

**FORECAST**  
Slightly Cloudy; Chance of afternoon showers

**LIFESTYLES**

**HOT SHOTS!**

Takes pot shots at Top Gun

**Seven Keys to Baldpate - Stage Center's new play**

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**Fish Camp 1991**

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# The Battalion

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## Federal Reserve emphasizes instability of economic recovery

WASHINGTON (AP) — The U.S. economy is going through a "slow, uneven" period of growth, the Federal Reserve said Wednesday in a bleak report analysts said underscored the danger of the nation slipping back into recession.

The Fed's downbeat assessment came in a survey of business conditions that found lackluster factory demand, a commercial real estate market still in the doldrums and rising layoffs in such industries as banking and airlines and among state and government workers.

The "beige book," compiled from reports received from the Fed's 12 regional banks, will guide Fed policymakers when they meet Aug. 20.

Analysts said the new report showed that Fed officials were becoming more worried about the possibility that weak growth in the spring could falter and topple the country back into a recession.

Analysts said the pessimistic view from the regional banks was obviously a factor in the Fed's decision Tuesday to nudge a key interest rate, the federal funds rate, down by 0.25 percentage

point to 5.5 percent. Many forecast the rate cut would be followed either later this month or in early September by further rate reductions.

The Bush administration had been stepping up pressure on the Fed in recent weeks to do more to cut rates to stimulate demand and boost growth in the nation's money supply, which actually declined in July.

Presidential spokesman Marlin Fitzwater praised the Fed's decision to cut interest rates, the first Fed rate cut since April 30. He said it "should be helpful to the recovery."

A number of weak economic statistics in recent days have begun to raise fears among private economists that the feeble 0.4 percent positive economic growth in the April-June quarter could falter and turn negative in subsequent quarters, plunging the country into a double-dip recession.

"We believe the recovery is on track and we would like to see a steady growth path out of the recession," Fitzwater told reporters in Kennebunkport, Maine, where Bush was vacationing. "The president's always said

lower interest rates are helpful in that regard."

The Fed's latest economic survey painted a rather gloomy picture of the recovery so far, saying any upturn in activity had been spotty at best, with some segments actually doing worse in recent weeks.

The Fed survey found that retail sales were declining in the New York, Cleveland and Richmond federal reserve districts. Other regions reported either no gain in sales activity or only slight increases.



**Hose it down**  
Joe Mendez of Texas A&M Landscape Maintenance washes a lawnmower Wednesday afternoon outside of Law Hall.

## Embassies keep watch for release

U.S. officials prepare for possible freeing of Western hostage in light of rumors

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Authorities in the Middle East, Europe and the United States assembled specialists and kept watch into the night Wednesday in hopes a Western hostage would be freed.

Major Western embassies in the Lebanese capital were on alert, with diplomats staying in their offices and close to telephones late into the evening.



Marlin Fitzwater

Spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said the White House had no new evidence a release was imminent. He did say that American officials have heard rumors from several sources, including diplomatic channels, of an impending release.

"We mainly just wait and see. In preparation, we've notified the families of six American hostages that we have these rumors and so there's always a possibility," Fitzwater said.

U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar said he was ready to meet anywhere, any time with any envoy sent by those holding Western hostages. He dispatched Giandomenico Picco, a trusted aide versed in the hostage issue, to Geneva but denied the mission was related to the captives.

## A&M receives national prize for cost efficiency

By Tammy Bryson  
The Battalion

Texas A&M continues to discover new and more efficient ways to operate, and its efforts have been nationally recognized for the eighth time in the last 10 years.

A&M received a \$1,000 prize from the National Association of College and University Business Officers (NACUBO) for its entry in the organization's 1991 Cost

Reduction Incentive Awards Program.

NACUBO recognized A&M for its implementation of bar-code parking permits that saved the University several thousand dollars last year and will continue to do so in the future.

Tom Williams, director of the Department of Parking, Transit and Traffic Services (PTTS), said the bar-code system provides better service to students, who previously had to stand in line up to four hours to receive park-

ing permits and bus passes.

"Parking (registration) was a real circus a few years ago," he said. "The whole process took quite a while, and students have better ways to use that time."

Williams said the bar-coded permits have saved the University a considerable amount money in labor costs.

"With the old system you filled out a form and the information was entered by a data-entry worker," he said. "The new system saves us from hav-

ing to enter the data manually."

During Summer 1990, PTTS purchased three hand-held scanners that read bar codes on parking permits and bus passes.

The scanners automatically register the numbers on each pass or permit to a student's account, adding the charge to the fee statement. Students who choose fee options during registration receive a permit or pass in the mail with their fee statement before arriving on campus.

This system has eliminated the long lines for students and the several months it used to take PTTS to process parking permit registration, Williams said.

"The system has worked well because it decreases the amount of time spent (on parking and bus pass registration) without adding costs," he said.

Williams said in the future PTTS will refine the system as technology allows.

"Right now we're on the leading edge of bar-code technolo-

gy," he said. "But we will continue to improve the system as technology changes."

A&M also received an honorable mention for reducing the costs of cleaning stove burners, grates and vent hood filters by switching from household degreasing products to cresylic acid.

The change, instituted at the University-Owned Apartments, is saving several thousand dollars annually.

## Fat Burger's daiquiri orders broke state law, TABC says

By Greg Mt. Joy  
The Battalion

Frozen daiquiri deliveries by area Fat Burger restaurants are illegal, a Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission official said.

Clyde Collins, TABC district supervisor, said the delivery of daiquiris made with wine violates state laws pertaining to the sale of liquor away from a licensed location.

Moe Moati, owner and manager of Fat Burger, said the restaurants ceased delivery of the beverages three weeks ago.

The Battalion, however, has

learned that Fat Burger delivered a peach daiquiri to a College Station resident Wednesday.

Collins said TABC agents talked with Fat Burger management Thursday, and the situation was taken care of immediately.

Fat Burger management told TABC they had not known the deliveries were illegal, Collins said.

He said there is no provision for the delivery of liquor within the law.

"Only beer can be delivered," Collins said. "But you can't do it if it has liquor in it. You can't deliver a daiquiri or

## Thomas faces uphill battle, expert says

By Karen Praslicka  
The Battalion

U.S. Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas faces an uphill battle to get to the nation's highest court, if he reaches it at all, a Texas A&M associate professor said Wednesday.

Dr. Judith Baer, an associate professor of political science and Supreme Court scholar, said President Bush gave too much consideration to Court

nominees' ideology.

"Both Reagan and Bush put too much importance on political views," she said. "The Senate has no choice but to do the same thing."

The conflict between the Democratic-controlled Senate and the Republican presidency is another problem, Baer said.

"If I had to make a prediction, I would say the situation is very unstable," she said.

Baer said essentially there are three criteria the president considers before deciding on a Court nominee.

A candidate's merit, political views and representativeness of the population are all factors involved, but the president decides which is most important, she said.

The Senate Judiciary Committee will meet Sept. 10 to discuss Thomas' nomination. If the committee refuses to act on the nomination, it will die. Baer said if it appears this will happen, the

"Every day the opposition has to get stronger, the harder it will be to get the (Thomas) nomination passed."

Dr. Judith Baer  
Supreme Court expert

nominee will usually withdraw himself from the candidacy, but this is not a requirement.

If the Committee votes on the nomination, even negatively, the issue will go before the full Senate.

Baer said many people doubt Thomas' qualifications for the Court. She said, however, it is hard to base an argument on those terms because there are no specific qualifications.

Baer said she doubts citizens know what they want in a Court nominee because most citizens do not keep up with what goes on in the Supreme Court.

"People spend little time thinking about it," she said. "Most people can't remember Court decisions."

Thomas' nomination has been challenged by black groups, civil rights leaders and the elderly, and the nomination could lose even more support, Baer said.

"Every day the opposition has to get stronger, the harder it will be to get the nomination passed," she said.



Clarence Thomas

\$375  
\$369  
\$405  
\$445  
\$559  
\$229

HER  
ARES!  
ES  
ours  
Centers

avel

1931