



Timber!



Photo by Söndra N. Robbins

Michele Dohner, senior business analysis major from Houston, gets tackled by Sally Hall, senior biomedical science major from League City, while Christi Clinger, senior food science major from Dallas, looks on. They were playing mud football Monday on Simpson Drill field.

Manila earthquake traps hundreds beneath rubble

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The strongest earthquake to hit the Philippines in 14 years jolted Manila and surrounding Luzon Island Monday, killing at least 108 people. Hundreds were reported injured in collapsed buildings.

Nearly 1,000 people were believed trapped in four luxury hotels, factories and government offices in the mountain resort of Baguio, where scores of structures were heavily damaged.

In Baguio, radio station DZWT said 23 more people were killed when the commerce building at the University of Baguio collapsed. Officials in Manila could not confirm the report because telephone lines were down.

U.S. officials said those injured in Baguio, 110 miles north of Manila, were being transported to American military hospitals at nearby Camp John Hay and Clark Air Base.

Rescue efforts were hampered by poor communications and lack of equipment.

Roads to Baguio were blocked by landslides and the airport was closed due to poor visibility and damage to the runway, officials said.

The U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colo., registered the quake at 7.7 on the Richter scale. There were numerous tremors after the quake hit about 4:30 p.m.

The June 21 earthquake in Iran registered 7.3 to 7.7 and killed at least 40,000 people.

At least 150 people were believed trapped in the Hyatt Hotel in Baguio, a favorite with foreign tourists. The military said 800 more were believed trapped in a government building in the Baguio Export Processing Zone.

Professor visiting Manila sees reactions to quake

By JULIE MYERS
Of The Battalion Staff

The deadly earthquake that struck the Philippines about 3:30 a.m. CDT Monday didn't keep Dr. Richard Shafer from teaching a graduate class at the University of the Philippines.

Shafer, a journalism professor at Texas A&M, is visiting the Philippines this summer after a five year absence.

"The buildings were shaking hard — really hard, but university students here are very sophisticated and reacted pretty calmly," Shafer said Monday afternoon in a phone call to The Battalion office.

Because the earthquake struck during the commute to his 5 p.m. class, Shafer said he wondered

whether he should go at all. He said he wasn't able to find out if he was supposed to teach that day.

When he arrived at the College of Mass Communication, two students were waiting for class to begin.

Shafer attributed the calm atmosphere to the absence of rubble or collapsed buildings in their area.

Although his students remained calm, Shafer said, many others did not.

"For the most part, if someone panicked, everyone panicked," he said.

Shafer's wife, Jill, was the last

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U.S. officials said there were unconfirmed reports that an American was killed in Baguio.

In Washington, the State Department said it was investigating several reports of deaths or injuries to American government officials.

In Manila, which together with surrounding areas has a population of about 8 million, numerous buildings were slightly damaged and one fire broke out in the city's Santa Cruz district. Two people were

killed.

Thousands were sent fleeing into the streets.

President Corazon Aquino, who was meeting senators in her office at the time, took cover under a table, said her spokesman, Adolf Azcuna. She ordered the military to launch an islandwide rescuer operation and closed schools throughout the area Tuesday.

Professor warns of diseases from pests

By ISSELLE MCALLISTER
Of The Battalion Staff

Mosquito bites in the summer have become something of a Texas tradition, but these pesky little creatures are more than just irritating.

Large numbers of mosquitoes this season can spread dangerous diseases in the areas where they live and breed, Dr. Jim Olson, a professor in Texas A&M's Department of Entomology, said.

Every year, mosquitoes threaten Houston and surrounding areas with encephalitis.

Encephalitis is the inflammation of the brain caused by a virus carried by birds, he explained. The disease attacks the central nervous system and can result in paralysis or even death.

Although household pets are safe from the virus, it can attack horses and have devastating effects, Olson said.

But horses have an advantage, he added. They can be vaccinated — humans cannot.

Tourists and illegal immigrants also carry diseases like malaria and yellow fever which spread via mosquito, he said. The more mosquitoes there are, the more danger there is.

The mosquito population is so high in this area because of flooding in rice production areas, he

said. Texas is a major rice producer, and it is the third most important export grain in the state, he said.

Texas rice is farmed in the area from around Victoria up to the Louisiana border, and the Houston area is right in the center of it.

There are two types of mosquitoes — floodwater and standing water mosquitoes. Both kinds multiply in flooded rice fields.

Floodwater mosquitoes lay their eggs in normally dry areas subject to periodic flooding, he said. These areas can be rice fields, depressions in the soil such as hoofprints and artificial containers such as flowerpots.

Olson said the eggs can survive for more than a year waiting for the right flooding conditions to occur.

Once it floods, "instant mosquitoes," he said. Eggs can hatch within 10 to 15 minutes.

On the other hand, standing water mosquitoes lay their eggs on the surface of standing water. They hatch 24 to 48 hours after the eggs are laid.

Rice farmers flood the fields and let the water stand, even in times of drought, he said, so there is mosquito activity all year.

Olson's past research indicates rice fields and

depressions in the soil can harbor up to 5 million mosquito eggs per acre. He said about 5 to 6 million acres are devoted to rice and other crops rotated with rice.

Even though 60 to 80 percent of the mosquito eggs and larvae are destroyed before reaching adulthood, the amount left is still staggering.

This is where Olson focuses his research.

He directs a national program with scientists from the University of California at Davis, University of California at Berkeley, University of Arkansas, Louisiana State University, Mississippi State University and the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

These scientists seek to determine what is already naturally controlling the mosquito population, so they can add to it, he said.

The scientists want to destroy the mosquitoes without disrupting the agriculture and hurting the economy.

They have made a few advances, but mosquitoes still pose a health threat.

Mosquitoes are night feeders, so Olson offers this advice:

"Fix your window screens, make sure your air conditioner works, get a copy of TV Guide and don't go outside in the evening."

Services held for student last Saturday

Texas A&M student and Corps of Cadets member Justin D. Spencer died Wednesday in San Antonio.

Spencer, 20, was a sophomore business administration major from San Antonio. He was a member of Army Company E-1. Funeral services were Saturday.

Storms, floods harass Texans

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Downtown shopkeepers mopped mud and smelly water out of their businesses Monday after showers dumped up to 14 inches of rain here, stranding people in their cars and forcing evacuations elsewhere in South Central Texas.

In Kerrville and Leming, residents cleaned up from tornadoes that touched down Sunday as storms swept South Central Texas. Six people were taken to hospitals from a tornado that touched down in a residential section of Kerrville. No one was seriously injured, officials said.

Rain continued to fall in San Antonio Monday and the National Weather Service issued flash flood warnings for Dimmit, Zavala and Atascosa counties.

"All over town in the low-lying areas they are evacuating people," Jenny Garcia, a Dimmit County Sheriff's Department dispatcher in Carrizo Springs, said. "All morning long it's been somebody stuck here, somebody stuck there."

Evacuation shelters were set up in Zavala and Dimmit counties, where flood waters closed several roads, authorities said.

The National Weather Service said up to 14 inches of rain hit Alamo Plaza in San Antonio and 11.8 inches fell in the Harlandale section.

Downtown shopkeepers arrived Monday to find merchandise swept away and water soaking what was left.

Further south in Atascosa County, people in a mobile home park were cleaning up Monday from a twister or twisters that demolished five mobile homes. No injuries were reported, sheriff's department spokeswoman Ann Gates, said.

Republican candidate backs rapid turnover

By JAMES LOVE
Of The Battalion Staff

Republican candidate for state representative Steve Ogden will support a rapid turnover rate among house and senate officials if elected to office.

Ogden spoke during a noon press conference Monday at the Brazos County Republican Party Headquarters.

Ogden said the maximum term for a Texas representative should be six years, while state senators' terms should not exceed three years.

He said the state needs new ideas of new officials to maintain the effectiveness of the Senate.

"An official in the Senate for more than three years is part of the problem more than the solution," he said.

"If a House or Senate member can come up with no new ideas after 12 years in office, then it's because they have become too comfortable with the way things are," Ogden said.

He said it is good to constantly bring in new people who have fresh ideas and values. He compared his views with that of a naval vessel.

"The Navy is able to keep an old ship in great condition because they are constantly changing every staff member on board within three years," he said.

With the present system, Ogden said challengers don't have a chance against those who have been in office for 13 years. Therefore, no new ideas can get in, he said.



Battalion file photo

Steve Ogden

"We need to make politics more competitive," he said. "Competition has always produced quality goods in business, and we also learn important lessons from competition."

Ogden said he wants to represent the people of Brazos County, but the people must say enough is enough and decide they want constraints in the Legislature.

Ogden also announced that his campaign budget is balanced and said he is not accepting more than \$500 dollar donations from individuals.

Ogden said he is doing this for three reasons — he believes his campaign should be run like government ought to be, each individual's donation should not be treated as meager next to someone's larger donation, and he is comfortable with the limit.

"I believe business gets more efficient when revenues are tight," he said. "My campaign should be run that way too."

German unification clears Soviet hurdle

MOSCOW (AP) — The Soviet Union on Monday dropped its objection to a united Germany's membership in NATO, clearing one of the most difficult remaining hurdles to German unification.

President Mikhail S. Gorbachev and West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl announced the agreement in a televised news conference from Gorbachev's home region, Stavropol in southern Russia. The area was one of the deepest points of German penetration during World War II.

The announcement capped several months of intense diplomatic maneuvering, during which Germany backed a \$3 billion bank loan to Moscow and pushed its allies for a comprehensive plan to bail out the crumbling Soviet economy.

The agreement, reached in just two days of talks in Moscow and at a country home in Arkhyz in the Caucasus Mountains, made it likely the two German states could complete unification by December.

"A unified Germany, in exercising its unrestricted sovereignty freely and by itself, decides if and which alliances to which it wants to belong," Kohl said, reading a joint statement.

He said he had told Gorbachev that a united Germany wants to be part of NATO, and that he was sure East Germany agreed.

"Unified Germany receives complete sovereignty," Gorbachev told the news conference. "It has the right to use this sovereignty to make its choice ... meaning its variant of social development, and meaning what it would like to be a part of, what blocs to support."

In Washington, President Bush praised Gorbachev's remarks.

"This comment demonstrates statesmanship and strengthens efforts to build enduring relationships based on cooperation," Bush said in a written statement.

The British Foreign Office called the Soviet change "an extremely positive development in Soviet thinking."

Kohl and Gorbachev also reached agreement on other contentious issues:

- They agreed to begin negotiations on the complete withdrawal of Soviet soldiers from what is now East German territory. The approximately 380,000 soldiers should be withdrawn in three to four years, they said.

- The army of a united Germany, during the same period, will be reduced to 370,000 soldiers. Currently, the two Germans have about 600,000 men under arms, 480,000 in the West.

- No NATO forces will be stationed on the territory of what is now East Germany while Soviet forces are still there. But German soldiers not integrated into the NATO command may be stationed there as soon as unification is completed.

- The rights of the four victorious World War II powers — France, the United States, Britain and the Soviet Union — will cease immediately upon unification. But Western forces may remain in Berlin as long as Soviet soldiers stay in any part of the country.

Although there are no such guarantees in the agreement, Gorbachev said the Soviet Union hopes that after it withdraws from East German territory "nuclear weapons will not appear, foreign soldiers will not appear, so that the budding trust, the responsibility we have toward each other and toward Europeans, can be preserved."