

FORECAST

Mostly cloudy with scattered showers. Highs in the 70s.



OPINION

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"Twas the night before finals . . ."

— Stacy Feducia on the rigors of finals.

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A&M vs. FSU

FSU's Bowden brings unique coaching style to Cotton Bowl.



The Battalion

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Gates calls Soviet Union situation 'dangerously unstable'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Soviet Union faces chaos this winter as the former Communist empire spins apart and President Mikhail Gorbachev is reduced to little more than a figurehead, CIA Director Robert Gates said Tuesday.

"The situation is dangerously unstable," Gates told the House Armed Services Committee, even as U.S. Ambassador Robert Strauss raised doubts about whether a new commonwealth of Russia, Ukraine and Byelorussia can survive.

Gates later met with the lawmakers behind closed doors and told them that Gorbachev "is losing out" and may have to step down, according to the panel's ranking Republican, Rep. William Dickinson of Ala-

ma.

"He will have to either resign or be a figurehead only, because he doesn't have any force behind him," Dickinson said.

Another source, speaking on condition of anonymity, agreed, saying Gates portrayed Gorbachev as in control only of the country's foreign relations. "He's not going to rise from ashes this time," said the official.

During open testimony to the committee, Gates referred to the disintegrating superpower as the "arsenal that used to be a country." He said the system controlling 30,000 nuclear weapons is being severely tested.

"Severe economic conditions, including

substantial shortages of food and fuel in some areas, the disintegration of the armed forces, and ongoing ethnic conflict will combine this winter to produce the most significant disorder in the former USSR since the Bolsheviks consolidated power," Gates testified.

Discipline and cohesion in the formerly powerful Red Army are disintegrating, Gates said. Shortages of food, fuel and housing for troops are undermining morale and reliability of the forces is "dubious," he added.

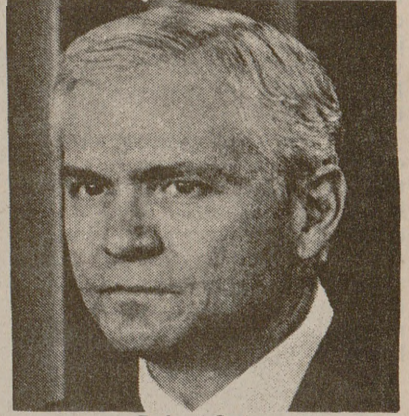
Speaking to reporters in Chicago, President Bush said the United States is carefully following developments in the Soviet Union.

"There's a lot at stake for the American people ... to make sure problems that affect us and the rest of the world are properly handled," Bush said.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater said Bush has not spoken by phone with Gorbachev.

Gates told the Armed Services Committee that of immediate concern is control of the Soviet nuclear arsenal. A highly disciplined command system has been maintained until now, Gates said.

"But the center is evaporating before our eyes," he said. "Those who designed the control system never anticipated this."



See Soviet/Page 4 Robert Gates

Colleagues welcome Anderson

Former hostage fills 'empty chair'

NEW YORK (AP) — Terry Anderson came home Tuesday, clearing a path through cheering, chanting colleagues as he entered Associated Press headquarters after 6 1/2 years captivity to take what his boss called "the empty chair at AP's table."

Anderson hopped from a limousine in front of the AP building and into the arms of Deputy International Editor Nick Tatro, his predecessor as chief Middle East correspondent. He also embraced reporter Richard Pyle, with whom he worked in Japan and the Middle East.

"I'm overwhelmed," choked Pyle, who wore a bracelet with Anderson's name until his release last week. "I just don't know what to say."

"Is 'wonderful' a good word?" asked another AP veteran, Pulitzer Prize winner Saul Pett. "So many people have come and gone from this building, and some never came back. This has to be the warmest day we've ever had."

Anderson landed at Kennedy Airport after recuperating for several days at a military hospital in Germany following his release in Lebanon last Wednesday. He admitted to having developed "somewhat of a fear of crowds."

"This is my homecoming," he told reporters at the airport, where he was introduced by AP President Louis D. Boccardi and received a key to the city from Mayor David Dinkins. "This is where my people are."

Since Anderson was taken hostage, Boccardi has often referred to Anderson's "empty chair" at AP. Last week, he issued this statement: "At long, long last, the empty chair at AP's table is once again occupied. Terry Anderson has been set free."

One of Anderson's people was Jim Watson, an editor on the AP's International Desk who supervised Anderson on the desk two

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RICHARD S. JAMES/The Battalion

Taking aim

Jake Szczepanski, a junior marketing major from Dallas, shoots baskets outside G. Rolife White Coliseum Tuesday afternoon in a promotion for Aggie Basketball.

A&M official indicted

Associate deputy chancellor faces financial mismanagement charges

From Staff and Wire Reports

A Randall County grand jury Tuesday indicted the Texas A&M University System Associate Deputy Chancellor for Academic Program Planning, Ed Roach and two other current and former West Texas State officials on charges of misapplication of fiduciary property.

Randall County Criminal District Attorney Randy Sherrod said Roach, formerly West Texas State University's president; Clarence Thompson, former vice president for finance and administrative services; and Gary Barnes, WTSU controller were indicted in 47th state District Court on a charge of misapplication of fiduciary property more than \$10,000.

The indictments reopen a chapter in the school's history plagued by allegations of financial mismanagement, including a state audit's revelation in Oct. 1990 that the school might have used state funds to cover up shortfalls in the athletic program.

The school was forced to disband its football program this year due to lack of finances.

Roach served as West Texas State president for 6 1/2 years before stepping down Jan. 1.

Dr. Ed Davis, executive deputy chancellor of the Texas A&M University System, said Monday in a press release that the Chancellor's office was aware of the ongoing investigation, but was unaware of

the specifics of the indictments. "I want to emphasize that action has already been taken to implement appropriate control and oversight to ensure that all funds are adequately protected and accounted for," Davis said in the release. "The West Texas State University management is held to the same standards of integrity and fiduciary responsibility set forth for all institutions and agencies which are members of The Texas A&M University System."

"I am confident that President Barry Thompson, who joined West Texas State after the start of the investigation, and Tom Kale, the university's chief financial officer, are committed to upholding those high standards," he said in the release. "The State Auditor completed an audit this past summer, and we received high marks for having restored fiscal controls at WTSU."

At the heart of Tuesday's indictments is the investment of funds donated to the school by Dallas businessman T. Boone Pickens, who served as West Texas State's board chairman in the late 1980s.

In July, the grand jury began investigating the findings of a second state auditor's report released in April.

The audit said apparent mismanagement while Roach was president cost West Texas State the chance to increase a \$1.5 million endowment from Pickens and

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UPD lists safety measures for semester break

By Troy D. Hall
The Battalion

Texas A&M University Police are advising faculty, staff and students to use good common sense by coordinating necessary security precautions to protect University and personal property from vandalism and robbery.

Lt. Bert Kretschmar of the University Crime Prevention Unit said the Christmas break provides more opportunity for vandals and robbers because less people are around to report suspicious activity.

But he said faculty, staff and students can minimize this activity by taking preventive measures to secure their offices and residence hall rooms before leaving for the holidays.

Cpl. Betty LeMay encourages anyone coming to campus during the break to alert the University police dispatcher of their presence.

"Use good common sense when walking on campus, especially at night," she said. "Let someone know where you are, how long you will be there and be aware of your surroundings by trusting your instincts."

Kretschmar and LeMay said it is important that University patrons call University police if they need assistance or see any suspicious behavior.

The University police will remain on patrol seven days a week, 24-hours a day during the break, but LeMay said they still depend on people on campus.

"We depend on the people around cam-

pus to help patrol campus, because we can't be everywhere all the time."

Because of the extended break, University police have compiled a list of safety and security measures to prevent extensive vandalism or robbery.

* Lock all doors and windows in dorms and offices on campus, especially ground-floor windows. Thieves burglarizing residence halls frequently enter through unblocked windows.

* Computers, audio-video equipment and anything of value should be follow Operation Identification procedures. University property should have the department name, University inventory number and mail stop number

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Thieves target apartments during Christmas holidays

By Troy D. Hall
The Battalion

Texas A&M students living in apartments and houses are prime targets of thieves when they leave for home during the Christmas holidays.

But Lt. Bert Kretschmar of the A&M University Police Crime Prevention Unit said many times students don't take the proper measures to assure they will not become a victim of such crime.

"Thieves will enter anywhere they can get in," he said. He said making it look like someone is still there is the key to deterring thieves from entering apartments or houses. But coordinating security with roommates and neighbors is equally important.

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