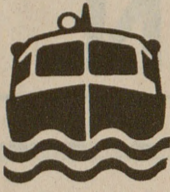


**Mega Borg**  
 Officials, environmentalists react to the tanker explosion and oil spill.  
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## Drilling for drama



Photo by Sandra N. Robbins

Jennifer Gambrell, a junior journalism major from Humble, Texas, works on a stage prop inside the theater technical shop located in Rudder. Gambrell is in a Theater 290 workshop class which constructs all the sets used by the Aggie Players in their plays throughout the summer.

## Poindexter receives jail term for role in Iran-Contra affair

### Ex-security adviser remains free during appeal

(AP) — Former National Security Adviser John M. Poindexter was sentenced to six months in prison Monday by a judge who accused him of usurping the power of Congress by lying about the Iran-Contra affair.

The sentence imposed by U.S. District Judge Harold H. Greene was the first prison term for any of the seven people convicted as a result of the affair.

Greene said letting Poindexter off without a prison term "would be tantamount to a statement that a scheme to lie to and obstruct Congress is of no great moment."

The judge delivered a stern lecture along with the sentence, saying Poindexter violated "a principle fundamental to this constitutional republic — that those elected by and responsible to the people shall make the important policy decisions."

"Their decisions may not be nullified by appointed officials who happen to be in positions that give them the ability to operate programs prohibited by law," the judge said.

it is obstructed by high-ranking officials," the judge said.

He said Poindexter showed "no evidence of recognizing that principle and the seriousness of its violation."

Greene allowed Poindexter to remain free while he appeals five felony convictions of conspiracy, making false statements and obstruction.

And the judge did not impose a fine, noting that Poindexter had already incurred huge legal bills.

Poindexter, 53, who served as President Reagan's national security adviser from late 1985 until revelations about the Iran-Contra affair forced his resignation in November 1986, is the highest-ranking Reagan administration official to be convicted of a felony.

He was found guilty of lying to Congress in 1986 by falsely assuring lawmakers that his staff was not secretly helping arm the Nicaraguan Contras and by giving

"The Congress can't fulfill its constitutional duties if See Poindexter/Page 8

## Release of oil hampers firefighters' efforts

### Chances of sinkage rise as tanker's stern drops

GALVESTON (AP) — One end of a burning supertanker dipped to the water's surface in the Gulf of Mexico on Monday, slightly increasing chances the crippled vessel could sink, the Coast Guard said.

The rear section of the 853-foot Mega Borg remained above water but with waves occasionally washing over it, Coast Guard officials said.

"That increases the danger of sinking but only incrementally," said Coast Guard spokesman Todd Nelson. "We are not talking right now about sinking."

The Norwegian tanker was carrying 38 million gallons of oil when it was hit by a series of engine-room explosions Saturday. Two of the 41 crewmen died, two were missing and presumed dead and 17 were injured, none seriously.

A flotilla of six fireboats was shooting 14 streams of water on the vessel, 57 miles southeast of Galveston. Firefighters had hoped to use fire-choking foam, but that effort was hampered by a new release of oil.

bad. It means the fire is consuming more of the oil faster than we can."

Coast Guard Rear Adm. William Kime made an aerial inspection and said the Mega Borg's stern was listing to the left. "Every once in a while you have a wave that will come over the side," he said.

Officials said the dropping stern caused more oil to spill because the crude was going directly into the water.

The oil was flaring and occasionally shooting new balls of flame out the left side of the pumphouse, forcing fireboats to back off.

At midday, a pool of oil about 500 feet long was burning on the surface of the water trailing from the ship. Farther away, several boats with booms extending from their decks tried to collect some of the rusty brown oil on the water.

The Coast Guard said Monday there was a slick about one mile long north of the ship and one about 15 miles long to the south. A sheen on

See Tanker/Page 8

## Gorbachev, Baltic leaders hold talks

MOSCOW (AP) — President Mikhail S. Gorbachev has agreed to meet with the presidents of the three Baltic republics for the first time since he branded their independence moves unconstitutional, spokesmen said Monday.

Today's scheduled meeting comes amid other new contacts between the Kremlin and Lithuania — the Baltic republic that has taken the boldest moves toward independence and has suffered most. Moscow's economic blockade against Lithuania enters its third month next week.

It also comes one week after Gorbachev returned from the United States, where congressional leaders made clear they would hold up approval of a U.S.-Soviet trade deal that Gorbachev wants until the embargo on Lithuania is lifted.

The session between Gorbachev and the Baltic presidents could signal a new Kremlin diplomatic initiative to try to break the impasse over

See Gorbachev/Page 8

## Senate approves changes in scholarship guidelines

By CHRIS VAUGHN Of The Battalion Staff

The Texas A&M Faculty Senate narrowly approved a measure Monday recommending changes in scholarship guidelines for out-of-state students.

The recommended revisions in scholarship guidelines were the only major items on the Faculty Senate's light agenda.

The resolution, which passed by a 25-20 vote, sparked discussion about reasons why the policy was changed and whether students under the present policy would lose their scholarships if revisions were made.

As with all Faculty Senate resolutions, the resolution must be signed by A&M President William Mobley before it is instituted.

Dr. Carlton Stolle, a senator on the A&M Scholarship Committee, said the revisions were recommended because the University recently changed its entry requirements for all students. This made some wording in the old scholarship requirements obsolete.

The former scholarship policy was approved and signed in 1985 by the Faculty Senate and then A&M President Frank Vandiver.

It approved guidelines which allow out-of-state students to pay in-state tuition if they earn an academic scholarship.

The recommended new scholarship guidelines would do away with the criteria of minimum high school GPR and SAT scores in most cases.

Instead, the revised guidelines would list academic scholarships at A&M, such as National Merit Scholarships, President's Achievement Awards and Academic Excellence Awards, which automatically would waive out-of-state tuition for students.

But not all scholarships are specif-

ically listed in the revisions.

Out-of-state students, however, still would be able to have in-state tuition if they received another scholarship and met the new entry requirements at A&M.

Dr. Edward A. Funkhouser, Dr. Larry Hickman and Dr. Rodger Koppa all questioned the lack of a "grandfather clause" in the proposed guidelines, which would protect students presently on scholarships waiving out-of-state tuition.

But Stolle said every student under the old policy would retain their scholarship if the revisions are instituted.

During a brief Committee of the Whole meeting, Dr. Michael Murphy said the compressed schedule of dead day, finals, graduation and other activities at the end of the semester have created too much hassle. He recommended changing the schedule.

Dr. Victor Willson said it is primarily an undergraduate issue — not a graduate issue — since many graduate students don't take finals.

Committee of the Whole meetings are at the end of the regular Faculty Senate business and are a period when senators can express opinions and concerns on any topic related to the campus.

In other business, the Faculty Senate:

- Approved a request from the College of Liberal Arts to create a Ph.D. in anthropology.
- Approved the creation of two undergraduate courses: Economics 312 Poverty, Inequality and Social Policy, and Entomology 403 Urban Entomology. It also approved the withdrawal of two undergraduate electrical engineering classes, EE 403 and 404.
- Approved four new graduate courses: one in animal science, one in planning and two in nutrition.

## A&M opens overseas study facility

By ELIZABETH TISCH Of The Battalion Staff

Texas A&M expanded its overseas ventures by opening a new teaching facility in Castiglion Fiorentino, Italy, as part of its Study Abroad Programs.

A&M President William Mobley, members of the Board of Regents and faculty and staff members participated in the opening ceremony of the teaching facility, named the Texas A&M University Santa Chiara Center.

Mobley said it was Texas A&M's goal to increase the number of Aggies who study abroad. He said long-term programs, like those offered at the Santa Chiara Center, were a way to do this.

Director of the Italian center is Paulo Baruchieri, a visiting professor of architecture at A&M.

The Santa Chiara Center, located in the hill town of Castiglion Fiorentino, will serve as both home and classroom to students.

Facilities consist of classrooms, art studios, a gallery, a music center and theater, a student lounge, a library and administrative offices.

Mary Beth Butler, senior secretary for Study Abroad Programs, said the facility is state of the art.

A&M has administered study abroad programs in Tuscany, Italy, for ten years, but the relocation was made possible with the help of the people of Castiglion Fiorentino.

The city of about 4,000 invested \$1.5 million to renovate a facility

that originally was a conservatory dedicated to St. Claire. Portions of the conservatory date to the early Renaissance.

Butler said the Italians welcome A&M students.

"One of the most unique things about Castiglion Fiorentino is the people of the town have really given of themselves to welcome the students to the city," she said.

The study abroad program in Italy offers year-round courses in the liberal arts and architecture.

The course offerings, however, change every semester.

Classes offered in the summer are a combination of humanities and architecture. Butler said the spring semesters will offer courses only in liberal arts, while the fall semesters will

concentrate on architecture classes.

"The architecture programs began there because it is such an excellent location for the students," Butler said. "(It) is so rich in culture. As far as architecture goes, that is where it all began."

A&M students who are in good standing with the University are eligible for the program in which they can take up to 15 credit hours.

A semester's program costs about \$3,000 which covers airfare from Houston, accommodations, field trips, insurance and meals. Tuition and books are not included in the cost.

To obtain more information about the Santa Chiara Center, contact the Study Abroad Office at 845-0544.

## Justices rule in favor of freedom of expression

### Court strikes down flag law

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court today struck down a new federal law that outlaws burning the American flag, saying the ban "dilutes the very freedom that makes this emblem so revered."

The court's 5-4 decision indicated the divisiveness of the emotional issue. The ruling is certain to touch off a political battle in Congress to pass a constitutional amendment protecting the flag from desecration.

In a split identical to a ruling last year on the flag-burning issue, the justices said the Flag Protection Act of 1989 violates freedom of expression guaranteed by the First Amendment to the Constitution. Writing for the majority, Justice William J. Brennan called it a "bedrock" constitutional guarantee.

Congressional leaders had said if the law were declared invalid they would move quickly for votes in the

House and Senate on a constitutional amendment to protect the flag from burning or desecration.

That move is expected to inject the issue into this fall's congressional and state legislative campaigns.

A constitutional amendment would require approval by two-thirds of the members of the House and Senate and then ratification by 38 state legislatures. The First Amendment never has been altered in 199 years.

"We are aware that desecration of the flag is deeply offensive to many," Brennan wrote.

But, quoting from the court's earlier ruling, he said, "If there is a bedrock principle underlying the First Amendment, it is that the government may not prohibit the expression of an idea simply because society

finds the idea itself offensive or disagreeable."

"Punishing desecration of the flag dilutes the very freedom that makes this emblem so revered," he said.

Brennan noted that the government has said there is a national consensus in favor of banning flag burning. "Even assuming such a consensus exists, any suggestion that the government's interest in suppressing speech becomes more weighty as popular opposition to that speech grows is foreign to the First Amendment," he said.

Justice John Paul Stevens, in a dissenting opinion, said the government has a legitimate interest in banning

## Second session registration begins

Texas A&M seniors began registration Monday for Summer II classes.

**Touch-tone telephone registration information:**

- Juniors — 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. today.
- Sophomores — 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday.
- Freshmen — 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Thursday.
- All students — 6 a.m. to 8 p.m. Friday.

Open registration and drop/add will be from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 5 to 12. Registration and drop/add will be closed Saturday and Sunday.

Late registration and drop/add is 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. July 9 to 11.

**Terminal registration information:**

- Open registration and drop/add will be 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 6.
- Late registration and drop/add will be from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. July 9 to 12.

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