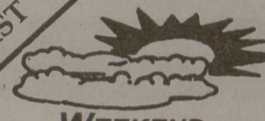


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FORECAST



WEEKEND
Partly cloudy
Highs 75-78
Lows 57-63

OPINION

Bryan's future alcohol and drug treatment center provides a good example of how a community and a college can help each other
— Battalion Editorial Board
Page 7

SPORTS



Draft decisions
NFL evaluates potential of A&M football players for next season
Page 5

INSIDE

What's in a name?
The Department of Engineering Technology's name change creates dissent among some engineering students
Page 2

The Battalion

Vol. 91 No. 138 College Station, Texas "Serving Texas A&M since 1893" 8 Pages Friday, April 24, 1992

Find of the universe

Satellite locates possible origin of 'big bang'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A spacecraft has discovered the largest and oldest structures in the universe, wispy clouds that show how creation's "big bang" led to formation of stars and galaxies, scientists said Thursday.

"If you're religious, it's like looking at God," said research team leader George Smoot, an astrophysicist at Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory and the University of California, Berkeley.

The discovery was made by NASA's Cosmic Background Explorer (COBE) satellite during its \$400 million mission to study the universe's origins.

Researchers say more than 300 million measurements by the spacecraft answer a question that

has long vexed scientists: How did matter that was uniformly spread out in the newborn universe start clumping together to produce stars, galaxies and clusters of galaxies?

If the research is confirmed, "it's one of the major discoveries of the century. In fact, it's one of the major discoveries of science," said physicist Joel Primack of the University of California, Santa Cruz.

Smoot and his team presented the findings at an American Physical Society meeting in Washington, D.C. NASA also issued an announcement.

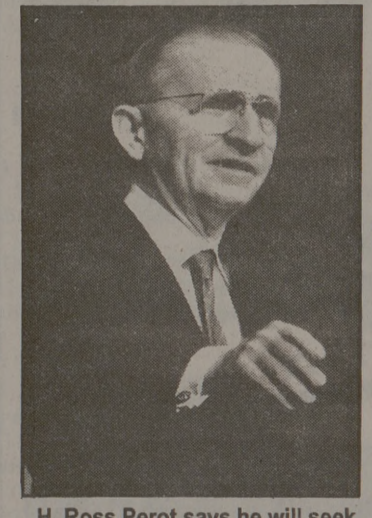
"We have observed what we believe are the largest and most ancient structures in the uni-

verse," extremely thin clouds or ripples that represent the earliest stages of matter starting to clump together in the newborn universe, Smoot said during a Washington news conference.

He said the clouds were formed only about 300,000 years after the big bang, the primordial blast scientists believe created the universe 15 billion years ago.

The largest clouds stretch across two-thirds of the known universe, or 59 billion trillion miles, Smoot said. That's roughly 120 million billion round trips between Earth and the moon.

"If they are right, it is a very big deal," said Joseph Silk, a professor of astronomy and physics at UC-Berkeley.



H. Ross Perot says he will seek the presidency without being on all 50 state ballots

Perot expands efforts for presidential bid

DALLAS (AP) — H. Ross Perot is moving steadily toward a full-fledged presidential bid, expanding his political staff and laying on an increasing number of appearances. At the same time, the Texas billionaire is scaling back his 800-number because it has fulfilled its main purpose.

"At this point, there is more than an ample number of volunteers to get petitions signed" to get him on the ballot as an independent candidate nationwide, Perot told reporters Thursday.

In an interview a day earlier with The Associated Press, Perot

said he has dropped his insistence that his name be added to ballots in all 50 states before he'll run — although he still expects to get on all the ballots.

He raised the possibility that an active campaign to keep him off the ballot in New York — which has strict rules on independent candidacies — might succeed.

"I'd probably go ahead and run" even without New York, Perot said. He conceded that would present "an interesting problem," given the state's large number of electoral votes.

University centralizes resources

A&M investments earn larger returns

By Karen Praslicka
The Battalion

The Texas A&M University System is increasing returns on its investments through a centralization program adopted from the corporate world.

The program allows individual universities and agencies within the system to benefit by pooling all of their funds. The system can now invest a large amount of money and get a bigger return, instead of each entity investing separate smaller amounts.

Greg Anderson, interim system comptroller and director of treasury services, said the program has increased the money returns to the A&M system by \$11 million since its implementation in 1990.

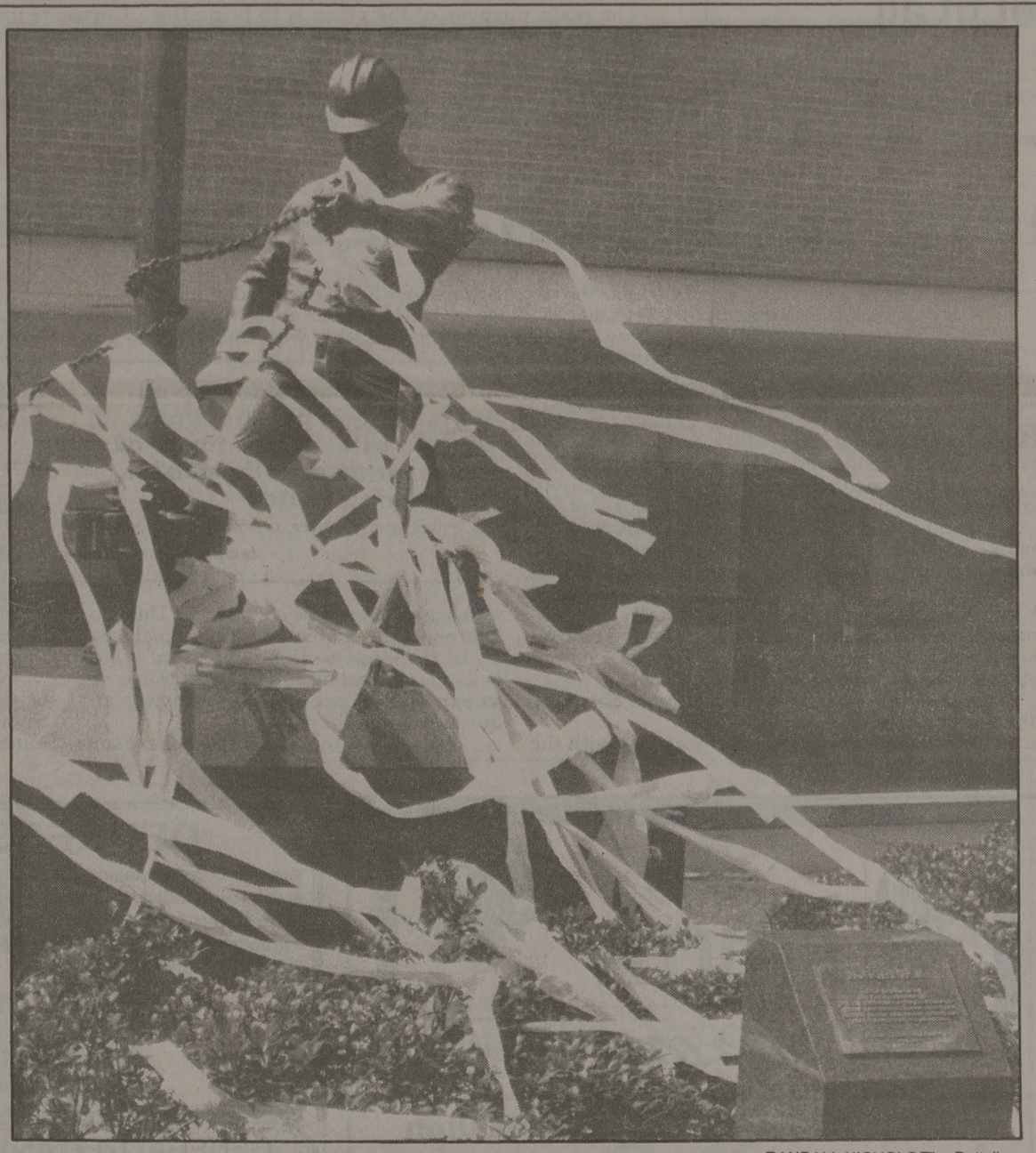
"There was a need to combine returns to bring forth a big return," he said.

Each university and agency within the A&M system used to handle its own funds and investments, with 14 different accounts used for daily operating expenses and investments.

"We had lots of cash and securities, which isn't as efficient as when we combined the parts," Anderson said.

Now that the funds of all the parts of the A&M system have combined, the funds go through one master concentration account. Each university and agency has its own disbursement account, which is set to a zero balance each night.

Each morning, the system



Wrapped Roughneck
The Roughneck statue outside the Richardson Building was covered in toilet paper Thursday afternoon sometime before 3:30 p.m. No one has claimed responsibility.

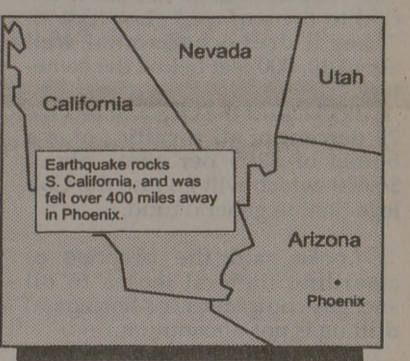
Earthquake awakens anxiety in Californians

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Hundreds of aftershocks sent ripples of anxiety through Southern California on Thursday, hours after a strong desert earthquake caused isolated damage and dozens of injuries.

Earthquake experts cautioned there was a slight chance Wednesday night's magnitude 6.1 tremor could be a precursor to the long-dreaded "Big One."

"We're long overdue for one — a 7.0 or greater... so we're advising communities... to be on their toes," said Lt. Ben Nottingham, spokesman for the Los Angeles County Office of Emergency Management.

Authorities estimated damage from the quake at about \$1 million in the Morongo Basin, which includes the communities of Joshua Tree and Yucca Valley about 100 miles east of Los Angeles.



RACHEL HYMEL/The Battalion

"There are no two-story buildings out here and that could contribute to the low damage figures," said Sgt. Ben Boswell, commander of San Bernardino County's disaster preparedness division.

Mexican officials evacuate residents from explosion site

GUADALAJARA, Mexico (AP) — Fearing more explosions, authorities Thursday evacuated a neighborhood near a working-class district wrecked a day earlier by sewer-line blasts that killed as many as 202 people and injured over 1,300.

Moving quickly to control political damage, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari gave his attorney general 72 hours to determine who was at fault for Mexico's

deadliest explosion since 1984. The state governor blamed three city officials for taking no action on residents' complaints of leaking gas.

The national oil company Pemex continued to deny blame for the blasts, but suspended its natural gas deliveries to industrial customers in the Reforma neighborhood and closed its gas stations there as a "safety precaution," said Pemex's director-general.

Exxon official discusses Valdez oil spill cleanup

By Jayme Blaschke
The Battalion

Oil-eating bacteria tested during the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Alaska have greatly increased oil spill cleanup capabilities worldwide, an Exxon researcher said Thursday night at an American Chemistry Society seminar in College Station.

Dr. Edward Stiefel, a scientist with Exxon Research and Engineering, said the cleanup of Prince William Sound in Alaska was the largest use of bioremediation (oil-consuming organisms) ever attempted and would not have been possible without EPA cooperation.

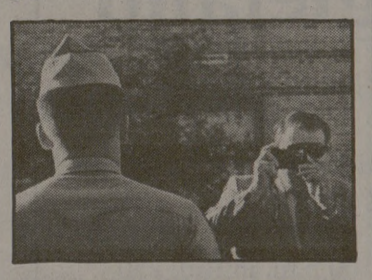
The supertanker Exxon Valdez ran aground on Bligh Reef March 24, 1989, spilling about a quarter of a million barrels of oil into Prince William Sound.

"Of the 1,100 miles of coastline contaminated, about 300 miles were heavily hit with oil a couple of inches to a couple of feet deep," Stiefel said. "Chemical oil dispersants were not allowed at all, so we got permission to try bioremediation."

"The bulk of the oil was taken up manually and by washing it off the beach so it could be collected by skimmer ships, but that still left a lot of oil on the beach," he said. "Our studies however, showed the oil on the beach was already being degraded."

The oil on the beaches was being degraded because the area already was a haven for oil-consuming microbes, Stiefel said.

Around Prince William Sound there are 28 natural petroleum seeps, where oil deposits leak into



Parents' Weekend

SUMMARY OF EVENTS FOR FRIDAY:

- 3 p.m. — Who's Who Award Ceremony (MSC 205-206)
- 7 p.m. — RHA Casino (MSC) and MSC Variety Show (Rudder Auditorium) begin
- Midnight — Ol' Army Yell Practice (Kyle Field)

Parents' Weekend schedules are available in the MSC.

Rape — 'a tragedy of youth'

WASHINGTON (AP) — A government-funded study released Thursday found 683,000 American women were raped in 1990 — a far higher number than other government reports have said — and that 12.1 million women have been rape victims at least once.

In addition, the National Women's Study said almost 62 percent of the rape victims said they were attacked when they were minors, with about 29 percent saying they were younger than 11.

"Rape does seem to be a tragedy of youth in America," said Dean Kilpatrick, who directed the research and is co-author of the report, "Rape in America."

The study, funded by the National Institute on Drug Abuse, involved female interviewers talking to some 4,000 women by telephone about rapes in the previous

year and earlier.

The survey also found that:

- Of the estimated 12.1 million women who have been raped, about 6.8 million were raped once, 4.7 million more than once and about 600,000 were unsure of the number of times.
- Twenty-nine percent of perpetrators were non-relatives known to the victim, such as neighbors or friends. Twenty-two percent were strangers; 16 percent were relatives other than immediate family; 11 percent father or stepfather; 10 percent boyfriend or ex-boyfriend and 9 percent husband or ex-husband. Three percent were not sure or refused to answer.
- Seventy percent of rape victims were unharmed, while 24 percent suffered minor injuries and 4 percent were seriously hurt.

The survey did not account for rape-murder victims.

— Rape victims' most important concerns after the assault were the family finding out, being blamed by others for the attack, and others knowing about it.

Those worries declined slightly among those raped in the last five years. But there were increased fears of having their name become public, getting AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases and becoming pregnant.

The study's estimate of 683,000 forcible rapes in 1990 — based on an estimate of 0.7 percent of the adult female population — was more than five times larger than the National Crime Survey figure of 130,000 attempted and completed rapes that year.

See Creative/Page 4

See Scientist/Page 8