

# Jury finds North guilty on 3 charges

WASHINGTON (AP) — Oliver L. North, the Marine at the center of the Reagan administration's secret effort to arm the Nicaragua Contras, was convicted Thursday of shredding documents and two other charges in the Iran-Contra affair. He was acquitted on nine other counts.



Oliver North

Congress banned official U.S. aid. He was involved, too, in arrangements under which the United States secretly sold arms to Iran and he also helped divert some profits from those sales to help the Contras. Public disclosure of the affair in November 1986 began the worst cri-

sis of President Reagan's eight-year presidency, a public furor that didn't subside until after televised congressional hearings that made North a national figure.

The jury convicted North of falsifying and destroying documents in November 1986 as the affair was about to become public, and of accepting an illegal gratuity — a \$13,800 home security system — from Iran-Contra co-defendant Richard Secord.

North also was convicted of aiding and abetting in obstruction of Congress by falsifying a chronology of events in the affair.

He was acquitted of five other charges of lying to or obstructing Congress, of lying to then-Attorney General Edwin Meese III in Meese's probe of the affair, of converting traveler's checks to his own use and of conspiring to defraud the Internal Revenue Service by using a tax-exempt foundation to raise funds for the Contras.

U.S. District Judge Gerhard A. Gesell scheduled sentencing for June 23.

The maximum possible sentences for the convictions total 10 years in prison and \$750,000 in fines.

## Charges against North, verdicts

WASHINGTON (AP) — Here are the 12 felony charges against former National Security Council aide Oliver L. North and the jury's verdicts on each. All carry five-year prison terms and fines up to \$250,000 except as noted.

1. Obstruction of Congress in Sept. and Oct. 1985: **Not guilty.**
2. False statements to Congress on Sept. 5, 1985: **Not guilty.**
3. False statements to Congress on Sept. 12, 1985: **Not guilty.**
4. False statements to Congress on Oct. 7, 1985: **Not guilty.**
5. Obstruction of Congress in Aug. 1986: **Not guilty.**
6. Aiding and abetting obstruction of Congress in

Nov. 1986: **Guilty.** (The jury did not find North guilty of obstruction of Congress on this charge, but did find him guilty of the subsidiary charge of aiding and abetting.)

7. Obstruction of a presidential inquiry in Nov. 1986: **Not guilty.**

8. False statements on Nov. 23, 1986: **Not guilty.**

9. Destroying or falsifying government documents, three-year imprisonment and \$250,000 fine: **Guilty.**

10. Receipt of an illegal gratuity, two-year imprisonment and \$250,000 fine: **Guilty.**

11. Conversion of traveler's checks to personal use, 10-year imprisonment, \$250,000 fine: **Not guilty.**

12. Conspiracy to defraud the Treasury and the Internal Revenue Service: **Not guilty.**

North's contention, both in the congressional hearings in 1987 and during his three-month trial, had been that he had authorization for

everything he did — from two successive bosses, National Security Ad-

visers Robert F. McFarlane and John M. Poindexter — and "concurrency" from the late CIA Director William C. Casey.

He said he assumed that Reagan — who spoke out often in support of the Contra cause — also knew of his efforts and approved them. Reagan

told the investigative Tower commission two years ago that he did not know of his NSC staff's efforts to help the Contras.

Reagan fired North the day the affair became public but telephoned him the same day and told him he was a hero.

Texas A&M

# The Battalion

Vol. 88 No. 14 USPS 045360 14 pages

College Station, Texas



## WEATHER

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY: Cloudy, becoming partly cloudy in the afternoon, with a 40 percent chance of showers and thunderstorms

HIGH: 85 LOW: 62

Friday 5  
Thursday, May 4, 1989

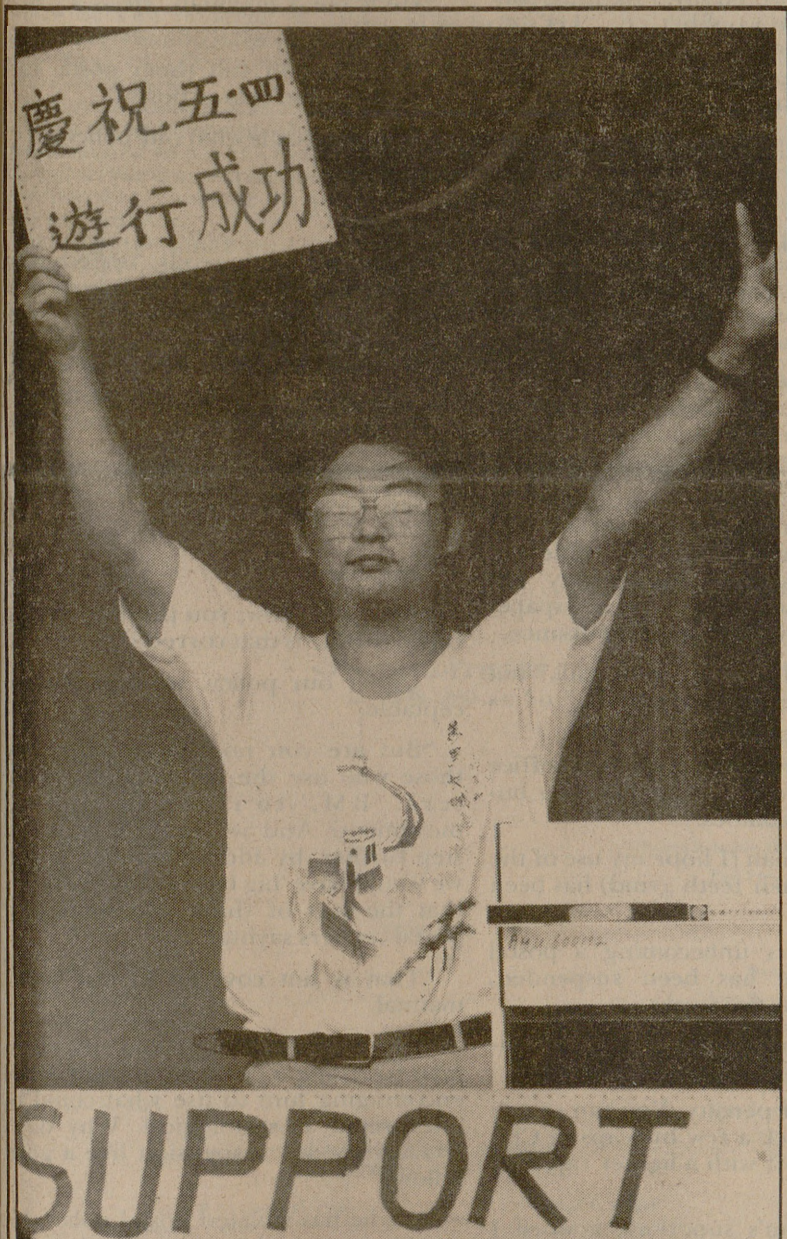


Photo by Kathy Haveman

## Protest for democracy

Xun Ge, a graduate student in physics from the People's Republic of China, participates in the A&M China Club's demonstration Thursday afternoon by Rudder Fountain. The protest was in support of the members' protesting countrymen.

# Atlantis sends Magellan to Venus, launches U.S. back into deep space

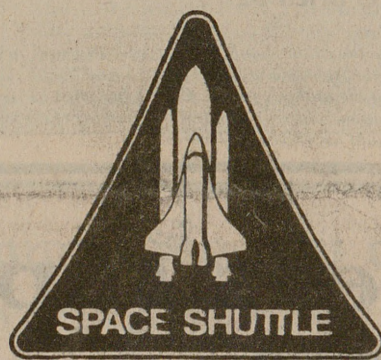
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Atlantis' astronauts, safely in orbit Thursday after a cliff-hanger weather delay, set free the \$550 million Magellan spacecraft for its 15-month mapmaking voyage to Venus.

The robot spacecraft, reviving an American planetary-science program dormant for a decade, slipped from the shuttle's cargo bay at 9:01 p.m. EDT and drifted into space.

"Magellan is deployed," shuttle commander David Walker reported.

An hour later, after Atlantis moved a safe distance away, a spacecraft motor was to fire to propel Magellan on a 456-day journey to Venus, 158 million miles away.

It will travel 806 million miles, looping 1½ times around the sun, before reaching and orbiting its tar-



get in August 1990. Mission specialists Mark Lee and

Mary Cleave, operating remote controls inside the shuttle cabin, checked the health of the space probe before sending a signal that spring-ejected it into its own orbit while Atlantis soared over the Pacific Ocean 600 miles southwest of Los Angeles.

"It's time to let Magellan spread its wings," a spacecraft controller on the ground said in giving the astronauts the go-ahead to deploy the probe.

Magellan, the first planetary craft ever launched from a shuttle, is to map up to 90 percent of Venus' cloud-shrouded surface.

Its high-resolution radar system is expected to produce images of objects as small as a football field — 10 times the clarity of any previous pic-

tures of the mysterious planet.

The release of Magellan, the main task of the four-day flight, came a little more than six hours after Atlantis thundered into orbit 184 miles high.

The launch was delayed 59 minutes by shifting clouds and winds that had threatened the second postponement in six days. When Atlantis finally left its pad, just five minutes remained in the launch "window" dictated by the need to have the shuttle in the proper position to dispatch Magellan to Venus.

If the launch had been postponed, there would have been daily launch opportunities until May 28.

# Latest Beijing democracy march involves about 100,000 protestors

BEIJING (AP) — Legions of students marched through Beijing on Thursday and occupied Tiananmen Square to mark the 70th anniversary of China's first student movement with another stunning display of their craving for democracy.

About 100,000 people, more than half of them students, defied police and gathered in the huge square for a festive rally to seek greater freedom, cleaner government, a free press and official recognition of the new independent student union that authorities say is illegal.

Students held much smaller demonstrations in Shanghai, Nanjing and Changsha, and about 300 journalists from the official Chinese media joined the student rally in Tiananmen. Throughout Beijing, crowds of workers applauded the students and shouted encouragement.

"Perhaps the march will not bring democracy

today, tomorrow or the day after tomorrow, but if we keep working on it, China has hope," said one worker who claimed he risked being fired by attending the demonstration.

"We have to transform China," echoed an excited 20-year-old sophomore from the Political Science and Law College, one of at least 55 schools that participated in the rally, which capped a remarkable three weeks of pro-democracy student demonstrations in Beijing.

After initially saying the student marches were designed to undermine China's government, the communist leadership in recent days has said the demonstrators are being manipulated by unspecified people and that most protesting students are patriotic.

Student activists appeared ready Thursday to shift their tactics. After six successful marches in defiance of the government, they indicated fu-

ture activity may not center on demonstrations. They also announced that a nearly 2-week-old boycott that shut down most Beijing university classes would end Friday.

Wu'er Kaixi, a leading activist, said setting up independent newspapers would be among the new steps.

The students — chanting slogans such as "Down with official profiteering!" and "Patriotism is no crime!" — poured into Tiananmen in the early afternoon after marching all morning from their universities on the outskirts of Beijing.

At a few intersections, marchers had to shove their way through hundreds of unarmed police lined six deep across the road, but the government clearly wanted to avoid serious confrontation.

# Local environmental groups hope letters increase concern over Alaskan oil disaster

By Cindy McMillan

STAFF WRITER

People were outraged when the tanker Exxon Valdez spilled oil into Prince William Sound, but many didn't think they could do anything about it. However, local environmental organizations are urging people to make a difference by writing letters of protest.

Bryan-College Station ReSOURCE, the Regional Organization United to Realize Conservation of our Environment, is sending out "alerts" that encourage people to write letters to their congressmen and to Exxon about the Alaskan oil spill.

Will Keener, founder and former president of ReSOURCE, said he started sending out the alerts last week and plans for the information

to spread through a "phone chain." Keener said that each person who receives the alert by phone is supposed to call two other people, and he hopes those contacted will write letters to President Bush, Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, Rep. Joe Barton and Bill Stevens, president of Exxon Corp.

The Texas Environmental Action Coalition, a campus organization that works closely with ReSOURCE, sent its letters of protest to Exxon. Mary Albert, TEAC's public relations chairman, said she knows of about 40 people who have written the oil corporation with complaints.

"We want to let Bill Stevens (president of Exxon Corp.) know that we're not going to support Exxon any more until they clean up the spill," she said.

Another of ReSOURCE's main concerns is a bill in the House of Representatives that would open

Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge for oil exploration.

Keener said Barton, D-Tex. and a former A&M student, co-sponsored the bill and claims that oil drilling in the refuge would not harm the wildlife.

ReSOURCE is concerned about animals in the target area such as polar bears, musk oxen, porcupine caribou and grey wolves, a species endangered in many areas.

The recent ReSOURCE alert said there is only a 19 percent chance of finding oil in the area, but Bentsen, Barton and Bush all support the bill.

"Bush is a self-proclaimed environmentalist," Keener said. "It's really hypocritical."

The alert urges people to protest by writing Barton, Bush or Bentsen and asking them not to "exploit" the refuge.

Steve Bagwell, an assistant to Bar-

ton, said Wednesday that Barton has received "just a handful of letters from around the district" concerning the oil spill and the arctic refuge.

Keener said he wasn't worried about the number of letters sent in.

"You can't just give up because you don't think it's doing anything," he said. "If not even one person writes, at least people are getting exposure to the ideas."

Michael Worsham, vice-president and founder of TEAC, said he has written letters to Barton before about his concerns about the environment and received replies.

He sent a letter to Barton Monday and hopes to receive a reply within a couple of weeks.

Worsham was born in Alaska but moved at age 2.

"I'd like to go back there sometime and not have it all fouled up," he said.

# Points Plus plan offers off-campus 'meal plan'

By Beth Hall

CORRESPONDENT

Texas A&M students will have the option of a meal plan for off-campus establishments, similar to Aggie Bucks, starting in June.

"We have contracted more than 40 merchants throughout the area," Denise Fulfer, marketing director of Points Plus, said.

"The main thrust of our advertising campaign will be convenience. It (Points Plus) will be similar to a checking account without the hassle of checks or service charges.

"By targeting the students, Points Plus is hoping to be more successful than Aggie Bucks."

Participating merchants include Duddley's Draw, Texas Aggie Bookstore, the Dixie Chicken, McDonalds, Quick As A Flash

and TCBY, Fulfer said.

She said Points Plus' next goal is to contract with College Station Utilities so students can pay bills with Points Plus.

"Eventually, after the company has established a track record, we would like to move into retail — such as Dillard's and Foley's," Fulfer said.

Students can open an account with Points Plus with \$50. No minimum balance is required after that and, unlike Aggie Bucks, money can be withdrawn at any time.

Susie Lambert, marketing director of the Flying Tomato, sees Points Plus as an opportunity for the merchants to benefit.

For more information, contact a Points Plus representative at 846-9085.