

FORECAST
A hot, sticky day with a chance of thunderstorms in the late afternoon

SPORTS
Aggie football
Twenty-first ranked Aggies continue closed door policy during practices

LIFESTYLES
Music Reviews:
Toad the Wet Sprocket
King Missile

OPINION
"There are a lot of things you can do to make A&M a little nicer place to live, even if you're not the type of person who would go to a Board of Regents meeting..."
-Ellen Hobbs

The Battalion

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Soviet Union struggles to piece together union

A&M defense institute official says KGB, army stopped three-day coup

By Greg Mt. Joy
The Battalion

The Soviet army and the KGB saved democracy during the attempted ouster of Mikhail Gorbachev, not the Soviet people, a Texas A&M international affairs expert said.

Dr. Ronald Hatchett, deputy director of A&M's Mosher Institute for Defense studies, said he was disappointed with the number of Soviet citizens who turned out to demonstrate during the three-day coup.

"Frankly, I'm disappointed at the lack of outpouring of citizen anger," Hatchett said. "On the first night of the coup, 3,000 people turned out. That is not a good sign in a city of seven million."

Hatchett said the Institute will release a paper on the Soviet hardliner's coup this weekend. He said the paper contains a warning against an overly optimistic view of the coup's failure.

"There are many problems in the Soviet Union that have not been solved," he said. "A split in power led to many KGB and army units disobeying their orders. For ex-

ample, a KGB unit was ordered to storm the Headquarters of the Russian Republic in Moscow, but the unit refused to do so."

Hatchett said the same high-ranking Soviet officials that supported Boris Yeltsin during the coup might not support him if he chooses to stand by while the Soviet Union dissolves.

"The Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia are gone," Hatchett said. "But the United States and the rest of the world must be cautious. The same KGB and army units could stop the breakup of the union."

Hatchett, who met with Russian republic officials during his stay in Moscow in late July and early August, said if other Republics follow the Baltic states' lead and move toward full independence, the need for Gorbachev's central government could be eliminated.

"Andre Sedorov, the deputy foreign minister of the republic, said he is busy drawing up bilateral treaties with the other republics," Hatchett said. "This means they are already acting like the republics are"

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BINGO BARNES/The Battalion

The Baltic republics regained their independence this week after more than 45 years of domination. The republics were seized by the Soviet Union after World War II.

Bush recognizes Baltic states' independence, supports democratic reform for U.S.S.R.

KENNEBUNKPORT, Maine (AP) — President Bush, after choreographing his move with Mikhail Gorbachev, on Monday formally recognized the independence of the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, which were seized by the Soviet Union a half century ago.

Bush said his decision did not signify the United States would necessarily recognize other republics that break away from the Soviet Union. He said he would look at each declaration of independence on a case-by-case basis.

And he expressed hope that a central government would survive as "a strong partner, a convincing partner to deal with" on matters such as foreign policy and arms control.

Although Gorbachev has lost much of his power, Bush said he would continue to deal with the Soviet president "with respect and with a certain degree of recognition that we look at some of these problems, foreign policy prob-

lems, eye to eye."

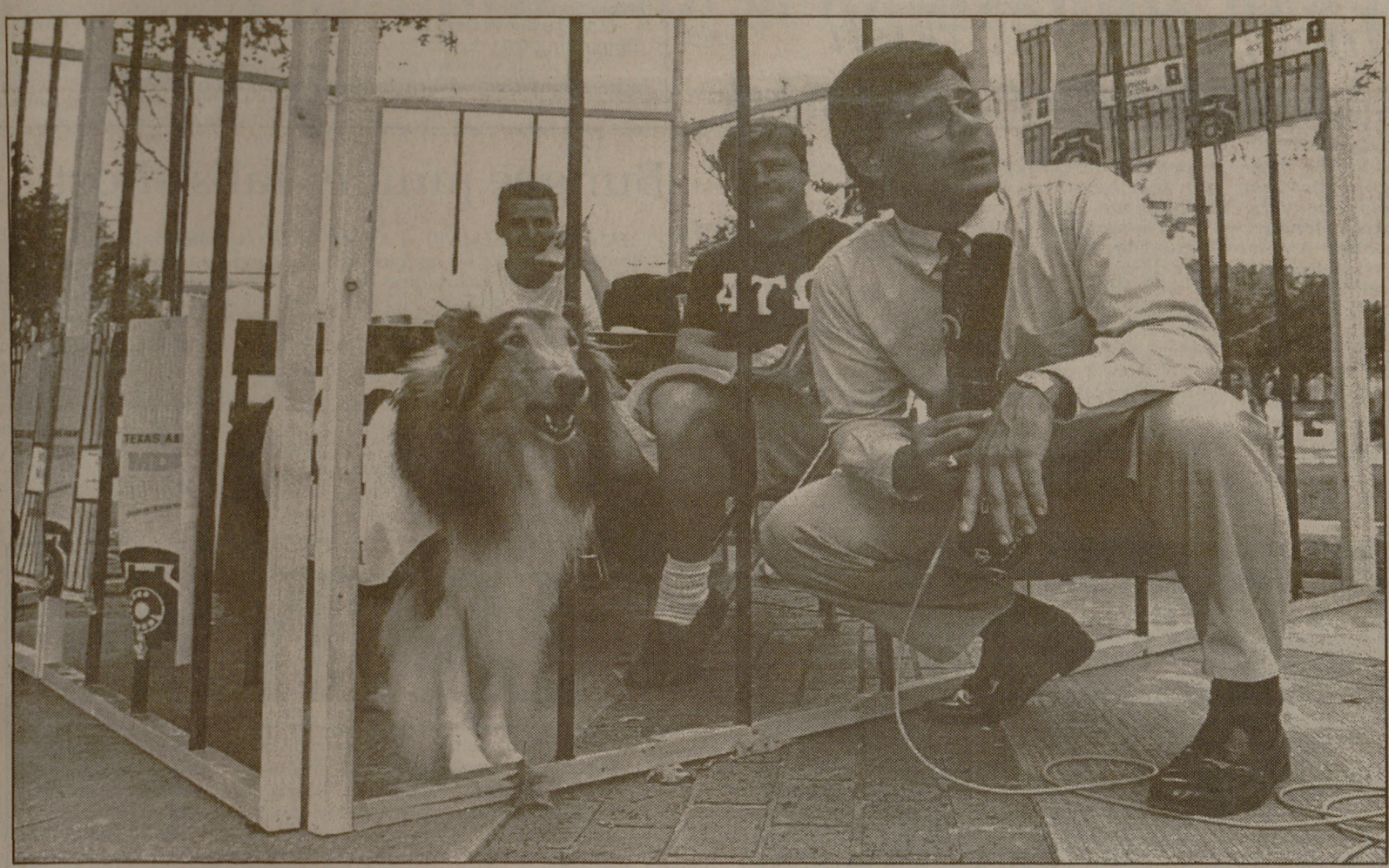
Bush announced recognition of the Baltic states at a Labor Day news conference on the final day of his 29-day vacation at his oceanfront estate. "We've had a good rest up here," said Bush, looking tanned and relaxed while jokingly complaining about not catching any fish.

The president hailed news from Moscow that Gorbachev and the leaders of 10 Soviet republics had decided to replace the current ruling structure with a new government giving far more power to the republics.

"This is a watershed in Soviet political thinking, equal to the dramatic movements toward democracy and market economies that we are witnessing in the republics themselves," Bush said.

An administration official said Bush decided to recognize the Baltics' freedom last Tuesday after meeting with foreign policy advisers.

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HUY NGUYEN/The Battalion

Doing time for money

Reville V, along with Will Henderson (left) and ATO member Field Hughes, participates in the Labor Day MDA telethon Lock-Up on the Corps of Cadets Quadrangle. The detainees must call and raise "bail" before they can be released. Brian Collister is a local television reporter.

Budget bill causes shortfalls

A&M administrator says funding deficit creates cutbacks for 'well-deserving people'

By Karen Praslicka
The Battalion

Texas A&M administrators are not satisfied with the new budget bill that was signed into law Friday by Gov. Ann Richards, but said the deficits created for A&M by the law could have been worse.

Dr. E. Dean Gage, A&M provost and senior vice president, said there is no question that A&M's budget for fiscal year 1991-92 has been drastically reduced.

"They (specific sections of the law) made it clear we would not have near the budget we hoped we would have," Gage said.

The deficit will be spread throughout programs and colleges at A&M, and "everybody will be sharing the shortfall," he said.

Several A&M administrators met Monday with the deans of all

the colleges at A&M to discuss the budget reductions.

Gage said A&M would try to allow the deans to have maximum flexibility to deal with the cuts for their colleges.

"Actually, now we're just trying to keep the program together," he said.

Gage said one of the major concerns of administrators, in addition to meeting student needs, is that there are no funds available to increase salaries for A&M faculty and staff. State comptroller John Sharp certified no funds for salary increases, he said.

"We deeply regret that," Gage said. "We're unable to provide any increases for some well-deserving and hard-working people."

The next step in the budget process will be to get the Texas

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U.S. Agriculture Department reacts poorly to today's crises

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Agriculture Department still reflects a time when the United States was largely rural and is responding poorly to such modern challenges as international competition, environmental problems and food safety, a congressional report said Monday.

The structure and management practices of the department, the country's third-largest civilian agency and one that affects the lives of all Americans and millions of people around the world, have been largely unchanged since the 1930s, said the General Accounting Office, Congress' investigative arm.

Agriculture Secretary Edward Madigan said some of the criticisms were justified, but he said the department is trying to correct problems and maintained the agency was doing a good job helping America's farmers.

Created 129 years ago to conduct research and disseminate information, the USDA has expanded to include supporting farm income, boosting farm

Congressional report cites old structure, management practices as reasons why USDA has difficulty adapting to changing needs

production and exports and improving nutrition.

The department oversees a business that accounts for 17 percent of the gross national product and 20 million jobs. In 1990, it spent \$46 billion, controlled assets of about \$140 billion, and employed more than 110,000 people in 36 agencies in more than 15,000 locations worldwide.

In response to changes in the industry and the global marketplace, the department has added agencies and functions, "making it larger but not fundamentally different from its production-oriented, commodity-based past," the GAO said.

The result, it said, is an organization that has difficulty adapting to the changing needs of the people it serves "in the most effective and balanced way."

Madigan, however, said the department "is doing a good job of helping to assure a reasonably

priced food supply for consumers" and "there are food safety concerns under review."

He said the department is assisting farmers to protect the environment and would be working with GAO this winter to improve its efforts.

GAO said consolidation would allow the USDA to provide the same services more efficiently to agribusiness customers.

Also needed are better ways for the department to address such "crosscutting issues" as water quality, food safety and marketing.

"Revitalizing USDA will not be an easy task," said the report, the final installment in a series on the department's bureaucracy. "The individual agencies protect their interests, which are often closely tied to special interest groups and as such garner considerable congressional support."

According to the investigators, USDA's current structure — with its many local offices — does not efficiently meet the needs of a modern agribusiness industry.

"This structure was established during the Great Depression to serve a largely rural America, in which one in four Americans lived on a farm. Today, only one in 50 Americans lives on a farm, and many farmers manage large, sophisticated operations," the GAO said.

And with computers and advances in communications, farmers no longer need as much contact with multiple farm agencies.

Yet some county offices, the GAO said, spend more on overhead expenses than they give out in benefits. The GAO estimated \$90 million could be saved by consolidating field offices.

It said revitalizing the department requires strategic planning throughout, especially in areas such as marketing, food safety, water quality and biotechnology.