



**WEATHER**

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:  
Partly sunny, warm  
HIGH: 78      LOW: 52

## Salvadoran rebels flee to mountains, army gets control

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — Leftist guerrillas withdrew from San Salvador's outskirts Sunday, winding down their biggest offensive of the civil war and pulling back to their mountain strongholds.

Archbishop Arturo Rivera Damas said that with the guerrilla withdrawal "a dreadful wave of revenge, repression and witch hunting may follow." The attorney general said Rivera Damas and a Roman Catholic auxiliary bishop should leave El Salvador for their own safety.

About 800 mourners meanwhile, attended the burial of six Jesuit priests and two others who were slain and mutilated early Thursday at their residence at Jose Simeon Canas Central American University.

The United States has pressed rightist President Alfredo Cristiani for a full investigation of the killings, and a U.S. senator warned U.S. aid to El Salvador could be curtailed if Cristiani cannot control right-wing death squads from operating in the country.

There was virtually no gunfire in the capital as troops regained control of the working-class districts of Zacamil and Metropolis on the north side, Mejicanos in the northeast and Soyapango on the eastern edge of the city.

Army patrols moved through the shattered streets, strewn with the rubble of fighting. On some streets, several burned bodies could be seen.

Later Sunday, security troops raided for the second time in a week a small church in the capital harboring refugees from the fighting.

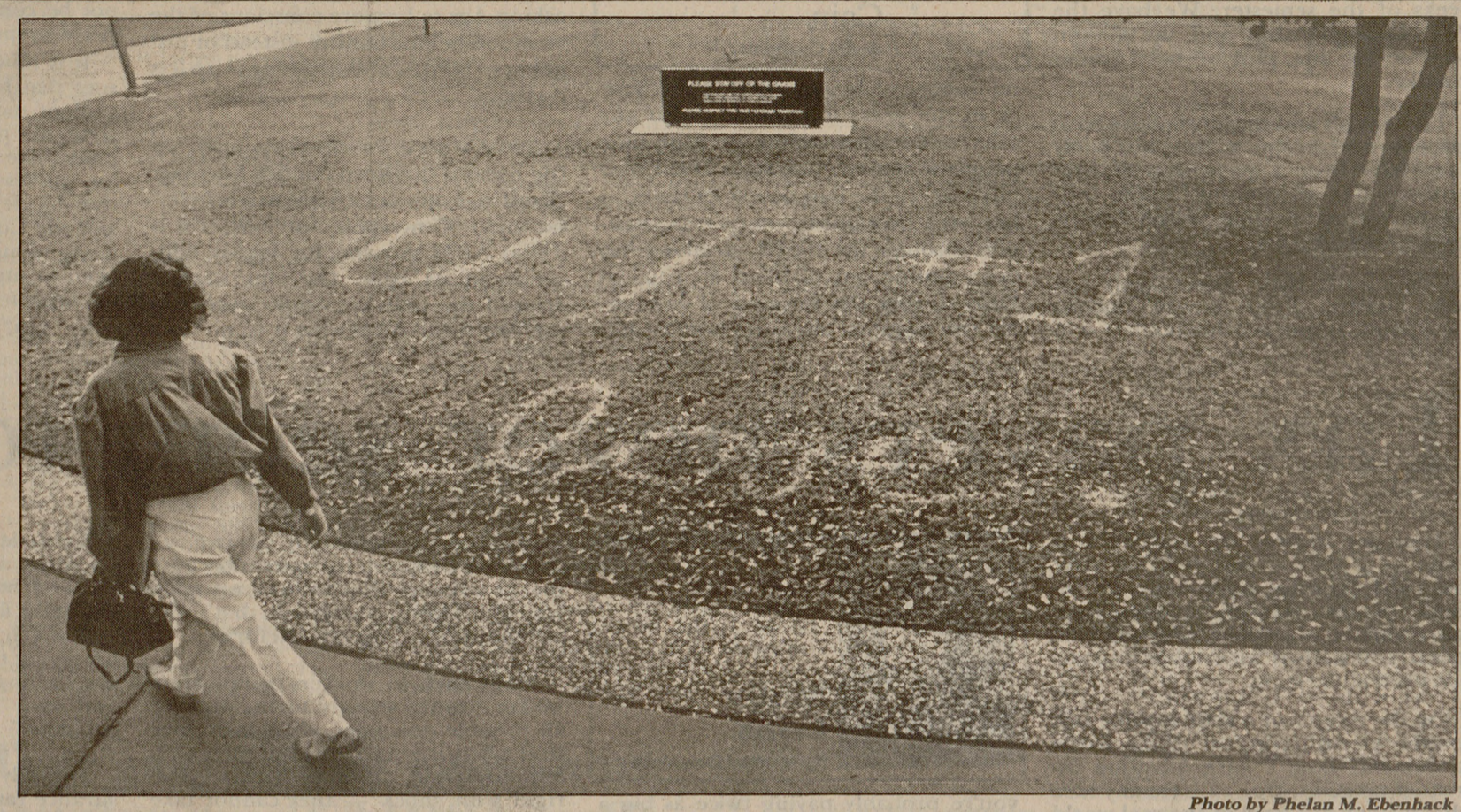
A military news release gave a tentative count of nearly 1,000 soldiers and guerrillas killed since the rebels launched their offensive in San Salvador and other cities in the country Nov. 11.

The military said 784 guerrillas were killed, 527 wounded and 129 captured and government forces lost 208 killed and 627 wounded.

Radio Venceremos, the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front's clandestine radio station, claimed 827 soldiers were killed or wounded but gave no breakdown.

Neither the military nor rebels gave an estimate of casualties among civilians, who suffered heavily in the block-by-block fighting. The Red Cross said an estimate was difficult because many bodies are still in the streets.

## Bad bull



An A&M student stares at a message left in the grass on the front lawn of the MSC Monday morning. The message, "UT #1 love" was apparently made with a chemical that killed grass to make a stupid message sometime during the weekend.

## Biochemistry professor claims he has found Stradivari's age-old secret to violin-making

By Cindy McMillian  
Of The Battalion Staff

Hidden at the end of a dirt road behind the Texas A&M Veterinary Medicine School is a laboratory making waves in the science community — and making music in the middle of a cattle field.

A&M biochemistry professor Joseph Nagyvary says he has discovered the scientific secret to making violins like the instruments made centuries ago by Antonio Stradivari.

"Stradivari is revered as a semi-god in the music world, but he was just a lucky fellow," Nagyvary said. The famous Italian craftsman finished his instruments with varnish bought at a local drugstore, Nagyvary said, and used wood that was soaked in the lagoon surrounding Venice to make the instrument bodies.

Nagyvary believes these two components, wood and varnish, were crucial to the quality of the famous violins made in the 17th and 18th centuries by Stradivari and his colleagues. Crystals contained in the gemstone varnish filter out irritating, high-sound components, and the porous, water-soaked wood gives the instruments a light structure with quick response.

Fewer than 700 Stradivarius violins are known to exist today, and modern instrument makers so far have been unable to recreate the beautiful, rich sound of those instruments. But Nagyvary thinks he has found the secret.

He starts with wood bought in Oregon, Washington and Alaska — spruce for the belly and sides of the violin, maple for the top — and soaks it in water. Since he does not have the luxury of waiting many years for the wood to age, he speeds up the process by treating the wood with enzymes.

Next, the violins are carved by machines run from computer programs. One of Nagyvary's assistants, a former surgeon from China, carves a prototype violin by hand, and then enters the measurements of the prototype into the computer.

After the instruments are assembled, they are finished with many coats of a special gemstone varnish



Dr. Nagyvary instructs student David Malcolmson. — made mostly from crushed quartz crystals, Nagyvary says, not precious stones — and dried under ultraviolet light.

The result? An instrument that Nagyvary claims is equal to, if not better than, the famous Stradivarius.

At the end of December, Nagyvary and his assistants will have produced 12 violins this year. Much of the time was spent ironing out problems with the computer system, he said, so production should be faster in the future. But speed is not his

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## Czechs march streets calling leaders to resign

PRAGUE, Czechoslovakia (AP) — About 30,000 demonstrators Sunday denounced police brutality and demanded that the government and top Communist officials resign. Authorities arrested 10 dissidents but left the marchers alone.

The government denied reports that police killed a student in bloody clashes Friday, when hundreds were beaten, tear-gassed and attacked by dogs in the largest demonstration in 20 years.

Sunday's rally began with a few thousand protesters gathering on downtown Wenceslas Square, but the crowd grew to 30,000 as demonstrators reached Narodni Street, where white-helmeted riot police beat demonstrators Friday.

"We don't let you murder us!" the crowd chanted. They also chanted such slogans as "Write Truthfully," "Free Unions" and "Jakes to the dustbin."

Milos Jakes is the hard-line leader of the ruling Communist Party and, unlike other East bloc leaders, has resisted reforms orchestrated by Soviet President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

Jakes is joined in his intransigence by Nicolae Ceausescu, Romania's leader.

About 2,000 demonstrators split away and crossed a bridge over the Vltava river in an apparent attempt to reach the hillside presidential residence.

Police did not interfere in the march but did block access to the hill. The smaller group eventually returned to Narodni Street, from where some 10,000 streamed back into Wenceslas Square.

Those arrested included Petr Uhl, a leading human rights activist, who was charged in connection with the spreading of news about the alleged death of Martin Smid at police hands Friday. The state news agency CTK said he was charged with "the crimes of harming the interests of the republic abroad and spreading alarming news."

Uhl, a veteran member of the Charter 77 group, is associated with VIA, a dissident news service active in several East European countries. If convicted, he could be sentenced to three and a half years in prison.

Dissident sources in Prague and Vienna told the Associated Press that police also arrested a woman claiming to be Smid's girlfriend.

## Ecstasy drug inhibits mind, endangers lives of abusers

By Melissa Naumann  
Of The Battalion Staff

Ecstasy may not be all it's cracked up to be.

The drug ecstasy, also known as X, XTC, Adam, MDMA and MDM, has moved out of the doctor's office and into home laboratories, nightclubs and the bloodstream of college students, leaving behind it a trail of controversy and uncertainty concerning its harmful effects.

Ecstasy, or 3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine, is a psychostimulant causing hallucinogenic effects, such as changes in sensory perception as well as stimulant effects like those produced by amphetamines or cocaine, said Dr. Steve Peterson, associate professor of pharmacology and toxicology in the Texas A&M College of Medicine.

Ecstasy, invented as an appetite suppressant in 1914 in Germany, causes people to lose their inhibitions. Because of this, it was used by psychiatrists for many years. In 1984, however, ecstasy became illegal in the United States and the Drug Enforcement Agency proposed that it be added to the list of Schedule I substances, which includes heroin and LSD.

A Schedule I substance has three characteristics: it has no accepted medical use, it is believed to have a high potential for abuse and it has not been shown to be safe even when used with medical supervision.

The three DEA characteristics have been the source of much debate in the medical world.

Peterson said that while some people

## Users say effects may be fantastic, frightening

By Melissa Naumann  
Of The Battalion Staff

One person's ecstasy is another person's nightmare.

Like scientists, students disagree about the drug ecstasy and its effects.

Scott and Cindy are A&M students who have tried ecstasy with different results.

Scott, 20, tried ecstasy for the first time in July and uses it about twice a month. Cindy, 22, on the other hand, tried it twice three years ago and she said she would never try it again.

Scott said he was attracted to the drug because he had heard nothing bad about it. He has tried LSD, cocaine, crystal, marijuana and alcohol.

Cindy used alcohol, marijuana and "mandies," Mexican prescription tranquilizers that have effects similar to alcohol.

For as little as \$6 to as much as \$15, Scott said he could buy an ecstasy tablet that would produce effects for up to five hours.

Sgt. Rick Stewart, head of the Texas Department of Public Safety Narcotics Task Force, said three things can trigger suspicion that someone has taken ecstasy. A user may be hallucinating, be excited and talkative or be sleepy and groggy, he said.

"It affects different people differently," Stewart said. "You never know — that's one of the sad things about it."

Bob Wiatt, director of security of the University Police Department, said no one at A&M has been caught with ecstasy, but UPD does hear rumors of ecstasy use on campus.

Several years ago, during an inventory search of some towed cars, ecstasy, in addition to other controlled substances, was found, Wiatt said. But the owners of the cars claimed they didn't know how it got there, so UPD could not prove possession, Wiatt said.

the university is planning an information program on ecstasy.

Peterson said ecstasy, which is manufactured in home laboratories, is cut, or stretched, with other drugs for street use and these drugs can change the effects of the drugs. Usually amphetamines and PCP are used, he said.

"But it's hard to say with street drugs," he said. "What else goes in there depends on who's selling and what's available. Some people just don't use pure chemicals to cut ecstasy."

Death resulting from ecstasy is uncommon, but it has happened in Brazos County.

On Aug. 21, a 15-year-old Bryan boy was arrested for burglary of a habitation, during which he stole 20 ecstasy tablets, said Ernie Wentreck, chief of the Brazos County Juvenile Probation Office. Wentreck said that, after being arrested, Timothy Castillo smuggled the tablets into the Juvenile Probation Center and gave tablets to three other boys.

Wentreck said one boy took three, another took four and the third one turned his in immediately. Castillo took the remaining 12 tablets at 5 p.m. and died at 9:30 the next morning, he said. All three boys who took the drugs went into convulsions and the two who lived were hospitalized for several days.

The tablet that was turned in was sent to the DPS lab in Austin, where it was identified as ecstasy, Wentreck said.

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