

Texas A&M The Battalion



WEATHER

TOMORROW'S FORECAST:
Partly sunny and warm.
HIGH: 84 LOW: 68

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Tuesday, April 24, 1990

W. Germans share wealth with struggling neighbor

EAST BERLIN (AP) — West Germany agreed on Monday to give East Germans a bigger share of Western wealth as their struggling nation is merged with its rich neighbor.

In a surprising concession, West Germany said it would exchange each virtually worthless East German mark paid to workers and pensioners for one strong West German mark.

The 1-1 rate would apply to wages and pensions and to savings accounts of up to 4,000 marks (\$2,300), said Dieter Vogel, spokesman for West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

The East German government had demanded the 1-1 rate to protect workers from higher living costs in a unified Germany and the loss of huge subsidies that existed in the former socialist system.

East German political factions applauded the wage concession but criticized the limit on savings accounts.

West Germany opposition parties said the plan would cost billions and lead to inflation. Prices on the Frankfurt Stock Exchange plunged 2.5 percent after the announcement, the sharpest decline in three months.

Anticipating the money merger, the East German state bank on Monday began moving sacks of out-of-circulation East marks out of storage in the East Berlin treasury to make way for shipments of the West Ger-

man mark.

An estimated 100 tons of currency was loaded onto trucks to be burned to make space for the West German currency, likely to become East Germany's official currency on July 2. It already is used heavily in the country, demanded by some restaurants and hotels.

In another step toward creating a single Germany, government

"If this is the final decision, there should be sharp protest because a large part of savings will not be considered here."

— Wolfgang Ullmann, vice president, Parliament

sources in Bonn said Monday the four Allies — the Soviet Union, United States, France and Britain — will meet with the two Germans for the first "two-plus-four" talks May 5 on the international implications of German unification.

Kohl made the proposal the day before he was to meet with East German Prime Minister Lothar de Mai-

ziere in Bonn to discuss their differences over reunification.

It came amid reports that the number of East Germans fleeing their crumbling economy for West Germany is continuing at a rate of more than 4,000 a week.

Under the West German economic proposal, announced after Kohl met with his Cabinet, personal savings of more than 4,000 marks would be traded at a 2-1 rate.

East German private and corporate debts also would be converted at a 2-1 rate, Vogel said.

The West German government's proposal is an "important contribution" to ending the disagreements between the nations, East German government spokesman Mathias Gehler said.

But Wolfgang Ullmann, vice president of Parliament, said: "If this is the final decision, there should be sharp protest because a large part of savings will not be considered here."

Both governments say they will merge their economies completely on July 1 as a prelude to full unification, expected next year.

The East German mark is officially valued at 3-1 against the West mark but is worth almost nothing outside East Germany.

West Germany's central bank had proposed a 2-1 swap, saying a 1-1 exchange would dilute the value of the West German mark and possibly cause high inflation and rising interest rates.

Shuttle bus collides with two trucks



By Fredrick D. Joe

Assistant Manager of Bus Operations Cheryl Mize investigates an accident that occurred at 1:45 p.m. Monday at the intersection of University Drive and South College Avenue. Witnesses told College Station police the University shuttle

bus ran a red light at the intersection, struck the right rear of a Chevrolet pickup and then was struck in the front right corner by the Ford pickup pictured above. Two persons involved in the accident were treated at Humana Hospital.

Architecture students design home for man in coma



By Mike C. Mulvey

Gray Elmore and architect Kay Henryson look at the model made by design students Elmore, Ramirez and Cunningham.

By JULIE MYERS
Of The Battalion Staff

Moving day for Danny, Ann and Alan Crocker was anything but typical last weekend.

Alan moved into his new home Friday, and his parents, Danny and Ann Crocker, moved Saturday.

Their new home was designed by Dr. George Mann's Texas A&M freshman environmental design class last spring for Alan, who suffered a closed head injury in 1981 and since has been in a deep coma.

Although Alan's doctor advised placing him in a nursing home in 1984 to receive the needed care, his parents decided to bring him home about five years ago to their home in north Bryan.

Mrs. Crocker also quit her job to tend to Alan's needs.

"I keep feeling like there's something more I should be doing for him," Crocker said.

"We were really close before the accident. If anyone can get to him, I can."

The Crockers said they were warned of the hardships in caring for Alan, but they believed he would receive the best care at home.

Their home in Bryan, however, was not large enough to care for him in the manner they would have liked.

Mr. Crocker said the ceilings were not high enough to allow them to lift Alan out of bed with a special lift, the hallways and doors were barely wide enough to allow wheelchair access and there was no way to remove Alan quickly in an emergency.

Additionally, because the Crockers employ two nurses to care for Alan, there was little privacy for the couple and a lack of privacy for Alan when visitors came.

Alan's nine-year-old daughter is a frequent visitor.

"It was difficult, at best, to take care of him," Mr. Crocker said. "I've lifted Alan more times than I can

count, but it still doesn't make it any easier."

In March 1989 the Crockers asked Mann, an expert in the design of health care facilities, to help them build a new house that would better facilitate Alan's care.

"All they could do was say 'No,'" Mrs. Crocker said.

After discussing their particular needs, Mann suggested they present their request to his freshman architecture class.

The Crockers were invited to attend several classes and explain their needs to the students who then visited their old house and the site of the new home to formulate ideas.

A group design presented by junior building construction major Todd Cunningham, sophomore environmental design major Greg Elmore and junior environmental design major David Ramirez fit most of what the Crockers were looking for aesthetically and economically.

"We liked all of them, but this plan seemed to fit our needs better," Mrs. Crocker said. "They did a beautiful job."

The 2,640-square-foot house designed by Cunningham, Elmore and Ramirez emphasizes the back yard and deck area and features a large family area in the middle of the house and an atmosphere conducive to Alan's condition and the rest of the family.

Although Alan's doctors were against the move, the new house is actually closer to the hospital than the north Bryan home.

Ramirez said it was rewarding for him to see the Crockers' dreams become reality.

Kay M. Henryson, AIA, a local architect with Group 4 Architects-Planners, was the professional hired for the design development phase.

"It is satisfying to see something the students did come to fruition," Henryson said. "In school, a lot of

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Released hostage relaxes in hospital

WIESBADEN, West Germany (AP) — Freed American hostage Robert Polhill checked into a hospital suite and spent his first day of freedom Monday savoring scrambled eggs and bacon and enjoying an afternoon snooze.

U.S. officials, who plan to question Polhill about his nearly three years in captivity, gave the 55-year-old professor a day off to rest and undergo routine medical tests. He was released Sunday.

They said Polhill, held by a pro-Iranian group, was likely a captive in the same building as two American colleagues, but they doubted he would know much about any of the other 15 Western hostages in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, there were reports

from Tehran and Lebanon that a second hostage release may be in the offing. But news reports in Tehran and Beirut and a Pro-Iranian Shiite cleric said the U.S. would have to reciprocate.

U.S. officials said they had no information that a second release "was going to happen."

President Bush thanked Iran and Syria for their help in securing Polhill's release. Syrian forces in Lebanon picked up Polhill in West Beirut and drove him to the Syrian capital, Damascus. Both Iran and Syria apparently acted in an effort to improve relations with the West.

But the president said he would make no deals with the pro-Iranian Shiite Moslem militants in Lebanon still holding the Western hostages.

Discovery prepares for liftoff after first attempt scrubbed

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Space shuttle Discovery stood ready once again, weather willing, to ferry the Hubble Space Telescope into orbit Tuesday to seek answers to two questions: how old is the universe, and how big?

At the Kennedy Space Center on Monday, officials expressed confidence the liftoff, scheduled for 7:31 a.m. CDT, will occur.

But there was little of the excitement of two weeks ago when hundreds of astronomers gathered, with their families, only to see the launch scrubbed with four minutes to go in the countdown. "Here we are once again," said

William Lenoir, head of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's space flight program. "We think once again we are ready."

The unstable weather during launch preparations on Monday was more of a concern than Tuesday's. NASA delayed by an hour the rollback of the service structure which had protected the shuttle from the elements.

Loading of more than a half million gallons of hazardous fuel was to start as scheduled after midnight on the assurance of forecasters that the storm would be out of the area by then.

Education at A&M examined by students, officials

By DEAN SUELTFENFUSS
Of The Battalion Staff

(EDITOR'S NOTE: The following is the first of a four-part series focusing on undergraduate education. Part two will focus on barriers to effective teaching.)

They're the usual student complaints: This class is too difficult; my professor is unapproachable; I don't know where to go for help; I can't understand my instructor.

But how true are they?

Interviews with Texas A&M students, professors and administrators, along with several student surveys, indicate many factors prevent A&M students from getting the best possible education.

There also are many ways A&M officials are addressing these problems.

FACULTY MEMBERS

As with any organization, some people perform their jobs better than others. Although many people believe A&M faculty members do well in the classroom, some say there are exceptions to that rule.

Fred Deakins, a freshman aerospace engineering major from Plano, said he has known professors who are not good teachers.

"I had a prof for Math 151, and he was terrible," Deakins said. "You know, I think it's pretty sad that a university will throw somebody like that in front of a freshman. He's just coming out of high school and he's got to get used to the college life and everything, and then they throw him a crummy prof."

Deakins said some faculty members seem not to be concerned about their students.

"There are some profs out there who don't do a darn thing for you," he said. "And if you don't understand, that's your problem, and they don't really care."

Dr. Murray Milford, a professor of soil science at A&M and the recipient of several teaching awards, said professors cannot teach well if they are not organized.

"I don't think it takes a lot of effort to be organized," Milford said. "I hear of faculty members going into classrooms totally unorganized. There is no excuse for that."

Dr. Sallie Sheppard, associate provost for honors programs and undergraduate studies at A&M, said most A&M faculty members are talented teachers. According to evaluation forms completed by students, it

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—Fred Deakins, freshman

is rare for students to complain about the quality of instruction at A&M, Sheppard said.

Some faculty members and administrators say it is difficult to determine exactly what good teaching is. Others add that it is

not desirable to place too much emphasis on students' evaluations of faculty because effective teachers are not necessarily the most popular with students.

Lisa Tomaselli, a senior biomedical science major from Plano, said there are some exceptions, but most A&M professors are good teachers.

"I haven't really had any trouble with the majority (of professors)," Tomaselli said. "A lot of mine have seemed fairly enthusiastic if not really enthusiastic about teaching. And I can say if it wasn't for some of the enthusiasm of my professors, I'd have been really struggling."

ADVISING

Although a survey recently completed by A&M's department of measurement and research services indicates most students believe academic advising at A&M is adequate, some students are not convinced.

Dana Dabney, a sophomore electrical engineering student from Terrell, said many students do not know where to go for advice on academic matters.

"There are a lot of people here who need it (advising) and they don't know where to find it," Dabney said. "And then when they do, it's just a matter of at that point in time if you need help, you can't get it."

But the survey says students do indeed know where to go for help.

"Over 80 percent felt they had adequate information to make academic decisions," the report states. "Over 90 percent said they knew where to go for advice."

Access to faculty members outside class may be more of a problem than access to advisers. Some students complain faculty members are hard to reach or they do not keep regular office hours.

According to another survey conducted by the department of measurement and research services, many students say they have trouble getting help from faculty members outside of class.

The 1988 survey reports 34.4 percent of continuing students and 45.6 percent of exiting students (those withdrawing before

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