**Nation**

No quick changes for women in combat

Defense Secretary Richard Cheney said on Monday that he has no plans to recommend changes that would allow American servicewomen into combat roles. At a Houston news conference, Cheney said his personal view is that the current system is right about — and that officials have worked to expand opportunities for women as much as possible.

First Lady Barbara Bush added her voice to the discussion yesterday. Bush stated that women can shoot and fly as well as men, saying that they should be allowed to serve in combat, if they are strong enough.

Alleged Noriega associates acquitted

Most of the 16 defendants in a drug smuggling case prosecutors linked to Panama's Manuel Noriega were acquitted on Monday. But four other defendants in the La- Fayette, LA trial were convicted. The reputed ringleader who operates the nation's railroads is the last of the 16 who have a right to appeal.

Bush proposes family banking

Administration officials announced Monday that President Bush has a new plan to encourage Americans to save more. They say the president's "Family Savings Account" provision would allow people to save tax-free interest and on dividends on money they stash away for a specific number of years. The officials said the proposal is part of Bush's 1991 budget plan, due out by month's end.

**World**

Azerbaijan continue to revolt

The Supreme Council of the National Assembly of Azerbaijan issued a statement today in which it accused the government newspaper "called a "civil war" between Azerbaijanis and Armenians in the Soviet Central Asian Republic. The Soviet news agency, reported at least 37 deaths resulting from the fighting. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev declared a state of emergency in Azerbaijan and ordered 11,000 troops and KGB agents to quell the violence. Some troops reportedly have been taken hostage and their equipment stolen. Others are being kept away from battle areas by crowds blocking the roads.

The Azerbaijani government said Gorbachev has a "very difficult" situation on his hands. And a State Department spokesman said the United States supported the Azerbaijani government's decision to send troops to the region order.

One Armenian-American activist said that the death toll in Azerbaijan is likely much higher than the 37 reported. Dikran Maligian of the Armenian National Committee of the Eastern States said the actual numbers are difficult to get because foreign journalists are barred from the region.

... while Lithuanians prepare to secede

West of Moscow, Lithuania's nationalist fervor has reached a fever pitch. The Soviet Lithuania Communist Party leader has been chosen president of the inde- pendence-minded Baltic state. The move by Lithuanian lawmakers clearly is a challenge to President Gorbachev, who has been trying to keep Lithuania in the Soviet fold.

East Germans storm police HQ

Tens of thousands of East Germans have stormed the East Berlin headquarters of the country's secret police for the last two days, wrecking offices and breaking windows. When he arrived on the scene, Communist Premier Hans Modrow was met with catcalls and chants of "you were shot in the back by the people." Criminal probes are under way to find out who was responsible for the rampage. Over 90,000 people opened an office in the capital and publish their own newspaper. But it won't give them access to state-run radio and television. The opposition wanted to broadcast its ideas nationwide before legislative elections later this year.

Bulgarian government grants reforms

Bulgaria's communist government has reached a compromise with the opposition. It's agreed to let the democr- acy activists open a free press and publish their own newspaper. But it won't give them access to state-run radio and television. The opposition wanted to broadcast its ideas nationwide before legislative elections later this year.

Luxembourg bank faces fines

A Luxembourg bank with branches around the world has been ordered to fork over $14 million for participat- ing in a money-laundering scheme. The Bank of Credit and Commerce International pleaded guilty yesterday in a money-laundering case. The bank also agreed to a fine of $1.5 million.

Weather

Spring for a day (or two)

Before the arrival of the next cold front, temperatures will soar to March-like levels as southwest winds increase. Following the passage of the cold front, the weather will be "brightly" sunny and dry with winds and temperatures.” A storm will likely pass south of the region during the weekend and may also affect the area some snow.


Thursday: Cloudy with showers early then clearing. High 53-57°F (12-14°C). Low 30-35°F (-1°C) to 37°F (3°C). Winds northwest and west 15-25 mph (24-40 kph). Light snow likely especially in the north. Accumulation of less than 2 inches (5 cm).

Friday: Cloudy, breezy, and colder with rain and/or snow showers developing late in the day. High near 40°F (4°C). Winds northwest 15-25 mph (24-40 kph). Light snow in the north, possibly as much as 2 inches (5 cm).

Forecast by Michael C. Morgan

Compiled by Reenen M. Leenar