

FORECAST

WEDNESDAY
 Partly cloudy and warm, with highs in mid-80s

OPINION
Biased ballots produced by Student Government have no place in A&M elections
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LIFESTYLES
Professor gives students a look at the "off-beat" things in history of Texas

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SPORTS
KINGS FOR ANOTHER DAY
 Duke Blue Devils win second straight NCAA title

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The Battalion

Court takes 'sting' from undercover government operations

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court on Monday limited some undercover "sting" operations when it ruled that a Nebraska farmer was entrapped by postal agents who coaxed him for two years to buy mail-order child pornography.

By a 5-4 vote, the justices said the farmer lacked predisposition to commit a crime and only purchased the contraband material after the prolonged solicitation of the government.

While the ruling is a defeat for law enforcement officials and a surprise from an increasingly conservative court, its impact

could prove limited.

The court's four dissenters said the decision is a major departure that could hobble investigators. The majority said the ruling represents no change from standards that have let the government conduct sweeping undercover investigations into political corruption, drug dealing and fencing of stolen goods.

Justice Byron R. White wrote for the court, "In their zeal to enforce the law, government agents may not originate a criminal design, implant in an innocent person's mind the disposition to commit a criminal act and then induce commission

of the crime so that the government may prosecute."

He was joined by Justices Harry A. Blackmun, John Paul Stevens, David H. Souter and Clarence Thomas.

Thomas' vote surprised many because the newest justice generally has taken a tough approach to crime and punishment.

Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, writing for the dissenters, said the ruling "redefines predisposition and introduces a new requirement that government sting operations have a reasonable suspicion of illegal activity before contacting a suspect."

She was joined by Chief Justice

William H. Rehnquist, and Justices Antonin Scalia and Anthony M. Kennedy.

"There are good guidelines here that will protect some people who need protection," said Paul Marcus, a law professor at the College of William & Mary. "You can't pursue someone so relentlessly."

Assistant Attorney General Robert S. Mueller III said the court's decision was "generally limited" to the particulars of the Nebraska case, and "will not affect the government's sting operations in the areas of narcotics trafficking and similar crimes."

The case stems from the investigation of Keith Jacobson, 61, of Newman Grove, Neb.

Police found Jacobson's name on a San Diego, Calif., pornography bookstore's mailing list in 1984. He had ordered two nudist magazines from the store that were legal to purchase.

Postal inspectors continuously solicited Jacobson through the mail to buy illegal pornography.

Investigators said he voluntarily responded to mailed questionnaires asking him about his interests in sexually explicit material.

Rape count for year increases to nine

Assault in dormitory reported by student

By Tanya Sasser
 The Battalion

The number of sexual assaults at or near Texas A&M continues to grow at an alarming rate, with a sexual assault this weekend bringing this year's official rape count to nine.

A student reported to the University Police Department that she was sexually assaulted on Sunday by an acquaintance while she was visiting his residence in Dormitory 12 on campus.

UPD Director of Security Bob Wiatt said details about the case are not available because the victim has not decided if she wants the police to launch an official investigation.

"The status of this case is still pending," Wiatt said. "The young lady is not yet sure whether she wishes to pursue the matter."

Wiatt said the woman wants some time to think about her decision.

"The main thing is that she wants to talk to her parents," he said. "We have been investigating the case, but there is a hangup on whether we will be going forward with it or not. This will be entirely up to the young lady."

Kelley Hamlin, a volunteer board member at the Rape Crisis Center, said women should be cautious about acquaintance rape.

"Be aware and cautious," she said. "If it does happen to you, be sure to report it or call the Rape Crisis Center."

Hamlin said, for some reason, the number of sexual assaults seems to increase during this time.



BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

Water works

Kenneth Beddard of Texas A&M Landscape Maintenance cements pipe together for a sprinkler system in front of the Memorial Student Center on Monday.

Peruvian leader sets martial law

Fujimori shuts down media, seals off Congress with tanks

LIMA, Peru (AP) — The military and President Alberto Fujimori shut down magazines and radio stations and detained opposition politicians Monday after suspending the constitution and sending tanks to surround Congress.

The United States called Fujimori's state of emergency declaration "regrettable" and cut aid to Peru. Latin American leaders, fearing a return to dictatorship after a decade of democratization in the region, condemned the move as a "classic coup."

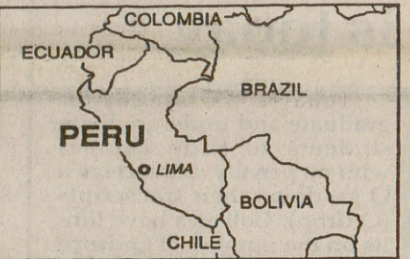
Soldiers halted cars and searched civilians on Lima's outskirts and patrolled in force downtown. Parliamentary leaders were under house arrest and former President Alan Garcia went into hiding.

As Fujimori swore in three new Cabinet members at the presidential palace Monday night, across town lawmakers gathered but were kept from entering a hall by troops.

A congresswoman slapped a soldier and a tear gas grenade was fired into the crowd.

Sen. Raul Ferrero rushed forward and was beaten down with nightsticks. Other lawmakers moved to help him up and another politician was hit. Police fired into the air, sending reporters and bystanders ducking for cover behind cars.

"We will meet again, in public, tomorrow!" shouted Aurelio Loreto



de Mola, the vice president of the Chamber of Deputies, with gas-induced tears streaming down his face. "If they stop us, we will meet again the next day."

Strict censorship was imposed on Peruvian media, and even foreign journalists were under close watch: at The Associated Press office, three soldiers in olive uniforms watched cartoons on television through the day, resting their Belgian-made rifles against a desk.

Fujimori justified the move saying legislative and judicial corruption were shackling his efforts to rouse Peru from a deep recession and combat a 12-year-old guerrilla insurgency that has shifted from mountain strongholds to Lima shantytowns.

Nearly 25,000 people have died in political violence since the Shining Path took up arms in 1980.

The Shining Path has been seeking to provoke a military coup as part of its strategy. Its hope is that a repressive military regime will push Peruvians to support its insurgency.

Prolific science fiction writer Isaac Asimov dies at age 72

NEW YORK (AP) — Isaac Asimov, whose nearly 500 books ranged from science fiction forecasting an era in which mankind and benign robots spread across the galaxy to science fact, histories and humor, died Monday at age 72.

He died of heart and kidney failure at New York University Hospital, said his brother, Stanley Asimov, a vice president of Newsday.

The most popular of Asimov's novels and stories were excursions into a future in which Earth is forgotten by a humanity that spreads through the stars, ruled by a galactic "Foundation" and served by robots.

He set a standard that has been followed by other authors when, in "I, Robot" in 1950, he laid down a set of three laws for robots, the essence of which was that robots may not harm people or stand by and let people get hurt.

Asimov also was one of the most widely read popularizers of science fact, as well as a prolific writer on subjects that amused or interested him, including literature, humor and opera, light and grand. And he was an associate professor of biochemistry at the Boston University School of Medicine.

A hallmark of his fiction was that the science, sometimes mind-boggling, was nonetheless convincing.

One exception, he conceded, was "Fantastic Voyage," about a medical team being miniaturized and injected into a dying man's bloodstream. It was made into a 1966 movie starring Raquel Welch. The miniaturized characters were so small that a molecule of oxygen would have been too big to breathe, he later said.

In his last entry in Who's Who, Asimov credited himself with 467 books, and listed titles of 249.

RUN-OFF ELECTIONS TODAY

Polling for Student Government run-off elections will take place today. Students are able to vote in the run-offs even if they did not vote in the first election.

Polling will take place from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the following locations:

- Blocker Building
- Kleberg Center
- Sterling C. Evans Library
- Zachry Engineering Center

Polling will also take place from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the MSC foyer.

College suspends evaluations

Budget cuts force departments to pay for rating system

By Karen Praslicka
 The Battalion

Some departments at Texas A&M are unable to give student evaluations in all of their classes this semester due to budget cuts.

The departments in the College of Liberal Arts must pay for student evaluations of professors out of their own budgets. Most of the departments will have evaluations in all classes, which is the College's usual policy, but some do not have the money to pay for them.

Dr. Janis Stout, associate dean, said, however, there has been no change in the college's policy to do an evaluation in every class each semester.

This temporary situation does not mean the College will not return to its normal evaluation policy.

"We've told the departments it's up to them this semester," she said. "But that doesn't mean we won't get back to it. I think it will come back in the fall."

The Department of Journalism is the only department within the College that will not have evaluations in any classes. The department has been hit hard by budget cuts, said Dr. Charles Self, the department head.

Self said there was not enough money for teaching programs, and evaluations were just one of the things that had to be cut.

"We've been hit very hard," he said. "We felt that missing one semester would not do long-term damage."

The department has other means of reviewing faculty and getting student input, such as a student panel consisting of presidents of different journalism organizations, he said.

Department administrators meet with the panel during the semester to get student feedback about professors and classes.

"We do believe an evaluation program is extremely important, and we're confident it will be replaced in the fall."

Other departments will still have evaluations, but cannot afford them in all classes.

Dr. Larry Mitchell, head of the Department of English, said student evaluations might be done for some classes, but not all.

"This semester we just don't have any money," he said.