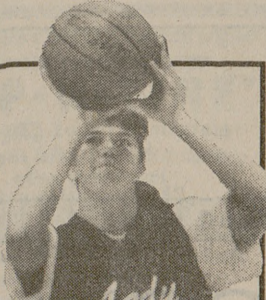


FORECAST
Partly cloudy with scattered showers, highs in the 70's

OPINION
TCA Cable must fulfill its customers' needs and demands.
-- Battalion Editorial Board
Page 9

INSIDE
Police Beat
Someone ignited a solid deodorant bottle wrapped in paper towels and placed the burning device outside the window of a second floor room of McInnis Hall.
Page 3

SPORTS
The Stretch Run
Lady Aggies fight to stay in SWC race tonight against SMU
Page 5



The Battalion

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Bush tightens grip on plan to discontinue use of CFCs

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Bush, citing new forecasts of a growing ozone hole over the Northern Hemisphere, announced Tuesday a speedup in phasing out ozone-destroying chemicals.

Bush said the United States will phase out production of ozone-damaging chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) by the end of 1995, rather than by the year 2000, as agreed to earlier.

The president said the United States was acting unilaterally. He urged other nations to follow suit.

Under terms of an international agreement called the Montreal Protocol, the United States and other industrialized nations had pledged to halt production of CFCs by 2000.

Bush's action comes after last week's government report saying the ozone layer

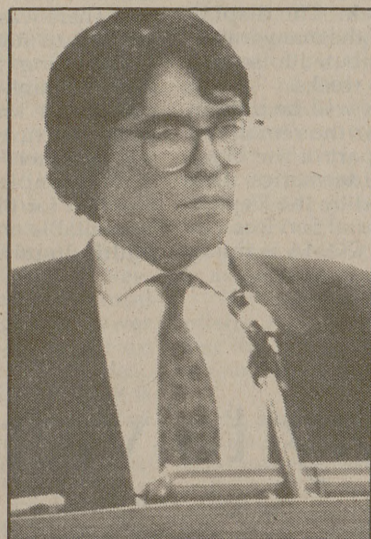
was being depleted at a much faster rate than had been believed.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration reported discovery of "alarming" levels of ozone-destroying chemicals over Canada, the United States and Europe.

That prompted renewed calls for a stepped-up effort to eliminate industrial chemicals thought to cause the problem.

The NASA report said aircraft and satellite studies show that chlorine monoxide, a chemical that destroys the ozone layer, reached record levels over parts of the Northern Hemisphere during some days in January.

In some measurements, the chemical was found to be as high as 1.5 parts per billion, a level that one scientist called "alarming."



Philip Tajitsu Nash

500 years later... Columbus still influences history

By Becky Blum
The Battalion

Americans need to regard diversity as an asset rather than a liability, an educator said Tuesday night in Rudder Tower.

"Demographically, we are becoming a country of many, many different peoples," said Philip Tajitsu Nash, a law teacher and computer analyst.

In a speech entitled "Rethinking Columbus: From Discovery to Multiculturalism," Nash stressed the need to re-examine the way in which history is presented and viewed.

"We need to move away from a strict-

ly Columbus-centric point of view and toward the multicultural view," Nash said.

Columbus' arrival in the New World in 1492 helped enable the Europeans to accumulate great wealth and power that was previously unimaginable, Nash said. More significantly, Columbus' famous quest for new territory and riches gave rise to a new attitude toward the environment.

"We see people in (Columbus' time) who no longer stood in awe of Mother Nature," Nash said. "We see people who are going out to conquer the new

See Society /Page 4

Tax cuts offer short term relief, critic says

Tax hikes to finance president's budget

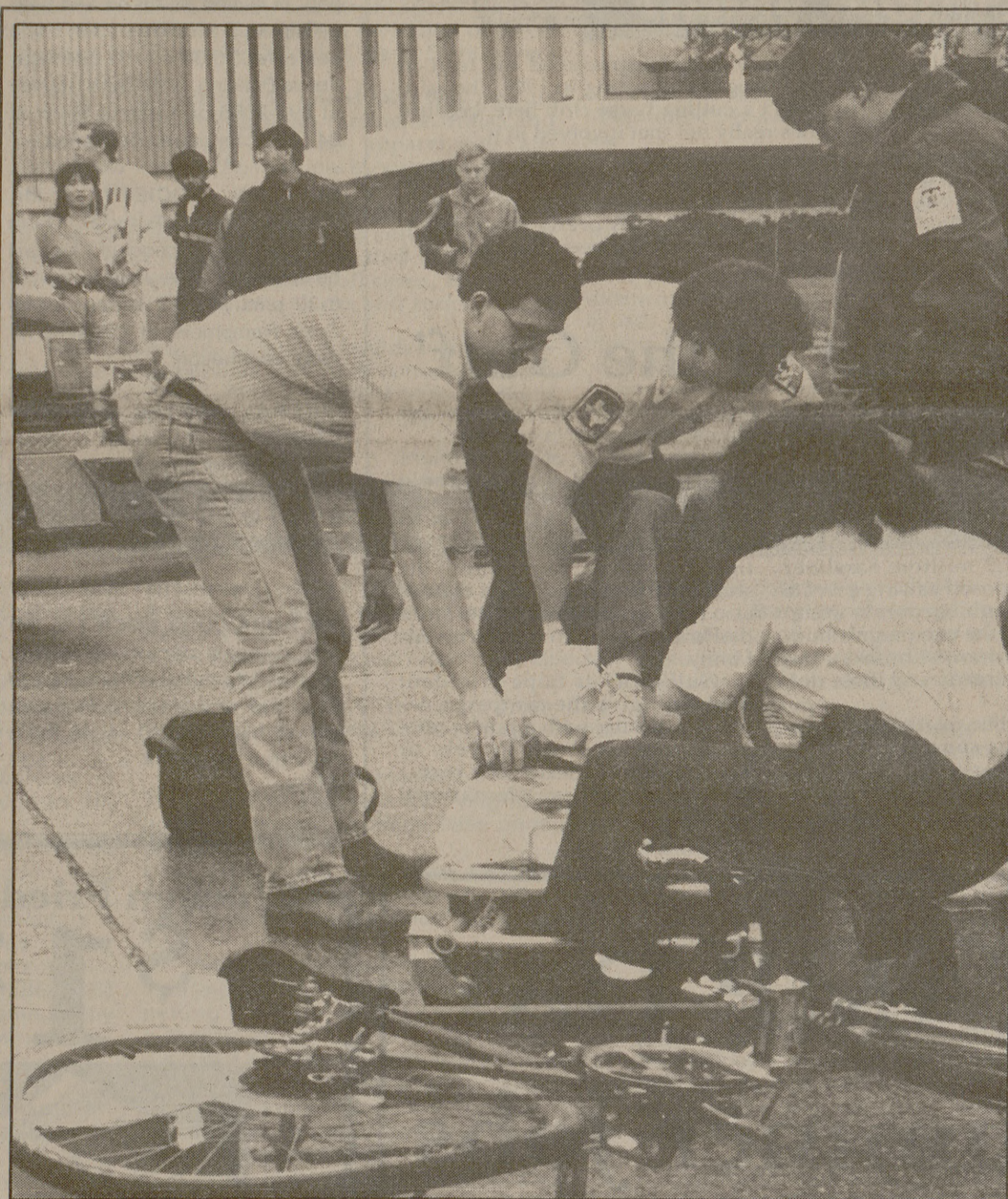
WASHINGTON (AP) - While families and investors await word on how big a tax cut they will get from Congress and President Bush, millions should be watching instead to see how much their taxes are going to rise.

Bush's budget, with its proposals for a reduction in capital-gains taxes, an increased exemption for children and a new credit for some home buyers, would be financed in part by tax increases exceeding \$21 billion over the next five years.

Among the targets: state and local government employees; boaters; pay-phone users; securities dealers, and buyers of certain life insurance policies.

A Democratic plan to give a temporary credit of up to \$200 a year to wage-earners would be financed by higher taxes on couples with incomes in the \$200,000-plus range (\$100,000 for singles) and a new surtax on millionaires.

The House Ways and Means Committee will begin deciding Wednesday what kind of tax-cut plan is called for and how it should be financed.



RANDALL NICHOLS/The Battalion

Cyclist, car collide on Spence Street

Jian Xun Wu, a research associate with the College of Mechanical Engineering, was struck by a car while riding a bicycle on Spence Street, a University Police official said.

Bob Wiatt, Director of Security and UPD, said the cyclist turned onto Spence

Street from a side road into the path of the vehicle.

Wu was taken by ambulance to Humana Hospital, where he was treated and released.

An investigation is still underway and no tickets have been issued so far, Wiatt said.

Expert assesses flood damage to farmland

By Melody Dunne
The Battalion

Recent flooding of Texas A&M farmland downed fences and damaged fields, an agricultural expert with the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station said.

Al Nelson, agricultural research superintendent with TAES, said the flooding did little damage to soil at the A&M Plantation, but other University farms were critically damaged.

On the 3,200 acres of the A&M farms, eight to ten miles of fence were damaged and a 5,000 gallon fuel tank was found on the main road.

"No one has claimed it," he said. "It just settled there during the flooding. I just keep waiting for someone to come for it."

Warren Sealock, head of farm operations for the A&M plantation, said workers moved all the cattle on the farm 15 to 20 miles away during the serious flooding. When flood waters receded almost three weeks later, they moved the cattle back to the farm.

James Pelkemeyer, executive director of Burleson County Agriculture Stabilizing and Conservation, said approximately 1500 acres of Burleson County - where A&M farms are located - were seriously damaged. Most of the land where soil washed out will have

to be re-leveled before crops can be planted, he said.

"If the rain stopped today, we'd still have to wait two to three weeks for the fields to be prepared," he said.

The two big damage areas in the agriculture industries are cattle and farm crops, specifically cotton and grains. In all of Burleson County, there were more than 200 miles of fence destroyed by the flood conditions, Pelkemeyer said.

Brazos County Emergency Management Coordinator Jake Cangelose said the farmer's problem increases with every day of rain. Cangelose also emphasized that fields would have to be re-leveled.

"Floods really messed up the fields," he said.

Nelson said farmers in Brazos and Burleson counties anticipate a later planting season if flooding and rains affecting the Brazos and Navasota Rivers continue.

Additional flooding would diminish farmers' profits from the crops significantly, he said.

There is a period of three to four weeks in which farmers can plant corn and other grains, but grain sorghum does not have as critical a time frame, Nelson said.

"During the first three weeks of March farmers can still plant corn and have a good crop," he said.

Rainy days, drought stays

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Up to 30 inches of snow in the Sierra Nevada and heavy rain that caused the San Fernando Valley's worst flooding in a half-century did not come close to easing the state's 5-year-old drought, officials said Tuesday.

Flash flood warnings were in effect for a second day in the Los Angeles region and heavy rain combined with clogged storm drains to flood intersections and stall cars.

Several more inches of rain was expected from still another storm bearing down on Southern California, where a 7-inch downpour Monday flooded part of the Valley. That flooding stranded motorists on car roofs and in trees until

they could be rescued by helicopters.

It was believed to be the worst flooding in the San Fernando Valley since 1938, said meteorologist Gary Neumann of the National Weather Service.

On Tuesday, the weather service reported an unofficial rain tally of 1.82 inches in a half hour near Pomona. In Ontario, the Inland Valley Daily Bulletin rain gauge showed 2.34 inches during 20 hours ending Tuesday afternoon.

Despite the deluge and snow in the Sierra and mountains in the Los Angeles area, it wasn't enough to keep the region from going into a sixth drought year.

\$78 million aid effort reaches Moscow, citizens

Surplus war rations go to needy Russians

MOSCOW (AP) - Lunch at the Lyublinskaya soup kitchen was clearly different Tuesday. There was Campbell's cream of chicken soup instead of borscht, pork chops replaced porridge, and plenty of dental floss for the toothless crowd of pensioners.

The cafeteria, which has been operating as a soup kitchen since Jan. 1, served up the first of 100,000 meals flown to Moscow on Monday as part of an \$78 million airlift of humanitarian aid from the United States.

In addition to the free three-course meal, Salvation Army volunteers passed out gift packages containing eyedrops, deodorant and dental floss - personal care items that are virtually unknown to Russians.

"Everything is wonderful here. It's nice that people are worrying about us," said 78-year-old Anna Kudinova as she eagerly inspected her disposable plastic plate and the gift package. "I don't want to die because it's wonderful to live when people are taking care of you."

"Can you wash your body with this?" her neighbor across the table asked about a packet of laundry detergent.

Several dozen needy people - predominantly poor and elderly - ate at the soup kitchen Tuesday as at least twice as many journalists and photographers crowded around to record the U.S. aid effort.

The meals, mostly military rations left over from the Gulf War, are being distributed to 35 institutions throughout the Russian capital. Included are pork chops, fish sticks, beef with gravy, canned lasagna, fruit-flavored candy, fruit juice, pudding and apple pie filling.

Soviet spy shows no regret for FBI work

MOSCOW (AP) - Former KGB agent Boris Yuzhin spent five years in prison - much of it in isolation - for cooperating with the FBI in San Francisco, but he said Tuesday he would do it all again.

"I am proud of what I've done," Yuzhin said, days after being released from the Perm 35 prison camp. "There are some things in life that could justify plenty of years' punishment."

Yuzhin said he began provid-

ing information on KGB methods "free of charge" after his first exposure to the West made him see the evil in the Soviet Communist system.

In the United States, "I had a chance to pick up some real knowledge about what was doing in my own country," he said.

"For the first time in my life I had access to all publications which were prohibited here in this country," he said in rusty but fluent English.

"I had a chance to pick up any book I wanted. . . I realized that the official ideology which I studied here, which I was educated in here, it was nothing but a big lie."

Yuzhin, 49, was among 10 political prisoners released Friday from the labor camp 1,000 miles east of Moscow.

President Boris Yeltsin described them as the last prisoners

See Spy/Page 4