

The Battalion

WEATHER

FORECAST for THURSDAY:
Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers in the afternoon.
HIGH: 90s LOW: 70s

Wednesday, June 21, 1989

Former students relive college days at A&M

By Richard Tijerina
STAFF WRITER

While 480 incoming freshmen are going through orientation conferences at Texas A&M this week, 42 former students are getting a taste of what it's like to be a student in 1989.

A total of 80 people, 42 former students and their spouses, have been spending the week on the A&M campus while participating in the second annual AggieHostel, a program created by the Association of Former Students to give University alumni 65 and older and their spouses a chance to experience what life at A&M is like.

Porter Garner III, field director for the Association and program coordinator for AggieHostel, said the weeklong event is based on the ElderHostel concept, a national program that brings older Americans to college campuses.

He said AggieHostel is different from El-

derHostel because A&M's program is geared specifically for former students of the University. The age requirement of having to be 65 or older means former students participating in AggieHostel graduated as long ago as 1925 and as recently as 1945.

Fifty-five people, including 29 former students and 26 of their spouses, attended the first AggieHostel last summer. Garner said this year's program was limited to 80 people, and the sign-up list filled quickly on a first come, first served basis.

Nineteen participants of last summer's AggieHostel program returned this year.

Garner said this year's AggieHostel was easy to plan because the planning committee was well-prepared after last year's program. He also said more people came to this year's event because last year's was successful.

"Everything we heard last year were just glowing reports over what we did," Garner

said. "We were professional and organized. That's what we were striving for, though. We didn't want to just throw something together and hope they had a good time. Our goal was to make sure they left here with that type of attitude."

Garner said it is a shock to former students to see how much A&M has changed since they graduated.

"That's what's great to see — the people who haven't been here in so long," he said. "We've got one couple from Connecticut who haven't been here in 30 years. They've toured on bus and they've walked around, and they're still trying to figure it all out. Their necks must be sore with all the head turning they've been doing."

AggieHostel participants get a close-up look at what being an A&M student is like. They have been staying in Haas Hall, eating at Sbis Dining Hall and attending classes all over campus.

Garner said the most important thing the

former students go home with after the week is over is a greater appreciation for what campus life is like today.

"It's easy to sit at home in San Antonio, Trinity or Marble Falls and read about Texas A&M, but you don't get a feel for parking, dormitory living, food services, class schedules and the general hustle and bustle of living at a major university."

To make their transition to 1989 university life easier, 20 A&M students work as student hosts who serve as their advisers during the week.

Laura Schmidt, a senior English major from College Station, works as one of the student hosts and said the experience she's gained during the week from working with the former students has been invaluable.

"It has been very rewarding and fun at the same time," Schmidt said. "You hear some great stories about things that went on when they (former students) were here. Apparently, campus life hasn't changed

much except it's gotten a little more modern."

The AggieHostel participants can choose to take classes including American Literature, Healthy Aging, American History, Gardening Fun, Floral Design and United States/Soviet Relations. There is a computer workshop and an art and sketching course offered all week.

A&M faculty are teaching all the courses, and Garner said convincing them to take time out and work with the former students wasn't a problem when they understood the overall concept of the program.

AggieHostel cost \$350 per person, but Garner said the fee includes everything the former students would need during the week.

"The cost includes everything they do here," he said. "They could show up here with an empty wallet and wouldn't have to worry about a thing while they were here. See AggieHostel/Page 4

Census Bureau calls Laredo 'country's most Hispanic city'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Laredo is the country's most Hispanic city, according to Census Bureau figures that say the border town of "seven flags and seven cultures" is now 97.9 percent Hispanic.

While Los Angeles has nearly as many Hispanics as the entire state of Texas, no metropolitan area has as high a proportion of Hispanic residents as Laredo, according to Census Bureau figures released Tuesday.

Only five other metropolitan areas in the country also have majority Hispanic populations — McAllen, 82.9 percent; Brownsville, 81 percent; El Paso, 67.5 percent; Las Cruces, N.M., 56.5 percent; and Corpus Christi, 50.5 percent, according to the figures.

In its first detailed estimates of minorities by state since the Census Bureau conducted its 1980 head count, the agency said Texas had 3.7 million Hispanic residents in 1985, second only to California's nearly 5.9 million.

Hispanics accounted for 22.8 percent of Texas' population in 1985, up from 21.1 percent in 1980, the Census Bureau said.

Texas also had 1.9 million black residents in 1985, who accounted for 11.8 percent of the population. In 1980, Texas has 1.7 million blacks who accounted for 12 percent of the state's population.

Laredo, which describes itself as "a little bit of Mexico, a little bit of Texas and a little bit of something more," had 110,100 Hispanic residents on July 1, 1985, a 19.4 percent increase in the Hispanic population from the 1980 total of 92,200.

Miguel Conchas, director of the Laredo and Webb County convention and visitor's bureau, said the Census Bureau figure seems "a little high." He said he would have estimated that Hispanic residents account for between 90 percent and 95 percent of the Rio Grande city's population.

Conchas said the Anglo population has increased slightly in the last

two years, a period not reflected by the Census figures, due to the growth of the maquiladora industry in Laredo and Nuevo Laredo, Mexico.

Nuevo Laredo's 61 twin-plants have brought in mid- and top-management personnel from outside the state, many of whom are Anglo, Conchas said.

While seven flags have flown over the palm-tree lined city of conquistadores and cowboys — from Spain, France, Mexico, Texas, the Republic of the Rio Grande, the United States, and the Confederacy — Conchas estimates that if 97.9 percent of Laredo's residents are Hispanic, at least 95 percent are of Mexican descent.

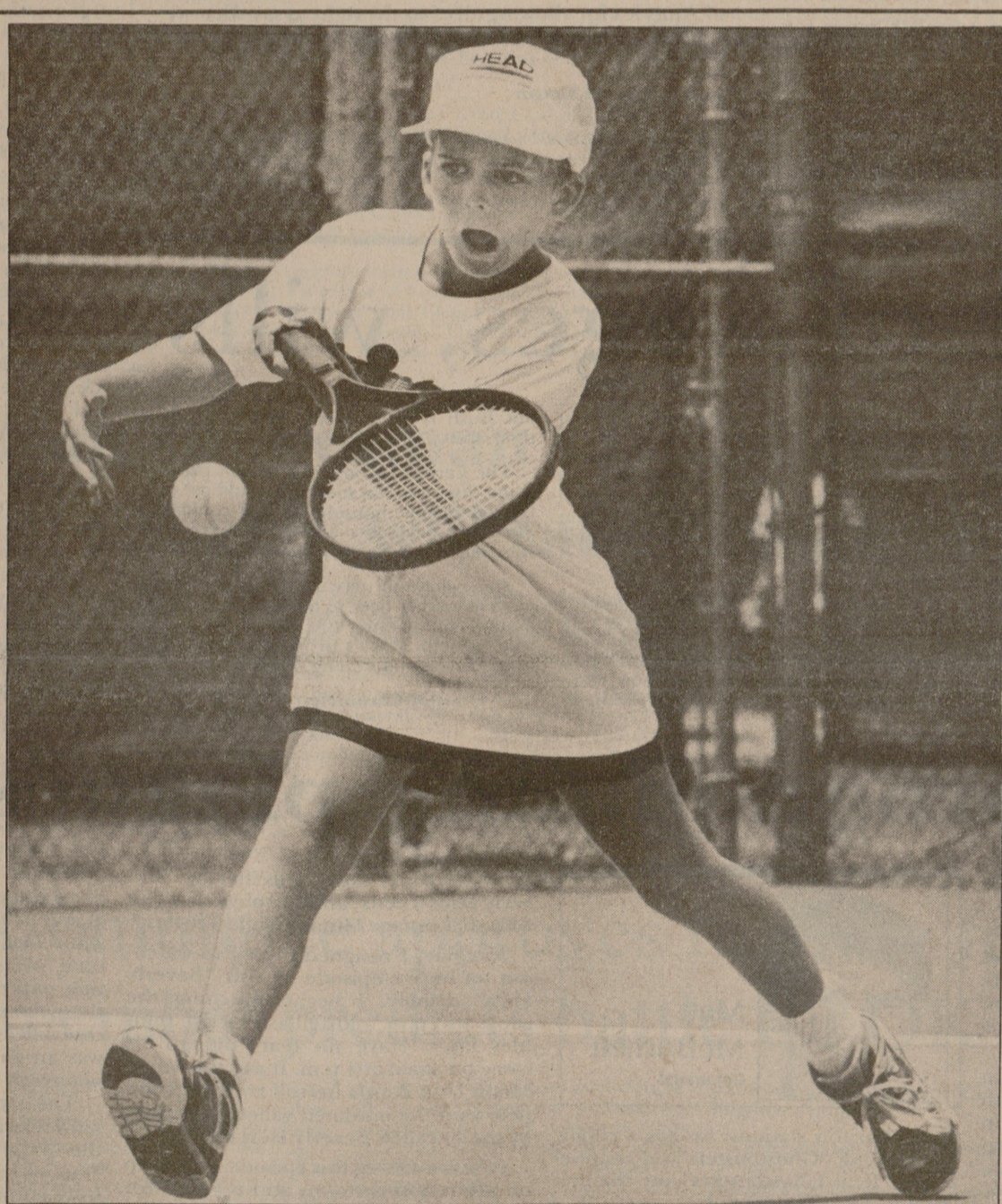
The largest influx of Mexicans into Laredo was around the time of the Mexican revolution, Conchas said.

Nationally, the number of Hispanics increased from 14.3 million in 1980 to an estimated 17.5 million by July 1, 1985, for a five-year growth rate of 22.9 percent. The growth rate in Texas was 23.1 percent.

Cities with the greatest concentrations of Hispanics, after Los Angeles, are New York, 2.3 million, Miami, with 815,000 in 1985, San Francisco, 775,000, and Chicago, 757,000.

The Houston metropolitan area, with 595,000 Hispanics, ranked sixth nationally, followed by the metropolitan areas of San Antonio, 568,000; El Paso, 360,000; San Diego, 358,000; Dallas, 346,000; and McAllen, 281,000.

San Antonio's population was about 46 percent Hispanic in 1985, according to the census. The Houston area was nearly 17 percent and Dallas-Fort Worth area approximately 10 percent, the census found.



Tennis anyone?

Nine-year-old Clint Fatter of Austin hits a forehand to his opponent in the final match for boys 10 and under singles during the 1989

Quality GMC Texas A&M Open at Omar Smith Tennis Center Tuesday afternoon. Fatter lost the match 3-6, 3-6 to Tres Davis, 7.

Photo by Kathy Haveman

Bush orders new sanctions against China

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush ordered new sanctions against China on Tuesday in retaliation for the government's "wave of violence and reprisals" against the pro-democracy movement.

Prodded by Congress to take tougher action against Beijing, the White House said the United States will seek to postpone consideration of new loans to China by international lending institutions, such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Moreover, Bush ordered U.S. government officials to refrain from some high-level contacts with the Beijing government. The order does not affect routine communications between the United States Embassy and China but bars anyone of assistant secretary rank and above from taking part in exchange programs.

"This action is being taken in response to the wave of violence and reprisals by the Chinese authorities against those who have called for democracy," White House press secretary Marlin Fitzwater said in a written statement.

Earlier Tuesday, the administration made a public plea to Chinese leaders to grant clemency to protesters sentenced to death and to pardon people arrested in pro-democracy demonstrations.

The death sentences, if carried out, "could only deepen the wounds of the past few weeks," Fitzwater said. He said Bush directed the State Department on Monday "to deplore the death sentences handed down in Shanghai and Beijing and to appeal for clemency in these cases."

In announcing the new sanctions, Fitzwater said the United States supports "the legitimate democratic aspirations for freedom of peoples throughout the world. The U.S. will continue to voice its concern and its support for these aspirations."

Fitzwater said the United States "hopes that the current tragedy in China be brought to a peaceful end and that the dialogue will replace the atmosphere of suspicion and reprisal."

"China is an important state with which we hope to continue productive relations," he said.

UH orders completion of sales in remaining S. African investments

HOUSTON (AP) — The University of Houston system has ordered the sale by week's end of all its remaining investments in corporations doing business in South Africa, officials said Tuesday.

The sale will successfully complete a directive passed by the system's board of regents two years ago. That action directed the system's financial managers to complete such a divestiture within two years unless it would prove financially harmful for the institution.

"By managing our investment strategy in a prudent manner and by utilizing sound judgment, we are able to remove the South African-related investments from our portfolio with gains in excess of 30 percent," said UH system regent Don A. Sanders, who chairs the board of regents' asset management committee.

"Sell orders have been placed with the management firms, and execution of those sales is scheduled for no later than June 23," he said.

Although the regents ap-

proved the pullout on June 23, 1987, the UH system has withdrawn only about a third of its \$6.4 million invested in companies operating in South Africa.

School officials said the withdrawal has been slowed by poor stock performances and by the stock market crash in October 1987.

The UH system also has adhered to the regents' 1987 resolution not to invest further in firms doing business in South Africa, where a minority of whites hold power over a majority of disenfranchised blacks through the system of apartheid.

As of May, the UH system had investments in about 13 companies with South African-related business operations. Most of the investments are in the form of securities traded on the stock exchange.

The University of Houston system consists of four separate institutions — the University of Houston, and branches in Clear Lake, Victoria and downtown Houston.

Soviet ship hits iceberg; Norwegians rescue all passengers, crew members

OSLO, Norway (AP) — A Norwegian coast guard ship cut through thick arctic ice Tuesday to rescue hundreds of people who had taken refuge on ice floes and in lifeboats after their Soviet cruise liner hit an iceberg and took on water.

Some Soviet crew members stayed aboard the listing 630-foot ocean liner Maxim Gorky to keep it afloat in the Norwegian Sea while the rescue ship and helicopters saved passengers huddling in blankets in the 37-degree temperatures. No one was seriously injured.

The Maxim Gorky was carrying 950 people when it rammed the iceberg in the foggy arctic twilight shortly after midnight, while most of the passengers were partying in a shipboard nightclub.

"Suddenly there was a terrible crash that almost shook me from my bed," said Rudolf Ludwig, 67, of Wiesbaden, West Germany, one of the passengers on the midnight sun cruise who was evacuated by helicopter to Norway's Svalbard island.

"We were told to get into the lifeboats," Ludwig said. "We sat for five

hours among the icebergs. The atmosphere was calm, and the Russian sailors did everything they could. They gave us vodka and whiskey in the boats, since it was cold. And blankets, too."

The iceberg ripped two holes in the ship, which quickly took on water. Passengers said three decks became submerged.

The coast guard vessel Senja, its bow reinforced for icebreaking, rushed to the area, about 300 miles east of northern Greenland and 180 miles west of Svalbard island. It reached the area about four hours later, and Norwegian officials said all passengers had been picked up about three hours later.

Soviet ships steamed to the area and took over rescue operations.

The Soviet news agency Tass said the ship carried 575 passengers, all but about a dozen from West Germany, and 377 crew members.

The ship set out on June 11 from Bremerhaven, West Germany, sailed to Iceland and struck the iceberg while sailing around the Spitsbergen

island chain on its way to Norway.

The Norwegian Meteorological Institute sends out weekly ice charts of the area, but the situation changes too quickly to be dependable for navigation, the Norwegian news agency reported.

West German passenger Winfried Prince said there was no panic, and "the Russian crew has worked perfectly in disembarking passengers

into lifeboats, and also the Norwegians who picked us up... have done a wonderful job."

About 120 Soviet crewmen stayed aboard the Maxim Gorky to keep it from sinking. Finn B. Hansen of the North Norway Rescue Coordination Center said the Soviet tugboat Sarja arrived with pumps and two more Russian vessels steamed toward the ship.

Law prohibits forcing professors to retire at 70

AUSTIN (AP) — A bill prohibiting public colleges and universities from requiring professors with tenure to retire at age 70 has been signed into law by Gov. Bill Clements, according to the Texas Faculty Association.

"This important law ends age discrimination against tenured faculty members in Texas 4.5 years ahead

of the time when the federal government is scheduled to do the same thing," said association president Kenneth Margerison.

He said Rep. Libby Lineberger, D-Manchaca, had sponsored the bill at the request of Dr. Norman Whalen, professor of anthropology at Southwest Texas State University at San Marcos.