


FORECAST

Partly cloudy today with high in the 70s. Low in the 50s tonight



OPINION


Annual Battle of the Letters: Editors from The Battalion and The Daily Texan exchange criticisms to prove which university is better and why their team will win. Page 9

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UT, A&M meet for the 98th time in the battle for pride, traditions and bragging rights. Page 7

The Battalion

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"Serving Texas A&M since 1893"

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A&M regents merge Galveston, College Station campuses

By Greg Mt. Joy
The Battalion

The Texas A&M University System Board of Regents concluded the official merger of Texas A&M University at Galveston with the A&M main campus as it breezed through its agenda Tuesday.

The Galveston integration began last fall, and a task force has been wading through the details throughout the year. The formal authorization by the Board will not complete the process, however, and the phasing-in of the school is expected to continue for several years, a report approved at the Board's meeting in the MSC said.

A report by A&M System Chancellor Dr. Herbert Richardson said the merger

will become effective Jan. 1, 1992. The position of Galveston's university president will be re-named Dean of Geosciences and Maritime Studies.

In other Board business, Dr. Edward Hiler, deputy chancellor for academic programs and research, said A&M's Federal Research Enhancement Program has met with encouraging initial success.

"State and federal fund crises have made federal funding more and more difficult to receive," Hiler said. "Attaining the funds has become even more critical for the system."

Hiler said the first two years of the program combined brought in more than \$56 million for items in the plan. The cost the additional A&M presence in Washington D.C. cost the system only \$280,000. Hiler said the 1991 results, which in-

cluded \$40.8 million, were preliminary figures.

The program was created in 1989 to establish an ongoing presence for the system in Washington by increasing federal funding to the system and promoting the research capabilities of Texas A&M, Hiler said.

Hiler said top priorities for the program include securing the final \$700,000 funding needed to complete \$12.5 million needed for the Institute of Biosciences and Technology. Other goals include funds for an Institute for National Drug Abatement Research Center, a Materials Science Center and Medical School initiative.

Hiler said A&M system federal funding increases might move A&M to seventh nationally in terms of total research volume. A&M schools had been ranked

eighth for the last two years, despite a 27th ranking in federal funding dollars.

"We have tremendous potential to increase our research funding," Hiler said. "Especially in areas like defense and education. We have specifically in mind to penetrate these areas."

Funding has not been a problem for Texas A&M at Galveston, however, A&M at Galveston President William Merrell said.

"We have been the fastest growing University in Texas in each of the last four years," Merrell said. "Minority enrollment has increased dramatically, as has overall enrollment, in those four years."

Merrell said funding at the school has increased from \$350,000 in 1987 to \$20 million in 1991. The funding includes \$500,000 for a towboat study program.

"We just got the final word on the contract," he said. "Most accidents in Galveston bay have been the result of towing problems, so the industry needs this program badly."

Merrell said the program will not be opened until 1993.

The Board also approved acceptance of bids for several construction products, including a \$3.2 million Turbomachinery laboratory.

The Facilities Planning and Building committee report, given by Gen. Wesley Peel, also contained bids for a Plant Biotechnology Center to be located on West Campus that would include construction of eight new greenhouses.

Re-roofing contracts for Aston and Nagel halls, the Printing Center and the Animal Industries building were also approved.



RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

Not dead yet

Senior yell leaders, accompanied by senior redpots, lead the class of 1991 Tuesday afternoon in a few yells between Evans

Library and the Agriculture Building. Seniors hold yell practice at several points around campus before stopping at bonfire stack.

Peace talks to resume in U.S.

Palestinians, Syrians, Israelis near agreement over resumption of talks

WASHINGTON (AP) — Syria and the Palestinians edged closer Tuesday to accepting a resumption of Mideast peace talks with Israel here on Dec. 4.

They raised "any number of questions" in their replies to a joint U.S.-Soviet invitation, and the Bush administration is insisting on unqualified acceptances, Margaret D. Tutwiler, the State Department spokeswoman, said.

Israel is expected to give its answer after a Cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

The replies from Syria and the Palestinians "show a readiness to respond positively," Tutwiler said.

Without disclosing the contents, she said there would be no U.S. reply to the questions even though they are "sincere."

"Our proposal is out there,"

she added. "We are not accepting conditions."

Monday was the deadline set by Secretary of State James A. Baker III, but only Jordan and Lebanon accepted Washington as the site and Dec. 4 as the starting date.

Syria takes the position Israel should agree beforehand to negotiate on a basis of giving up land for peace. Syria's aim is to reclaim the Golan Heights, which it lost in the 1967 Six-Day war.

The Palestinians want the Bush administration to issue visas to Palestine Liberation Organization members who are advisers to the Palestinian delegation.

Tutwiler said waivers of the Congressional ban on PLO visas would not be issued for the

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Congress passes bills to protect bank deposits, build highways

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress labored Tuesday to complete its work for the year by passing major bills to build highways, aid the Soviets and protect Americans' bank deposits.

Plans to adjourn before Thanksgiving were thrown into doubt as President Bush dared Democrats to consider a tax cut plan.

House Speaker Thomas S. Foley, angered by comments made

by Bush and other Republicans, was inclined to bring Congress back into session on Dec. 10 for hearings comparing Democratic tax proposals with a House GOP plan that Bush embraced.

"Whether we can get it (a tax bill) done depends on what the president can accept," said Rep. Leon Panetta, D-Calif.

The discussions came amid a rush of legislation aimed at reach-

ing adjournment Tuesday night, and hours after Bush, under attack from the GOP right wing, expressed enthusiasm for a House Republican plan including a capital gains tax cut.

The talk of a December session was part of the battle for a political leg up before the final gavel, as both Democrats and Republicans tried to cast their parties in the best light going into the 1992 election year.

A 'new class of poor' Former donors need charity

(AP) — The economic slump has charities struggling to cope with increased numbers of people seeking aid this Thanksgiving, including a "new class of poor" who were the donors of past years, officials say.

A Connecticut church group is turning people away in what its director calls "the most heart-wrenching decision I've ever had to make."

In Michigan, which abolished welfare for 83,000 adults last month, a soup kitchen is facing "astronomical" demand.

In Burlington, Vt., the emergency food service is trying to serve up to 20 percent more people with

only a tiny increase in donations.

"Don't tell me that the recession is over," said Ruth Shecter, executive director of the Housing Information Center in Kansas City, Mo. "President Bush needs to walk with the people and find out what it really means."

Capt. Phil Murphy of the Salvation Army in Raleigh, N.C., said donations to his unit are off \$18,000 from last year for the Christmas and winter relief drives, but the number of people seeking help has been rising.

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\$4.8 M to fund science students

By Mark Evans
The Battalion

The Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES), an agency of the Texas A&M University System, will use a recently received \$4.8 million grant from the National Science Foundation (NSF) to establish an alliance to offer assistance to minority students involved in the fields of engineering, mathematics and science.

The NSF Alliance for Minority Participation (AMP) binds community colleges together with major universities to increase the number of minorities graduating with college degrees

in the engineering and science fields.

"The goal of the program will be to bring even more qualified students into engineering and science programs and to retain them through graduation," Gen. Julius Becton Jr., president of Prairie View A&M and chairman of the Texas Alliance governing board, said in a released statement.

"The community college component is very important because many of these students are place-bound, meaning few transfer to senior institutions after completing programs at their local community college."

The program offers stipends to community college students enrolled in science or pre-en-

gineering programs, said Mike Cronan, Research Coordinator for TEES. After transferring to one of the senior universities, engineering and science students will benefit from internship opportunities as well as continued financial aid.

Businesses have pledged their support for the program. So far, the Texas Alliance has received more than \$600,000 in funding from 67 industries and 12 national labs. In addition to financial backing, many of these companies will offer minority students internships.

These internships provide both financial

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Researcher: Students lack skills to fill high-tech jobs

By Mark Evans
The Battalion

In the upcoming years, the United States will face a shortage of people with advanced degrees in fields such as engineering and mathematics, hindering both the economy and the growth of technology, said Mike Cronan, research coordi-

nator for the Texas Engineering Experiment Station.

Many of today's students are turning away from careers in engineering and the sciences, he said. They lack the skills necessary for studies in these areas.

"Students that graduate from high school and aren't prepared to enter calculus at

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PICK UP A BATTALION GAMEDAY TOMORROW