

WEATHER

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:
Partly cloudy and warm.
HIGH: 81 LOW: 62

Kremlin cuts natural gas supply to Lithuania

MOSCOW (AP) — The Kremlin said it was tightening the tap on Lithuania's natural gas supply Tuesday and may cut oil and gasoline to the Baltic republic for refusing to rescind pro-independence laws, Lithuanian leaders said.

But Lithuania's president called the republic's decisions "irreversible" and said an economic embargo will only strengthen the resolve of Lithuanians.

"I hope it will consolidate our people in our peaceful struggle," Vytautas Landsbergis said in a broadcast interview.

President Bush said in Washington the

United States was "considering appropriate responses" if Soviet economic threats against Lithuania were implemented. But he also said he did not want to damage superpower relations.

"I want to be sure anything we do is productive," Bush said.

There was no immediate noticeable change in the amount of natural gas used to heat homes and fuel kitchens in Lithuania. But word that supplies were being cut caused concern among Lithuanians, who flooded the Lithuanian government with phone calls.

Officials in Lithuania said they were told of the reduction in a telegram from the Soviet Union's gas network. There was no official announcement from Moscow.

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev on Friday gave Lithuania 48 hours to repeal several laws backing its March 11 declaration of independence. He said if Lithuania refused, the Kremlin would impose an embargo of goods that it exports for hard currency.

Lithuania depends on Moscow for oil and gas, which are the Soviet Union's biggest earners of hard currency.

A telegram sent to Lithuania's gas authority Tuesday said: "Implementing the orders of the government of the Soviet Union and those of the state gas concern ... supplies of natural gas to the Lithuanian Soviet Socialist Republic will be sharply reduced from the 17th of April."

The telegram was signed by an official named Mochernyuk, identified as the acting general director of the Soviet Union's western gas network.

The text of the telegram was broadcast on official Lithuanian radio, which was monitored by the British Broadcasting

Corp. in London.

Western reporters have been barred from staying in Lithuania to report on the political crisis.

The telegram also was read to the Lithuanian Supreme Council legislature Tuesday by speaker Alexandras Abisalas. Lawmakers were meeting to discuss a response to Gorbachev's ultimatum.

"Lithuania will search for a dialogue by all possible means, through various channels," the Tass news agency quoted Landsbergis as saying.

UT mob stops flag burning by atheists

AUSTIN (AP) — Protests flared again Tuesday at the University of Texas as an "angry mob" of up to 400 students confronted a handful of University Atheists trying to burn an American flag, authorities said.

Campus Police Sgt. Silas Griggs said 10 to 15 atheists were surrounded by 300 to 400 students, many armed with fire extinguishers and water bottles, who thwarted the attempted flag burning.

He said the crowd encircled the protesters, shouted abuse and wrested the flag from their hands, but no one was hurt in the melee.

"I didn't see any assaults," Griggs said. "There were some shoving matches, but as far as any blows thrown, I didn't see any. I don't think there were any." Griggs said nine uniformed officers escorted the protesters away when they realized they were in danger and would be unable to burn the flag.

Derek Roberts, anthropology sophomore and a member of University Atheists, told the Daily Texan he had participated in the protest to support the First Amendment right to burn the flag and to confront people's attachment to symbols and objects.

"I think it proved my point that worship of the object over reality makes people do hateful things," he told the campus newspaper.

Witnesses said the counter-protest was organized by the campus group Young Conservatives of Texas and joined by fraternity members and at least one ex-Marine.

Andy Panos, a freshman business student and officer of the College Republicans, said the attempted flag burning was "a rehash of 60s liberalism."

Brian Wordell, head of the Young Conservatives, said, "I think it shows that a lot of people have pride in America, and most of us still love it."

Ready, aim, fire



The Texas A&M archery team practices near Zachry Tuesday evening for a regional meet this weekend in Houston.

Group fights inequalities

Students call attention to minorities, racist acts

By JULIE MYERS
Of The Battalion Staff

Students attending an open meeting of the Texas A&M Committee for a Discrimination-Free Campus Tuesday called for more emphasis on minority studies and called attention to discriminatory acts on campus.

"We need to have a (required) class addressing race issues like we have forced physical education classes," junior theater arts major Clinton Sam said. "This (racism) is no less important than bowling."

Freshman general studies major Lance Harris proposed a one-hour elective class that would include all cultures, not just white, African-American and Hispanic. Harris added that he would like to see such a class eventually become a three-hour required class.

"I don't think I'm biased in saying that everyone can learn a little bit more about cultures," Harris said. "I'm just saying that a little open-mindedness never hurt anyone."

James Rosenheim, committee

member and associate professor of history, said there were no guarantees that A&M could avoid the race problems the University of Texas has had in the last month.

Last week, a UT Phi Gamma Delta fraternity member sold t-shirts displaying a "Sambo" caricature head on basketball player Michael Jordan's body, and a car with racist phrases was destroyed at the UT Delta Tau Delta house.

"There are no guarantees that a three-hour course required of everyone will get rid of racism and sexism and age discrimination on this campus," Rosenheim said.

"It is also going to be very difficult, I think, to educate those of my colleagues in the history department who need to be educated. But that doesn't mean we shouldn't try."

Other complaints included charges that MSC Town Hall does not represent minority students.

Town Hall does not make an adequate effort to bring top black recording artists to campus, senior agriculture education major Reginald Martin said.

Physics graduate student Hong Lu said international students have been the targets of motorists who drive past them at night and throw eggs at them. A visiting parent who was hit by an egg needed six stitches near her eye as a result of an assault, Lu said.

Additionally, Lu said, a professor of Chinese descent was beaten recently at Post Oak Mall by a member of a local gang.

Senior journalism major Rod Jag claimed he was a victim of age discrimination because fraternity members discouraged him from rushing last fall. Jag, 27, said Pi Kappa Alpha members told him he was too old to be in a fraternity.

Sheran Riley, committee chair and assistant to the president, said the purpose of the meeting was to gather information and to see what racial problems were occurring. The committee will present recommendations to A&M President William

Senate debates bonfire proposal

By DEAN SUELTFUSS
Of The Battalion Staff

In its last regular meeting of the semester, the Student Senate elected Kenny Gosset as speaker of Student Senate and discussed a proposal about bonfire before closing the five-hour meeting at 1 a.m. today.

In addition to electing Gosset, the Senate elected Jason Baird as speaker pro-tempore and elected Leanne Rogers as rules and regulations chairman.

After the elections, the Senate discussed a bill to endorse recommendations concerning bonfire made by a faculty-student committee. At the end of the meeting, the Senate tabled the bill and requested that a special session be called next week.

Ty Clevenger, student body president, said that if senators wanted a special session to take place next week, he would call for one.

The Ad Hoc Committee on Bonfire, which consists of student leaders and Faculty Senators, spent 13 weeks doing research and hearing testimony to create the nine-page proposal.

Among other things, the proposal recommends reducing the size of bonfire and establishing minimum academic standards for those who work on bonfire. It also recommends eliminating bonfire if no cut site can be found where trees are already scheduled for clearing.

Several members of the eight-member committee were present to answer questions from senators

about the proposal.

The proposal met with opposition from a number of student senators, who voiced concerns over a number of items.

Several senators said they would not support establishing a required minimum grade point average for those who work on bonfire.

"Bonfire is supposed to be a tradition where everybody's supposed to go work on it," one senator said. "And it seems like you're just saying, 'Oh, sorry, you can't go work on it because you're not smart enough.'"

Committee members pointed out that the proposal is just a recommendation and that it could not be enforced unless the Faculty Senate approves it and President William Mobley acts upon it.

Plans to lower tracks await further changes

By DEAN SUELTFUSS
Of The Battalion Staff

After encountering a small detour last week, plans to lower several miles of railroad tracks along Wellborn Road are far from being detailed, officials said Tuesday.

College Station City Council members last week expressed reservations about a proposal presented by the State Department of Highways and Public Transportation.

But Carol Zeigler, district engineer for the department, said the proposal is being changed to make it more acceptable to College Station officials.

The proposal outlines the LOTRACK project, which will help separate pedestrian, vehicle and bicycle traffic from train traffic and will provide easier access to the west side of campus by relocating the train tracks below ground level.

Zeigler said total cost of the project will be about \$35 million, with A&M paying \$6.6 million, Bryan paying \$2.9 million and College Station paying \$2 million.

The rest of the project will be funded through the highway department, which will receive state and federal funds and money from the railroad.

Zeigler said the project already has received a commitment for funding from A&M, the city of Bryan and the highway department, and awaits a commitment from College Station.

"They had some design questions, some alternatives they wanted to explore, which we are now doing," Zeigler said. "As soon as we have some of the answers of what is re-

sponsible, what is feasible, and some rough estimates on the costs that might be involved, we will be back with the College Station city staff, first to review this and possibly pick some of the more desirable alternatives to present to the council."

He said it could be several weeks before the project is ready for review by the College Station staff.

Ron Ragland, College Station city manager, said city officials are concerned about traffic flow and access

"As soon as we have some of the answers of what is responsible, what is feasible, ... we will be back with the College Station city staff ..."

— Carol Zeigler, district engineer

for motorists under the current plan.

When council members are satisfied with the plan, the issue will be put in front of College Station voters in the form of a bond election, which could occur any time between August and January.

Ragland said \$2 million is the minimum amount of funding that would have to be provided by College Station for the project.

He said he is not sure what would happen to the LOTRACK project if College Station voters don't approve the bonds.

"Typically, that doesn't happen,"

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Aggies remember Aggies

Muster '90 emphasizes celebration

By JILL BUTLER
Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M's Muster 1990 will emphasize getting together and sharing good times with A&M students and former students.

"A lot of people think (Muster) is just a big funeral service with a lot of emotion and a lot of crying," David Bereit, a member of the Muster Awareness subcommittee, said. "This year, we are trying to re-focus on the celebration aspect of Muster."

He said this year's Muster committee chose the theme, "Celebrate the Tradition and Share the Spirit," to emphasize celebration.

"Muster is a celebration of the past year and a chance for Aggies all over the world to get together and relive their years at A&M," Bereit said. "It's a chance for students and former students to re-think why they are Aggies and what being an Aggie means to them."

This year, for the first time, there will be a camaraderie barbecue before the Muster ceremony April 21 at 11:30 a.m. in the Academic Plaza, by the statue of Lawrence Sullivan Ross.

For anyone with a food services meal plan, the barbecue will count as one meal. Otherwise, a ticket costs \$5 and can be purchased this week at tables in the MSC or the Blocker Building.

"We thought the barbecue would help promote celebration and unity," Bereit said.

He said that although cele-

bration is being emphasized this year, one of the most important parts of Muster is the main ceremony honoring Aggies who have died during the past year.

"During the main ceremony, a candle is lit and each Aggie who has died during the past year has their name called and someone

answers 'here' to show that the Aggie is still with us in spirit," Bereit said. "It is a very solemn, emotional ceremony."

The ceremony is on April 21 every year and this year Muster ceremonies are being held in 350 different places throughout the

world.

The first Muster held at A&M was on June 26, 1883. The date was changed to April 21, San Jacinto Day, during the early 1900s because many Aggies had fought and died in wars and could be remembered appropriately on this day.

Former students of A&M who lived in Brazos County and A&M students are recognized in Muster at A&M, unless a special request is made. Otherwise, former students are recognized at muster ceremonies in their areas of residency.

The Muster ceremony at A&M will be televised via satellite again this year. Bob Barker, of Barker Productions in Bryan, will record the ceremony and broadcast the program on Weststar 4, Transponder 10.

"There a lot of small towns where there may be a few Aggies getting together for muster and they want some kind of ceremony," Bereit said. "I think it's neat for them to be able to see that the tradition still lives on."

Bereit said many cities and states who don't have ceremonies of their own use the televised version of A&M's ceremony to celebrate muster.

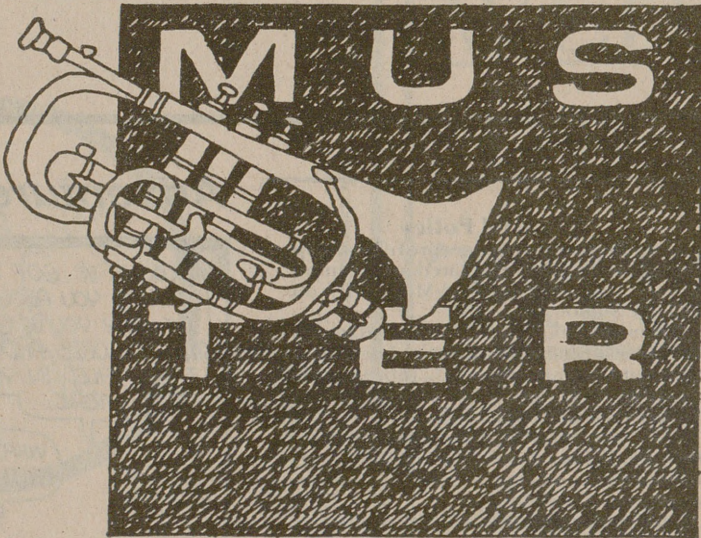
There will not be any commercials broadcast during the televised version of Muster, and Bereit said he does not feel that by televising Muster, the ceremony has become commercialized.

Red Cashion, Class of '53 and chairman of the board of ANCO Insurance of Bryan-College Station, will speak at A&M's Muster ceremony and will attend the camaraderie barbecue. Cashion is also a National Football League referee and had a Fish Camp named after him last summer.

The Singing Cadets will perform, and for the first time at Muster, the Century Singers will perform.

Muster will be from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

"People should get there early," Bereit said. "There will probably be standing-room only."



Graphic by Norzaini Mufti