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**FORECAST**



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**LIFESTYLES**

'Radio Flyer'  
flies with  
kids, but not  
with adults



Page 5

**OPINION**

The Student Senate  
should not restrict who  
can run for student body  
president  
-Battalion Editorial Board

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**SPORTS**



Aggies  
fight rain;  
postpone  
game until  
tomorrow

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# The Battalion

Vol. 91 No. 100 College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" 8 Pages Tuesday, February 25, 1992

## U.S. Supreme Court refuses to halt repatriation of Haitians

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court refused Monday to halt the repatriation of Haitian refugees as Haiti's politicians reached an accord providing for the eventual return of exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide.

The high court's 8-1 ruling upholding the Bush administration's program to forcibly return Haitian refugees shifts the debate to Congress, which this week will debate emergency legislation to temporarily halt repatriations.

The political settlement reached late Sunday in Washington between Aristide and his rivals in Haiti's National Assem-

bly would set up a "consensus government" before the president's return to power.

The deal set no date for Aristide's return. It called for the appointment of moderate communist leader Rene Theodore as interim prime minister.

It was unclear whether the accord would be honored by the Haitian military, which deposed Aristide in a Sept. 30 coup that brought down the first democratically elected government in the country's history.

"It's promising but very uncertain in that there are forces at play in Haiti that

haven't come to terms in the agreement, including the army," Arthur C. Helton, who monitors Haitian affairs for the Lawyers Committee for Human Rights, said of the agreement. "It is not a crisis that has ended or likely will end for some time."

Doubts about whether the accord would stick arose Monday when Aristide and Theodore failed to settle all remaining unresolved issues.

Aristide emerged from the talks to say he did not want an amnesty provision agreed Sunday to include Haiti's military commander, Gen. Raoul Cedras, because

of his role in the coup.

That would appear to be a retreat from what Aristide had agreed to Sunday.

In Port-au-Prince, the communist party's second-ranked official, Max Bourjoly, said the army had accepted the agreement.

Foreign Relations Minister Jean-Robert Simonise said there was strong opposition to Aristide's return and the consensus government "will not be easy to set up."

A knowledgeable diplomatic source said that Haiti's top military commander,

Gen. Raoul Cedras, was satisfied with the package that contains a general amnesty and acceptance of all parliamentary actions since Aristide was forced into exile.

Aristide's acceptance of parliamentary actions was seen as allowing Cedras to remain, at least temporarily, as army commander, according to an Organization of American States source.

The amnesty provision did not apply to criminal acts and it was unclear whether Aristide agreed to give amnesty to officers who plotted his overthrow, said sources familiar with the deal.



Vinca Soedianto, left, an industrial engineering senior, demonstrates the techniques of Indonesian puppetry to Veronica Resendez, a senior marketing major from Bryan, in the Indonesian booth stocked with artifacts.

## Cultural displays open in MSC

**By Karen Praslicka**  
*The Battalion*

During International Week the Memorial Student Center becomes a gathering place for cultures from around the world. Students contribute cultural displays, music, dance and food for the event.

The opening ceremonies for the week took place Monday in the MSC Flagroom. Dr. Emily Ashworth, assistant provost of international programs, officially began the ceremonies with a ribbon-cutting.

"There are 2700 international students at A&M, representing 110 countries," she said. "This

speaks well of A&M's educational philosophy—leadership, development and teamwork."

Ashworth said international week is the largest event of its kind in the southwest United States, and congratulated the students for their hard work.

Cultural displays will be open on the first floor of the MSC today from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. The displays provide those interested in the countries with an opportunity to talk with students from those countries to learn about their culture and customs. There are 55 international student clubs representing 48 countries at this year's celebration.

"Each country is uniquely displayed for us to experience,"

said Tina Watkins, director of International Student Services. "With the sights and sounds of so many nations, it's like traveling all over the world."

Watkins said international week provides students with the opportunity to work with others of their own nationalities to celebrate their cultures, and provide an example of living and working together.

"Upon arriving at A&M, students unify as Aggies," she said. "Most of these students go about A&M as most American students do."

Rhonda Bolich, International Student Association president, said the cultural displays are for both informational and educa-

tional purposes.

"It's an easy way to travel around the world without leaving Bryan or College Station," she said.

Bolich said it's also significant to notice that everyone involved enjoyed working together and being a part of the event.

A recent addition to the events is a model United Nations, in which 40 countries are represented by American and international students. The students meet and discuss different political attitudes and topics, and on Thursday will have a mock general assembly.

Attending the ceremonies as

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## GM marks locations for closing

Corporation announces plan to cease operations at two plants, 10 suppliers

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors Corp. reported a record \$4.5 billion 1991 loss Monday and marked the locations of some of the plants that must close to restore the profitability of the world's largest industrial corporation.

GM Chairman Robert Stempel announced the closings of two assembly plants — one each in Michigan and New York — and the shuttering of operations at 10 of GM's supplier complexes, affecting 16,000 workers.

He also described a long-range plan to eliminate redundancies in nearly all areas of the company's operations, including vehicle design and marketing, technical research and support operations.

"We must accelerate the fundamental changes," Stempel told a news conference.

The details answered some of the questions left when the automaker announced a broad restructuring program last December.

The overall plan calls for 21 plant closings and 74,000 job cuts by the middle of the decade.

Analysts have said slow vehicle development, generous labor contracts and the recession have combined to force GM to shrink.

"I think this announcement is a beginning of a long series of restructurings," said John Casasa of Wertheim Schroder & Co. in New York. "Through the '90s, GM will be continuously restructuring to match its capabilities to the demands of the market."

GM stock lost 62 1/2 cents to \$37.75 in New York Stock Exchange trading in the aftermath of Monday's announcements.

## Gov. Richards lauds decision to keep factory in Texas open

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Ann Richards, wearing a black satin General Motors jacket, cheered the automaker's decision Monday to keep open its Texas factory. But she voiced sympathy for workers at a Michigan plant being closed.

Richards said Texas needs the 3,800 GM jobs and nearly 7,500 more related to the Arlington factory. Statewide, keeping the plant will have a \$816 million economic impact, she said.

"I cannot emphasize to you enough the significance of this de-

cision at GM and what it means to Texas. I hope it is what the forerunner of things to come," Richards said.

Saving the Texas plant means a similar factory in Ypsilanti, Mich., will close. While Richards will travel to Arlington this week to join GM workers in celebrating, she said she feels for those in Michigan and hopes leaders in Washington will take action to help U.S. business compete inter-

See Officials/Page 8

## Irish court hears plea to allow girl's abortion

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — The Supreme Court heard arguments in private Monday about a 14-year-old girl who is barred from obtaining an abortion abroad, rejecting pleas to permit news coverage of the highly charged case.

Arguments were scheduled to continue Tuesday, with a ruling expected by week's end.

The girl's family is appealing a High Court order barring her from leaving the country for Britain to escape Ireland's abortion law. The teen-ager says she was raped by a friend's father.

In a 1983 referendum, Irish voters decided 2-1 to amend the constitution to affirm the right to life of the unborn.

The recent case has revived the debate, and opposition parties have called for a new referendum.

"We're going to look at every other option between what we hear from the Supreme Court and indeed the possibility of a referendum," Prime Minister Albert Reynolds said Monday.

Reynolds has not said how he hopes the Supreme Court will rule, but has said that the issue is freedom of travel, not freedom to have abortions.

"We have a constitutional law in place, agreed to by the people, which bans abortion in Ireland, so how can that be the issue? The issue is that the family was prevented from going to England for an abortion," Reynolds said.

The government is paying the family's legal costs for the appeal, and John Rogers, a former attorney general, represented her before the Supreme Court.

## International students exchange ideas

**By Melody Dunne**  
*The Battalion*

Student government representatives from around the world exchanged ideas and mementos native to their regions during the 12th annual Conference on Student Government Associations this week at Texas A&M.

"This conference has been one of the most successful we have had," said COSGA director Leslie Marshall, a senior marketing major from Comanche.

The 1992 conference began Feb. 22 and ends today with a closing banquet. Special speakers, workshops on different topics and events such as a carnival and a Texas Hoedown enter-

tained the delegates.

COSGA is the largest student-run conference in the nation. Students from 91 colleges and universities attended the conference, including collegiate representatives from Greece, Japan and Canada.

Almost 400 delegates participated in a "Swap Shop" on Monday, where each school displayed mementos such as T-shirts, pencils, student government constitutions, yearbooks and newspapers.

The Swap Shop provides a time for students to get to know each other and their respective campuses better, Marshall said.

During the swap session, two

See Swap Shop/Page 8



Linda Woodbury, who is blind, stresses the importance of seeing things clearly at a COSGA morning assembly Sunday.