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FORECAST



WEDNESDAY
Scattered T-Storms
High 84
Low 65

OPINION

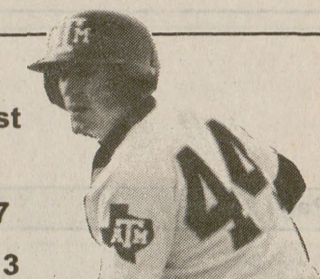
University priorities ?
A&M needs more classes
instead of a Special Events
Center
Battalion Editorial Board
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LIFESTYLES

**Aggie Players perform an
original play by local writers
and actors**
Page 7

SPORTS

**Aggies host
Stephen F.
Austin
tonight at 7**
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The Battalion

Vol. 91 No. 130 College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" 10 Pages Tuesday, April 14, 1992

Third victim dies from explosion

Investigators continue search for cause of disaster

BRENHAM (AP) — Investigators of last week's gas explosion said Monday they were testing a salt dome storage facility for any leak that might have prompted the blast, now responsible for three deaths.

A woman severely burned in the explosion became the latest victim of the massive explosion. Delores Medve, 27, died Sunday at Houston's Hermann Hospital.

Her mother, Gloria Diver, 46, died Friday from burns she also suffered in the explosion. Diver was buried Monday afternoon in Brenham, and services were scheduled Tuesday for Medve.

Medve's son, Travis, 3, also

was injured, but he remained in stable condition Monday at Hermann.

The three were in a car that was burned and nearly flattened in the explosion last Tuesday. Authorities said the vehicle may have ignited the explosion when it drove into a vapor cloud.

Jane Meinen, 31, also was injured and remained in critical condition Monday at Hermann, hospital officials said.

Meinen's 5-year-old son, Derrick, was killed instantly when the blast destroyed his family's mobile home.

The National Transportation Safety Board and the Texas Rail-

road Commission said Monday they were still investigating the cause of the explosion, which occurred near the Seminole Pipeline Co. salt dome storage facility.

"While a final cause is not yet known, our investigation now centers on the injection well used by Seminole to move gas products into and out of the salt dome cavern itself," Lena Guerrero, commission chair, said in a statement issued in Austin.

Investigators believe there may have been a release of liquefied petroleum gas products from the storage cavern prior to the explosion that rocked the rural countryside, the statement said.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin's Cabinet resigned Monday over efforts by the parliament to change his economic policies

Yeltsin's Cabinet members resign to protest parliament

MOSCOW (AP) — The Cabinet of President Boris Yeltsin submitted its resignation en masse Monday, telling a combative parliament that abandoning free market reforms could heighten inflation and block Russia's entry into the world marketplace.

Yeltsin asked his ministers to continue working a few days through the end of the parliament session, when he will decide whether to accept their resignations, Deputy Premier Yegor Gaidar said.

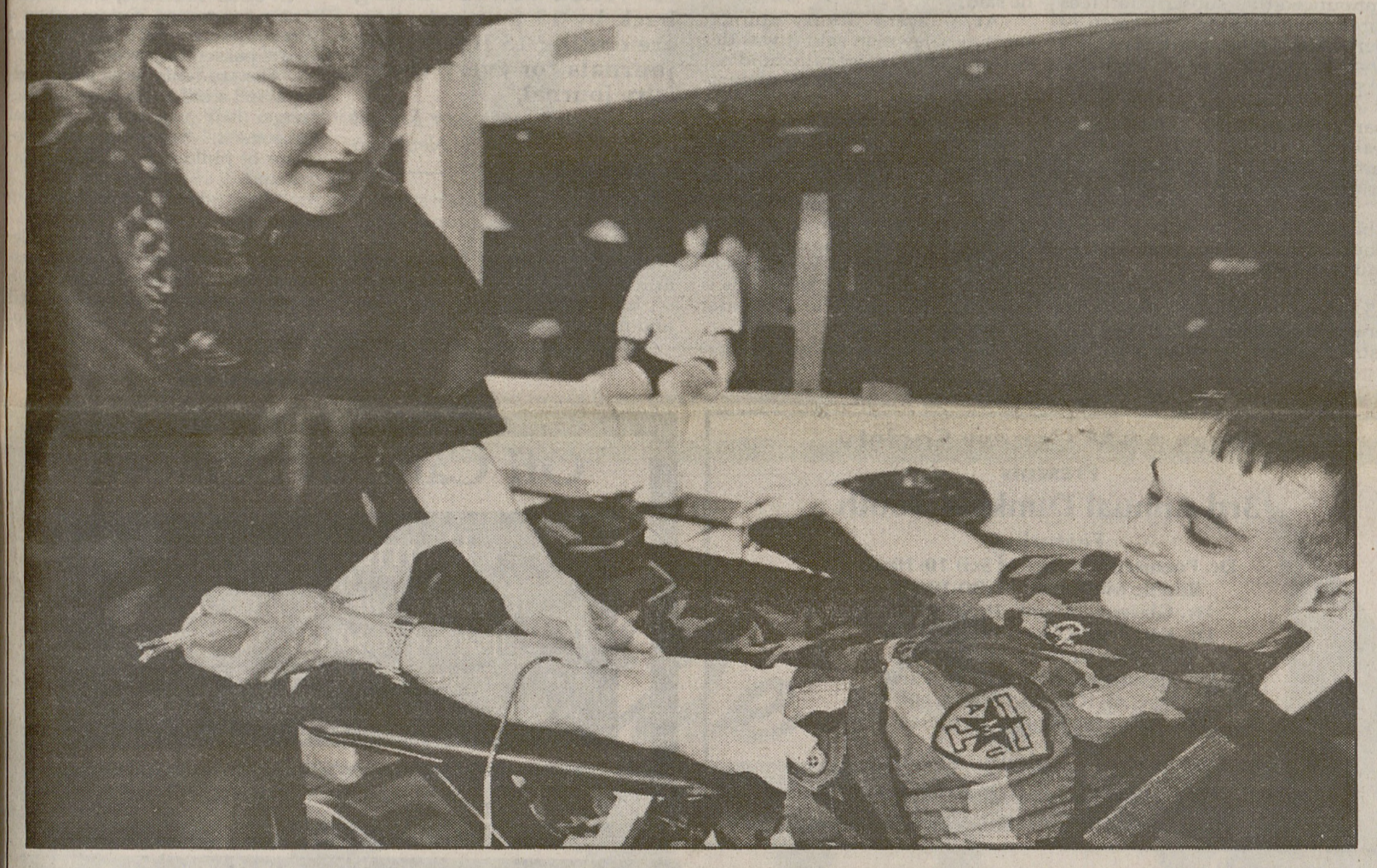
The Cabinet's departure could create the worst governmental crisis since the Soviet collapse in December. The ministers had been threatening to quit to protest par-

liament's vote Saturday to demand changes in Yeltsin's economic reforms.

Several legislators said they thought the resignations were a bluff, and Parliament Speaker Ruslan Khasbulatov addressed the ministers with such derision that they walked out of the 1,046-member Congress of People's Deputies.

"Don't try to blackmail us," Khasbulatov told the ministers, drawing cheers from many lawmakers. "We are not afraid of anyone or anything."

"If you want to work, dear members of the government, you have everything that is necessary to your work," Khasbulatov added.



DARRIN HILL/The Battalion

Blood drive: a pint at a time

Wadley Blood Bank attendant Michelle Albritton takes blood Monday in the Commons from Kendall Brock, a senior political

science major from Houston. The blood drive will be held this week from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at Sbisa, the Commons and the MSC.

Report of 10th sexual assault alarms police

By Tanya Sasser
The Battalion

Police are becoming worried about the increase in the number of rapes in College Station as the 10th sexual assault in the city since January was reported to the College Station Police Department at 1 a.m. Monday.

The victim in the case reported that she was raped by an acquaintance sometime late Sunday night or early Monday morning, said Sgt. Robert Cahill of the CSPD.

Cahill said the status of this case is still pending and the department also is investigating another sexual assault that occurred behind Kinko's on University Drive across from Texas A&M earlier this month.

"We've been up to our eyes in this task force stuff," he said. "We are still working on the assault that involved a stranger, the one by Kinko's."

Cahill said the number of assaults reported to police officers this year is alarming.

"This concerns us very much and we are all worried about the

Rapists attack to gain control, counselor says

By Alysia Woods
The Battalion

When rapists decide to attack, it has nothing to do with sex, says a local rape crisis counselor.

Brazos County Rape Crisis Center Director Linda Castoria says when her staff educates community groups on sexual assault, they are quick to remind people that rape is nothing more than a crime of violence.

"It's their need to dominate and control," says Castoria. "Sex is just the weapon that rapists decide to use."

Castoria says 60 to 70 percent of all sex offenders have normal sexual relationships with other people.

"That's one reason why I

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Bush orders limits on union spending

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush's order limiting union political spending — most of which supports Democrats — probably won't have much impact except to create a bookkeeping headache, labor leaders said Monday.

"Through this obsequious pandering to the ultra-right . . . the president has given hypocrisy a bad name," AFL-CIO President Lane Kirkland said.

He said Bush's action was "entirely a political gesture" and would have little or no effect on the way the 14.2 million-member



Bush

labor federation and its 90 unions conduct political business. The AFL-CIO is exploring a possible legal challenge to the order, he said.

At issue is an executive order signed Monday by Bush that requires federal contractors to tell non-union employees "in the clearest possible terms" that their union contributions may not be used against their wishes for political activities.

Surgeon general renews attack on teen drinking

WASHINGTON (AP) — The surgeon general said Monday that alcohol is leading the nation's youth into emergency rooms and jails, as she cited statistics ranging from date rape to drownings to make her case.

It's part of a crusade that Surgeon General Antonia Novello has been on for months, and the alcohol industry was clearly irritated after her news conference.

Jeff Becker, a spokesman for the Beer Institute, said the industry has been trying to get Novello to discuss the issue quietly.

"I think the answer was shown today," he said.

Novello cited figures to show

the problems caused by young people abusing alcohol, including



"Many of our college students seem to major in alcohol abuse."
Surgeon General Novello

accidents, deaths, assaults, rapes, bad grades in school and dropouts.

She didn't offer much that was new; even the statistics that she released were drawn from reports already published in newspapers, magazines and medical journals over the past 10 years.

Among the statistics:

- About a third of the youths committing serious crimes consumed alcohol just before the offense.
- More than 70 percent of teen suicides involved frequent use of alcohol or drugs.
- Alcohol is a factor in more than half of the rapes among college-age students; 55 percent of the alleged rapists and 53 percent

of the victims were under the influence of alcohol at the time.

"For every injury death, there are 16 hospitalizations and 381 injuries requiring medical care," she said.

She cited material published in a medical journal, the Journal of Counseling Psychology, in 1987 on alcohol's role in rape.

"I was shocked by the data on date rape: Among high school female students, 18 percent — almost one in five — said that 'it was OK to force sex if the girl was drunk,'" the surgeon general said.

"Many of our college students seem to major in alcohol abuse," she said.

Committee limits fall registration to 16 hours for students

By Melody Dunne
The Battalion

The Texas A&M telephone registration system has a new feature this semester. Undergraduates attempting to register by phone for more than 16 hours for fall classes are being interrupted by a voice saying, "The class you have requested will exceed the 16-hour maximum."

Dr. Sallie Sheppard, associate provost for undergraduate programs and academic services, said a committee comprised

primarily of associate deans from all colleges recently decided to limit the hours undergraduates could sign up for during pre-registration to prevent abuse of the system.

"Students register for their friends' classes and hold them until they can register," she said. "More people get an opportunity to register this way."

She said seniors were signing up for entry-level courses — like Math 151 — and then dropping the course so one of their friends could register.

Sheppard said the goal of the subcom-

mittee on pre-registration, a part of the Academic Operations Committee, was to allow more people to register for the classes they need and to make registration a more equitable process.

Graduate students have been advised to not register for more than 12 hours, she said, but the Student Information Management System (SIMS), or computer registration, would not stop them if they attempted to register for more than 12.

Dr. Kenneth R. Poenisch, assistant dean of the College of Science and head of the subcommittee, said one of the reasons

they chose 16 hours as the maximum is because the average course load students take is a little over 14 hours.

Until open registration begins on May 5, Poenisch said undergraduates who wish to register for more than 16 hours will have to contact the dean of their college. If approved, the student can take an add form to the Pavilion and can be registered there.

"Graduating seniors or students who have demonstrated in the past that they can handle the extra load of 18 or 19 hours will be allowed to register for the classes

they need," he said.

Jeanette Haynes, a speech communications major from Houston, said she will need to take 18 hours next fall in order to graduate on time.

"I just heard about this limit yesterday," Haynes said. "In order to graduate in December I need an extra class."

During open registration, students will be allowed to register for the number of courses allowed by their GPR, she said. Students who have a 3.0 or better can reg-

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