

Weekend rap-up

Chiapas fighting forces migration

LAS MARGARITAS, Mexico — About 8,320 refugees have arrived in this village about 30 miles north of Guatemala since fighting broke out between Zapatista rebels and government soldiers in Mexico.

According to Mexican Red Cross officials, the conflict has driven more than 35,000 people in Mexico's southernmost state of Chiapas from their homes.

Entire families fled their villages after the jungle country east of Las Margaritas exploded into violence when rebels of the Zapatista National Liberation Army launched their New Year's Day revolt.

They are jammed into 11 camps and 219 private homes, says municipal secretary Azahel Zagal Garcia, who is overseeing distribution of medicine, clothing and food.

Fund crunch hits malaria vaccine

WASHINGTON — Scientists think they're on the brink of a successful malaria vaccine that could lead to global immunizations by 1998, but threatened budget cuts jeopardize the work.

New research shows a drug called SPf66 probably is the vaccine breakthrough scientists have been hunting. It is now undergoing a final test to see whether it protects hundreds of children in Tanzania, who get bitten some 20 times a day by malaria-carrying mosquitoes.

"We are hot on the right trail," Dr. D.A. Henderson, a renowned vaccine expert and assistant U.S. health secretary, said Friday in an interview.

But the United States, a major financial backer of malaria vaccine research, probably will cut some of that money this year, leading to fears that other countries will follow suit.

Prosecuter down, but not out yet

FORT WORTH — A day after abandoning his case against U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison, prosecutor Ronnie Earle released reams of documents he said show a "massive misuse of state employees" while she was Texas treasurer.

A preliminary review of the thousands of documents made public Saturday show that state workers wrote thank-you notes for Hutchison's personal and political speaking engagements and for gifts she received.

They tracked checks written as political contributions and kept Hutchison's daily schedules both inside and outside of the Treasury office.

Former first lady treated for cancer

NEW YORK — Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis thought she might have the flu when she saw her doctor about a month ago. But the examination turned up cancer of the lymph system and the former first lady has been undergoing chemotherapy.

The cancer, non-Hodgkins lymphoma, evidently was caught early and doctors believe she has a good chance of recovery, said Nancy Tuckerman, a longtime associate who speaks for Onassis.

"She's doing very well. She's maintaining her schedule," Tuckerman said Friday from the offices of Doubleday publishing, where Onassis is an editor.

Onassis, 64, decided to acknowledge her condition because of recent rumors about her health, Tuckerman said. She would not disclose details of her treatment.

—The Associated Press

University stiffens entrance requirements

By Geneen Pipher

THE BATTALION

Beginning this summer, Texas A&M will make it tougher for high school students in the top ten percent of their high school class to be automatically admitted to the University.

In order for these students to be automatically accepted and gain early notification of admission, they must have a Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) score of 800 or an American College Testing exam (ACT) score of 19, said Gary Engelgau, executive director of Admissions and

Records.

"The only change we made in our admissions procedures this year is the standards for students ranking in the top ten percent of their high school classes," Engelgau said. "If they don't meet the test score requirement, they can still be considered for admission, they just are not eligible for early notification."

Mary Broussard, coordinator of special programs for the associate provost, said students ranking in the top ten percent were once automatically accepted to A&M, but due to a soaring number of qualified applicants A&M has been forced to be more selective.

"At Texas A&M we're talking about hundreds of

qualified applicants and competitive admissions," Broussard said. "Last year we were unable to offer all qualified applicants a place here at A&M, and we probably won't be able to do it this year either."

Engelgau believes A&M was sending the wrong message to high-ranking high school graduates with low test scores.

"By just admitting all students in the top tenth of their classes we were basically telling them they would have it easy here at the University, that school wouldn't be a challenge," he said. "That simply isn't true."

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Feathers and flourishes...



A dancer performs Saturday evening for the Native American Student Association's second annual pow-wow at G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Stew Milne/The Battalion

TEXAS A&M'S BLACK HERITAGE

Minority recruitment must be top priority, officials say

By Jan Higginbotham

THE BATTALION

Thirty years after blacks were first admitted to Texas A&M, they still make up less than three percent of the student body.

Paul Parrish, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, said Texas A&M's history as an all-male military school causes problems in attracting a diverse student body.

"We need to recognize that as a University in this community we are perceived to have certain drawbacks," Parrish said. "We need to work especially hard in an activist way in recruiting students and faculty."

Warren Mayberry, a senior agricultural journalism major, said aggressive recruit-

ing is needed to increase the number of black students at the University.

"In the minority community, A&M is often perceived as a good-old-boy school," he said. "Until that myth is broken, they are not going to recruit the black students to this school."

The Department of Multicultural Services provides retention programs for students and offers diversity training programs for faculty and staff.

But Kevin Carreathers, director of Multicultural Services, said he is not pleased with the number of black students at Texas A&M.

Carreathers believes the number should reflect the percentage of blacks in Texas.

"I hope their numbers increase so that

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Texas gives blessing to school prayer law

By Stephanie Dube

THE BATTALION

In a continuing effort to define the line separating church and state while still protecting citizens' freedoms, the Texas Senate recently approved two amendments focusing on prayer in public schools.

Amendment 75-22 states that a school's Education Department funds may be withdrawn if the school prevents a student from exercising his right to pray, and Amendment 78-8 allows for periods of silence in which students can contemplate their goals, actions, or any moral or religious belief they may hold.

Many Texas A&M members of religious groups have differing opinions on this issue.

Melissa Weiner, a senior psychology major and president of the Hillel Jewish Student Association, said she has no conflict with periods of silence if they are not tied to any religious context.

Just because Christianity is in the majority, Weiner said the minority religions still need to be protected.

"Christians need to put the shoe on the other foot," she said. "If students were praying to Allah, then they (Christians) would have objections."

Mike Burns, a senior industrial distribution major and the student director of Campus Crusade for Christ, said people today are jumping on the anti-Christian bandwagon.

"If I were to show a video in school on Islam or evolution, they wouldn't object as much as they would to a Christianity video," Burns said. "The past 40 to 50 years has seen a sharp decline in moral values. Prayer is one way to combat the decline in moral and ethical values."

—Mike Burns, student director of Campus Crusade for Christ

Scott Berry, a senior speech communications major and president of the Baptist Student Union, said students should have the right to pray when and where they want.

As long as the praying is extracurricular, Berry said he does not understand why schools would not let any religious group organize.

"They never really took prayer out of the schools," he said.

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A&M Riverside Campus - more than just a castaway

By Laurel Mosley

THE BATTALION

There is a part of Texas A&M even some of the most knowledgeable Aggies have never heard of, yet it plays an important part of the University System and has a rich history all its own.

Texas A&M Riverside Campus, which sits on about 2,000 acres off Interstate Highway 21, is a research laboratory and extension agency facility.

James Massey, assistant director for facilities coordination, said the campus is an important part of the University.

"Riverside Campus is an integral part of the research and extension program at the University," Massey said. "It is an extension of what happens on the University's main campus."

The campus was originally built as an airbase for use during World War II. It was deactivated after the war and used as freshman housing for A&M. In 1948 the General Services Administration of the United States took the land over and Texas A&M rented some of the land.

It was activated again during the Korean War for use as a jet training facility and was deactivated permanently at the end of the war. A&M took over the title to the land in 1982.

Many agencies that are part of the Texas A&M System are located at the Riverside Campus, including the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI) and the Texas Engineering Extension Agency (TEEX).

TTI has used the campus to develop a telephone pole which breaks away when a car hits it, and TTI also uses the old runways to do crash tests.

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