

**FORECAST**  
 Wednesday's  
 Forecast: Mid 90s  
 Isolated  
 Thunderstorms

**LIFESTYLES**  
**Independence Day Music Fest**  
 An Nam Tea House to host local acts

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**OPINION**  
**MTV Unplugged!**  
 While some viewers may find the content of certain videos "borderline pornographic," others enjoy the way MTV has been a major advocate of information on issues such as the environment, AIDS and censorship.

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**INSIDE**  
 How to beat the high costs of cooling and keep the temperature down low.

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# The Battalion

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## Soviet reformers meet, discuss system to rival communism

MOSCOW (AP) — Former Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze and a half-dozen prominent Soviet reformers have agreed to create a political organization that would rival the Communists, reported an independent Soviet newspaper Monday.

The formation of the party, which organizers hoped would take place in September, would be a watershed in Soviet politics. An alliance of the most powerful and prestigious reformers has been a long-sought dream among those demanding more change in the Soviet Union.

The radical Nezavisimaya Gazeta

(Independent Newspaper), in an advance copy sent by fax Monday night to The Associated Press, reported that the reformers had signed a "Declaration on Formation of a United Democratic Party" Saturday in the office of the reformist Moscow Mayor Gavriil Popov.

"United Democrats' Want to Unite Everybody," said the headline in the newspaper that was to appear Tuesday. In addition to Popov and Shevardnadze, the group included Alexander Yakovlev, an adviser to President Mikhail S. Gorbachev.

"The Nomenklatura Elite, Captains of Industry, Idols of Democratic Rallies. Will Everybody Find a Place in the New 'Noah's Ark?'" the headline said.

There had been speculation for weeks that the reformers would form a new party. The deputy head of the Communist Party on Monday had urged those dissatisfied with the party to leave rather than creating splinter factions.

The official, Vladimir Ivashko, refused to comment directly on the plans of Shevardnadze and other prominent Soviets, but said:

"We are not interested in the split of our party. It is quite clear. We see no tragedy if some people withdraw from us."

Shevardnadze first floated the idea of a strong opposition party in remarks to a Vienna newspaper last month. Debate within the Communist Party gained urgency after Boris N. Yeltsin, who quit the party last year, trounced Communist candidates in the June 12 presidential election in the Russian republic.

Shevardnadze left the government in December, claiming that Gorbachev's reforms were threatened by hard-line Communists and military men.

The Communist Party leadership is struggling to formulate a new program. A draft program was supposed to have been completed three weeks ago, but more work was needed, said Ivan Frolov, editor of the Communist Party daily Pravda.

The newspaper on Monday ran a commentary called "Era of the Split" in which it lamented: "The party that started perestroika, renewal, simply didn't manage, didn't succeed in renewing itself."

## High Court nomination creates stir

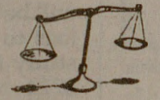
Thomas will strengthen Supreme Court's conservative slant, political scientist says

By Mack Harrison  
*The Battalion*

President Bush's newest U.S. Supreme Court nominee will steer the Court away from affirmative action and civil rights, a Texas A&M faculty member said.

Dr. Judith Baer, an associate professor of political science, said nominee Clarence Thomas, a federal appeals court judge, will entrench the Supreme Court's conservative slant.

"(Thomas) is opposed to affirmative action and has enforced the views of the Reagan Administration," Baer said. "His appointment will solidify the conservative vote."



**SUPREME COURT**  
 Analysis of Judge Thomas

Bush nominated Thomas on Monday to replace Justice Thurgood Marshall, who announced his retirement Thursday.

Marshall is the first and only black to sit on the Supreme Court. He is generally considered to be the Court's leading liberal.

Thomas was head of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission under the Reagan administration. He is the second black to be nominated to the Court.

The Senate, however, will scrutinize Thomas' words and deeds, not his race, when the

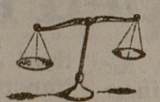
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## Bush picks black judge to succeed Marshall

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (AP) — President Bush on Monday picked federal appeals court judge Clarence Thomas as the second black in history for the Supreme Court, naming an unabashed conservative to replace Thurgood Marshall, one of the major liberal voices of the past quarter century.

Thomas' nomination must be confirmed by the Senate, where he is certain to face sharp questioning on such divisive issues as abortion, privacy, school prayer and desegregation.

Bush praised the 43-year-old



**SUPREME COURT**  
 Bush announces nominee

Thomas as "a fiercely independent thinker with an excellent legal mind, who believes passionately in equal opportunity for all Americans."

Yet, civil rights groups have opposed Thomas on grounds he was insensitive to the concerns of minorities and the elderly as chairman of the federal Equal Employment Opportunities Commission for nearly eight years under President Reagan.

Bush said race was not a factor in Thomas' selection to replace the court's first and only black justice.



SCOTT D. WEAVER/The Battalion

### MTV, please, for me

Scott Skelton, a 1989 Texas A&M graduate working on his MBA, stages a one-man protest Monday afternoon in front of the TCA Cable Co. located on East 29th Street in Bryan. Skelton is opposing TCA Cable's decision to remove MTV from its cable package.

## A&M plans recreational facilities

By Beau Black  
*The Battalion*

Texas A&M plans to replace the outdated Deware Field House and Downs Natatorium with a \$41 million student recreation center that one A&M official calls "a flagship for recreation facilities."

"This is so far beyond what we've seen here before," said Rick Hall, associate director of recreational sports. "It will be one of the biggest and best recreation facilities in the country."

The center, up for final approval by the Board of Regents during its July meeting, is estimated to be completed in the fall of 1994.

It will be funded by a special \$50-per-semester fee paid by all students. A&M faculty and staff will be charged a fee based on usage.

The 200,000-square-foot facility will comprise a student recreation area, a competition-level natatorium and an outdoor swimming pool.

"The primary design of this facility is to provide an aesthetic atmosphere that will entice students to want to exercise for recreation and health," said Moffat Adams, chief architect for the Facilities and Planning Division. "Students will now have another environment to meet and socialize."

The student recreation area will include a 15,000-square-foot

weight room and fitness area equipped with machine and free weights, rowing machines, treadmills, exercycles and a jogging track suspended over the work-out area.

The center also will include two rooms with a total of eight courts for basketball, volleyball and indoor soccer that will have special shock-absorbing floors to guard against injuries; activity and meeting rooms, a snack bar, TV lounge and games area; and a rental service for camping, canoeing and rock climbing equipment.

The indoor natatorium will feature an Olympic-size pool that can be divided into three separate swimming areas, and a diving tank with platform and

spring boards.

Hall said the University plans to attract NCAA swim meets to A&M with the new facility.

The outdoor activities area will include an outdoor pool, basketball courts and volleyball courts.

Two sites are being proposed for the center: Duncan Field or the Penberthy Intramural Fields north of Olsen Field on the West Campus.

Hall said Duncan Field would be considered only after the bonfire site is settled.

"We never want to be part of the bonfire controversy," Hall said.

He added that the Duncan Field site might be too small for the facility.

## Expert questions republics' flight from empire

By Greg Mt. Joy  
*The Battalion*

Exactly where the independence-minded Yugoslavian republics of Croatia and Slovenia are headed is anyone's guess, a Texas A&M international affairs expert said.

Dr. Ronald L. Hatchett, deputy director of A&M's Mosher Institute for Defense Studies, said the breakaway republics have never had a cultural bond with the Serbian Republic, which dominates the Yugoslavian government and military.

"We've got to keep in mind nobody asked if Croatia and Slovenia wanted to be a part of Yugoslavia," Hatchett said. "Only the Serbians were present when the treaty creating a Yugoslavian nation, one that had never before existed, was signed at the end of World War I."

Hatchett, who did part of his doctoral work at the University of Zagreb in Croatia, said the 1919 treaty is the root of the present ethnic unrest.

"Slovenia and Croatia had been a part of the defeated Austria-Hungarian Empire for over

600 years," he said. "There are many differences between the languages of the breakaways and that of Serbia, and there has always been an animosity as well."

Hatchett said the Slovenians and Croatians, who make up only 36 percent of Yugoslavia's population, earn about 60 percent of the nation's international trade earnings.

"Now that the strong central rule of the Communists has been eased, the republics want independence," Hatchett said. "The Croatians and Slovenians have a

lot of money, and have bought a lot of arms."

Hatchett said he was optimistic about the republics' chances in an armed conflict with Serbia or a combined effort by the four other Yugoslavian republics.

"There is no doubt the others want to suppress the breakaway," he said. "They can't, however, if they don't have enough soldiers, and the chances of that are doubtful. If Slovenia and Croatia continue their drive for independence, it will be a success. But thousands will die."

Hatchett said there is about a 60 percent chance the republics will continue toward independence now that the threat of a military reprisal seems possible.

The Yugoslavian army units presently in the breakaway republics are virtually surrounded by partisans, Hatchett said. Most Yugoslavian soldiers are conscripts, and many do not believe it is worth fighting a war to keep the republics, he said.

"Most of them probably just want to go back to their village," Hatchett said. "The Slovenians and Croatians have a great ad-

vantage in that it is much easier to defend one's home territory than to occupy it. Almost everyone in Slovenia and Croatia is a potential soldier."

The Bush administration's position, Hatchett said, might appear somewhat hypocritical.

"Some of the primary principles the United States is founded on are individual rights and self-determination of peoples," he said. "It goes against these principles for the U.S. to say 'this idea applies to us, to the Baltic republics, but not to you

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