


FORECAST



TUESDAY
Partly cloudy
Highs in 70s
Lows in 60s

OPINION

Have we grown so big that the life of a single person means nothing to us?
—Michael Sullivan, columnist

Page 7

INSIDE


PETITIONING FOR PEROT
Supporters and opponents of Ross Perot recall his past crusades for changes in Texas' education system

Page 2

SPORTS

THE WAITING GAME
Cornerback Kevin Smith looks to first round of NFL draft

Page 5



The Battalion

Permanent replacements for strikers become election issue

WASHINGTON (AP) — It played in favor of Caterpillar, and now it is being played out again in Congress: an election-year struggle over the right of businesses to hire permanent replacements for striking workers.

"The threat of strike replacements was a major factor in causing the union to throw in the towel" in the recent five-month United Auto Workers strike at Caterpillar plants in Peoria and elsewhere in Illinois, argues Sen. Howard Jettzenbaum, D-Ohio, a leader in the Senate effort to ban permanent replacements. There seems little doubt.

Within days after the company advertised for replacements, 12,600 UAW

workers went back to their jobs.

It is a law that has been on the books since 1938. But it was used sparingly until 1981, when President Reagan fired striking government air traffic controllers and replaced them permanently.

Since then, unions complain that increasing numbers of corporations have turned to the tactic in strikes. Greyhound and Eastern Airlines are among these corporations.

The bill would allow companies to hire temporary replacements, but business says such a move is usually impractical.

According to a study last year by Congress' General Accounting Office, companies threatened to hire permanent

replacements in about one-third of all strikes.

But they actually hired new workers in 17 percent of the walkouts, and permanently replaced just 4 percent of their striking employees.

"It is a bedrock issue to us," says Barbara Warden, a congressional lobbyist for UAW.

It is also an issue that is caught up in election-year politics.

The House approved the ban last year, and Senate Democrats are within striking distance of the 60 votes needed to pass it over a filibuster.

But President Bush has threatened a veto, and neither the House nor the Sen-

ate is expected to be able to override a veto.

And with Democratic presidential front-runner Bill Clinton as well as labor's allies in Congress supporting the bill, the prospect is for legislative stalemate — and political maneuvering.

Democrats and labor leaders say forcing Bush to veto the measure would hurt him in November by adding to a list of pro-worker bills he has opposed, including extended unemployment benefits, civil rights and family leave. Democrats hope the rejection of each bill will pull so-called Reagan Democrats — many of whom are union members — back into the Democratic fold, this fall.

"This would very definitely be brought up in the election by the unions, not only against the president but against Republicans who voted that way," promises lobbyist Jack Sheehan of the United Steelworkers of America.

For their part, Republicans would like to prevent Bush from having to cast a veto. But they say the fight will relabel Democrats as the liberal party of special interests, a tag that hurt them in Walter Mondale's 1984 presidential campaign.

"This is an extreme bill," says Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, adding that the measure shows that Democrats' "idea of an economic recovery plan is more plant closings, more strikes."

Engineers plug leak in Chicago

Businesses to resume normal operations

CHICAGO (AP) — After six days, engineers finally plugged the tunnel leak under the Chicago River that caused a devastating flood and virtually shut down business in the heart of the city, officials said Sunday.

They said business in the city's Loop, the business district, could go back to normal — or almost. The flooding, which began Monday, swamped basements and caused power outages in some of the nation's largest buildings.

Commonwealth Edison said Sunday that electricity was restored to all but 11 Loop buildings that still must have their basements drained and other problems repaired before it is safe to turn power back on.

Marshall Field's Flagship State Street department store said it planned to reopen Monday after workers spent a week pumping water from a basement.

It was late Saturday that the last bit of concrete was poured in three spots needed to plug leaks in the century-old system of tunnels below the Loop.

On Sunday, workers further sealed the concrete plug with grout, a thin mortar to fill chinks.

A tunnel wall was breached through the bed of the river Monday, and more than 250 million gallons of dirty river water poured into the 50-mile underground network and into basements.

Once used to deliver coal, mail and freight, the system now contains a modern equivalent: electric cables.

"In short terms, the leak is plugged," said Billy Davis, an aide to Mayor Richard M. Daley. And that means a return to some kind of normalcy Monday in the central business district, he said.

"Most Loop businesses will be able to reopen," he said.

However, the financial loss that drained from the city and its businesses remains untold.



BILLY MORAN/The Battalion

Eggspectant hunter

Matthew Westhusin (left), 4, takes a candy rabbit out of an Easter egg with the help of his

father as his little brother watches. The family participated in St. Mary's egg hunt Sunday.

Islamic rebels seize territory

Muslim leader makes threats to attack besieged capital despite call for unity

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP) — Muslim rebels seized more territory on Sunday and tried to put aside rivalries to avoid a bloody scramble for power. But one rebel leader renewed his threats to attack the besieged capital.

A non-communist official took charge of ousted President Najibullah's crumbling regime, but the government's power was virtually gone.

Leaders from 10 rebel groups met in Peshawar, Pakistan, and agreed to form an interim council to negotiate with the remnants of the Kabul government. A Pakistan Foreign Ministry spokesman, Javed Hussein, said there was a "broad consensus" on an orderly transfer of power to end the 14-year-old civil war.

However, the most fundamen-

talist rebel faction, Hezb-i-Islami led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, rejected the interim council plan.

"We don't see any prospect for a (peaceful) solution," said Hekmatyar's spokesman in Pakistan, Nawab Salim. "It is not a joke. Either the government in Kabul surrenders or we will attack."

Hekmatyar's faction was once one of the biggest recipients of U.S. military aid despite his strong anti-American stance. He opposed any backing from Iran.

The fundamentalists are also warning of a showdown with more moderate guerrilla chief Ahmed Shah Masood, whose fighters have encircled Kabul and forced Najibullah to flee into hiding on Thursday.

See Leader /Page 8

Afghanistan politics provide possible bridge for U.S., Iran

WASHINGTON (AP) — The bloodstained politics of Afghanistan are creating a new opportunity for Iran and the United States to find common ground. Whether either country will grasp it is as uncertain as the outcome of the fighting around Kabul.

Enemies since Islamic militants stormed the U.S. embassy in Tehran nearly 13 years ago, the two nations seek the same outcome in Afghanistan — a coalition government that will prevent the country from breaking apart.

On the other hand, Pakistan, a longtime U.S. ally, sees advantage in a fractured Afghanistan.

Given the limitations that Washington faces in shaping events in the post-Soviet world, the opportunity for closer cooperation with Tehran may be the best

the Bush administration can hope for in Afghanistan.

Abdul Rahim Hatif, a non-communist, took over Sunday as acting president, state-run Kabul Radio announced. President Najibullah, who was put in power by Moscow by 1986, remains in hiding.

With rival insurgent factions ringing the capital, powerful rebel commander Ahmed Shah Masood said he was putting together a coalition that will seek to replace the crumbling government.

"Please, do not have violence," was the plaintive appeal from the U.S. State Department to the rival factions.

When it comes to having an impact on the fighting, former State

See Official /Page 8

Students, faculty to render assistance in border towns

By Julie Polston
The Battalion

Students and faculty from the Texas A&M College of Architecture are traveling to Texas border towns this summer to build two community resource centers financed by the state legislature.

The two areas scheduled for development are Cameron Park near Brownsville, and Progresso located south of Weslaco. The towns are colonias, impoverished Hispanic settlements in Texas' southernmost counties.

Colonias residents experience a variety of problems, including poor health care and lack of education. Consequently, the project needs many people to complete the facilities successfully.

"The centers will be designed based on input from colonias residents and will involve construction teams made up of faculty, students, service providers and the residents themselves," said Dr. Allen Commander, director of A&M's Center for Housing and Urban Development.

The resource centers will offer nutritional training and health care services such as prenatal programs and flu vaccination clinics, said Kermit Black, program coordinator.

In addition, the facilities will address issues such as illiteracy and teenage pregnancy.

Black said most colonias residents speak only Spanish and unemployment is thought to be more

See State/Page 8

'93 Aggieland editor to take reins

Yearbook head prepares for staff appointments

By Matari Jones
The Battalion



HUY NGUYEN/The Battalion

Donna Roth, a junior English major prepares to take over as editor of the 1993 Aggieland. Her major duty will be to select a quality staff.

The new editor of the 1993 Aggieland plans to bring organizational skills, insight and interpersonal communications to the new staff.

The Aggieland serves as a memory book that boosts students' morale, said Donna Roth, a junior English major from Mount Pleasant.

"When you pick up your yearbook, you feel A&M," she says.

Roth says the Aggieland has A&M written all over it with traditions like the Corps of Cadets and student organizations.

Roth began her Aggieland career as

the Administration/Academics section editor in 1992. One of the changes she added was more feature stories on students in the different colleges on campus and the activities they were involved in.

For example, in the College of Architecture, Roth did a feature story titled "The 24-hour Major" which focused on the projects of the architecture students.

One new addition for the 1992 Aggieland will be pictures of the College of Geosciences at Galveston. Roth said many students do not even know that it is a part of Texas A&M.

Roth's major duty as editor will be the selection of a well-rounded, experienced staff.

See Quality/Page 8