



TOMORROW'S FORECAST:

Sunny

HIGH: 67

LOW: 40s

Thursday, January 25, 1990

## Measure moves to Senate

# House overrides President's veto of bill shielding Chinese students

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House voted overwhelmingly Wednesday to override President Bush's veto of legislation protecting Chinese students from deportation, while Bush appealed to Republican senators to resist and help him keep open ties to the world's most populous nation.

The House vote of 390 to 25 sent the matter to the Senate, where both sides said the outcome of Thursday's scheduled vote was in doubt.

House Speaker Thomas S. Foley declared, "I don't think what's most on the minds of the members of Congress is the sensitivities of the present Chinese leadership. ... This is a leadership that has in our judgment failed to respect the rights of its own citizens."

Rep. Stephen Solarz, D-N.Y., chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Asia subcommittee, said, "On the issue of China, the president has lost his credibility."

Bush pinned his hopes on the Senate, where both Democratic and Republican senators predicted a cliffhanger. The president, National Security Adviser Brent Scowcroft and Secretary of State James A. Baker III all were telephoning senators through the day.

Bush was publicly appealing to GOP senators to support him in the face of what he termed "crass politics" played by some supporters of the override.

The legislation would affect as many as 32,000 Chinese students now in the United States on "exchange visitor" visas. The bill would waive a legal requirement that those students return home for two years after their visas expire before returning to the United States or going elsewhere.

In addition, the bill would permit any Chinese student whose visa has expired —

## Students follow debate in Congress

By KEVIN HAMM  
Of The Battalion Staff

Chinese students at Texas A&M are paying close attention to a bill being debated in Congress that would allow them to stay in the United States after their visas have expired.

Junting Lei, an A&M graduate student from Nanjing in south China, said the legislation is necessary because the situation in China is still uncertain.

"Right now, the Chinese government tries to convince students that there isn't any danger in returning home," he said. "But, most (of the students) believe what they see or have experienced, not what they hear."

Lei said Chinese students probably wouldn't face any problems in China if they kept silent while in the United States.

However, Lei estimated 70 percent of Chinese students at A&M participated in demonstrations at A&M and in Houston

after the Tiananmen Square massacre in June.

"I believe if I go back (there may be no) punishment," Lei said. "But, since I used to speak frankly, they (the Chinese government) may ask me, 'What do you think about June fourth?' You have to say what you don't want to say. You have to say something to protect yourself."

"I think most students appreciate this protection," he said. Approximately 300 Chinese students attend A&M.

Although the bill was passed by Congress in its last session, President Bush pocket-vetoed the legislation.

Bush planned to issue an executive order in place of the legislation. On Tuesday the House overrode Bush's veto. The Senate also will attempt to override the president's decision Thursday.

The bill would waive until a future date the requirement that foreign students holding a J-1 visa return home for two years before applying for non-immigrant status in the United States. Most Chinese students hold J-1 visas.

as many as 8,000 others — to remain in the United States as long as danger exists at home, and would allow Chinese students to work while in this country.

Bush vetoed the measure on Nov. 30 after it had passed unanimously in the House and by a voice vote in the Senate.

Chinese student groups have lobbied hard for an override of the veto, saying

many of them would face political persecution at home because they supported the pro-democracy demonstrations that brought a violent government crackdown last June.

At the time Bush vetoed the bill, he ordered government agencies to adopt what he contends are essentially the same safeguards.

# Metcalf removal shocks ex-players

By RICHARD TIJERINA  
Of The Battalion Staff

Former Texas A&M basketball players around the country said they were shocked and saddened when they heard that Aggie Coach Shelby Metcalf had been relieved of his duties Monday.

"I just find it hard to believe that for a guy to have been there for 27 years, regardless of the circumstances, to remove him in the middle of the year, in the middle of conference play ... it just doesn't make sense to me," Dave Goff, who played from 1976-80 under Metcalf, said Wednesday.

Metcalf, the winningest coach in Southwest Conference history with a 438-306 record, was removed Monday afternoon by Athletic Director John David Crow after a three-day power struggle that split the school.

The former coach held an emotional, 45-minute press conference after Saturday's 100-84 loss to Arkansas and said that Crow wanted to oust him from his job.

The Dallas Times Herald published a story that day, saying Crow had told Aggie boosters in recent weeks that Metcalf soon would be gone.

Crow issued a statement Saturday, saying that Metcalf was still the Aggies' coach, and that he'd be evaluated at the end of the year

## Letters about Metcalf/Page 3

like every other coach.

However, that evaluation came a few months early. Crow relieved the veteran coach, citing the negative publicity that had been cast on the A&M Athletic Department since Metcalf's press conference.

Crow named John Thornton, who played at A&M from 1973-75 and was Metcalf's assistant coach since 1981, interim coach for the remainder of the season.

Metcalf had one year remaining on his contract. He met with University President William H. Mobley Tuesday night to discuss his possible reassignment.

Goff, who lives in Scottsdale, Ariz., said Crow handled the entire situation poorly.

"The Athletic Director is a very powerful position, and when you're thinking of doing something like this you have to have tact and political regards for what you're doing," Goff said. "I don't know all the circumstances, but maybe John David needs to learn

See Metcalf/Page 12

# Next stage of MSC tree removal begins

The second stage of tree removal began Tuesday at the Memorial Student Center. The first cuttings began with four large live oak trees on Dec. 21 by a Brenham contractor and the remaining 15 trees are now being moved to other areas on campus.

To do this, Texas A&M grounds maintenance has hired out the Houston-based company Instant Shade Trees to remove and replant the trees. It will be a \$110,000 job.

"Really, these 15 trees are just too

large for our department to remove," Mike Goldwater, associate director of grounds maintenance, said. "That's why we had to go out and find somebody who had the proper equipment."

The proper equipment that was needed to remove the trees included a nine-inch tree spade.

Controversy about the trees' removal began last fall when administrators announced that the trees would be cleared in order to expand the University Center. This sparked opposition from stu-

dents, the Faculty Senate and the Texas Environmental Action Coalition. The University Center expansion project is now set to begin in March.

Some of the trees currently being moved will be replanted along the east gate, while others will be put in storage.

The construction process of digging and trenching around the trees at the MSC is expected to continue for the next several weeks. The entire tree relocation project will be finished sometime this winter.



Photo by Jay Janner

An employee of Instant Shade Trees, Inc. secures a tree Wednesday to be moved for the MSC expansion.

## Fowl weather



Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Umbrellas of all sorts were seen on the A&M campus Wednesday afternoon as students protected themselves from the rain that fell throughout the day.

# Board debates future of A&M-WTSU merger

By JULIE MYERS  
Of The Battalion Staff

The future of the West Texas State University merger with Texas A&M was the first item on the agenda when the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board convened in Austin this morning.

The meetings today and tomorrow are the last scheduled opportunities to decide upon the union before the issue dies March 31.

Merging WTSU with the Texas A&M University System would bring research dollars to the campus in Canyon, 16 miles south of Amarillo.

The merger was approved last summer by the Texas Legislature, the WTSU Board of Regents and the A&M Board of Regents. Last week the merger met opposition when an HECB staff memorandum recommended the disapproval of the union.

"If the HECB were to consider only the advantages and disadvantages to West Texas State University, the advantages must weigh in favor of the proposal," the memo said. "However, it is the Board's responsibility to weigh considerations other than those of a purely local or regional interest."

Concerns raised in the recommendation include:

- The concentration of universities into two massive systems which might lead to a concentration of political power.

The study asks if the interests of higher education throughout the state can be served if one or two groups of institutions can have their way over all others.

- The ability of the A&M and UT systems to completely fulfill their obligations to the citizens of South Texas and to any future satellite universities.

- The dilution of the Permanent University Fund. The memo says the PUF could be seriously diluted if additional universities share in the wealth it generates. Eleven of the 16 institutions in the UT and A&M systems already share in the fund.

- The perceived extension of A&M degrees, labels, rings and traditions to WTSU by Canyon area residents.

Without the Texas A&M University label at Canyon or Amarillo, the report says there is serious question about how much prestige WTSU will gain by being absorbed by A&M.

- Duplication of programs already offered by Texas Tech. The report says concerns have been raised about an apparent interest by Texas A&M University in encroaching upon programs and services offered by Tech.

The staff report further recommended that should the A&M-WTSU merger be denied, the Legislature give serious consideration to a merger with Texas Tech University.

In a prepared statement, WTSU President Ed Roach said that judging from the comments of the other parts of the system, he sees no reason to believe WTSU will receive any less attention because of the System's administrative staff.

Furthermore, Roach said there did not appear to be a problem with Texas Tech except geographically.

"Texas Tech is not a system and has not expressed a desire to join with WTSU," Roach said. "In addition, the Texas Legislature mandated a study concerning the feasibility of a merger with the TAMUS or University of Texas System and did not require a study of merger with Texas Tech."

Members of the Texas Panhandle legislative delegation, who had won the support of the Legislature and the regents of West Texas State and the A&M System, told the

See Merger/Page 12

## Correction

A headline on the front page of Wednesday's Battalion incorrectly stated that Texas A&M's annual research expenditures had topped the \$250 billion mark in 1989. The headline should have read \$250 million, as was stated in the text of the story. The Battalion regrets any confusion this error might have caused our readers.