

Forecast

Highs in low 90s
Lows in low 70s
Thunderstorm Likely

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Texas A&M Dance Club
prepares for another year
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The Battalion

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Summer '91 wrap-up; budget worries, TCA vs. MTV, etc.

Editor's Note: The following is a brief wrap-up of the summer's top stories as seen in The Battalion.

May 29: REGENTS COULD FACE LEGAL ACTION

"Texas A&M's Board of Regents could face legal problems because of a possible violation of the Texas Open Meetings Act, in which the Board discussed a harassment and discrimination

policy in executive session.

The Board, which met May 16 and 17, discussed a System-wide statement on harassment and discrimination during a closed executive session. The measure was later approved.

Texas' Open Meetings Act states executive sessions are for specific personnel matters, litigation or real estate matters.

An official with the Freedom of Information Foundation said he believes the regents violated that law by acting on the

policy."

June 6: FACULTY SENATE ELECTS FIRST FEMALE PRESIDENT

"Diversity will come up at least once in any conversation with Dr. Patricia Alexander — guaranteed.

It does because the 43-year-old professor of curriculum and instruction is absolutely and definitely committed to diversifying Texas A&M...

Alexander earned her Ph.D from the University of Maryland in 1981 and headed straight for A&M. Ten years later, she is leading the Faculty Senate — the first woman ever to do so.

June 26: TCA CABLE TO CANCEL MTV

"Negotiations between TCA Cable and MTV Networks could result in the cancellation of the popular rock video channel throughout the Brazos valley,

said Randy Rodgers, general manager of TCA Cable.

Rogers said TCA Cable officials have been in negotiations for several months with MTV Networks, which also controls Nickelodeon and VH1. He said TCA is willing to provide MTV on request and not as part of the basic cable package, but MTV has not responded favorably."

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Coup flop may prove beneficial

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Kremlin coup that flopped may be the best thing going for America's unemployed.

Not to mention for Democrats looking for a domestic political opening against President Bush, and a way to spend more on favored domestic programs such as health care, education and even tax relief.

The prospect of food, medical and energy shortages in a chaotic, splintering Soviet Union already has sparked debate over sending U.S. aid. Democrats are banking that many Americans will want another question answered: "Where's mine?"

"It's time to help here at home ... help those thrown out of work in this recession," said Rep. David Bonior, D-Mich., who takes over as House majority whip shortly after Congress returns from its summer recess next week.

The first offensive planned by Democrats is a new push to send help to the jobless whose benefits have run out.

Just before the summer recess, Congress sent Bush a bill extending the duration of unemployment aid. But Bush was able to kill it — without having to exercise a possibly politically embarrassing veto through a loophole in the budget process.

The next version isn't likely to allow him that sidestep.

And, opening a broader political front, many Democrats see the apparent demise of a Communist threat in Russia as providing a popularly acceptable reason to tear up the five-year budget agreement reached just a year ago.

They want to cut defense spending and spend some or all of

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KARL A. STOLLEIS/The Battalion

Think Fast

While many students were busy moving in and getting ready for classes, Joe Fletcher, a sophomore modern language major, takes time to play catch with a friend in the courtyard next to Keathly dorm.

War leaders invited to celebration

Schwarzkopf may attend Desert Storm Day to honor A&M's Gulf War veterans

By Chris Vaughn
The Battalion

Gen. "Stormin'" Norman Schwarzkopf, Gen. Colin Powell and Defense Secretary Dick Cheney have been added to the University's Desert Storm Day invite list which already includes President Bush.

Texas A&M System Board of Regents Chairman Ross Margraves said on Thursday that he has invited nine more national and state leaders, including Schwarzkopf, Powell and Cheney, for the huge event planned for Sept. 28.

Margraves said he also invited Democrat U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, Republican U.S. Sen. Phil Gramm, U.S. Rep. Joe Barton, U.S. Rep. Chet Edwards, D-Waco, U.S. Rep. Greg Laughlin, D-West Columbia, and Gov. Ann Richards.

President Bush was extended an invitation to the ceremonies in July.

A month of activities to honor students, faculty, staff and alumni who served in Desert Shield or

Storm culminates Sept. 28 at the A&M vs. the University of Southwestern Louisiana football game at Kyle Field.

Malon Southerland, associate vice president for student services and chairman of the committee planning the event, said the USL game was selected for several reasons.

"The USL (game) was really convenient because it is in September and it provided us with some options that other games would not, like each honoree receiving two complimentary tickets to the game," Southerland said. "Also, the LSU game did not give us enough time to pull this off."

Southerland said the University will be honoring about 100 students who withdrew from school and about 25 faculty and staff who took leave when their reserve units were called up. Also being honored are immediate family members of faculty and staff and about 500 former students.

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University to face tough year, administrator says

By Tammy Bryson
The Battalion

Texas A&M will face unprecedented challenges this year in maintaining its current level of service and the quality of instruction now available, said Robert Smith, A&M's vice president of Finance and Administration.

Smith said A&M is in the midst of an unsettled economic situation and must deal with the distinct possibility of substantial budget cuts.

"What we're basically facing this year is the challenge to do more with less," he said.

The University's main concern right now is the effect these cuts will have on the students, Smith said.

"We cannot continue to turn immediately to the students for additional fees without having some negative consequences," he said.

Students could face increased prices for room and board if the state cuts are severe enough, he added.

"If resources are taken away from us then we will not have the ability to maintain the facilities in a manner that the students are accustomed to," Smith said. "There is no question that we'll have to consider increasing room and board costs, but we'll do everything we can to minimize those increases."

Smith said he also believes that if some of the budget proposals now "on the table" in Austin are adopted, there will be an increase in tuition rates along with room and board.

"There will definitely be higher tuition, not this year but soon," he said. "The question now is how much of an increase there will be."

Smith added that A&M is still trying to recover from a previous budget crisis that occurred in 1985 which had a negative impact on A&M.

"One of two things has happened as a result of that situation — either we've become much more efficient or we've become much less effective," he said. "It is probably a combination of both."

Finance and Administration at A&M continues to look for new ways to operate while saving money and time in the process.

"The people of Texas expect us to operate in the most efficient, cost-effective manner possible," Smith said. "That's our job here — that's what they pay us for."

Smith said he will continue to think positively about the budget situation and is confident that A&M will survive with minimal damage.

"Our job is to provide the best environment for young people in the state of Texas to come learn, grow, mature and become productive citizens," he said. "If we achieve that goal, that is all we can ask for."

Regents name Engineering dean new A&M System chancellor

Editor's note: The feature on Dr. Ed Hiler on page 3C went to press well before Dr. Herb Richardson was named chancellor for the Texas A&M system. Hiler was interim chancellor for the University at press time.

By Chris Vaughn
The Battalion

After a year-long nationwide search, the Texas A&M System Board of Regents filled its chancellor position Thursday with someone who has been on campus the whole time, Dr. Herb Richardson.

Richardson, who was dean of the College of Engineering and deputy chancellor for engineering, assumed the top System job immediately. He replaces Dr. Ed Hiler, who served as interim chancellor for eight months.

"After conducting a nationwide search, our conclusion was

that we have the right person for this key position already on our staff," Board Chairman Ross Margraves said. "He has the credentials, the experience and vision for the future that is needed for the opportunities and challenges ahead."

Margraves said the Board unanimously chose the 60-year-old Richardson for his strong academic standing, his service in A&M's engineering programs, and his knowledge of state and federal government.

Richardson said he is honored and enthusiastic about his new job. He said his No. 1 challenge as chancellor is working with the eight System universities and eight System agencies to overcome the troubling financial situation. He also said he would like to continue to build A&M University.

The New England native came to A&M in 1984 to be dean, vice chancellor and distinguished professor of engineering. Since then, he has changed titles to deputy chancellor and become director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station.



Richardson

"Richardson is an excellent person for the System's top position, and that is particularly true in the national and international environment in which the System is operating."

A&M president
William Mobley

Before coming to College Station, Richardson was an associate dean of engineering and mechanical engineering professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

University President William Mobley congratulated Richardson on his promotion and said his experience makes him well-suited for the job.

"Richardson is an excellent person for the System's top position, and that is particularly true in the national and international environment in which the System is operating," Mobley said.

Dr. Pat Alexander, speaker of the Faculty Senate, said on Friday she — and probably the whole Senate — is pleased with Richardson.

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