



Rony Angkriwan, THE BATTALION

Signing Day Katie Murray, Kim Hiller and Meredith Carpenter sign Texas Aggie Dance Team posters Saturday before the Aggie basketball game against Baylor.

► **Nation**

Dropping crude oil costs lowers gas prices

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Gasoline prices dropped more than a penny a gallon at the pump as retailers passed on the benefits of lower crude oil costs, an analyst said Sunday.

The average price, including all grades and taxes, was slightly over \$1.29 per gallon on Friday, down 1.12 cents over two weeks, according to the Lundberg Survey of 10,000 stations nationwide.

An exception to the price drop was in the West, where many cities saw a slight increase. A price war in the region late last year made gasoline cheaper there than in the nation overall, cutting profit margins and making retailers slower to pass on new wholesale cuts, Trilby Lundberg said.

The average price of gasoline nationwide was \$1.2930 per gallon. At self-serve stations, prices were \$1.2404 for regular unleaded, \$1.3386 for mid-grade and \$1.4210 for premium.

Clinic sells marijuana illegally to patients

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — An illegal clinic in downtown Portland is dispensing marijuana to sick and dying people, The Sunday Oregonian reported.

More than 120 patients have found the Alternative Health Center through word of mouth since it opened six weeks ago, the newspaper said.

Patients who suffer from arthritis, multiple sclerosis, AIDS and other chronic diseases say they can buy an eighth of an ounce of marijuana for \$20 to \$50, depending on their income.

Marijuana cookies are sold in \$2 packs. A pot-filled brownie goes for \$3.

The clinic opened after California and Arizona voters in November approved the medical use of marijuana. Oregon's lawmakers are considering bills to legalize marijuana for medical use.

The federal government still considers the drug illegal, and scientists said further study is needed to assess its potential medical benefits. Patients allowed the newspaper to visit the Portland clinic on the condition that the location not be disclosed.

They also have other reasons for secrecy.

"We are concerned about vandalism, about our safety when it comes to people thinking that there are a lot of drugs here and a lot of money. And we are afraid of being accosted outside on the street," said Diane Densmore, once convicted of possessing the drug that she said helps her fight chronic back pain, irritable bowel disease, scoliosis, arthritis and depression.

Secretary of State fires Taiwan representative

WASHINGTON (AP) — On his last day in office, Secretary of State Warren Christopher dismissed James Wood, an Arkansas Democrat, as chief U.S. representative for Taiwan just 13 months after he took office.

Wood said he was given 90 minutes to draft a resignation letter and, to emphasize the depth of his fall from favor, locks to his office were changed immediately afterward.

On Sunday, an embittered, indignant Wood stood before reporters and pronounced his career in ruins, partly the result of what he said were false accusations that he used his position to solicit contributions for President Clinton's re-election campaign.

Expanding on a statement he faxed to news organizations Saturday, Wood said he was victimized by efforts to detail corruption and fraud that occurred at the office before he was

named to head it.

Beyond this "horrific taxpayer rip-off," said, were "the worst sort of inhuman scandals" in which visa-seeking Taiwanese women were forced to have sex with a U.S. office employee or have their visa requests denied. He did not name the employee.

Far from fulfilling his high hopes of being U.S. interests on the island when he took office, Wood said he "wound up in a mess appetizing than a dog's breakfast."

Wood's official title was chairman of the board and managing director of the American Institute on Taiwan. The institute was established in 1979 after the United States severed formal ties with the Nationalist Chinese government on Taiwan and opened diplomatic relations with the People's Republic of China.

The Empire strikes top ticket sales with opening weekend

LOS ANGELES (AP) — The Empire Strikes Back hit gold at the box office with an estimated \$22.35 million in ticket sales for its biggest February opening ever, according to industry estimates Sunday.

The sequel's big brother, Star Wars, grossed \$11 million, for a total of \$33.35 million in only four weeks of release. Star Wars had grossed \$35.9 million in its opening weekend.

Together, the first two installments of George Lucas' space trilogy have pulled in nearly \$684 million domestically — enough to pay for a Death Star — in the first two years of their release, according to estimates from Exhibitor Relations Co. Inc.

The films were released in 1977 and 1980, respectively. Like Star Wars, the released Empire was buffed with special effects and a sprinkling of scenes.

► **This day in history**

Today is Monday, Feb. 24th, the 55th day of 1997. There are 310 days left in the year.

In 1582, Pope Gregory XIII issued a papal bull, or edict, outlining his calendar reforms. The Gregorian Calendar is the calendar in general use today.

In 1803, in its "Marbury vs. Madison" decision, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that it was the final interpreter of constitutional issues.

In 1821, Mexico declared its independence from Spain.

In 1863, Arizona was organized as a territory.

In 1868, the U.S. House of Representatives impeached President Johnson following his attempted dismissal of Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton; Johnson was later acquitted by the Senate.

In 1903, the United States signed an agreement acquiring a naval station at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

In 1920, a fledgling German political party held its first

meeting of importance in Munich; it became known as the Nazi Party and its chief spokesman was Adolf Hitler.

In 1942, the Voice of America went on the air for the first time.

In 1945, American soldiers liberated the Philippine capital of Manila from Japanese control during World War II.

In 1946, Argentinians elected Juan D. Peron their president.

► **Today's birthdays**

Actor Abe Vigoda is 76. Actor Steven Hill ("Law and Order") is 75. Movie composer Michel Legrand is 65. Georgia Governor Zell Miller is 65. Opera singer Renata Scotto is 62. Actor James Farentino is 59. Actor Barry Bostwick is 52. Actor Edward James Olmos is 50. Actress Helen Shaver is 46.

► **Weather**

| Today | Tonight | Tomorrow | Highs & Lows |
|--------------------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | Today's Expected: 55°F |
| Partly cloudy with a chance of rain. | Cloudy and cool. | Cloudy with a chance of rain. | Tonight's Expected: 45°F |
| | | | Tomorrow's Expected High: 57°F |
| | | | Tomorrow Night Expected Low: 48°F |

Information courtesy of TAMA

EXCEL & THE DEPARTMENT OF MULTICULTURAL SERVICES
Excellence uniting Culture, Education, and Leadership

Present
College Night '97

Come meet and talk to representatives of Texas A&M's academic colleges.

College Night is a program geared towards Freshmen and Sophomores to learn about the varied degree programs at Texas A&M University.

REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED.

When: Tuesday, Feb. 25, 1997
Where: 601 Rudder
Time: 5:30 p.m.

For more information contact the EXCEL office through the Dept. of Multicultural Services at 845-4551.

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MCAT

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8:00am - 3:30pm
Blocker 163

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MANAGEMENT TRAINEES

Graduating Seniors See Us On Campus, Monday, March 3.

Also interviewing Juniors for Retail Internships on Tuesday, March 4.

For an interview sign up at the Career Placement Office.

www.walgreens.com

AGGIE 196 Texas A&M Chapter of ΠΚΑ present

PIKEFEST '97

Cajun Mardi Gras Party with Live Music @ 5:00 at Crazy Cruz's

Drink Specials

Doors Open at 8:00

Benefiting the MDA

Lite Jerry Jeff Walker

LIFE IS GOOD TOUR

Jerry Jeff Walker

Wednesday, February 26th

Tickets \$10 advance/\$12 at door
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Cavender's Boot City,
Marooned Records and Rother's

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