

Generator reuses heat energy for efficiency

Continued from page 1
during the summer and the rest is bought from Brazos Valley Electric Co.

Baxter said a smaller percentage is generated by the power plant during the rest of the year because there are more students on campus and a larger amount of power is used.

"The peak time is when students come back," he said. The power plant uses a gas turbine generator to produce electricity and the heat left over from the generator is used to create additional power.

This remaining heat is used to produce such things as chill water for air-conditioning units and steam for equipment used by Food Services.

"It's using the energy twice," Baxter said.

Reusing energy is possible because A&M is considered a small utility area, making it easier to generate power efficiently, he said.

"We're able to produce all those things from the same place, which is more efficient," he said.

Farm workers face substandard life; laws do nothing, investigators report

WASHINGTON (AP) — Federal laws do little to protect farm workers and their children from exposure to pesticides or harsh conditions in the fields, creating a "working Third World" population, lawmakers and congressional investigators said Wednesday.

"We want to work but also we want to work with dignity," migrant worker Maria Gomez of Pharr, Texas, testified in Spanish during a hearing of the House Select Committee on Aging.

The Environmental Protection Agency estimates that each year, agricultural employees suffer 20,000 to 300,000 acute illnesses and injuries from exposure to pesticides, while a Labor Department survey found one in 10 farm workers lack toilets and drinking water at their work-sites, the General Accounting Office said.

A GAO review of the living and working conditions of the nation's farm workers found federal agencies responsible for regulating pesticide usage and field sanitation could do more to enforce laws to protect workers' health.

Available information also shows these agencies seldom assess penalties, and when they do, the fines are too low to deter violations, the GAO's Joseph F. Delfico testified.

Rep. Edward R. Roybal, D-Calif., the panel's chairman, complained that the federal government seems to turn a blind eye to the "urgent need to protect farm workers and their families" by allowing weak laws to remain on the books and permitting loose enforcement standards to continue.



All fired up

Matt Harmon, a College Station firefighter, extinguishes a small grass fire on Autumn Circle. Pat Quinlan and Lt. Terry Thigpen look on.

RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

Lending to developers root of S&L troubles

Continued from page 1

"You can ask yourself how many of the local apartment houses, strip shopping centers and raw land is now owned by the RTC (Resolution Trust Corporation)," he said. "It is a lot."

The RTC is the federal agency in charge of recouping S&L losses from bad property loans.

Fraser and Rose agreed that the S&L industry got itself into trouble primarily by lending money to land developers who never paid their loans back.

"When they closed Vernon Savings in 1986 or 87, they discovered that 96 percent of their loans were past due, and most of that was fraud," Fraser said.

In many cases, the developers and S&L owners were one in the same.

"What a real estate devel-

oper wants most of all is unlimited access to money," Fraser added.

But unlike the financial crisis of the Great Depression, neither Fraser or Rose said they think that these recent institutional failures will lead to another depression.

"In the 1930s there were runs by depositors from the bank to their mattress," Fraser said. "Today people are taking their money from one institution to another. So the money is staying in the system."

Fraser credited the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, FDIC, with allaying the fears of today's investors.

The FDIC guarantees all deposits of under \$100,000 and has taken on the burden of insuring similar assets from the S&L's that were once covered by the now defunct Federal Savings and Loan Insurance Corporation (FSLIC).

Students, lawmakers discuss budget effects

Continued from page 1

jobs," she said. "We were talking about what affected our lives and futures."

Hartman, a junior speech communications major from Austin, said the students talked to a number of senators and representatives from their respective hometowns. She said the meetings went very well but nothing was certain.

"Things will get scary," she said. "It's too soon to say if we're out of the woods."

Talbot said State Comptroller John Sharp's budget recommendations were unacceptable as a whole, but parts of it, such as a tuition increase, could be used.

"We promote and see the need for an increase in tuition," Talbot said. "It's not farfetched if the money comes back to (the schools)."

Hartman said the student rep-

resentatives oppose the increase if 75 percent goes back to the state's general fund.

"It's like taxing our parents twice," she said. "It's totally illogical to use this money for roads and prisons."

Biddle said the proposed cuts would hurt incoming students' education.

"If things don't go the way we're hoping and they cut back on programs at A&M, (incoming freshmen) won't experience all the things we did," he said.

Talbot said students should be aware of the budget cuts and the threat to higher education. "Students aware of the danger need to rally behind (higher education)," he said. "They need to understand without funding, the possibility of a good education in Texas is doomed."

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Avalanche buries village, kills seven

TIONE, Italy (AP) — An avalanche triggered by a thunderstorm buried a group of schoolchildren under snow, mud and stones today. Officials in this Alpine village said seven were dead and nine injured.

The sudden thunderstorm also spawned at least one tornado that injured six people and caused some damage to campgrounds and buildings at Lake Garda.

Italian news media said the dead included six of the 38 children in the group from the Our Lady of Lourdes Parish in Piacenza and one adult guide. Six of the injured were children, and three were adult members of the Parish.

Alpine rescue teams, police and firemen dug 10 people out alive, but one reportedly died later in the hospital.

WRPD

WELL, GOOD NEWS IN AGGIELAND THIS WEEK: MTV IS COMING BACK. TCA CABLE AND ITS VIEWERS BOTH WON.

BUSINESS AND 1ST AMENDMENT FANS ARE BOTH HAPPY AGAIN.

TOO BAD THE MUSIC ON IT IS STILL COMPLETE DRIVEL CRAP.

WRPD EDITORIAL

Ph.D

SO, SCOTT CAN YOU TELL ME WHY YOU WANT TO DROP OUT OF SCHOOL?

DOC, IT'S LIKE THIS...EVERYTIME I TAKE A TEST...

WITHOUT FAIL THE SICKEST PERSON'S ITS THEIR RUNNY NOSE NEXT TO ME...

IT'S LIKE A METRONOME, EVERY SECOND, SNIFF! SNIFF!

The Battalion

is looking for a **Columnist** to work the second summer session.

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