


FORECAST

Warm days, cool nights. Highs in the 80s, lows in the 40s.



OPINION

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"Manual labor is the only sure fire method of birth control and carries with it none of the stigmatism that accompany the pill, condoms, diaphragms, etc."

columnist Stacy Feducia, on benefits of manual labor

LIFESTYLES

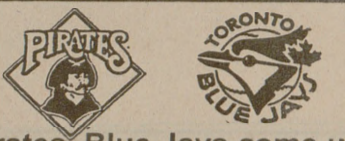
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KANM

Student disc jockeys spin a variety of music at campus radio station.

SPORTS

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Pirates, Blue Jays come up winners in playoff games Wednesday.

The Battalion

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Iraqis, Kurdish rebels continue skirmish; hundreds die

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Iraqi troops and Kurdish rebels skirmished in the area of a key northern city Wednesday, the latest in five days of fighting in which hundreds of people have been killed or wounded.

Tens of thousands of Kurds have fled the northern city of Suleimaniyah and surrounding towns since Iraqi bombardments began Saturday.

The Red Cross has evacuated hundreds of the refugees, a spokesman for the humanitarian organization said Wednesday.

Iraq's state-run newspaper, Al-Jumhuriya, claimed the army had regained control of the area around

Suleimaniyah early Wednesday. The two sides reached a cease-fire Tuesday afternoon, but fighting continued well past then.

The United States and its Gulf War allies have expressed concern but refrained from intervening.

A Kurdish rebel spokesman, Serchil Qazzaz, on Wednesday decried the lack of Western military aid during the latest fighting. Qazzaz, a spokesman in the Turkish capital of Ankara for the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, said coalition forces reneged on a promise to intercede if the Iraqi army attacked.

Responding to reports that Kurdish guerrillas were massing on the Turkish

border for an attack, Qazzaz said only that it was not unlikely.

"We learned that we should depend only on ourselves," he said.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party said in a statement issued in London that sporadic gunfire continued around Suleimaniyah on Wednesday.

Statements from the Kurdish groups said an estimated 76 civilians had been killed and 750 Kurdish civilians injured since the bombardments began. They said medical supplies were running low in the city and that tens of thousands had fled Suleimaniyah and the surrounding towns.

The Kurdistan Democratic Party

claimed that up to 4,000 Iraqi troops had been taken prisoner.

Saddam moved against the rebels as Kurdish leaders were planning to establish a rival provisional government in their mountain stronghold, in their latest attempt to overthrow the Iraqi president. Saddam's government and the guerrillas had been negotiating on a degree of autonomy for the Kurds in northern Iraq, but the talks foundered.

The Kurds rebelled in March after the Gulf War cease-fire, seeking to win a decades-old battle for autonomy from the central government.

Tuesday's cease-fire agreement was signed by an Iraqi Defense Ministry offi-

cial and the Iraq Kurdistan Front, a coalition of eight rebel factions fighting for autonomy from the Baghdad government.

There was no immediate independent confirmation about the situation, but both the British government and the Red Cross expressed strong concern.

In London, the Foreign Office on Wednesday summoned Zuhair Ibrahim, head of the Iraqi interest section and the ranking diplomat, to underline Britain's concern about renewed attacks on the Kurds.

In Geneva, the Red Cross spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the organization had evacuated hundreds of wounded in the past few days.



TED W. ALBRACHT/The Battalion

Squeeze, Sink, Drive...
A&M Rugby team members practice their scrum downs Wednesday afternoon on a scrum machine. The team's next home game will be at 10 a.m. Oct. 26 at the polo fields. Front row: (left) Daryl Wheeler, Jay Robertson and Nick Flynn. Second row: Sherwin Wang and Constantin Nickonov.

Students demand security

Assault on West campus triggers appeal to UPD to increase patrols

By Karen Praslicka
The Battalion

Several graduate students in the Soil and Crop Sciences Department are demanding better security on West campus after one student was physically assaulted Sept. 23 outside Cater-Matil Hall.

The victim, who wishes to remain anonymous, said he was going into the building when he saw three men trying to enter. A fourth man was waiting nearby in a truck.

After noticing the student, the three men assaulted him and then ran to the truck, the victim said.

He then went inside the building for help. Dr. Khee Rhee, a research scientist in animal science, reported the incident to the University Police Department.

The assaulted student said there were no security lights turned on outside the building when he was attacked.

"The building was too dark," he said. "I could only see one man's face."

UPD director Bob Wiatt said, however, there is adequate security in West campus.

"We haven't had any more problems there than in main campus," he said.

Wiatt said there are patrol officers in all areas of campus 24 hours a day. There are seven marked patrol cars in West campus that try to patrol the area twice an hour, he said.

But sometimes other calls deter the officers from patrolling more often, Wiatt said.

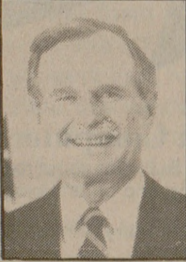
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Bush renews support for Thomas; Biden defends Senate's actions

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush on Wednesday declared he still had "total confidence" in Clarence Thomas and called his embattled Supreme Court nominee to the White House for a picture-taking session in a public display of support.

Thomas smiled for photographers and said he was feeling fine on the day after the Senate delayed his confirmation vote pending public hearings on the allegations against him.

Asked if he would be able to refute the accusations, he responded, "Just testify. Thanks."



Bush

The Senate Judiciary Committee will begin hearings on Friday and hear testimony from Thomas and Anita Hill, the Oklahoma law professor who made the allegations. It also will hear from at least two other witnesses, according to the panel's chairman, Sen. Joseph R. Biden Jr., D-Del.

"The process is simple and straightforward, it is to focus on the issue of whether the allegations that Professor Hill has made are true," Biden said. He said both Thomas and Hill will be allowed to produce witnesses to support their accounts of what happened a decade ago when she worked for him at the Education Department and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.

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Student Senate considers fee

Outcome of resolution depends on gathering constituent opinion

By John Lose
The Battalion

The Texas A&M Student Senate Wednesday night discussed in detail a new international fee, but delayed making a formal opinion until more constituent opinion could be gathered.

The \$1 fee, to be introduced in the spring, will be mandatory for all students and will be applied primarily to increase opportunities for A&M students to participate in international study pro-

grams.

Dr. Linda Parrish, chairwoman of the Faculty Senate subcommittee concerning international programs, said the money raised from the fee would be used to give financial help to students who wish to participate in international study programs, but who need help making the significant financial commitment needed.

The University of Texas has been operating a similar program for nearly a year, Parrish said.

"We looked at UT's program, and decided to take a somewhat

different approach," Parrish said. "We tried to be extremely fair about how to divide the resources among the different segments of the student body."

The program under consideration for Texas A&M would allocate 90 percent of the funding for A&M students who wish to study abroad, either at one of A&M's overseas campuses or in an approved program sponsored by another university.

The remaining 10 percent

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Women speak out, reveal experiences of harassment

(AP) — Anita Hill is not alone. Working women around the country have joined her, crossing beyond confusion and fear about sexual harassment to share experiences of their own.

"We've had a real outpouring of calls," said Barbara Otto of 9 to 5, the National Association of Working Women. "It's like they're coming out of the closet to tell their dirty secret. They're saying: 'Enough!'"

In the minds of many, sexual harassment remains vaguely defined. The bounds of acceptable workplace behavior often seem

murky and victims unsure when they've been crossed.

This confusion was underscored when Hill's allegations against Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas were made public on the eve of his confirmation vote, and because the Judiciary Committee was accused of giving them short shrift.

The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission defines sexual harassment as any sexual advance, request for sexual favor, sexual remark or conduct that af-

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Givens wins freshman presidency

Greg Mt.Joy
The Battalion

Greg Givens edged out Patrick Clark by less than two percent of the votes cast Wednesday in a run-off election to become the president of the 1995 freshman class.

Givens, a petroleum engineering major, received 51.84 percent of the votes.

"First I'm going to take some time to feel my way around Student Government," Givens said. "Then as soon as I figure things out, I'm going to go like hell and do everything I can for the freshman class."

Runoffs for five other Class of '95 positions were also announced Wednesday night in

front of the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue. Eight other officers were elected last week.

Branon Marsh beat Anna Johnston and Tracy Kennedy, earning 43 percent of the votes in the race for vice-president.

Darcey Smith, a member of the Student Government's election committee who announced Wednesday's results, said Jennifer Simmons won the social secretary position by the closest margin of the night. Simmons defeated Heather Young by one vote.

Smith said the votes for social secretary would not be recounted, unless one of the candidates requested the action.

Kelley Brouillette earned 54 percent of the voting in her victory in the race for class secretary.

Kristen Nevius will be the freshman class treasurer. Nevius defeated Trent Ashby, earning 52.82 percent of the votes cast.

The final seat of the Student Senate will be filled by Brad Britton, who received 41.3 percent of votes. He was asked to begin his job five minutes later, and immediately left to attend a senate meeting already in progress at the Harrington Classroom Building.

Smith said the student turnout for the run-off elections was large compared to past freshman efforts.

"The publicity is not as high for freshman elections," she said. "But we still had about 350 voters, which is very exciting. We really expected about half that amount."