

# The Battalion

### WEATHER

FORECAST for THURSDAY: Partly cloudy and continued hot with gusty southeast wind. There is a 20 percent chance of afternoon showers.

HIGH:91

LOW:69

## Protesters for abortion rights rally at capital

AUSTIN (AP) — About 3,000 abortion rights protesters crowded the Capitol grounds Tuesday in support of a 16-year-old U.S. Supreme Court decision legalizing abortion that they fear could be overturned. The court is scheduled to hear arguments today in a Missouri case

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that has become one of history's most closely watched and could lead to a reversal of the landmark Roe vs. Wade decision in 1973.

"It is the 11th hour and the clock is ticking," Kate Michelman, executive director of the National Abortion Rights Action League, told the crowd.

"We must seize the debate... The pro-choice majority, the sleeping giant, has been asleep too long, but he's waking up," Michelman said to the cheering, sign-waving throng.

Michelman said the makeup of the court has changed since the Roe vs. Wade decision because of appointments by the Reagan administration.

"We do not want politicians or judges or lawmakers to decide," Michelman said. "We will decide."

She urged those present to petition government officials and to "carry our support for choice to the voting booths in 1990 and 1992."

Michelman, who lives in Washington, said protests and rallies were planned Tuesday and Wednesday

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Photo by Jay Janner

## Great balls o' fire

Employees of Monsanto Chemical Corporation prepare to extinguish a simulated propane-leak fire at the Brayton Fireman Training

Field Tuesday. Monsanto sent 95 workers from around the nation to College Station for a five-day training period.

## Students begin petition to get Bush library

By Stephen Masters

SENIOR STAFF WRITER

Texas A&M Student Government members have begun circulation of a petition asking President George Bush to locate his presidential library at the University.

Ty Clevenger, speaker of the Student Senate, estimated that between 5,000 and 6,000 student signatures had been collected by Tuesday afternoon.

Clevenger, a sophomore genetics major, said the petition drive was planned for later in the year. But Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, asked the group to speed up plans in order to possibly present the petition to Bush while he is in College Station to speak at commencement.

Bush is scheduled to speak at the May 12 commencement at 2 p.m.

Clevenger said other universities in the running for the library are Bush's alma mater Yale University, Rice University, the University of Houston and possibly the University of Texas, the location of the Lyndon B. Johnson Memorial Library.

Clevenger said Bush has "given strong indication" he will put his li-

brary in Texas, but said A&M will have to fight for it.

"Rice will probably be our strongest competition because Bush taught a class there while he lived in Houston," he said. "But we've gotten some extremely positive indications about A&M. The reason we're pursuing the petition drive is to put us over the edge."

Petitions will be distributed by members of the Corps of Cadets, Student Government members and possibly Inter-fraternity Council members, Clevenger said. A table will be set up in the MSC today through Friday between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m., he said, and plans for a table in the Blocker Building early next week are being pursued.

Persons wishing to collect signatures can pick up petitions in the Student Government office on the second floor of the Pavilion. A spokesman for Gary Englegau, executive director of admissions and records, said Tuesday no decision has been reached on limiting the number of guests per graduate at the commencement ceremony.

## Communist Party reshuffles officials to expand Gorbachev's power base

MOSCOW (AP) — The Communist Party swept out 110 senior officials and promoted 24 people Tuesday in a major reshuffling that expands President Mikhail S. Gorbachev's power base to push for reform.

The party's policy-making Central Committee retired 74 of its 301 full members, including former President Andrei A. Gromyko, 24 non-voting members, and 12 members of the party's Central Auditing Commission, which handles finances.

"The situation has changed considerably, comrades," Gorbachev said in remarks carried by Tass, the official Soviet news agency. "Vast changes have taken place over this period also in state bodies, and this required personnel."

The outgoing members said they were stepping down "now that all comrades on the Communist Party Central Committee and the Central Auditing Commission should work hard to further perestroika."

Party ideology chief Vadim A. Medvedev told a news conference the officials voluntarily offered to resign and that the Central Committee unanimously approved.

The resignations followed the first contested, nationwide elections in 70 years of Communist

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rule on March 26. Dozens of top party and government officials, including more than 30 regional party chairmen, were defeated.

Medvedev said Gorbachev discussed those elections on Tuesday at the Central Committee

meeting, but the president's remarks were not immediately released.

Tuesday's resignations left the Central Committee with 251 members, party personnel chief Georgy P. Razumovsky told the news conference.

Medvedev said 83 members, or more than one-quarter of the policy-making body, have lost the government and party jobs that entitled them to committee membership since they were elected by the 27th party congress in 1986. Officially, they lost their jobs because of poor health or age, but some clearly fell out of political favor.

Of the 83, many were removed from the Central Committee on Tuesday.

Western observers call such officials "dead souls" who can be a conservative force slowing reforms.

All but two officials promoted Tuesday to full membership were made non-voting members at the 1986 party congress, Gorbachev's first as general secretary of the party. The reshuffling between party congresses, however, was very rare.

## Earthquake hits Mexico City, Acapulco

MEXICO CITY (AP) — A strong earthquake struck Mexico City and Acapulco on Tuesday, cracking buildings and an aqueduct, shattering glass and panicking thousands of people who remembered the killer quake of 1985.

One man was electrocuted when power cables fell on him, and two women were seriously injured when they jumped in panic from the second story of a swaying building during the 8:26 a.m. (9:26 a.m. CDT)

quake, officials said.

Police sent on inspection patrols throughout the city reported no collapsed buildings or other deaths or serious injuries, but many buildings in the seismically sensitive center swayed widely and were evacuated.

"The quake produced a lot of panic because of the recent (1985) experience," Mayor Manuel Camacho Solis said.

He said fallen cables and short circuits caused power blackouts in

many parts of the city. He also said the Tlahuac aqueduct, one of several bringing drinking water to this metropolis of 19 million, cracked in several places and caused flooding.

He said all services would be restored within three days.

President Carlos Salinas de Gortari made a quick tour of affected areas and, in a television interview, praised residents for maintaining "serenity and coolness." He said their experience in the 1985 disaster

had served them well.

Tuesday's tremor shook the Pacific beach resorts of Acapulco and Zihuatanejo, but there were no reports of death or damage throughout the state of Guerrero, said state government spokesman Miguel Angel Hernandez.

"Even though the quake was intensely felt, everything is normal and there are reports of no major damage," Hernandez said by tele-

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## House approves bill to put school logos on car license plates

By Kelly S. Brown

STAFF WRITER

Many students at Texas A&M place Aggie bumper stickers on their cars to identify themselves with the school, and soon they may be able to go a step further and buy A&M license plates.

A collegiate license plate bill passed on its second reading in the Texas House Thursday and will, "almost without a doubt," pass Congress, a spokesman for Rep. Bob Richardson, R-Austin, who wrote the bill, said.

The bill, which would create plates for all colleges and universities in Texas, is now in a Senate committee.

The plates would raise nearly \$2 million a year for scholarship financial aid.

"I think it will definitely make an impact on scholarship programs, as well as making a positive impact on students," said Ty Clevenger, a sophomore genetics major and speaker of the Student Senate.

The plates would cost \$30 in addition to regular motor vehicle registration fees, and would be available when the Highway Department can make arrangements.

Clevenger said the bill requires that \$25 from the sale of each plate be used by the colleges and universities to provide aid to students demonstrating a financial need.

He said money raised from this program would go to universities on a proportionate basis according to the number of license plates sold for each school.

"Whichever school's emblem is on the license plate is the school that will receive the money," Clevenger said.

As a member of the Legislative Study Group, Clevenger has been working with the House of Representatives on the bill.

Clevenger authored a Student Senate bill, which passed unanimously, authorizing Texas A&M to support the bill in the Legislature. He said he got the idea in a political science class from Dr. Patricia Hurley.

"She mentioned that other states had adopted the program as a means of alleviating budget problems," Clevenger said.

Clevenger said the specialized plates would bring in about \$150,000 a year for the state.

The LSG took the idea to Austin and found that Richardson already was working on the bill.

## Proposed amendment to restrict state attorney general passes House

AUSTIN (AP) — A measure that would restrict the attorney general's ability to run for another office was adopted by the House Tuesday, when the sponsor of the measure won 35 more votes to send it to the Senate.

The proposed constitutional amendment — which two weeks ago mustered only 81 of the 100 votes needed for passage in the 150-member House — passed 116-29.

Rep. Stan Schlueter, D-Killeen, said he had not held any bills hostage in the Calendars Committee in order to switch votes. The committee, which he heads, schedules bills for debate in the House.

Some House members were "tired of hearing" that the measure was a slap at Attorney General Jim Mattox, who plans to run for governor in 1990, Schlueter said. He said the bill was not prompted by Mattox's actions and would not apply to him.

Other representatives found it



easier to vote for the bill because of a provision that was added to allow the attorney general to raise money for a period of one year after being elected in order to offset a campaign debt, Schlueter said. The measure previously would not have allowed the attorney general to accept political contributions while in office.

"It's an opportunity not for us to make a decision, not for us to condemn anybody," Schlueter

said of his measure, which will be on the 1990 ballot if approved by the Senate.

"We're just saying, 'Voters of Texas, here's an opportunity for you to express an opinion on this issue,'" he said.

The attorney general's office is a powerful one, Schlueter has said. The attorney general issues legal opinions and defends the state in court, while accepting political contributions from a number of sources, he said.

Rep. Paul Moreno, D-El Paso, spoke against "cluttering up the constitution."

Rep. Al Price, D-Beaumont, said voters currently have the power to unseat an attorney general if they so desire.

With Schlueter's measure, he said, "We can very easily have a situation where the state will say the requirements for being an attorney general are so strict that many good people will not run for the office."

## Recordings reveal Exxon captain rocked tanker to free it from reef

VALDEZ, Alaska (AP) — Radio messages recorded the morning the Exxon Valdez hit a reef show the ship's captain spent up to an hour trying to rock the tanker free, which could have sunk the ship and spilled more oil, the Coast Guard said Tuesday.

The captain ignored Coast Guard warnings that trying to move the ship could have made the nation's worst oil spill almost five times as bad, the recordings show.

The state revised the estimate of the oil spilled from the tanker's punctured tanks to 11.2 million gallons. Officials said its crews had been busy with the cleanup and were slow revising Exxon's original estimate of 10.1 million gallons.

Environmental damage from the oil still is being assessed, but three hatcheries in oil-soaked Prince William Sound have begun releasing millions of tiny salmon because the annual bloom of plankton, an important food source for the fish, was at its peak.

"You can't stop Mother Nature," said Heather McCarty, spokesman for the non-profit association that owns the three hatcheries. By mid-May, 800 million salmon fry will be released from five hatcheries throughout the sound.

"If we don't release them now or within the next few days they'll miss the peak for plankton flowering," she said. "Then they won't survive for sure."

Salmon fry tend to swim close to the surface of the water and remain close to shorelines until they migrate to the open sea, McCarty said.

Exxon estimates at least 1 million gallons of oil still is

floating on the water of the sound and the Gulf of Alaska.

Oil-skimming operations were hampered by a third straight day of rough seas. Most vessels remained anchored in safe harbors, and snow fell in Valdez.

The recorded radio messages showed that Coast Guard Cmdr. Steve McCall in Valdez warned Exxon Valdez Capt. Joseph Hazelwood to take it "slow and easy" in trying to get his ship off the reef that ripped his hull on March 24.

"Before you make any drastic attempt to get away, you know, make sure you don't start doing any ripping," McCall said. "You got a rising tide... I wouldn't recommend doing much wiggling."

But Hazelwood had begun trying to free the tanker.

"A little problem here with the third mate, but we're working our way off the reef," Hazelwood said. "We've, ah, the vessel has been holed and we're ascertaining right now, we're trying to get her off the reef and we'll get back to you as soon as we can."

The third mate was Gregory Cousins, whom Exxon says had been given control of the ship as it maneuvered through Prince William Sound on its way to the Gulf of Alaska and on to Long Beach, Calif. Cousins, who was not certified to control the ship in the sound, has been unavailable for comment.

The reef was well outside the shipping lane through the sound. Hazelwood is charged with operating the vessel while intoxicated, reckless endangerment and negligent discharge of pollution into the water, all misdemeanors.