



WEATHER
 TOMORROW'S FORECAST:
 Partly cloudy
 HIGH: 70 LOW: 48

Hazing dies out as awareness of law increases

By Selina Gonzalez and Suzanne Calderon
Of The Battalion Staff

Hazing on the Texas A&M campus is becoming a thing of the past as awareness of the 1987 hazing law increases among fraternity rushers and entering Corps members.

Field Hudgens, Interfraternity Council external vice president, said, "Now we want to mold guys (fraternity rushers) into what they are and who they are instead of breaking them down."

He said hazing is defined as anything that demoralizes, undermines or breaks someone's self-confidence.

The 1987 state hazing law defines hazing as "any intentional, knowing, or reckless act that endangers the mental or physical health or safety of a student for the purpose of pledging, being initiated into, affiliating with, holding office in, or maintaining membership in any organization."

The hazing law was passed after the 1986 alcohol hazing death of a UT-Austin fraternity pledge. The law established civil and criminal penalties for groups that haze and the individuals involved.

According to the 1987 law, the term "hazing" includes:

- Any type of physical brutality.
- Any type of physical activity such as sleep deprivation or exposure to the elements.
- Any activity involving consumption of a food, liquid, or alcoholic beverage.
- Any activity that intimidates or threatens the student or subjects the student to extreme mental stress.

In addition, a section of the law requires that schools "cause to be published or distributed to each student during the first three weeks of each semester" a list of

groups disciplined for hazing during the past three years.

Dr. J. Malone Southerland, associate vice president of Student Services, said publishing a list of organizations that have participated in hazing is an attempt to educate people about the reputation of different organizations.

He does not believe A&M has had any incidents that have totally violated the 1987 hazing law.

"We do have some cases regarding a couple of student organizations that, after further review, the Student Activities Department believes it would be prudent to do

some form of publication," Southerland said. Student Activities officials are currently deciding what should be done in these cases.

Hudgens said because no fraternities have been disciplined for hazing at A&M in the past three years, it has been unnecessary to publish such a list.

When asked if he felt organizations reported hazing incidents 100 percent of the time, Southerland said, "No."

Student Services officials recently decided incidents of hazing should be re-

See Hazing/Page 12

Aggie Players win production awards for 'Godot,' others

By Pam Mooman
Of The Battalion Staff

Good things come to those who are waiting — "Waiting For Godot," that is.

The Texas A&M Aggie Players won one of two awards for best production for their performance of "Waiting For Godot" at the American College Theatre Festival at East Texas State University Nov. 7-12.

Texas Women's University won the other best performance award with their production of "Six Women With Brain Death: Or Expiring Minds Want to Know."

productions, which were good, with his fingers crossed.

"It's my first year and I didn't know what to think," he said. "I was really excited about (winning)."

The Aggie Players also won other honors for costume design and scenic design and were acknowledged as the best company at the festival.

Two cast members, Oliver Tull, who played Vladimir (Didi) and Clinton Sam, who played Estragon (Gogo), were selected as outstanding performers.

Tull, a senior theater major from Dallas, said he was not surprised that "Waiting For Godot" won.

"I thought we had a very good production," Tull said. "I thought we'd do well."

Tull said winning an award like this helps actors in two ways.

"It's one of the things that come from peer recognition," he said. It's a way for actors to know if they have done a good job, he said.

"It's (also) a way to advance a career."

Aggies beat Aussies 87-74

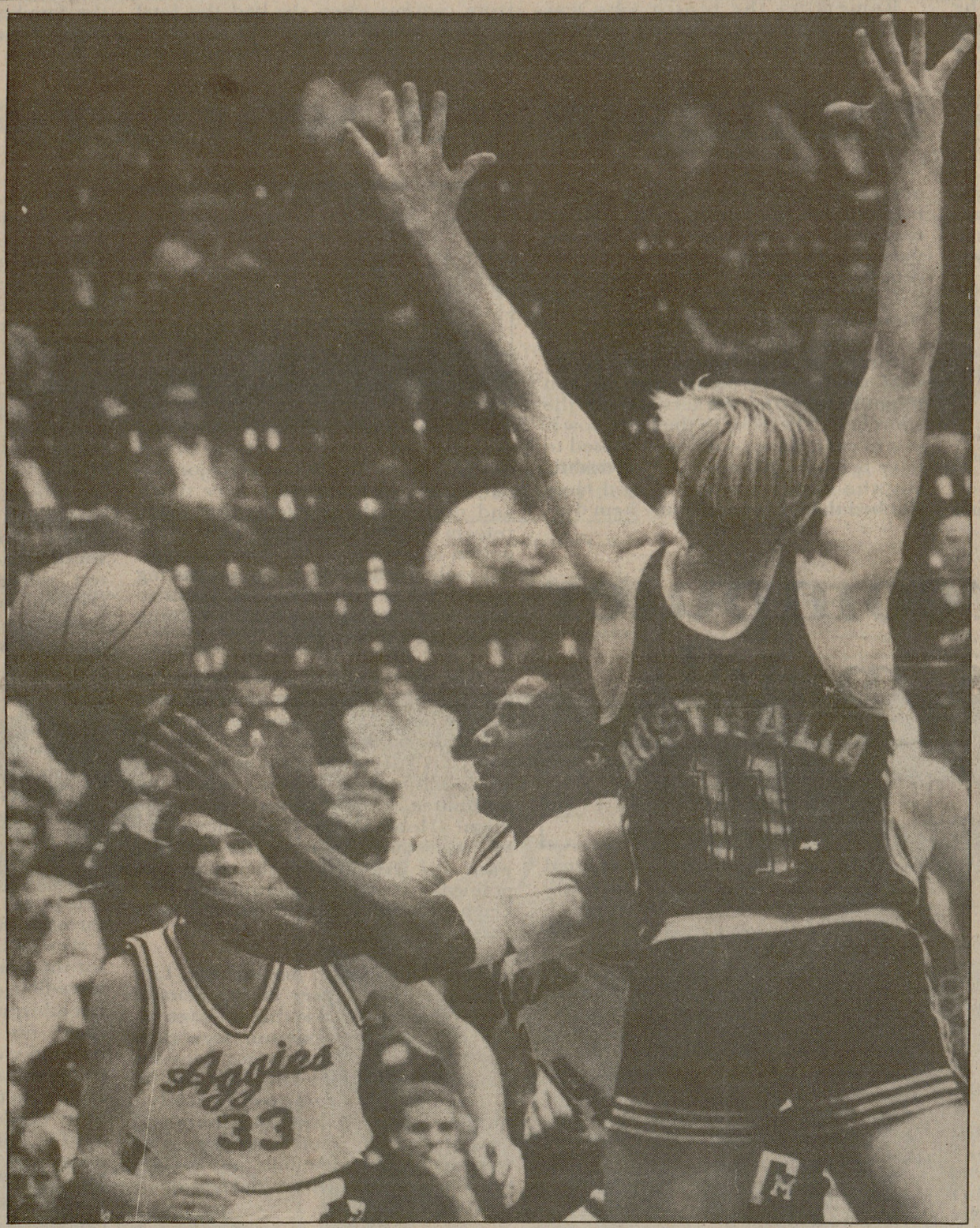


Photo by Mike C. Mulvey
 A&M's Freddie Rick steals back a rebound from Australia's Tim Morrissey and scores. The victory over the Australian Olympic team marked the Aggies' season opener. Story, page 7

A&M officials investigating cause of fires

UPD checks out possibility of arson

By Andrea Warrenburg
Of The Battalion Staff

A string of four fires on the Texas A&M campus in the early morning hours of Nov. 11 has the University Police Department investigating possible arson.

All occurring on the north side of campus, the first fire was reported at 2 a.m. and the last fire at 4:45 a.m. Dumpsters in parking area 30 and parking area 2, two trashcans in the breezeway of McGinnis Hall and a couch in the A-3 study lounge, south of Davis-Gary Hall, caught on fire.

Dan Mizer, A&M assistant director for residence life, said the study lounge received extensive damage and will be closed for repairs for some time.

"The dumpsters will have to be repaired and the trashcans replaced," Mizer said. "As for the study lounge, 95 percent of it is covered with black soot and the damage is pretty extensive."

Mizer said a couch in the lounge caught fire and as the blaze grew, set the wood paneling and the ceiling on fire, damaging some ceiling beams. Carpet, light fixtures and some beams will have to be replaced, he said.

"Outside companies are submitting bids for repairs, trying to put a dollar amount on the damage," Mizer said.

In the opinion of College Station Fire Department Captain Timothy Fickey, who was on duty that night, it was arson.

University Police Department Detective Jim Lindholm is investigating this possibility. Evidence has been taken to the Department of Public Safety laboratory for analysis.

"We have eyewitnesses to the other fires and there's a strong possibility they're linked," Lindholm said. "We have a couple of suspects."

"I've been here for almost seven years and don't ever remember a string of fires like this," Lindholm said.

If anyone has information on the fires, they are asked to contact Lindholm at 845-6712. All information will be kept confidential.

E. Germans protest Communist leaders despite new reforms

DRESDEN, East Germany (AP) — Tens of thousands of protesters in at least eight cities braved icy winds Sunday to keep the heat on the Communist leadership, despite open borders and the election of a reform-minded Cabinet one day earlier.

Nearly 3 million East Germans crossed into West Berlin and West Germany between Friday and Sunday, the second weekend since the government opened borders to the West, border police said. Most were just visiting for the day.

Ferry service across the Elbe River, which forms part of the border, resumed Sunday at Hitzacker, about 80 miles southeast of Hamburg, for the first time since April 23, 1945.

In another change, the official ADN news agency reported that the roles of the party and the government in East Germany's armed forces will be separated.

ADN said 50,000 people participated in Dresden's first officially authorized protest rally. Other estimates of the crowd size ranged up to 100,000.

"Lord don't forgive them because they knew what they did," one banner in the southern city, making a biting play on words from Jesus Christ's agony on the cross, said.

In East Berlin, thousands participated in an unauthorized march from the Alexanderplatz square to Parliament, calling for sweeping reforms and abolition of the Communist Party's guaranteed monopoly on power.

Parliament on Saturday confirmed a reform-minded Cabinet of Communist Premier Hans Modrow and created a committee to study possible constitutional changes, including dropping a law guaranteeing Communist rule.

"We won't let ourselves be blinded by the open borders," one protest banner said. "Swap DDR (East Germany) for Mickey Mouse," another said.

One sign suggested, "Honecker to court," and speakers called for prosecution of the country's former leaders, including ousted president and party chief Erich Honecker, who was replaced by Egon Krenz on Oct. 18.

Krenz was quoted by a West German newspaper as saying Honecker is one of those under investigation by a parliamentary commission.

Just outside the capital, about 30,000 Communist Party backers demonstrated in Potsdam to show their support for the government's announced reform program, ADN said.

ADN reported other pro-democracy rallies Sunday in a half-dozen cities and towns.

The rallies were as follows: 20,000 people in Erfurt, 10,000 in Meiningen, also 10,000 in Frankfurt an der Oder, 3,000 in Schwedt and 2,000 in Neustrelitz. The official agency said "thousands" protested in Karl Marx Stadt but did not give a more precise crowd estimate for the march there or in East Berlin.

At least some demonstrators were cool to the idea of unifying the two Germans.

Survivor of collapsed Oakland freeway dies

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Buck Helm, the longshoreman rescued from a flattened freeway three and a half days after the Oct. 17 earthquake, was mourned Sunday as a gutsy symbol of endurance. His death raised the toll from the quake to 67.

Helm, 58, died of respiratory failure Saturday night at Kaiser-Permanente Medical Center in Oakland, hospital spokesman Ron Treleven said. No other details on his death were available.

"Buck's passing pretty much took everyone by surprise because he was improving," Gary Frischer, a spokesman for Helm's family, said in a statement.

Helm had been taken off a kidney dialysis machine, and doctors had hoped to wean him from the respirator that had enabled him to breathe.

His death raised the toll from the collapse of

the double-deck Nimitz Freeway in Oakland to 42. Overall, the 7.1-magnitude quake killed 67 people, injured more than 2,800, left more than 14,000 homeless and caused an estimated \$7 billion in damage.

"To many, Buck had become a symbol of survival and hope," Frischer said. "For the Helmses, the thousands of cards and letters from all corners of the world gave Buck and the family strength and encouragement, and for that they are forever grateful."

Others were rescued from the collapsed section of Interstate 880 shortly after the quake hit, but Helm was the only person to be pulled alive from the rubble after rescue crews began searching the wrecked road.

Rescuers had given up hope of finding more survivors when an engineer testing the structure's stability saw Helm wave from inside his

small car Oct. 21. A large beam that fell in front of Helm's Chevrolet Sprint saved it from being flattened.

The 220-pound, 5-foot-10 Helm suffered a fractured skull, fractured neck, three broken ribs, nerve damage to his leg and kidney problems caused by dehydration. He already had diabetes and high blood pressure.

Helm, a longshoreman's clerk who worked the docks in Oakland, commuted 250 miles each weekend to visit his family in the small town of Weaverville.

His former wife, Lorrie Helm, and the couple's children were frequently at his side during his hospitalization. She said he acknowledged hearing his family read the cards and letters sent to him by well wishers but couldn't speak because of the respirator.

NASA counts down to secret military mission

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — NASA faced a tight schedule Sunday as a veiled countdown began for launching the shuttle Discovery on Thanksgiving Eve with five astronauts and a secret spy satellite.

"We're on a tight schedule, but Wednesday night is a make-able launch date," space agency spokesman Lisa Malone said.

Launch director Bob Sieck gave the go-ahead to start the countdown Sunday afternoon even though workers at the pad were several hours behind schedule in doing final checks and closing

up panels on the lower part of the two solid fuel booster rockets.

The panels were removed last week so workers could check computer boxes suspected of having faulty wiring. One of the boxes was replaced.

Sieck said he was confident the lagging work could be done in parallel with other countdown operations and that liftoff could occur as planned between 6:30 p.m. and 10:30 p.m. Wednesday. It will be the third after-dark launch planned in 32 shuttle flights.

The Pentagon will not let NASA publicly dis-

close the exact time of launch until nine minutes before the planned liftoff. Officials said that would make it more difficult for Soviet reconnaissance satellites and a spy ship sitting offshore to track the shuttle.

Critics argue that such secrecy is unnecessary because the Soviets, with their intelligence capabilities, undoubtedly already know a great deal about the mission and that once Discovery is in orbit, they will be able to track it precisely and know what it is doing.

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