

THE BATTALION

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Inside Thursday

- Three offices on campus are working to remove barriers for handicapped students — p. 3.
- University workmen seal storm trench next to G. Rollie White — p. 6.
- Eddie Hardin out too — p. 7.



Rep. O'Neill tries to stifle Doonesbury

United Press International
WASHINGTON — House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill's staff tried so hard to get a Doonesbury cartoon killed or changed before publication that it "got kind of ridiculous," says a syndicate official.

In two strips, drawn by Pulitzer Prize cartoonist Gary Trudeau, which ran June 15 and 16, radio announcer "Megaphone Mark" Slackmeyer was depicted interviewing a congresswoman called Lacey Davenport — a character based on Rep. Millicent Fenwick, R-N.J. — about the progress of congressional ethics investigations.

In one strip, a coupon was included to be mailed to O'Neill asking for information about various congressmen mentioned as having received bribes from South Korean businessman Tongsun Park. One of those mentioned was O'Neill, for allegedly being the recipient of "\$6,000 in parties" by Park.

The coupon appeared Friday, and O'Neill's office sources said several

hundred of them had been received as of Wednesday. The office will not discuss the matter officially.

In the other strip Lacey Davenport said some friends gave O'Neill a free interest in a nursing home in Boston, and "rather than offend his friends over a silly principle he graciously accepted. He just doesn't seem to know how to say no."

Both incidents have been reported in the past and no one has charged O'Neill with any violations of law or House ethics codes. O'Neill has said he actually lost money on the nursing home deal and the \$6,000 party actually was a \$20 steak dinner.

The strips came to O'Neill's attention before publication when an editor checked with his office about the accuracy of the material, presumably to guard against possible libel.

O'Neill — a veteran politician who normally dismisses criticism with Irish good humor — this time felt the cartoons were too much and asked his chief aide Gary Hymel to have them changed.

James F. Andrews, editor of Universal Press Syndicate, Doonesbury's distributor, said Hymel called him several times, complaining the strips were "unfair, inaccurate, etc."

He said Hymel asked him not to run the frames. Hymel made so many requests, Andrews said, that "it got kind of ridiculous at one point."

He said Hymel argued that Trudeau was treating O'Neill as an "institution" rather than a human being.

In rejecting the requests, Andrews said, "We stood by Trudeau and his sources."

Andrews said requests to revise or drop Trudeau's strips were not "isolated." He said on occasion "Trudeau has made changes" after talking to Andrews, but "not on matters of fact."

Trudeau has sparked controversy before, notably during the Watergate crisis when he depicted Attorney General John Mitchell being interviewed by Megaphone Mark, who chanted: "guilty, guilty, guilty." A number of papers refused to run that one.

New tremors shake Greecian port hourly

United Press International
SALONICA, Greece — New tremors shook the biblical port of Thessalonica almost hourly Wednesday, sending residents fleeing from their damaged homes to camp in parks, farms and beaches.

They could feel the ground moving beneath their feet as shocks measuring less than 4 on the Richter Scale struck approximately every hour.

And three Greek earthquake experts warned, "We cannot exclude a recurrence of strong tremors."

At least 20 persons were killed and more than 100 injured in Tuesday night's quake, which measured 6.5 on the open-ended Richter Scale. The quake toppled several buildings and destroyed streets in the city of 720,000.

Witnesses said the quake left Salonica, whose history goes back to Alexander the Great, looking like "a deserted battle zone."

"I felt the walls pinning me down and holding me pinioned," said Doris

Sofianou, 45, who with her sister, Veta, survived the collapse of an apartment building. "I felt pain all over my body. Through the dust I could see the sky because the ceiling had opened up."

Among the 20 victims, 11 were killed in the collapse of an eight-story apartment building. Police said at least five died of heart attacks. A Yugoslav tourist was killed when his hotel roof collapsed.

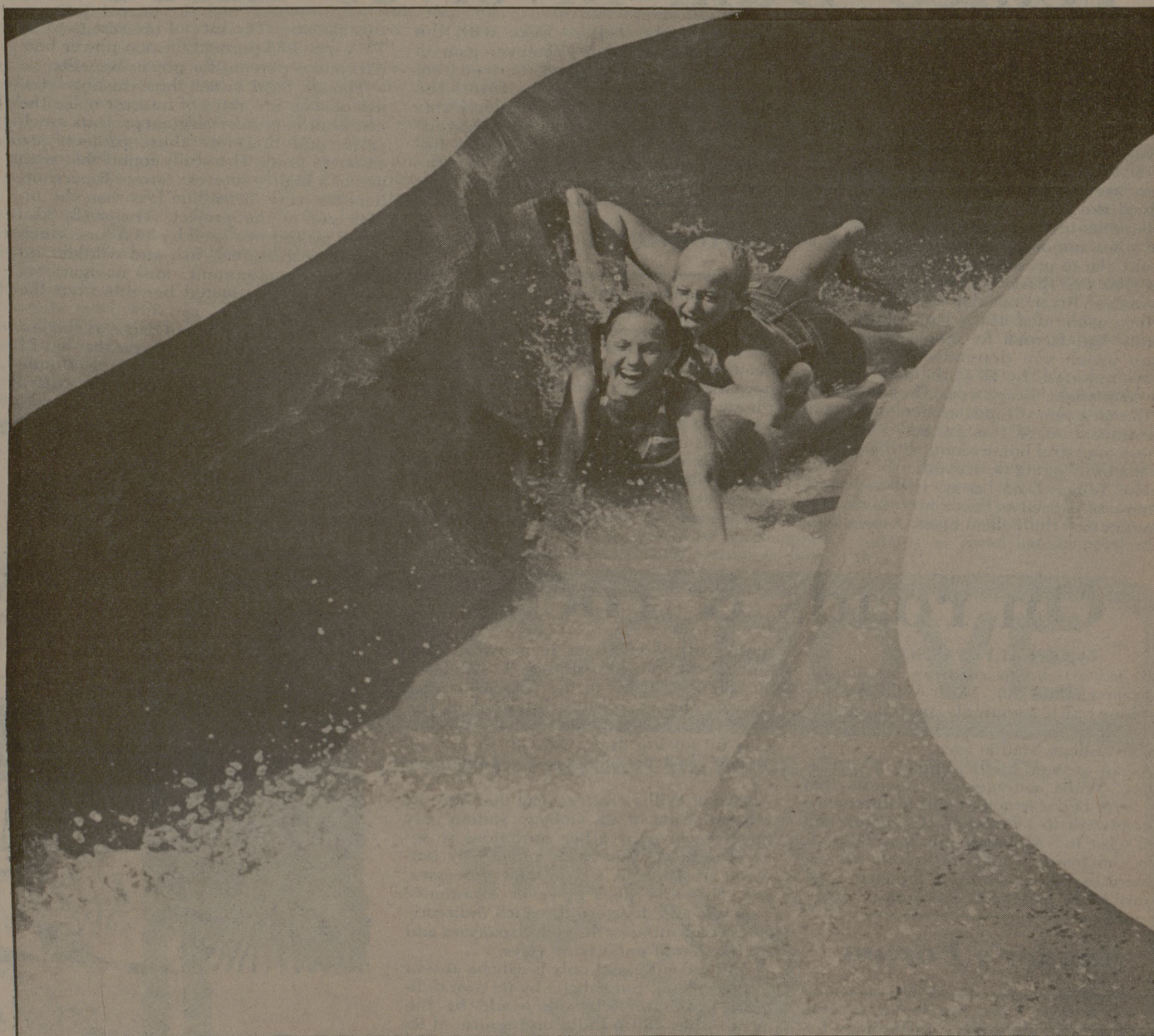
Officials said about three-quarters of Salonica's residents spent Wednesday night in the open air in squares, parks or empty lots. Some fled to nearby villages or distant towns. Others drove to beaches and wooded areas where they set up makeshift shelters and tents.

More than 100 families took up an offer by the American Farm School on the outskirts of the city to use its grounds for camping.

"Many buildings had their foundations damaged," said architect Zissis Gazilas, who slept on the school grounds. "The continued after-tremors occurring almost every hour were further damaging them."

The government declared a state of emergency in Salonica and called in army troops to keep order.

Salonica, the biblical port of Thessalonica founded by a brother-in-law of Alexander the Great, was one of the centers of early Christianity. St. Paul wrote two epistles to the converts there, Thessalonians I and II in the Bible.



Super sliiiiiiiiiide!

There never seems to be a shortage of new ways to enjoy hot summer days and these young ladies are making the most of one, the "Water-Coaster" at Galveston's Sterling Beach. Beach-goers slide on

foam rubber pads through two water-filled troughs in the 100-foot-tall ride into a swimming pool at the bottom. Guaranteed to cool off any day in a hurry!

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Briscoe may call legislative special session on tax relief

United Press International
AUSTIN — Lt. Gov. William P. Hobby said Wednesday he expects Gov. Dolph Briscoe to summon lawmakers to the Capitol July 10 for a special legislative session on tax relief.

Hobby talked with reporters after a two and one-half hour meeting in Briscoe's office with the governor and Speaker Bill Clayton.

"The governor has not made a firm deci-

sion to call a special session. (But) if I had to speculate I would speculate that there probably would be one," Hobby said.

"The logistics pretty well dictate July 10 (as the starting date)."

Bill Clements, GOP candidate for governor, joined Hobby and Clayton in urging Briscoe call a special session on taxes.

"Now's the time to provide meaningful tax relief to the taxpayers of Texas," Clements said.

Although Briscoe has made no public statements, Hobby said the governor asked him to come to Austin to discuss plans for a special session.

Clayton, who met with Briscoe on tax relief proposals for more than two hours Tuesday, joined Hobby in the governor's office late Wednesday for extended deliberations on the agenda for a special session.

Under the Texas Constitution the governor alone has authority to call special sessions and specifies subjects for legislators to consider within a 30-day period.

Hobby said items discussed included measures to repeal the state sales tax on utility bills, increase exemptions from state inheritance taxes and abolish the 10-cent state ad valorem tax, which is currently being challenged in court.

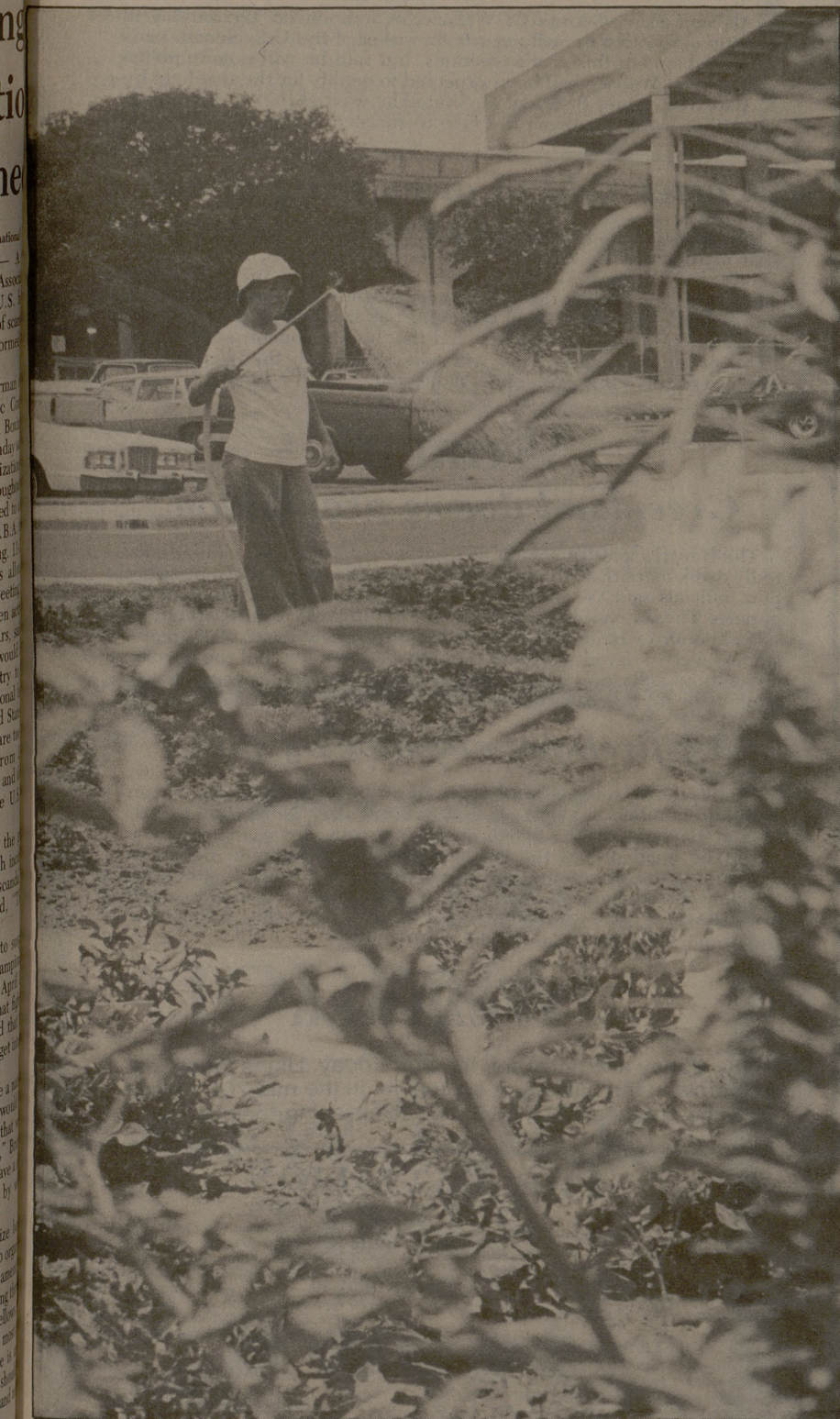
"There was discussion of various plans for limitation of expenditures by state and local government," Hobby said.

The lieutenant governor said he would favor legislative action on a tax limit plan to be considered by voters.

"I have a philosophical problem with the state legislature by statutory action affecting the policies of local government," he said. "I'd like to see a session consider for submission for the people to vote on a constitutional amendment which might limit tax levies of state and local government."

Hobby said he has no doubt voters would favor such a tax limit.

"This is an issue whose time has come and I think it should be dealt with at this time," the lieutenant governor said.



The lady and her flowers

Corrine Bergee, a member of the University's grounds maintenance department, waters some of the myriad of flowers in the University Test Garden on Houston Street. Bergee does double-duty as a housewife and as a full-time worker on the grounds maintenance flower crew.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

College Station budget to include tax increase

By MARK WILLIS
Battalion City Editor

The College Station City Council will present its proposed 1978-79 budget to the public tonight at 7.

The budget, which the council viewed officially for the first time Tuesday, calls for a tax increase of four cents. This increase represents a rise from 52 to 56 cents on a \$100 valuation, based on an 80 percent assessment and should produce an increase of \$170,000 in revenue to the city.

The budget anticipates increased revenue from almost every tax source due to rapid development in the area. This in-

crease is estimated to total about 21 percent.

City expenditures are expected to increase 11 percent, an increase of approximately \$1,422,000 over the present fiscal year. The proposed budget totals \$12,717,261.86.

The increase has been made necessary due to inflation, the need for more services, and salary raises. It calls for a 5 percent increase in all salaries and the addition of several new city employees. Among these would be four officers and two clerks for the police force and four additional firemen.

The final budget must be approved and any alterations made by June 27.

AMA wants amendment against deficit spending

United Press International
ST. LOUIS — The American Medical Association has called for a constitutional amendment prohibiting deficit spending by the federal government.

The action by delegates to the AMA's 127th convention Tuesday reflected a strong sentiment that government policies are responsible in large part for the soaring increases in the cost of medical care.

"This country is on its way to bankruptcy," Dr. F. W. Dowda said. "I know of no doctor here who favors deficit spending."

Dowda, a delegate from Atlanta, urged adoption of the deficit spending resolution. He noted more than two dozen state legislatures have called for a constitutional convention on the matter.

Many doctors applauded after the reso-

lution passed on a voice vote.

The convention urged that doctors, patients, hospitals, insurance companies and other health care professionals be made more aware of ways to hold down health costs.

"Strengthening price consciousness in the health marketplace offers one hope for cost containment," a resolution said.

The statement was adopted only after it was amended to read "one hope" instead of "the greatest hope." The original wording quoted the findings of a special AMA commission that spent two years studying health care costs.

"Most of the increase in recent years in health care is caused by government regulation," Dr. W. Charles Miller of New Orleans said in arguing for the amended wording.

Cheap thrills . . . in 'No Frills' section

United Press International

MIAMI — National Airlines Flight 51 was midway on its five-hour trip from Miami to Los Angeles when a naked blonde with a "beautiful body" came running out of first class into the "No Frills" section of the DC-10, holding a bottle of champagne, laughing and giggling.

Passengers gaped and stewardesses stared at the woman, in her mid 20s, climbed over the six middle seats of the wide cabin jet, whooping and waving the bottle.

"She had a beautiful body," a female passenger said. "Short blonde hair and a complete suntan all over."

"She perched on top of Row 27, guzzling champagne, and the passengers started laughing and clapping. She said she had just inherited \$5 million and that's why she was doing it."

The chief flight attendant, carry-

ing a blanket, chased the blonde up and down the aisles. The blonde, holding on to her bottle and cheered by the applauding passengers, was faster.

A stewardess finally subdued the unidentified woman, wrapped her in the blanket and took her back to first class.

As crew members helped dress her, the blonde's traveling companion "just crawled under the seat," another passenger said. "He didn't even go after her or anything."

The woman "slept like a baby" until the flight got to Los Angeles.

"I never saw so many grins in my life," one woman said. "For the rest of the flight, we just sat there and smiled."

"It definitely did happen," a National spokesman said of the incident.

"It's just not part of our standard in-flight entertainment. We tend to stick to movies and stereo."