

# The Battalion

Vol. 70 No. 114  
12 Pages

Thursday, April 28, 1977  
College Station, Texas

News Dept. 845-2611  
Business Dept. 845-2611

## Weather

Partly cloudy and mild today and fair tomorrow. High today in the mid-80s. Low tonight in the mid-60s. Winds south southeasterly at 8-12 m.p.h. Increasing cloudiness tomorrow with a high in the mid-80s. No precipitation in sight.

## Spending bill reduced \$57 million cut from welfare program

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — The Texas House has made its first major strides in reducing a proposed \$15.7 billion state spending bill, trimming \$57 million from health and welfare programs and moving toward deletion of another \$100 million in funding for state prisons and prison construction.

In its longest work day of the session, the lawmakers debated the mammoth spending bill from 9 a.m. until after 11 p.m. yesterday, sharply reducing proposed spending increases for welfare programs and mental health agencies.

The proposed \$100 million reduction ending before the House today would cancel plans for construction of a \$72 million prison facility and cut \$16 million from

a rural loan program of the Texas Industrial Commission. It also would abolish funding for several small agencies such as the Governor's Commission on Physical Fitness and the Greater South Texas Cultural Basin.

Rep. Jimmie Edwards, D-Conroe, unsuccessfully tried to save the \$72 million prison construction program, warning House members overcrowding could produce serious prison problems.

"If you're for law and order, and if you're for sending people to the pen for longer periods of time, then you've got to provide the cell space for them," Edwards said.

House members rejected an attempt by Rep. Frank Collazo, D-Port Arthur, to withdraw funding for the Texas Good

Neighbor Commission. Collazo said he had found nothing concrete the agency had done except take occasional trips to Mexico.

South Texas legislators strongly defended the agency, however, saying it is essential to maintain good relations with Mexico.

"Mexico is rich in natural resources such as oil and gas, and abolishing this commission is a slap in the face of our neighbors to the South," said Rep. Ruben Torres, D-Brownsville.

The sharpest cuts made during yesterday's debate were in proposed increases in welfare payments to families with dependent children. An amendment by Rep. Michael Ezzell, D-Snyder, reduced the

proposed increase from \$8.68 per child to \$3 per child per month.

That proposal cut \$43.1 million from the spending bill.

"This is not a proud moment in this legislature," said Rep. Matt Garcia, D-San Antonio.

"It's a national scandal how we take care of our cows, take care of our wheat fields, take care of our hogs, but ignore our children," said Rep. Al Price, D-Beaumont.

Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson, D-Dallas, asked for higher welfare payments to the families with dependent children, telling House members, "We're not asking you to take care of lazy shiftless people, these are children who did not ask to be born."

## Briscoe statement upsets Hill

**United Press International**  
SAN ANTONIO — Atty. Gen. John Hill, who has indicated a desire to replace Gov. Dolph Briscoe in 1978, says the governor's statements about possibly withholding natural gas from the intrastate market encroaches on his territory as Texas' top legal officer.

Hill yesterday said, Briscoe's statement, which was made in response to President Carter's energy proposal, was an irresponsible one.

When Briscoe threatened legal action to lead off any federal price controls being

placed on intrastate gas in Texas, Hill bristled over the possible encroachment of his territory.

"I was elected by the people of this state to handle the legal department, and I'm trying to do that, and I'll continue to try to do that. And if I have something I think that can legally be done, I'll say so and I'll address it, but I don't think this is the time to be making statements along that line," Hill said.

"The first approach to undertake is to defeat it in the Congress, because in my judgement it would not be in the best

interest — totally speaking of our state," he said of the proposal to regulate intrastate gas.

The extension of price regulation to the heretofore unregulated intrastate market is one of the key provisions of Carter's energy plan.

"I would say I would certainly look at that area of the proposal of the law, should it become law and I don't think it will become law. If I thought there was a basis, I certainly wouldn't leave anything unturned."

"But that's a different proposition than to

say you are going to prevent gas from flowing out of the state which is dedicated to contract. Now maybe the governor has some other gas in mind that I'm not aware of but the only gas I know anything about going into interstate commerce is gas going there under contract."

Hill added that "I think all of us in public life should be very, very careful in our statements in regard to this new energy policy, particularly in regard to statements that have legal overtones. We should be very precise and exact in what we say. This is a time for responsibility for all public officials and citizens because I think a lot of what President Carter proposed is going to be implemented."

"... But you don't challenge the President of the United States legally for exercising free speech and all President Carter has done at this time is make some proposals that he thinks should be considered by the Congress."

## After three years, women are earning places at Texas Maritime Academy

By JIM CRAWLEY  
Battalion Staff

Lynn Bell's first Christmas gift from the all-male sophomore class at the Texas Maritime Academy was a Christmas tree decorated with pornographic pictures, beer cans and cigarette butts.

That year, Lynn and the other two female cadets were subjected to hate letters, verbal rebukes and doors slammed in their faces. All were from their male classmates.

During her second semester at the Galveston school, Lynn was ready to quit the academy and go to another college.

"When I told my mother that I wanted to quit, she turned around and shouted, 'Gawdamnit, no one in my family is going to quit.' Then, she threw a pan at me. So I had to stay."

The women have stayed to form a small, cohesive group at the academy (abbreviated TMA). Presently, 17 women are members of the academy's Corps of Cadets, a para-military program subsidized by the U.S. Maritime Administration (USMA). The female contingent has three juniors, eight sophomores and six freshmen in a Corps of 145 cadets. Men at TMA outnumber the women by a ratio of five to one.

Women were allowed to enter maritime academies in 1973, with the revision of USMA General Order No. 87 — a regulation establishing requirements for merchant marine cadets.

Since Lynn's kitchen confrontation with her mother, the hostility toward women has decreased. Some of the older cadets still dislike the presence of "girls" in the previously all-male vocation. But the majority consider the coeds as equals within the academy.

This is the third year that women have attended TMA. Susan Carter, who became one of three female cadets when she entered two and a half years ago, toured Europe after finding her first tour of duty aboard ship "boring," according to classmate Lynn. Susan was the first woman to graduate from the academy.

Women cadets at TMA haven't brought concessions from the administration of Moody College (TMA's parent school) or from the academy. Rear Adm. John W. Smith, TMA superin-

tendent, said the coeds have the same duties and responsibilities as the male cadets. Moody College Provost Dr. William Clayton said, "We recognize that they're ladies and that's about the only credit we give them. They do the same work as the guys."

Among the cadets' duties during the school year are standing watch, drilling and attending formation calls. While on the annual summer training cruise aboard the T.S. Texas Clipper, they chip paint and rust from the decks, stand bridge watch and handle the ship's helm. Male cadets have the same chores on the cruise.

The ostracism during Lynn's freshman year has turned into benign quips from the men. Most of the younger coeds haven't had any serious harassment.

"Now it's cush for the girls because most of the guys realize they will have to live with us for the rest of their school life," says cadet Margy Card, a blonde-haired sophomore from New York.

The only recent insult toward the female cadets has been from "The Great White Sea Gull." The Sea Gull is a pseudo-advice column with an unsigned columnist that has turned into a campus farce. The Sea Gull received a letter from a coed complaining about her lack of date offers from the male students. Still claiming anonymity, the Gull proclaimed that the distressed girl was obviously a cadet and thus unworthy of a date. This outraged some of the women cadets.

But the women say the dating problem is common at TMA. Lynn, 22 and attractive, said in a half serious, half jovial remark that her most significant event at the academy was "... in 1974, I had a date. ... We come down here with all these guys and you'd expect that we could get a date, but that's not true."

"The people here are strange; most are loners; and most of the guys never had a date before coming here," she said.

Another reason for the lack of social relations between the sexes was expressed by a male cadet.

"I try not to socialize with people I have to work with, especially women, because it's difficult to give orders to someone

(See ALL, Page 7.)

## Chimpanzee most like man, anthropologist Goodall says

Chimpanzees, the closest relatives to the human species, may be important in understanding man's social behavior, says Dr. Jane Goodall, a scientist who has devoted 16 years to studying chimpanzees.

Goodall, who spoke in Texas A&M University's Rudder Auditorium last night, conducts research on animal behavior in Tanzania's Gombe Stream National Park.

Goodall said her acceptance by a community of 35 chimps was slow. She said it took more than a year for the chimps to overcome their shyness and let her observe them more closely.

Monkeys most resemble humans in the way they use nonverbal communication, Goodall said.

Chimpanzees will use touch to comfort their companions, and, when excited, they huddle together, kiss each other and scream like a football team celebrating a victory. When meeting after a long separation, chimps will greet each other with an embrace.

The life cycle of the chimpanzee also resembles that of humans, Goodall said.

An infant remains close to its mother for three years and enters puberty at nine.



Battalion photo by Pam Elmore.

### What do I do?

This little girl busied herself scribbling with a pad and pen while her mother displayed woodcraft in the Arts and Craft Fair yesterday. The Fair was sponsored by the MSC craft shop.



GOODALL

### Substance in household products

## Asbestos potential cancer threat

**United Press International**

WASHINGTON — There is a potential cancer threat from asbestos in a number of common household products, ranging from imitation fireplace ash to modeling clay used by children, an environmental group told the government today.

The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) made the allegation to the Consumer Product Safety Commission in advance of the agency's meeting to decide

whether a crackdown on asbestos is warranted.

The council last July 15 asked for a ban on spackling compounds and other wall patching mixtures containing asbestos, saying such preparations were exposing millions of unsuspecting consumers to a "substantial risk of cancer."

At that time it said asbestos, a known carcinogen, is released into the air when such compounds are mixed or sanded and

later on when "walls are sanded or repaired or torn down for replacement."

To underscore its request for a more general move against asbestos beyond that used in construction, the NRDC told the commission it believes there is an additional asbestos hazard in such items as fake fireplace ash, used in natural gas-fired fireplaces, which glows when heated.

It also said some modeling clays used by children have been found to contain up to 50 per cent asbestos.

In addition it said there is a potential problem with vinyl floor tile because the adhesive used to keep it in place contains asbestos, which is released into the air when the floor is sanded after the tile is taken up.

"We feel it is an imminent hazard because a brief and very low-level exposure can induce cancer," an NRDC lawyer said.

The council's original petition said that from one-third to one-half of the patching compounds sold in the United States contain asbestos, and reach more than a million consumers a year. The Consumer Product Safety Commission staff has reported that some manufacturers are moving away from it and using other materials as a substitute.

Inhaling asbestos can cause lung cancer and mesothelioma, a fatal malignancy of the lungs.

## Senate passes resolution delaying allocations for Day Care Center

A resolution passed Tuesday night by the Student Senate will recommend to President Williams that a \$41,000 Day Care Center allocation be postponed.

Last month, the Senate recommended establishing a day care center that would serve 32 children of Texas A&M students. The service was to be provided next year.

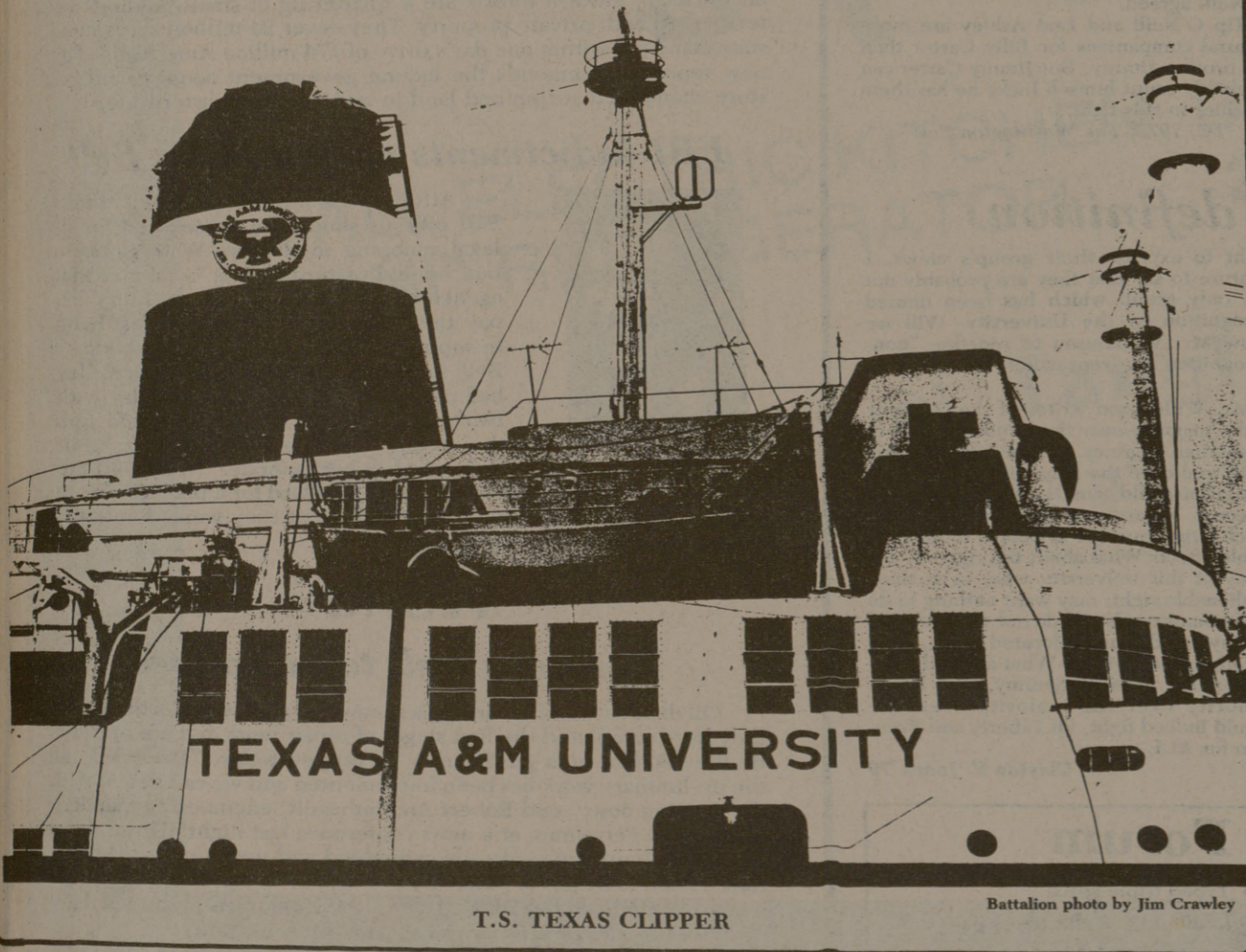
The resolution depended on financial assistance and staff workers from the College of Education.

Since that meeting, "the College of Education is unwilling to provide manpower or financial assistance for the project," according to Tuesday's resolution.

Dr. John Koldus, vice president of student services, also has recommended that the funds not be allocated. He said he would not recommend the proposal without support from the College of Education.

In other action, John Oeffinger was elected Speaker of the Senate and Joe Beall was elected Speaker Pro-Tempore. Nancy Bunch was elected recording secretary, and Geri Campbell will serve as executive director.

Robert Harvey, student body president, also appointed Lynn Gibson as Senate parliamentarian.



T.S. TEXAS CLIPPER

Battalion photo by Jim Crawley