

THE BATTALION

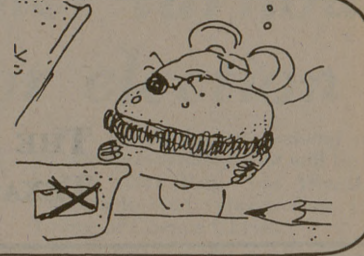
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NATO members agree on massive defense plan

United Press International
WASHINGTON — The 15-nation NATO summit today agreed in principle on plans for a massive long-range defense program that has been a part of its theory for 29 years, but has never before been put on paper.

But the consensus of NATO members on the plan does not mean agreement on all of its proposals, and a real test will come when the countries deal with the requirement of a 3 percent increase in defense spending to meet its goals.

If realized, the program would weld NATO's military forces into one integrated unit in case of an East-West conflict. The growing Soviet conventional and nuclear strength persuaded the alliance to put such a plan into specific proposals for action at this summit meeting.

The massive defense study — a series of 117 proposals dealing with everything from chemical warfare to the problems of converting civilian trucks into military convoys in case of a military confrontation — is the chief item of business of the conference.

The first day's sessions Tuesday, mostly behind closed doors, dealt with political matters, including a series of warnings about Soviet and Cuban intentions in Africa, although Africa was not on the formal agenda.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said after the first day's meetings President Carter received support from his Western allies on his urging that "we cannot be indifferent to these events (in Africa)."

Vance said some of the leaders of the western European nations — which included all the former colonial powers of Africa — urged caution, and "several pointed out that the problems are complex and the roots are deeper than East-West differences."

The Western Europeans urged the United States to proceed with caution and analyze the roots of the African problems, including tribal differences.

Earlier Tuesday, the State Department announced the United States would consider participation in an international peace-keeping force in Zaire. But at his

news conference six hours later, Vance laid almost total emphasis on the economic recovery of Zaire and the military force was treated as incidental to the economic plans.

He said the United States — along with France, Belgium, Britain and the Federal Republic of Germany — will meet in Brussels June 13-14 to discuss the economic future of Zaire.

The summit conference, suggested 14 months ago by President Carter as a means of dramatizing American support for the alliance, is due to end late today with a communique.

Poerner wants funds for tracks

By GARY WELCH
Battalion City Editor

Railroad Commissioner John Poerner said Tuesday he wants to meet with U. S. Secretary of Transportation Brock Adams about the possibility of obtaining federal funds to move railroad tracks outside some Texas cities, including College Station-Bryan.

Meanwhile, employees of the Texas Transportation Institute are trying to formulate a plan that would bring federal money to this area to pay for relocating the tracks that run along Wellborn Road.

The plan involves moving main rail traffic to new tracks west of Easterwood Airport, while still allowing rail service to businesses and industries in Bryan and College Station.

Poerner said he wants to select four or five Texas mayors, all from cities that have similar railroad problems, to go to Washington with him to strengthen his effort for the federal funds.

"Many cities have this problem, but College Station's is about the worst I've seen," Poerner said. One reason is that many Texas A&M students must cross the tracks to get to campus, he said, and trains often impede the traffic flow.

He said the danger is not only from the pedestrian and automobile traffic crossing the tracks, but also from the hazardous materials that often pass through College Station.

"I think College Station would be a good pilot project," Poerner said. The University had hoped to get federal funding through the National Highway Bill, which has been in Congress for about three years, but in 1976 Congress decided not to add any new cities to the funding project.

TII is also considering trying to get the track relocation funds as part of a research project aimed at reducing problems with car and pedestrian cross traffic.

"It simply must be done," Poerner said. "We must go overhead, underground or around. Those are the alternatives as I see them."



Broken remnants of railroad car wheels are scattered along the railroad tracks north of the Texas A&M campus where cars from a Southern Pacific freight train derailed last week. Here Southern Pacific work to remove one of the last derailed cars from the scene of that derailment.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leshper Jr.

Marijuana in chocolate cake causes nine persons to become ill

United Press International

DENVER — Nine persons became ill from eating a chocolate cake laden with marijuana at a state office party, officials said yesterday.

Ed Clark, the Denver area manager of the state's Division of Employment, said one of the victims became so violently ill she was taken to a hospital emergency room.

The state Health Department, after determining that marijuana in the cake had caused the illnesses, asked the Colorado Bureau of Investigation to look into the incident.

The Health Department said 22 employees of the state Division of Employment

held the office party April 28 as a "going away luncheon" for two workers.

Three cakes brought from homes of the employees were eaten during the party. All nine of those who became ill had eaten a chocolate macaroon Bundt cake, the health agency said.

Technicians discovered traces of marijuana in the remaining cake and in urine specimens of the victims.

"The doctor at the state Health Department who tested it (the cake) said it had a high quantity of Colombian Gold, which is supposed to be the best marijuana," Clark said.

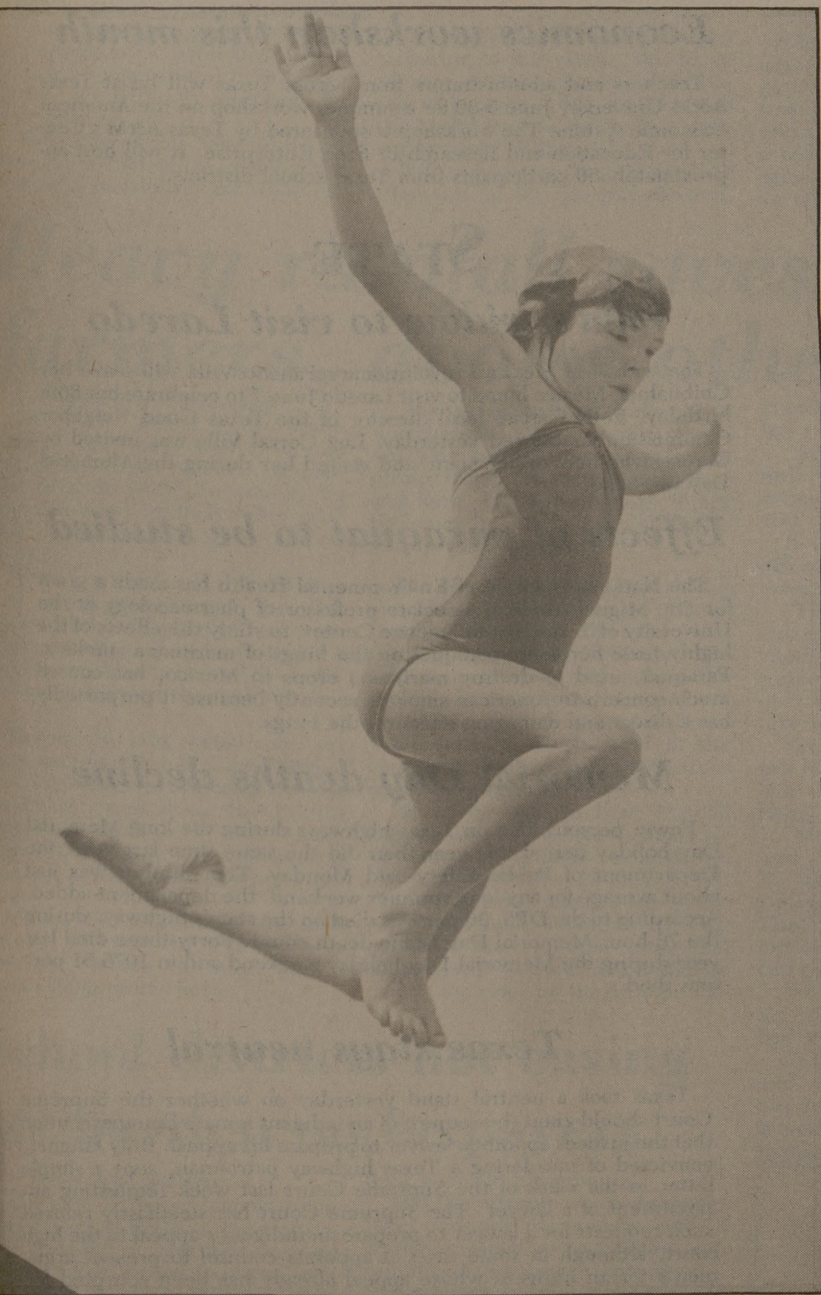
The two women who became sickest, Frances Imfeld and Penny Carlson,

missed several days of work, Clark said. The other seven did not miss any work, but were unable to function normally because of mental confusion and lack of coordination, he said.

Mrs. Imfeld was taken to a hospital emergency room by her husband because she became so ill.

The Health Department, in a report on the incident, said the nine may have become so ill because they had never before been exposed to marijuana, because they had ingested the marijuana and because they ingested a large amount of the active ingredient in marijuana, THC.

Clark said employees had now been told to hold future office parties in restaurants.



Geronimo!!!

Denise Denton, who will be a fifth grader this fall at South Knoll Elementary School in College Station, takes a flying leap off the 10-meter platform Tuesday at the Wofford Cain Pool on the A&M campus. Denise is a frequent visitor to the pool, and judging by her jump from the tall platform, she apparently has no fear of heights.

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

Miller says he won't release budget recommendations

By FLAVIA KRONE
Battalion Campus Editor

Texas A&M University President Jarvis Miller last Wednesday said University budget working papers are the responsibility of the Board of Regents and not a matter for the 12 million people of the state.

Miller told a meeting of the Central Texas Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, Sigma Delta Chi that his administration would not release its 1978-79 budget recommendations to the public prior to approval of the University budget by the Board of Regents on June 9.

Miller said the University considers its proposed budget "an intra-office" document. Releasing the University budget recommendations would undermine the Board of Regents to administer the budget, Miller said.

Miller said the University is not required to account for proposed expenditures of public funds, but for those expenditures which are finally approved by the Board of Regents.

"Once the budget is approved it is public information and we are accountable for what we have done," Miller said.

Asked if the University's radio station KAMU-FM is funded in the proposed budget, Miller said, "The final chapter is not written and will not be written until June 9."

Miller said he foresees problems in maintaining the radio station because it is funded from departmental funds which are "the scarcest funds we have," in what he explained was an extremely tight budget year for all departments of the University.

Miller also discussed freedom of the press and said he was concerned that some news reporting presents superficial views based on incorrect assumptions.

"I recognize the tremendous asset of a relatively free press," Miller said. "But, it also brings an awesome responsibility."

Miller cited two CBS "60 Minutes" documentaries as examples of "slanted and biased" reporting. One of the programs dealt with research funding at a Montana university and the other dealt with the oil industry.

Miller expressed concern that biased reporting of university research in general may adversely affect research funding at Texas A&M in the future.

Speaking about campus newspaper censorship, Miller drew an analogy between a

newspaper publisher and a university's administration.

"In the newspaper industry the publisher has a great deal to say about the editorial line," Miller said. "The university (administration) might be considered the publisher of a campus newspaper."

Miller said the Texas A&M University newspaper, The Battalion, has a greater responsibility than many student papers because it is seen by the public as an official publication of the University, whereas many student newspapers clearly are not.

Miller cited The Battalion's recent endorsement of Attorney General John Hill for governor as an example of publication which could have been politically embarrassing to the University.

"Luckily for us the Batt picked the right candidate to endorse," Miller said.

Miller emphasized that his statements represented personal feelings and not an official position and stressed that he had no plans to censor the school newspaper.

Miller said he was not suggesting that The Battalion should become a publicity vehicle for the University, but said that the University's point of view should also be heard.

Summer school registration scheduled for next Tuesday

On your mark . . . Get . . . go. The first summer session registration marathon will be held on Tuesday from 7 a.m. to 12 noon.

Avoid slogging through miles of lines by picking up registration packets at the Deware Field House according to the following schedule:

S through Z - 7 a.m. to 8:15 a.m.
A through D - 8:15 a.m. to 9:30 a.m.
E through K - 9:30 a.m. to 10:45 a.m.
L through R - 10:45 a.m. to noon

After obtaining a registration packet, proceed to the main floor of G. Rollie White Coliseum. There, department heads will approve class schedules and hand out class cards. Deans from the various colleges also will be on hand to approve schedules.

During the next heat of the race all students should report to the MSC 212 and 224. The housing

manager, fee assessor and registrar will all be on hand to process registration packets and collect assignment cards and class cards.

But the race is not quite over. On Wednesday, June 7, all summer session students must pay their fees at the cashier's desk in G. Rollie White Coliseum beginning at 8 a.m.

Students who do not complete their registration and return their assignment cards to the registrar in Rooms 212 and 224 of the MSC by 2 p.m. on registration day must pay an additional \$4 late registration fee. Late registration will be held in G. Rollie White Coliseum on Wednesday, June 7, beginning at 8 a.m.

June 9, is the last day for enrolling in any course in the university for the first summer term.

Classes begin Wednesday, June 7.

Fire safety experts waiting for site to cool before investigating cause of Texas City blast

United Press International

TEXAS CITY — Federal safety inspectors, hoping to find the cause of an oil refinery blast that killed four persons, are waiting for the maze of twisted metal pipes and steel support beams to cool enough to enter the area.

Seven explosions that sent orange fireballs curling 500 feet into the air ripped through the Texas City Refining Inc. plant Tuesday morning. Firemen, fearful of a re-enactment of the 1947 Texas City disaster in which 576 died, battled the fire for hours before officially extinguishing it at mid-afternoon.

"Firemen are still putting foam on some of the (nearby) tanks but it's too hot to go into the area," a plant spokesman said late Tuesday. "We have a number of trucks standing by and we'll be watching it the rest of the night."

"We hope to get in there sometime (today), but it will probably take several days to figure out what happened."

Officials said the first explosion at the 10-block-long plant occurred about 2 a.m. Tuesday at or near a gas plant and process

unit. That explosion triggered six more blasts before firemen could bring the blaze under control. Officials said some crude oil storage tanks went up in the explosions.

The cause of the explosion was not immediately known, but a process engineer

from an Amoco refinery said a new process unit was being completed and brought on line at the plant.

"Bringing any new unit on the line is a hazard," said Don Gray. "Any explosion

Commission authorizes bus route between A&M, Sam Houston

United Press International

AUSTIN — The Railroad Commission Tuesday authorized a new bus route between the campuses of Texas A&M University in College Station and Sam Houston State University in Huntsville.

The three-man commission granted Transportation Enterprises Inc. of Austin authority to carry passengers between the two campuses.

The Austin bus company indicated they hope to serve students who live on one campus and take classes at the other.

Service will not be limited to students,

however. The Railroad Commission's order allows TEI buses to stop at any intermediate point along State Highway 21 between College Station and Bryan and along State Highways 6 and 30 between Bryan and Huntsville to load or unload passengers.

The commission also authorized TEI buses to stop at any city along the Interstate Highway 45 route between Houston and Huntsville except Conroe, Willis and New Waverly. Currently TEI buses are running nonstop between Huntsville and Houston.

sets up a chain reaction. Any kind of ignition could set it off."

Three victims trapped in the inferno were identified as Carl K. Cope, 34, of Alvin, and Joseph Bertrand, 59, of La Marque, Texas, both operators for the company, and Aaron Browning, a contract guard from Houston.

A fourth victim, Daniel R. Dore, 35, of Texas City, died of burns at a local hospital. At least 17 other persons were hospitalized from the explosions.

The plant, owned by two farmers cooperatives, refines gasoline and fuel oil primarily. It has a crude oil processing capacity of 74,500 barrels a day.

The refining city on Galveston Bay is ringed by major refinery operations of Monsanto, Union Carbide, Gulf, Amoco and other companies.

Within minutes of the first explosion the fire spread to two nearby 55,000-gallon storage tanks, sending an "orange fireball" soaring 500 feet into the dark morning sky. The concussion was felt in Nassau Bay, about 20 miles from the city.