



WEATHER

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:
Mostly cloudy with a high chance
of rain
HIGH: 66 LOW: 46

Legislators approve Soviet land reforms

MOSCOW (AP) — Legislators overwhelmingly approved a bill Wednesday that allows Soviets to acquire land and bequeath it to their children, a major modification of decades of state control of land.

The law, however, stops short of legalizing full private ownership of property by strictly forbidding the sale of land. Under the new law, plots only can be leased, and the lease prices will be set by the state.

The measure was part of a comprehensive package designed to give the force of law to the economic and social reforms championed by President Mikhail S. Gorbachev. The official news agency Tass called it "a major legal document of Soviet economic reform."

The law is to serve as the basis for further legislation by each republic to regulate land distribution.

State ownership of land, inscribed in the Soviet Constitution, has been a cornerstone of communism since the 1917 revolution. But reformers and economists repeatedly have called for allowing private ownership as a way of spurring growth in the troubled economy.

In a commentary in Wednesday's edition of the newspaper Komsomolskaya Pravda, economist Pavel Voshchanov welcomed the reform as a first step to reversing a situation in which the Soviet Union, with some of the richest farmland on Earth, has become a net importer of food.

The Soviet Constitution says "the land, its minerals, waters and forests are the exclusive property of the state." The Congress of People's Deputies, the Supreme Soviet's parent body, will be asked to change the Constitution when it meets March 12.

By altering the Constitution and allowing the roughly 23 million people employed on the 26,000 collective and 23,000 state farms to acquire plots, the Kremlin leadership hopes to raise farm productivity, which is notoriously low on those farms.

Rural families already produce one-fourth of the country's gross agricultural production, including nearly 30 percent of the meat, milk and eggs on individual plots they are allowed to exploit.

In a poll published Wednesday in

Phone call helps unite world leaders

NEW YORK (AP) — President Bush telephoned Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev Wednesday for a "very constructive" and frank discussion on the political shakeup in Nicaragua, where the Kremlin is credited with helping promote an honest election.

In what was believed to be only their third telephone conversation, the two leaders also discussed issues of European security, including German reunification, and preparations for a superpower summit this summer, according to U.S. accounts and the Soviet news agency Tass.

Bush called the Soviet president before setting out on a cross-country campaign trip, with stops at New York's Staten Island and San Francisco, and a weekend meeting in Palm Springs, Calif., with Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu.

"From Moscow to Managua, change is in the air," Bush said in remarks prepared for a speech in San Francisco at a fund-raiser for Republican Sen. Pete Wilson, running for governor.

Bush said, "The world has undergone another upheaval, but this time there is no war and there are fewer tyrants in the world than before."

the newspaper Izvestia, 40 percent of those queried said they were eager to become individual farmers.

The Supreme Soviet legislature first voted separately on each chapter of the 52-article measure, then approved the entire law 349-7 with 12 abstentions. The full Congress of People's Deputies must now approve it.

Wednesday's four-hour session was the third time the Supreme Soviet considered the proposed so-called Law on Land.

Changing of the bulbs

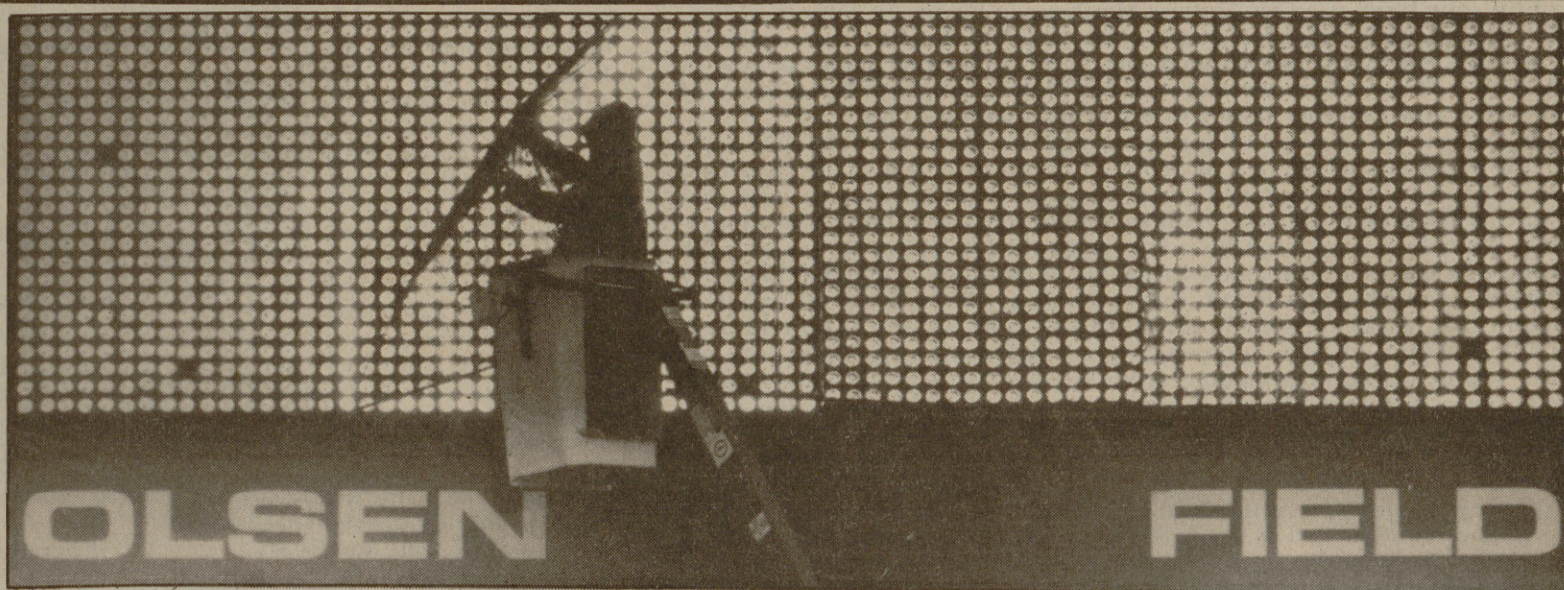


Photo by Mike C. Mulvey

In spite of the rain, Advertising Graphics Inc. workers replace light bulbs on the new Olsen Field sign. The Aggies are scheduled to

play a three-game series here against the Louisiana State University Tigers this weekend, starting Friday at 3 p.m.

Study: Alcohol use ordinary Student drug use at A&M below U.S. average

By KEVIN M. HAMM
Of The Battalion Staff

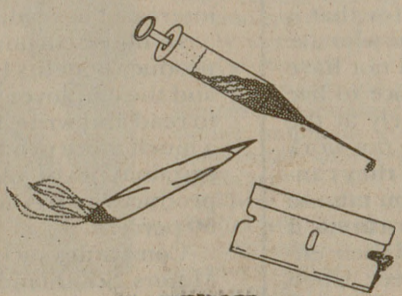
If you've stopped by Dudley's Draw or the Dixie Chicken lately for a beer, you're in good company at Texas A&M. According to an April 1989 survey conducted by the Center for Drug Prevention and Education, nine out of 10 A&M students have had an alcoholic beverage at some time, while 68 percent have been intoxicated at one point in their lives.

The survey was distributed to 1,000 students, and any reference to Texas A&M's total population is a statistical inference.

While the thought of 90 percent of students, more than 32,000, trying a drink at one time or another is a staggering statistic, it is by no means out of the ordinary, said Dr. Dennis J. Reardon, CDPE coordinator. He said the average at other schools around the country is between 85 and 95 percent.

Also, 87 percent of students sur-

veyed said their first use of alcohol was before age 18, up from 65 percent in the 1988 study, with the ma-



Graphic by Tim Austin

majority of students reporting their first use between ages 15 and 17.

According to the study, 19 percent of students surveyed had abstained from alcohol in the past year, down from 25 percent in the

previous year's study.

Reardon said the April 1989 survey was the second annual study the CDPE conducted as part of a \$120,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The University also contributes funds for the center.

The study did report one statistic that is out of the national mainstream, Reardon said. According to the study, 14 percent of students surveyed, or more than 5,000 at A&M, have used marijuana in the past year, down from 16 percent in the previous year's study. A 1988 study by the National Institute on Drug Abuse reported 37 percent of the general population has used marijuana, he said.

Reardon said A&M's low usage rate may be a result of its tradition of conservatism, drawing students from strong family and community backgrounds. People come to Texas A&M to work, he said, it doesn't

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Alcohol intake claims life of 5-year-old

FORT WORTH (AP) — A 5-year-old boy who drank 10 ounces of bourbon, allegedly at the urging of an adult, died Wednesday morning less than 12 hours after doctors removed him from a respirator.

Raymond Thomas Griffin II, known as "Tinky," died at Cook-Fort Worth Children's Medical Center at 8:45 a.m. Wednesday, almost 11 hours after his family agreed to disconnect the life support system that had kept him alive. Doctors said he had suffered irreversible brain damage.

Police and prosecutors were discussing upgrading the charges Wednesday against Anthony Darro Jimerson, 21, of Forest Hills, who told the boy to drink the alcohol at a gathering Friday night, Everman Police Det. J.D. Brown said. He said he did not anticipate new charges immediately.

Jimerson was being held in the Tarrant County Jail Wednesday on \$100,000 bail on a felony charge of injury to a child. The charge carries a maximum 99-year prison term.

It was not clear whether the boy's mother, Patricia Griffin, 31, knew that the boy was being given liquor, or whether she found out later, after Raymond became ill.

Brown said doctors couldn't say for certain, but indicated they might have been able to help the boy if he had been brought in sooner.

Quake hits Southern California, causes minor damage

UPLAND, Calif. (AP) — A strong earthquake rocked a 200-mile stretch of Southern California on Wednesday, triggering rock slides onto highways, breaking windows, toppling books from shelves and causing minor structural damage.

There were no immediate reports of serious injuries from the quake, which was felt from San Diego to Santa Barbara and swayed high-rise buildings in Las Vegas, 230 miles northeast of Los Angeles.

It measured 5.5 on the Richter scale, and was centered three miles northwest of Upland, a city about 40 miles east of Los An-

geles, said Hall Daily of the California Institute of Technology in Pasadena.

The U.S. Geological Survey gave the same magnitude, but a preliminary reading by University of California Seismographic Stations at Berkeley put the magnitude at 6.0. Such measuring differences are common. A quake of magnitude 5.5 is capable of causing considerable damage.

Scattered damage was reported in the region east of Los Angeles.

A small rock slide on Interstate 10 in Pomona, not far from the epicenter, triggered minor accidents, the Highway Patrol said.

Another small rockslide closed the road through Soledad Canyon, 35 miles northwest of Los Angeles.

The main shock was followed by at least six aftershocks of magnitude 2.5 or greater within 45 minutes, said Riley Geary, seismic analyst at Caltech.

Operators of the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station just south of San Clemente reported an "unusual event" to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Both reactors at the plant continued to run and power supply was uninterrupted, said Edison spokesman Bob Goodlow. An "un-

usual event" is the lowest of four emergency designations for nuclear plants.

Phone service to thousands of customers was disrupted, but a Pacific Bell representative said it was likely caused by callers jamming lines.

"It felt like somebody picked up the building and dropped it a couple of times," said police Lt. Don Manning at the station in nearby Ontario, where false ceilings fell.

Broken windows and minor structural damage were reported in Ontario, Manning said, the worst in an old three-story brick theater and office building.

Sorority donates painting of King

By KEVIN M. HAMM
Of The Battalion Staff

I have a dream that one day this nation will rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "We hold these truths to be self-evident; that all men are created equal."

With Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s words still echoing in people's minds after a showing of his "I Have a Dream" speech, Dr. John J. Koldus accepted a portrait of the civil rights leader presented to the University by Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

The portrait was given to the University Wednesday during a presentation entitled "Dream On" to commemorate the end of Black History Month. The presentation was sponsored by the Xi Psi chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc.

Demetra Andrews, president of the sorority, urged those in attendance to keep King's dream of peaceful coexistence and equality alive.

"Black History Month is a special time set aside for us to recognize and remember our African-American heritage," she said. "It's a very vital and vibrant part of our history and we should embrace it very tightly."

"Let us strive to keep Black History Month alive, not only during the month of February, but also throughout the year. Let us strive to become keepers of Dr. King's dream, and let us strive to



Photo by Fredrick D. Joe

Patrice Simmons, Alpha Kappa Alpha Inc. member, presents a portrait of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to Dr. John J. Koldus.

create and to maintain equality and justice for all.

"Let us embrace tightly Dr. King's dream while we dream for ourselves. And I charge you tonight to dream the dream of Dr. King. To dream the dream of love, the dream of peace. To dream the dream of equality and justice."

"In essence, to dream on."

After the portrait was unveiled to a standing ovation, Koldus,

vice president of the Department of Student Services, thanked the sorority on behalf of Texas A&M President William Mobley and the University.

"It's a wonderful gift, and one which will serve as a remembrance to all who pass through these halls that the message Dr. King gave with, and through, his life was that each and every one of us has a responsibility to be compassionate, understanding

and to be helpful to his fellow man," Koldus said.

"His statement was not that I, nor you, but that we shall overcome," he said. "It's a collective thing that should ring through the heart and mind of each human being."

Koldus said everyone should live with King's spirit, helping all people around them.

"As with his life, each human being can make a difference," he said. "One can have an impact on the lives of those with whom he or she comes in contact with. And like a ripple upon the water, that small ripple can spread itself upon the much larger body of water."

"Dr. King touched the lives of many people. And like Dr. King, if we are committed, each of us can make a contribution touching the lives of others in a very positive, loving and understanding manner."

"It is through such efforts (as Black History Month programs) that we can all become more knowledgeable and understanding about the diversity of the cultures and all the peoples of the world."

The portrait will hang in the Sterling C. Evans library until Memorial Student Center renovations are completed, Koldus said. At that time, it probably will be moved into the MSC.

Advisory committee hears student ideas

By STACY ALLEN
Of The Battalion Staff

It's not often you see Texas A&M President William Mobley and Board of Regents members having lunch in Sbsa. But students eating between noon and 1 p.m. Wednesday had the opportunity to speak with the big guys on a one-on-one basis.

Members of the Committee on Academic Campuses Advisory Panel on Undergraduate Education at A&M had lunch in Sbsa in an effort to talk with and get input from students about the concerns they have, said Regent Doug DeCluitt, chairman of the committee.

The advisory committee consists of Board of Regents members, student leaders, former students, faculty members and parents. "We believe the best way to address concerns people have is to get them out in the open and talk about them," DeCluitt said. "This is a broadly based advisory committee, so hopefully we can get a range of views discussed."

DeCluitt said the committee concerns itself with the affairs of all the academic campuses in the A&M system. He said the Board of Regents decided last year to spend time this academic year looking at the general question of undergraduate education at A&M.

In the fall, DeCluitt said the Board of Regents gave students at each institution in the A&M system a

chance to voice their concerns at hearings which helped Regents by giving them insight into student problems.

"We heard several things at A&M that led us to believe some topics needed to be discussed," DeCluitt said.

Some of the topics DeCluitt mentioned were a perceived conflict among professors concerning teaching and research, whether professors are rewarded for teaching and the adequacy and effectiveness of student advising.

Mobley said the lunch with students was a good idea because it gave students an opportunity to talk with members of the committee on an informal basis.

He said the committee will continue to try and make itself accessible to students in the future by doing a number of more systematic things, including surveys. Currently, Mobley said a survey of employers is being conducted so the committee can get a better understanding of what employers think about the A&M undergraduate program compared with other undergraduate programs in the nation.

Bill Clayton, Board of Regents member, said he couldn't think of a better way to get input from students than to have lunch with them.

"Our main concern is to make sure that students are getting the education they expected they would

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