

WEATHER

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:
Partly cloudy and mild with a chance of rain
HIGH: 72 LOW: 54

Clap clout



A&M President William H. Mobley shouts words of encouragement to the Lady Aggies basketball team Tuesday night at G. Rollie White Coliseum. Mobley was the honorary head coach for the game. See game/Page 7.

X-rated foreign film prompts petition

By SUZANNE CALDERON
Of The Battalion Staff

Controversy continues to surround the showing of an X-rated movie two weeks ago as part of Aggie Cinema's International Film Series.

The showing of the Italian-French movie "The Last Woman" has prompted two A&M students to start a petition calling for a boycott of Aggie Cinema for showing what the students call pornography.

Jennifer Wolling and Matt DeWoody, who are distributing the petition, didn't see the movie. They said it was unnecessary for them to see it to know that it contained objectionable material.

"Clearly it was offensive with all the warnings — the X rating and the preview in The Battalion were enough," Wolling, a sophomore political science major, said.

DeWoody, a senior marketing major, also had objections to the movie.

"We don't want to be associated with an institution that in any way supports any form of pornography," he said. "We don't want to financially support, through our tuition and taxes, an institution that shows pornography."

Lance Parr, a senior engineering technology major and chairman of Aggie Cinema, said the complaints he has received concerning the movie have dealt with the is-

sue of pornography.

Parr said he doesn't consider the movie to be pornographic. He said he's talked to several people who saw the movie, and they don't consider it pornographic either.

"This was not a pornographic movie," Parr said. "It did carry an X rating, but that in itself does not mean the movie was pornographic. An X rating can be obtained by violence, male-frontal nudity (no matter how brief), or excessive nudity. The movie did not showcase the nudity, nor did it showcase the sexual scenes that would have been typical of a pornographic movie."

The movie would not have been brought to the Texas A&M campus if anyone thought it was pornographic, Parr said.

But Wolling and DeWoody believe otherwise.

The petition they are circulating states: "I am 100 percent against the advancement and promotion of pornography of any kind and resolve to boycott the Aggie Cinema the remainder of the semester for their decision to feature a rated X movie on January 23, 1990."

DeWoody said the goal is to get 1,000 or more signatures by March 1. At that time the petition will be presented to Parr.

The petition is working like a chain, mainly being distributed among friends,

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Communists debate Gorbachev's plans to revamp party powers

MOSCOW (AP) — Communist Party leaders added an unexpected third day to their pivotal meeting Tuesday and sent Mikhail S. Gorbachev back to the drawing board to fill in holes in his blueprint for ending the party's monopoly on power.

The extension of the party session, which was supposed to end Tuesday, was a clear sign of the controversy generated by Gorbachev's proposals to revamp the country's political structure.

Central Committee sources said most speakers agreed with Gorbachev's proposal that the party's monopoly on power, enshrined in the Soviet Constitution, must end.

"All unanimously think it has become obsolete. It has no meaning," Central Committee member Vladimir P. Anishech told reporters who gathered outside the Kremlin's Spassky Gate to await news. The session was closed to journalists.

However, partial transcripts of two days of the session, in which 51 speakers took the floor, indicated that neither radical reformers nor hard-liners were satisfied with Gorbachev's proposal.

Delegates said Tuesday night's Central Committee session was suspended so a commission, headed by Gorbachev, could complete changes to his nearly 20-page platform. A Central Committee source quoted Gorbachev as saying that the 60-member commission

was only half-finished, even though it met all night Monday.

He said the meeting would resume Wednesday morning.

Delegates interviewed Monday and Tuesday as they filed out onto Red Square indicated a common objection: the platform contains few specifics.

"A lot of its points, and this is what has been said by many speakers, need major changes and reinforcement, especially in the direction of stepping up decisive action," Leonid A. Bibin, a non-voting Central Committee member, said in a Soviet TV interview Tuesday.

Bibin said he and others want the platform to stress that the party must remain united.

Gorbachev has placed himself in the middle, trying to forge compromises.

Still, the Soviet leader's platform has yielded to the demands of political reformers — including the thousands of people who gathered near the Kremlin wall Sunday — by removing the party's monopoly and advancing to this summer a Party congress that will be empowered to clear out conservatives on the Central Committee.

Formally, the Central Committee has the power to replace the party leader.

Indrek Toome, premier of the Baltic republic of Es-

tonia and a guest at the party meeting, emphasized the threat from hard-liners.

"I am worried about the wish of a fairly large proportion of the people in this hall to reverse things, so as to clamp down on things and return to the old order," Toome told Soviet TV.

Other speakers worried out loud about Gorbachev's political standing. Y.A. Gankovsky, a Siberian party secretary, suggested Gorbachev's position was weakened because he had taken on too many jobs.

"While you, Mikhail Sergeyevich, were only the (party) general secretary — absolutely without flattery I will say — we felt that new ideas were born in the party, that some kind of reformation work was under way to break up the outdated and outdated," Gankovsky said. "Now you have four posts. One gets the impression that someone wants the general not to be successful at any of them, scattering powers."

In addition to being party general secretary, Gorbachev is the Soviet president, chairman of the Defense Council and a Politburo member.

Politburo member Yegor K. Ligachev, widely identified as its leading conservative, received warm applause for a speech criticizing failings in perestroika, Gorbachev's reform program, the Central Committee source said.

"After somewhat of an enlivening in the first two

years of perestroika, the economy began to decline, inter-ethnic feuds reached bloodshed, people began to experience fear, and in some places there is practically dual power," Ligachev said in remarks reported by the Soviet news agency, Tass.

He said the Politburo, led by Gorbachev, and the government committed "serious oversights and mistakes." He cited monetary problems that worsened consumer goods shortages, a lack of supervision of new economic forms and a "weakness of government discipline."

"The gap between the word and deed is intolerable," he continued.

On political reform, Ligachev demanded the platform include a clause emphasizing the sacredness of party unity, and he said he firmly opposes allowing private property, a demand of radical reformers.

Ligachev, 69, has generally taken a cautious approach to reforming the country and last week came under attack in a Soviet newspaper for his conservative views. But in his speech Tuesday, he said he wants reform quickly, denied he was a conservative, and said people who call him one are trying to divert the people's attention.

Senate elects new speaker pro-tempore

Creates committee to work with Food Services

By PAM MOOMAN
Of The Battalion Staff

The Student Senate elected Leanne Rogers, a student senator for three years, as the new speaker pro-tempore Tuesday.

In other business, the Senate accepted a Student Information Center bill and created the Food Services Ad-Hoc Committee to work with Texas A&M Food Services.

Ty Clevenger, speaker of the Senate, said that the Student Senate has been trying to get a copy of the Food Services budget for a couple of months, and finally succeeded.

The new Food Services Committee will look into the cost of food on campus, MSC catering, policies that don't allow student groups to bring food on campus, campus competition and the confiscation of funds, such as Aggie Bucks, at the end of the semester.

In addition, Dick Britten, Republican candidate for Precinct Four County Commissioner, spoke at the meeting, saying that today's Aggies are important because they are stepping stones for future Aggies.

He said A&M students have a big impact on the Bryan-College Station economy and should get involved in Brazos County politics.

"County government is big business," Britten said. Brazos County will operate with a budget over \$21 million this year, he said.

County commissioner is the most important elected office in county government because of the many duties this office involves, he said.

Later, Jeff Starr, a student senator involved in Bryan's Sister City Association with the Soviet Union, presented a slide show of the Soviet Union taken when he was there over the Christmas holidays.

"They're really anxious to send students to the United States," Starr said.

The best ambassadors for the United

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'Permanent' overassignments cramp on-campus student life

By JILL BUTLER
Of The Battalion Staff
PART 1 OF A 3-PART SERIES

Many people live on campus to enjoy the benefits of being centrally located and having everything nearby, including friends. But even the closest roommates can get a little too close when living quarters are cramped because of overassignments.

The biggest on-campus housing problem at Texas A&M is the high demand for a limited number of rooms. Tom Murray, associate director of student affairs for residence life at A&M, said.

"Students want to live on campus because they are afraid if they don't, they will miss out on many of Texas A&M's traditions and activities," Murray said.

To handle the high demand for on-campus housing, A&M opened five new residence halls in Fall 1989.

Despite the extra rooms, almost 400 students, not including Corps of Cadets members, were overassigned in the fall. These residents lived in a study lounge or shared rooms with two other people.

"We want to overassign at the beginning of the semester," Murray said. "It's not a mistake."

He said many students with on-campus rooms don't show up to live in these rooms each semester. If there aren't overassigned students to fill these unexpected vacancies, the rooms remain empty or half-full.

"To operate at close to 100 percent occupancy, we go through the overassignment process," Murray said.

Every fall, 200 to 300 students begin the semester as overassignments and usually are assigned permanent rooms within the first three weeks of school, he said.

But last semester the number of overassignments reached a record high because more students than expected accepted housing contracts, and there were fewer housing cancellations and no-shows.

Seven hundred students began the semester as overassignments and though some were reassigned to permanent rooms, 394 students remained overassigned the entire semester.

Leah Capel, a freshman general studies major from Little Rock, Ark., was overassigned and lived with two other girls in Neeley Hall.

"It wasn't too bad at first," Capel said. "But after a while it was too much for me. There were too many people in one room."

All overassignments were notified of their status before moving into their rooms and were given a partial refund of their housing fee.

"I thought that since I was out of state and paying more money for tuition, the least they could've done was give me a room with just one other person," Capel said.

She bought her own desk because, although there were three roommates sharing a room, there was only enough furniture for two people.

The housing office tried to provide extra furniture for over-assigned students but was unable to offer the furniture until mid-November because of problems with organizing the project.

This spring, no students have been overassigned. Now 126 spaces in women's residence halls and 50 spaces in men's halls, not including Corps dormitories, are available.

Some residents live alone because there are not enough people to completely fill all rooms on campus.

Murray said a problem facing A&M four or five years from now is the possibility that there will not be enough students liv-

"It wasn't too bad at first. But after a while it was too much for me. There were too many people in one room."

— Leah Capel, freshman

ing on-campus to fill existing residence halls during either semester.

Murray said more underclassmen than ever before are moving off campus.

"We have begun to look at ways to make students want to live on-campus," he said.

One possible solution is additional co-ed housing, Murray said.

There are 2,342 on-campus women's rooms and 1,914 men's rooms, not including Corps dormitories.

Twenty-one residence halls are on north and central campus, while on the Southside of campus there are 10, excluding Corps dormitories.

Southside and Northside residence halls offer different housing alternatives.

Leah Hanselka, president of the student-operated Residence Hall Association, said some students find the advantages of living on Northside include the convenience of restaurants and copying centers at Northgate.

Hanselka also said there is more action and more people on Northside because more dorms are there.

She said some students like living on Southside because mail delivery, on-campus dining facilities and games, such as pool and table tennis, are all in one place.

The RHA governs A&M's 31 residence halls and informs the Department of Student Affairs about the needs and wants of on-campus residents.

Wood secures MSC Council presidency

Win ends rigorous process for applicants, judges

By SEAN FRERKING
Of The Battalion Staff

Mathew Wood, a junior political science major from College Station, was selected as MSC Council president last night.

Wood, currently the chairman of the MSC Political Forum committee, was chosen after a rigorous process during which candidates submitted applications stating their experience, goals, leadership qualities and reasons why they are running for the office.

Following the initial application phase, potential applicants are screened through two 20-minute interviews by a panel of four or five people. People seeking office also are required to submit three performance appraisals.

Anyone applying for office in the MSC Council must go through the same application process, said Catherine Valenzuela, the MSC Council executive vice-president of marketing and personnel.

Valenzuela said Wood will be the council representative to the student body and the community and will give the organization direction.

She said Wood will take over the office of president from Jason Wilcox, a junior finance major, on April 8 during Parents' Weekend. All selected officers serve the council for one year.

Valenzuela said the MSC Council operates on a \$3.5 million annual budget.

Student service fees provide \$1.6 million with the remaining money being raised through ticket sales and fund-raising events.

The council directs 1,400 programs through its 27 committees.

Wood will head the council's corporate structure and delegate decisions through the council, Valenzuela said.

Students having questions about the MSC council should contact Catherine Valenzuela at 845-0709.