's incident in which nine people died after a hole opened in the fuselage of a United Airlines 747 over the Pacific Ocean.

The group, which also includes international aviation experts and U.S. government representatives, began its work partly in response to an April 1988 incident in which part of the roof of an Aloha Airlines 737 peeled away over Hawaii, sucking a stewardess to her death.

The average age of the world's 8,800 airliners is just over 13 years, according to Avmark, an aviation appraisal firm. Its latest survey, done in July, showed the average U.S. airliner in service was 12.67 years old.

Airlines participating in the task force said they did not expect immediate major expenses in part because they have already done or planned much of the work voluntarily.

"We don't anticipate anything over and above what we've already planned to do," said Bob Doll, a United Air Lines vice president who helped draw up the recommendations.

Pan American President Thomas G. Plaskett, who did not participate in the task force, said his airline fully supports the proposal. "Unless we do this, the U.S. fleet is not going to be big enough to meet the demand," he said.

He noted that half the world's airliners are over 20 years old while increased air travel and the growing world demand for airliners is forcing carriers to wait several years for the delivery of new jets.



Just a little off the top

Ramon Castello, head gardener for grounds maintenance, trims the pampas grass near

the post office parking lot Tuesday. It is trimmed yearly to promote growth.

Photo by Dean Saito

## Bush attempts to sway votes for Tower

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush launched a full-court press Tuesday to salvage John Tower's nomination, but his private meetings with a dozen swing Democrats and wavering Republicans produced no immediate pledges of support for his chosen defense secretary.

"I'm working hard at it," Bush told reporters at a picture-taking session during an afternoon Cabinet meeting. "I'm committed."

Republican Sen. Larry Pressler of South Dakota, key to the drive to hold all 45 Senate Republicans in line, announced he was "very much leaning against" confirmation and urged Tower to withdraw before a vote.

"I think that he may very well be doing him (Bush) a favor in this case," said Pressler, who said he was fearful that Tower would not be capable of cleaning up the Pentagon procurement system if confirmed.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater told reporters that there was "no chance whatsoever" of the president withdrawing the nomination.

"We're going to fight it out as far as we can," Fitzwater said. "We've convinced a lot of senators and we hope to convince a lot more."

Formal debate on the nomination is scheduled to open Wednesday, and senators are reading a confidential FBI report on the former Texas senator's drinking habits, charges of womanizing and lucrative consulting contracts with military companies.

Sen. John Breaux, D-La., a swing Democrat who met privately with Bush in the Oval Office, said he was leaning against the nomination based on Tower's drinking habits. The former senator has acknowledged drinking heavily during the 1970s but says he now has only an occasional glass of wine with dinner.

Bush said he did not know whether he could win over senators who have indicated opposition to Tower, saying only, "I hope so."

But Vice President Dan Quayle said he believed all 45 senators, including Pressler, would vote to confirm Tower. If five Democrats can be persuaded to vote for Tower, that would allow Quayle to cast the decisive, tie-breaking vote for the nominee.

## Soviet magazine blasts Communists for 'lies'

MOSCOW (AP) — A prominent state-run magazine has scathingly criticized the Communist Party, accusing it of spreading "political lies" that have deceived the Soviet people for generations.

The unprecedented attack in the literary monthly *Novy Mir* also questioned the rationale of the 20 million-member party's legal monopoly on power, enshrined by the 1977 Constitution, and says genuine democracy is impossible until the party permits open dissent in its ranks.

Even in the franker atmosphere fostered by President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's campaign for "glasnost," or greater openness, such harsh criticism of Communist Party practices in an official Soviet publication would have recently seemed impossible.

The article, by widely known sociologist Igor M. Klyamkin, also hints at the central paradox of Gorbachev's blueprint for political change, by noting that Soviet "democratization" is taking place in a system where one party has declared itself society's sole legitimate ruler.

The criticism comes at a time when Soviets are preparing for

their first national multicandidate elections.

Klyamkin does not openly call for the creation of a multiparty system, but that is the inescapable conclusion many will draw from his criticism of anti-democratic practices he says the Communist Party has engaged in starting from the days of Soviet founder Vladimir I. Lenin.

"The major reason for lies starting to dominate society was that the majority, whatever it was composed of, was fated to limit interparty democracy and violate the rights of the minority," Klyamkin wrote. "This was discovered even when Lenin was still alive."

"The political lie leads to catastrophe when some organization or group of people has a full monopoly on power and information, where nobody can catch them deceiving others... —when there is no democracy."

The article, in the February edition of *Novy Mir*, seems certain to fuel debate about the party's role in political institutions being created this year as part of Gorbachev's plan to define more clearly the responsibilities of party and government.

## GSS: Ignorance, fear cause homophobia

By Stephen Masters

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Homophobia means just what it says — fear and negativity toward homosexuals. Often traced to the fear of AIDS, homophobia is a problem nationwide, and it's a problem at Texas A&M, the president of A&M's Gay Student Services said.

Eduardo Casas, president of GSS, said homophobia is rampant at A&M, especially in students from rural areas.

"A&M is a conservative area and a lot of times it (homophobia) comes from people who are from small towns," Casas said. "People from Houston, Austin and Dallas are more likely not to be homophobic than people from smaller towns."

Casas said he believes homophobia likely stems from the mistaken belief that AIDS is strictly a homosexual disease. He said many heterosexuals' misunderstanding of the disease makes them fear contracting the disease in everyday situations.

Research has shown that the AIDS virus can only be contracted through exchange of bodily fluids such as blood or semen.

Dr. Don Woods, an associate professor in the A&M psychology department, said homophobia existed long before the AIDS virus was discovered. Woods said discrimination against gays goes back as far as Biblical times when people were burned at the stake or termed mentally ill for homosexual tendencies.

Casas said he thinks ignorance is the primary cause of homophobia.

"I think the reasoning behind that is because they are basically naive about the situation or they listen to the stereotype they see on TV, which adds to a lot of the homophobia," he said.

"If they're educated or experienced from living in a metropolitan area such as Dallas or Houston, then they've already had a taste of it."

Casas said homophobia at A&M was at its peak between 1976, the time GSS was formed, and April 1985, when the organization was officially recognized by the University. He said homopho-

"I think the reasoning behind it is (homophobics) are basically naive about the situation or they listen to the stereotype that they see on TV, which adds to a lot of the homophobia."

— Eduardo Casas, president of GSS

bia at A&M has declined since AIDS has become a nationwide problem. This trend is opposite of that experienced elsewhere in the United States, Casas said.

"For the gay population in general across the nation, yes, it has (increased)," he said. "Places such as San Francisco, LA and New York have officers using plastic gloves to break up demonstrations. That's totally ludicrous and uncalled for."

Woods said AIDS probably increases the intensity of the negative feelings.

"It (AIDS) gives people another reason to fear and dislike a group they do not understand," he said.

The GSS president said although the problem occurs in both males and females, it is more common in groups of males.

"I think males have homophobia, but I think it comes in degrees," Casas said. "You can have people talking one-on-one homosexual to heterosexuals. (In that case) I don't think the homophobia is as high as if you have five heterosexuals talking to one homosexual."

"Then it increases tenfold because they've got to keep the 'macho' image of being in a male group. That's just the way it is. That's the way society has ingrained the male to be."

Casas also said feelings of hate directed toward gays is more intense in males.

He linked homophobia with sexual confusion in heterosexuals.

"A lot of people will tell you that it's their own insecurities that is the reason they don't like homosexuals," he said. "It's something that they know they kind of are and then they end up hating this person. They see themselves in other people and they say they hate it when in actuality it's what they really are."

"I see that a lot more in homosexuals who have not come out of the closet than I do in heterosexuals. I've had my own experiences with people who ended up coming out of the closet who were vicious to gay people prior to coming out of the closet. They were the ones who were causing a lot of the friction."

"If you have a heterosexual who is pretty confident in his sexuality, you don't see as much 'fag-bashing.'"

Casas believes people need to be more tolerant of others to survive.

"I think people need to exist without hating one another in order to keep civilization civilized," he said. "Whatever somebody does in their private life, people shouldn't care about. They should be more concerned with things that are going to destroy this Earth rather than destroying each other."