



## Prime minister of Poland resigns

WARSAW, Poland (AP) — Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki resigned Monday along with his government a day after a political neophyte dealt him a humiliating defeat in presidential elections.

"It is impossible for me to remain the prime minister," Mazowiecki said in an interview with state radio before he announced he was stepping down.

"Poland's painful but necessary program of getting out of economic catastrophe can only be realized with the understanding of the majority of the nation," Mazowiecki said. "Society made its choice."

He had finished third in presidential elections on Sunday, failing to qualify for a runoff with Solidarity leader Lech Walesa, who finished first.

Mazowiecki was knocked out of the race by Stanislaw Tyminski, a wealthy businessman who returned to Poland this fall after 21 years in Canada and Peru.

"I will win these elections," Tyminski told supporters and the curious at his Warsaw headquarters. "I am not afraid of Walesa, I am not afraid of anyone."

Mazowiecki, 63, the first non-Communist prime minister in the

East bloc, had said he would step down as prime minister if he lost the presidential race.

He told state radio he and his government could not be responsible "for promises made by the other candidates."

Mazowiecki said he will submit his government's resignation formally to Parliament, but he and other Cabinet ministers will continue to fulfill their duties until a new government is formed.

"Many promises without backing were made and the government and myself were attacked with many strong, often demagogical, accusations," said Mazowiecki.

News of Mazowiecki's resignation drew an angry reaction from Walesa, who had tapped him for the post of prime minister, then split with him over the pace of reforms in the post-Communist era.

"That's great responsibility," Walesa said sarcastically, contacted at his home by the Associated Press. "Now, let the Poles see this responsibility, this patriotism and this democracy of Mazowiecki."

Tyminski, 42, was not taken seriously by other candidates until polls indicated a late surge of support.

### How close is close?



Freshman Amos Gaige keeps a watchful set of eyes on the steady hands of Gene Wren at the North Gate Barber Shop Friday afternoon. Amos was getting his hair cut extra short for the Aggies' final home game against TCU.

PHELAN M. EBENBACK/The Battalion



MIKE C. MULVEY/The Battalion

Stephen Biddle watches as Dr. Koldus, vice president of student services, lights the giant Christmas tree in the MSC flag room.

## MSC Hospitality committee schedules week of festivities

The spirit of Christmas at Texas A&M finally has arrived.

The Christmas tree was lit at noon Monday in the MSC Flagroom by Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services. The ceremony was sponsored by the MSC Hospitality committee.

"This exemplifies the Aggie spirit of caring, giving and sharing ... and the greatest gift you can give is to share with others," Koldus said.

After the ceremony, Voices of Praise sang in the flagroom to begin the week's festivities.

Eric Trekkell, Hospitality adviser, said the committee has scheduled a

week of activities in conjunction with the Christmas tree lighting, which has been going on since the committee was formed in 1970.

Trekkell said the committee also has had a trade show for 20 years where merchants display items, such as crafts and other Christmas gifts.

Groups which will perform in the flagroom include the following: the bell choir from the First Baptist Church in Bryan; a theater presentation by the Stage Center; the Aggonizers, a quartet from the Singing Cadets; and CAMAC, which will perform a dance and various solo singers.

## Professor says minorities still suffer from racial harassment

PART 1 OF A 4-PART SERIES

By SEAN FRERKING  
Of The Battalion Staff

Racism has entered a new phase of overt expression which reflects present social attitudes in the United States, says a Texas A&M faculty member and editor of "U.S. Race Relations in the 1980s and 1990s."

Dr. Gail Thomas, an A&M sociology professor, says she bases her opinions on years of personal research and the work of other professionals which has indicated that minorities still suffer from racial harassment.

"Black and Hispanic students and faculty have continued to fight against the same problem of racism that has plagued them since school desegregation began," Thomas says. "It's the same old problem. It's only more open now."

She says she believes the nation's conser-

vative political climate is one of the main reasons many acts of racial harassment are more blatant.

"First and foremost, the political climate of the nation quite frankly tolerates more overt expression of racism," Thomas says. "It (the more open racist expression) is not surprising, but I find it is rather discouraging."

Thomas says she believes the Reagan administration's lack of involvement in race relations, a policy she says the Bush administration has continued, has hampered the nation's civil rights movement.

She also says withdrawn support for several federal programs has slowed achievements of many minority groups.

"You can see a strong correlation between the softening of support for programs like affirmative action and a decline of minority progress," she says. "Without a certain amount of strong leadership this problem will continue."

Economic conditions also can affect ra-

**"The international human rights movement will help the push for civil rights in our country."**

— Gail Thomas,  
A&M sociology professor

cial attitudes, Thomas says. More racial incidents occur during times of economic duress than in prosperous times, she says.

"During times of economic strain, programs like affirmative action are the first to go," Thomas says. "During these hard times, people become more conservative and begin to look out for themselves."

"Too often they misunderstand that if one group gains the other group loses something," she continues. "That's simply wrong and unfortunate."

She says the benefits of minority programs often go unnoticed. Many people, and not only minorities, have gained from these federal programs, Thomas says.

"White women and men have also been helped by these programs," she says. "What people don't understand, and what we need to change, is the fact that discrimination and racism are extremely costly to our society and our nation."

Although some individuals might abuse the system, many programs have opened new options for talented people who never would have had the chance to succeed, she says.

"There is no doubt that without some of these programs many minority students would never have had the opportunity to attend college," Thomas says. "It takes more than ability to succeed sometimes. With these federal programs, many of these people can reach their goals."

Thomas also says the positive aspects of these federal programs can be seen at

A&M. "Minorities have brought A&M a diversity that is important for a university setting," she says. "The diversity of perspective and ideology these minorities represent has enhanced the quality of scholarship and students at this University."

Even with these gains, Thomas says she believes more time is needed before societal attitudes change and racial equality is possible in the United States.

However, she says she is optimistic about the future of civil rights in the United States.

"The international human rights movement will help the push for civil rights in our country," she says. "My hope is that we as Americans can learn to fight for and respect human rights. If we can, minorities will have even more success."

"I think if we continue this work there will be a time where all of this will not be necessary. I do believe that one day we can live free from racism."

## Pollen provides information on drug origin

Law enforcement might have another weapon in the war on drugs — ordinary pollen.

Forensic palynology — identifying pollen grains trapped in shipments — can provide information on the origin of some illegal drugs, says Dr. Vaughn M. Bryant Jr., head of anthropology at Texas A&M and a renowned palynologist.

By studying pollen "reference" slides under a microscope, palynologists can identify pollen at a crime scene or recovered from a drug shipment and help pinpoint its place of origin, Bryant says.

It is also possible to relate the grains to other parts of the same or similar drug shipments.

Pollen, while generally considered only a nuisance for the allergy-prone, is useful in oil and gas exploration and in recreating ancient climates.

Pollen also is considered "nature's fingerprints" when assisting in criminal investigations, Bryant says.

A&M is one of the leading centers in North America where this type of information can be

generated.

"This collection is unique," says Bryant, who also heads the University's pollen research laboratory. "With it, we can do new types of research other labs can only dream of."

Mobil Oil recently donated a large number of pollen reference slides. This collection, valued at more than \$175,000, includes 7,000 reference slides of key pollen types from modern plant species worldwide.

The lab housing the Mobil collection already maintains samples of more than 300 types of seed from the Western and Southwestern United States — 3,500 types of modern pollen mostly from North America; 1,500 other floral and raw pollen samples; 2,000 fossil coprolites; 6,500 other slides and samples from pioneering coprolite work; collections of fossil and modern spores; as well as charcoal and wood samples.

"The key to forensic palynology — recreating a picture of the past through pollen samples — is having a good reference collection of key pollen

groups," Bryant says.

"With the Mobil collection, we have one of the best pollen reference collections in the country. With it we can do the kinds of forensic palynology we may be called on to perform."

He says the donation has an especially good representation of pollen from tropical regions of the world, which already has helped one graduate student constructing the first record of the prehistoric environment of Belize, an ancient center of Mayan culture.

Before the Mobil collection arrived, the student was stymied by more than 50 pollen types he could not identify. Since the collection arrived last summer, he has cut the number to seven.

"There are millions of species of pollen- and spore-producing plants in the world," Bryant explains. "No one palynologist can become an authority on all, and it is rare for a palynologist to have a working knowledge of pollen flora found in more than a few regions of the world."

## Police stress safety, moderation at bonfire site

By ISSELLE MCALLISTER  
Of The Battalion Staff

College Station and Texas A&M University police departments sent a clear message during a press conference Monday that they are stressing safety and moderation at bonfire.

For the second year in a row, police officers will concentrate on alcohol offenses because drinking is not permitted at bonfire.

"No booze will be permitted," said Bob Wiatt, director of A&M security and University police.

Officers will patrol bonfire site — Duncan Field — and Northgate, and citations will be issued to minors consuming alcohol. Adults providing alcohol to minors will be arrested, he said.

CSPD will have its "war wagon" on hand to transport drunken individuals to jail. A judge will be on call for immediate arraignment.

Local police also are gearing up for safety in residence areas near bonfire.

Streets between George Bush Drive and Park Place, just south of bonfire, will be closed at 6:45 p.m. Thursday to those not living in the area. CSPD's Lt. Mike Patterson said parking restrictions along George

Bush Drive will be enforced strongly for safety reasons.

Campus streets also will be restricted throughout the day, he said.

Six A&M shuttle buses will run from the normal shuttle bus stops from 6:45 until 11 p.m., said Sherry Wine, assistant manager for A&M bus operations.

Because of the limited number of University shuttle buses that will be available, Margie Lucas, marketing manager of the Interurban Transit System, encourages bonfire attendees to use city trolleys.

Trolleys will pick up patrons at Southwood Athletic Complex, Brazos Inn, Roadway Inn, The Oaks Apartments, Manor East Mall and at the intersection of Wellborn Road and Southwest Parkway at 6:10 and 6:30 p.m. and take them directly to bonfire site.

The trolley system also will provide a park-and-ride option from Manor East Mall at the corners of Texas Avenue and Villa Maria Road; from the Post Oak Mall near Sears; and from the Southwood Athletic Complex.

Trips returning from bonfire will begin as soon as patrons fill the trolleys around 8:15 p.m.

The service costs 50 cents each way. Exact change is required be-

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The College Station Fire Department will concentrate on high-risk areas in neighborhoods near bonfire Thursday night, a member of the fire department said.

Bland Ellen, deputy fire marshal, said residents can take extra precautions to keep their homes safe from fires that could be caused by flying embers from bonfire.

Ellen spoke Monday during a press conference with Texas A&M University and College Station police departments.

A pamphlet distributed during the conference provides the following tips:

- Remove all leaves, sticks and other combustibles from roof gutters.
- Wet down roof with water just before dark.
- Mow and rake yard or grassy areas.
- Move all flammable liquids

and highly combustible items to a safe place.

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• Keep a water hose connected to an outside faucet to extinguish small fires.

• Close garage doors to keep out flying embers.

The following streets will be closed Thursday to all in-bound traffic between 6 p.m. and midnight:

- Fairview from George Bush Drive to Park Place
- Park Place from Fairview to Timber
- Lee from Park Place to George Bush Drive
- George Bush Drive from Lee to Fairview
- Park Place from Dexter to Hereford

Dexter from Park Place to Thomas will be one way for south-bound traffic only.

The fire department requests all vehicles in these areas be moved from streets to appropriate parking places to provide access for emergency vehicles.

on the trolleys. No food or drinks will be allowed