

THE BATTALION

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Quake, aftershocks rock Los Angeles



The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — An earthquake devastated the sleeping suburbs of the San Fernando Valley on Monday, crumpling freeways and apartment complexes and hurling fireballs through cracked and flooded streets. At least 30 people were killed.

Thousands of terrified residents fled their homes onto darkened sidewalks and "a tidal wave of walking wounded" was sent to hospitals.

Fourteen people died in one apartment building near the epicen-

Death toll at 30 from earthquake felt from San Diego to Las Vegas; measured 6.6 on Richter scale

ter of the quake, which measured 6.6 on the Richter scale and was felt from San Diego to Las Vegas.

A handful of motorists were briefly trapped in tons of concrete rubble as overpasses on three freeways buckled, severing Interstate 5, California's main north-south highway, and Interstate 10, the nation's busiest freeway.

The quake derailed a freight train carrying sulfuric acid, and briefly

closed Los Angeles International Airport. Telephone service was lost throughout the region and power was disrupted as far away as Canada.

"The whole street was on fire. Even the tall palm trees were burning. It was a very frightening experience.

We lost everything. We have

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A&M forgoes probation appeal; will comply with NCAA actions

Texas A&M University will not appeal the findings and penalties of the NCAA Committee on Infractions. The announcement was made Monday by A&M Interim President Dr. E. Dean Gage.

"We deeply regret that this case arose and our goal and unequivocal commitment must be to never again face a similar issue," Gage said. "This isolated and unique case is a disappointment to all who have worked so hard on total compliance and institutional control."

Gage said the University has taken and will take additional actions to enhance and strengthen all compliance programs and will work with the NCAA staff and others to ensure that it will do all possible in every area of compliance.

Paying tribute to Dr. King



Jennifer Willis, a junior chemistry major, takes part in "By the Content of Their Character: a Tribute to the Legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.," sponsored by the Committee on Multicultural Awareness.

Workshop scheduled to teach regents tenure

By Kim McGuire

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A February workshop has been planned to inform Texas A&M Board of Regent members about University policies concerning tenure in hopes of ending confusion about the matter.

Terri Parker, system communications director, said Regent William Clayton will head the workshop which will attempt to inform the regents about all the policies concerning tenure.

Parker said a heated discussion about tenure occurred at the regent's December meeting when the regents were considering tenure recommendations.

These recommendations are based on a professor's teaching, research and community service.

Several regents originally voted against granting tenure, but Chairman Ross Margraves pleaded with the regents to change their vote until a group could be formed to study the matter.

A few of the regents discussed their reservations about granting tenure because they feared there were no means of dismissing unproductive tenured professors.

Regent Mary Nan West said a review system should be established to study ways of dismissing unproductive tenured professors.

"I'm not against tenure," West said. "But we have no mechanism of getting rid of someone who doesn't cut the mustard," so to speak.

Regent T. Michael O'Connor said a forum should be established where students, faculty and administrators could voice their opinion before tenure is granted.

Regent William Clayton said the dismissal of professors with tenure often leads to lawsuits.

"We need to be able to fire at will if a professor is not performing adequately," Clayton said.

"I will not vote for giving someone a permanent job."

Dr. Manuel Davenport, chairman of the committee on academic freedom, resignation and

tenure, said granting tenure is not guaranteeing a professor a permanent job.

"All tenure is is a guarantee to a hearing if your job is in question," he said.

"It's nothing but a guarantee of due process. Professors without tenure can be fired at will whereas tenured professors cannot."

Davenport said if a tenured professor's job is in question that person would be granted a hearing at which the University must convince a hearing committee the professor is being dismissed for infractions, such as professional incompetence or immoral behavior.

"The committee considers factors like published articles, all kinds of evaluations, contributions to the University and community service," Davenport said.

He said the University would be "greatly damaged" if tenure was ever abolished.

"The American Association of University Professors puts schools who don't grant tenure on a censured list," Davenport said.

"No quality professor would take a job here as a result and you'd see a mass departure of high-quality professors and department heads to schools with tenure. Frankly, A&M would become a laughingstock."

Davenport said A&M was placed on the censure list in 1967 by the AAUP for not offering tenure which was finally established in 1968 by University department heads.

He said he thought it would take an act of the state legislature to abolish tenure but said it would have the same effect if the regents consistently denied professors coming up for tenure.

Davenport thought an educational workshop about tenure for the regents would be a good idea, but said he was appalled the regents didn't know how tenure works.

"The tenure process is explicitly spelled out in the University's policy and procedures manual," Davenport said.

"Frankly, I'm appalled the regents haven't read the regulations in that manual. It's their job to know the regulations governing the University."

Women's week plans highlight senate meeting

The Texas A&M Faculty Senate will vote Tuesday on a resolution declaring March 27-April 2 "Women's Week" at the University during their 3:15 p.m. meeting in 601 Rudder Tower.

Activities planned for "Women's Week" include seminars, women speakers, art and cultural exhibits and award presentations. March is National Women's History Month.

The Faculty Senate will also discuss a report on the status of women at Texas A&M University.

If the resolution passes, it will be forwarded to A&M Interim President E. Dean Gage for approval.

Gas leak shuts down Taco Cabana, Texas Ave.

By Geneen Pipher

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Portions of south Texas Avenue were shut down, and several local businesses were evacuated Monday during the midday rush hour after a gas pipe ruptured, spewing large amounts of natural gas into the air.

Pat Quinlan, acting lieutenant at the College Station Fire Department, said heavy construction vehicles compressed the ground over the gas lines at the intersection of south Texas and Poplar in College Station, causing the pipe to burst.

All traffic on Texas Avenue was diverted to University Drive for almost 45 minutes, causing delays and traffic jams for Bryan-College Station motorists.

Lt. Irvin Todd of the College Station Police Department said because of the possibility of an explosion, all patrons and employees from three area businesses had to be evacuated.

"It was a two-inch pipe with 200 psi (pounds per

square inch) of natural gas leaking," he said. "That is certainly a danger to people in the immediate area, which is why they had to be evacuated."

Howard Matson, director of communication at Lone Star Gas Company, said the chances of explosion or fire were fairly slim because wind conditions helped the gas dissipate very quickly.

"The evacuation was really just to ensure safety," Matson said.

"There was really very little chance of fire or explosion because the ratio of gas to air needed to cause fire or explosion was not there. The leak has been fixed, and there is really nothing to worry about."

Hal Hart, manager of the Bombay Bicycle Club, said the evacuation caused confusion and disruption of business for almost an hour.

"The whole thing was just an inconvenience," Hart said.

"The patrons that were in the restaurant at the time were very understanding, but they left to eat somewhere else. It was right in the middle of the lunch hour, and

we were kept outside for probably 45 minutes to an hour."

Despite being frightened, the lunch crowd at Taco Cabana remained calm and exited the building quickly according to Manager Connie Gibbs.

"When the firefighter came into the restaurant, he told us we needed to get out quickly in case the gas were to explode and the look in his eyes scared me," Gibbs said. "All the guests were a little scared but very cooperative. They got out smoothly. I think they were concerned because they weren't allowed to go to their cars, and the fire fighters kept telling us to move further and further away from the restaurant."

Gibbs said she is not upset about the inconvenience or loss of business caused by the evacuation.

"When we were out there on the street all we were worried about was whether or not the whole block was going to blow up or whether our cars would be taken in fire," she said. "I wasn't worried about whether or not I was making money."

Administration appoints special counsel for Whitewater; Republicans push for hearings to protect public trust

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Republican congressman pressed again Sunday for congressional hearings into President Clinton's ties to a failed S&L, calling the Arkansas venture a small issue but one of public trust.

The administration, meanwhile, stressed that Clinton is cooperating fully with a probe, and a Senate Democrat accused the GOP of rehabilitating the issue for partisan gain even after Clinton agreed that a special counsel should investigate.

"All the information has been turned over, every scrap of it. A special counsel (is being) appointed. What do you want?" Vice President Al Gore asked Sunday on ABC's "This Week with David Brinkley."

Attorney General Janet Reno is expected soon to announce the name of a counsel to investigate the ties between Clinton, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton and James McDougal, owner of the Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan that failed in 1989 at a cost to taxpayers of \$47 million.

McDougal and the Clintons also co-owned the Whitewater Development Corp., an Arkansas real estate venture.

Investigators are trying to determine whether Madison S&L funds were illegally diverted to Whitewater or to help Clinton repay a \$50,000 loan for his 1984 gubernatorial campaign.

Clinton denies any wrongdoing, saying he lost \$68,900 in the Whitewater venture.

McDougal's attorney, Sam Heuer, agreed

Sunday. "I would suspect if there were some secrets, we would have known them long before now," he said. "Jim McDougal was a savviness and loan executive, which is akin to being a communist in the McCarthy era."

But Rep. Jim Leach, R-Iowa, the ranking Republican on the House Banking Committee, repeated his call for bipartisan congressional hearings, saying the special counsel would look into illegal activities while Congress needed to air an issue of "public trust."

"This isn't the largest issue. It's somewhere between much ado about nothing and something might be a little rotten in part of the Ozarks," he told CBS' "Face the Nation."

"There are possible breaches of law, but more importantly there's a public ethic here that's at issue."

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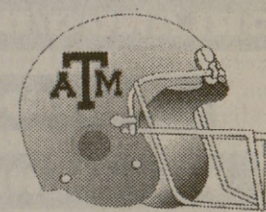
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