

# THE BATTALION

Vol. 71 No. 174  
Pages

Thursday, July 13, 1978  
College Station, Texas

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

## Inside Thursday:

- 'Pajama Tops' begin rehearsals - p. 3.
- New summer courses at craft shop - p. 4.
- Weiskopf chokes - p. 6.



## ension marks ALT II talks

United Press International  
VA, Switzerland — Secretary of State Vance and Soviet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko opened arms limitation talks Wednesday in a darkening cloud of the dissident Soviet Union.

Two men chatted cordially and photographers behind a table in a conference room on the floor of the U.S. delegation building began their meeting four days late to try to resolve two major sticking points in the way of an agreement on the testing of new weapons and limitations on the Soviet bomber.

Vance was putting forward an American proposal that would permit both sides to test a first strike by the other side. The Soviet administration reportedly such a system crucial to protect its nuclear missiles. One American official said that if the Soviets rejected the proposal, there would not be an arms agreement.

A new strain in relations between the United States and Moscow over the trials of the Soviet spy ring and Alexander Solzhenitsyn overshadowed the talks.

Vance told reporters earlier this week that he would permit both sides to test a first strike by the other side. The Soviet administration reportedly such a system crucial to protect its nuclear missiles. One American official said that if the Soviets rejected the proposal, there would not be an arms agreement.

the trials with Gromyko and will meet today with Natalia Avital Shecharansky, wife of the Jewish dissident.

"Mrs. Shecharansky got in touch with me and asked if I would meet with her. I told her I would," Vance told reporters aboard his plane.

In another move to signal the Kremlin it may be alienating American public opinion to the point where the Senate will refuse to ratify a new SALT treaty, Vance was carrying a verbal message from Carter to Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev by way of Gromyko.

White House officials said it would express Carter's "grave concern" over the dissident trials.

Aside from the human rights question, reporters were told Vance expects "tough sledding" in the two days of SALT talks, now in their final and crucial stage.

One problem — how to define a "heavy bomber" that would be permitted to carry air-launched cruise missiles — has been sent to the technical negotiating team that meets regularly in Geneva.

Officials said that leaves two issues to be resolved:

- Controls for the flight testing of a new generation of missiles. The United States wants to keep open the option of developing "mobile" missiles that could be moved from silo to silo to deter the Soviet Union from launching a nuclear first strike.
- Controls for the Soviet Backfire bomber, which the Soviets claim is a medium-range weapon that does not belong in the agreement. U.S. officials believe the restrictions probably will have to be settled at a meeting between President Carter and President Brezhnev.

## Marriage saved despite Medicaid

United Press International  
AS — Although C.W. King, 78, won't claim victory until he sees enough, it now appears he has won his fight for Medicaid's continued care of his wife, meaning he won't have to dig into his savings.

King's marriage of 49 years was in jeopardy a few weeks ago because Medicaid officials claimed the \$2,715 in savings account was too much for him to be eligible for continued Medicaid treatment.

King's maximum assets, King was told, was \$50,000.

King advised King the only way he could empty his bank account to qualify for Medicaid was to divorce his wife, therefore making her penniless.

After the case has received national attention, it appears Medicaid has changed its mind.

Medicaid advised us to draw out the savings and put it under another name," said King's son, Herb. "They said there would be no problem from then on."

"There was a whole world of difference in the Medicaid people after the case got so much publicity."

The elder King is reasonably pleased with what appears to be Medicaid's change of heart, but wants to wait to the end of the month to make sure.

"I think it's OK now, but I won't know for sure until the end of the month when I see for myself if they send the check (to Mrs. King's nursing home)."

The younger King also indicated his father's partial payments for Mrs. King's treatment might go up from \$59 per month to \$70, out of a pension monthly income of \$280.

## New Yorkers recall night of terror

United Press International  
NEW YORK — In Manhattan's Chinatown, the city's poorest neighborhood, hundreds of neighborhood bars serving frosty drinks, 8.3 million New Yorkers will pause today to remember the night their city went black.

They will remember July 13, 1977, the hot and muggy summer night that was "an act of God" — three lightning bolts — delivered the city into a nightmare of darkness and unleashed hours of looting.

For some, there are fond memories of the Great Blackout of 1977 — watching a Broadway play, listening to a radio broadcast, or singing "Jingle Bells" in a darkened Shea Stadium.

Others spent the night in darkness, huddled in doorways with guns or machetes or crude sticks in hand, trying to repel roving bands of looters who danced gleefully in the streets with their new wardrobes, their V sets and bedroom ensembles.

It is a year now since what then-Mayor Abraham Beame called "the night of terror" — the night the city's tenements emptied their residents onto the streets for an orgy of looting and arson.

In all, police in riot gear arrested 15,076 people for looting-related offenses. Wary firefighters, deluged with more than 2,000 alarms, battled 1,000 fires — many set by arsonists — while jeering crowds threw bottles and bricks.

More than 75 percent of the 2,300 businesses damaged during the blackout, 15 percent of which were looted, at whole blocks in Brooklyn, the Bronx and Harlem will never recover.



Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

## "Where is he when I need him?"

Moving out is always a hassle. This young lady seems to be looking for her knight in shining armor in the Krueger-Dunn parking lot to help her with that heavy load. She is moving out of the dorm before the second summer session starts Friday.

## B-CS police request help catching rapist

The College Station and Bryan police have yet to apprehend the person or persons responsible for two rapes and three assaults in this area during the month of June.

Though no such attacks have been reported since police issued a press release July 6 warning citizens and requesting their help in locating the attacker, police still fear the attacks could be repeated.

Police are searching for a black male suspect in his early twenties, about 5-foot 10-inches tall, and weighing approximately 165 pounds. Despite the attacker's recent inactivity police are continuing their investigation, though to date they have had no success.

Police ask that anyone who might have information that could be helpful or who notices anyone fitting the suspect's description under suspicious circumstances contact them. Should a person notice such a suspicious individual leaving the area by car, police ask that he or she take note of the car's make and license number if possible, then notify local police.

information that could be helpful or who notices anyone fitting the suspect's description under suspicious circumstances contact them. Should a person notice such a suspicious individual leaving the area by car, police ask that he or she take note of the car's make and license number if possible, then notify local police.

## Marijuana wins as favorite weed over tobacco

United Press International  
BOULDER, Colo. — University of Colorado students who smoke prefer marijuana to tobacco, according to a recent survey.

The survey, conducted by a university journalism class, found that marijuana smokers outnumber cigarette smokers almost 3-to-1 at the school.

The class randomly selected 360 students and interviewed them by telephone this past spring. The survey found that 56 percent of the students smoke marijuana while only 20 percent smoke cigarettes.

Most of the students interviewed — 83 percent — would like to see marijuana legalized or decriminalized.

The survey showed that about 30 percent of students described themselves as conservative smoke marijuana, as well as 56 percent of the moderates.

The survey indicated the sophomore class has more marijuana smokers than any other class. It also indicated the sophomore class had more liberals and the most teetotalers of those surveyed.

## Tax cuts come fast in Austin

United Press International  
AUSTIN — Legislation providing the largest tax reduction in Texas history has moved through the House and Senate easily and taxpayers could feel the benefits of the bills as early as September.

The House and Senate Wednesday each unanimously passed different versions of bills repealing the state sales tax on utility bills and increasing inheritance tax exemptions. Speaker Bill Clayton said a conference committee probably will be necessary to resolve differences in the two versions of the bill.

Depending on which version is finally approved, the net saving to taxpayers in the next three years could range from the \$486 million in the Senate bills to the \$535 million reduction in the House proposals.

Clayton said the sales and inheritance tax reductions may wait in conference committee to determine what other tax reduction proposals may be passed by the special legislative session called by Gov. Dolph Briscoe.

"These bills are going to pass, there's no question about that," Clayton said. "It may be we hold this bill while we work on some others and see what the price tag on some of the other bills will be."

Briscoe asked the legislators to approve a program that could reduce state taxes up to \$1.6 billion in the next three years, virtually depleting a projected state surplus.

The bill approved by the House 136-0 Wednesday would repeal the 4 percent state sales tax on residential and small business utility bills, permit cities to re-

peal the 1 percent city levy and exempt the first \$200,000 value of an estate from inheritance taxes.

Under the House plan, the repeal of the sales taxes on utility bills would take effect Sept. 1, while customers are paying high electric bills for summer cooling. Senators proposed to make the repeal effective Oct. 1.

The House defeated 72-69 an attempt by Rep. John Wilson, D-La Grange, to also repeal the sales tax on utility bills paid by commercial customers, giving an additional \$210 million tax saving to businesses.

Rep. Tom Schieffer, D-Fort Worth, opposed Wilson's amendment, saying large retail stores would receive the biggest benefits.

"This bill is not going to give mom and pop a tax break, it's going to give the big tax break to Sears, Safeway and Neiman-Marcus," Schieffer said. "Sears, Safeway and Neiman-Marcus are going to get \$240 million out of this amendment and mom and pop are going to get \$3 million."

"If you think Sears, Safeway and Neiman-Marcus are going to give this money back to consumers in the form of lower prices, you still believe in fairy tales."

Both the House and Senate adjourned for the weekend after approving the tax reduction proposals. Committee hearings are scheduled Monday on other of Briscoe's tax relief plans, but Lt. Gov. William Hobby indicated the Senate may have passed all it will pass this session.

## Subdivision project goes underground

United Press International  
FORT WORTH — A land speculator hopes to break ground on the nation's first earth-covered subdivision before the new year.

"We'll build 7 to 10 earth-covered spec homes in a subdivision, and try to determine from their sales what to do next," said Robert Needham. "I think we'll be the first in the nation to undertake this kind of project."

But if Fort Worth architect Frank Moreland is right, Needham's subdivision won't be the last.

"In four or five years, what I call hill-homes will be a significant part of the housing market nationwide," predicts Moreland, an architecture professor at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Fort Worth has an application pending for federal funding to build four demonstration homes in older neighborhoods. A decision is expected by the end of the month.

A Moreland-designed hill-home is under construction in Waxahachie, Texas, and four more will be constructed in nearby Colleyville.

"Think of the earth-covered home as a house shoved into a hill, sideways," Moreland explained.

One side of a hill-home is uncovered, with lots of glass windows. The other three sides are set into a hill, either manmade or natural. Over the living area is a 16-inch slab of concrete reinforced with four to six layers of steel, and over the slab is nine

feet of earth. In Moreland's designs, the homes are set no more than three feet into the ground.

Needham says he won't use Moreland's plan, requiring nine feet of earth over the home. Instead, he'll use no more than four feet, which significantly cuts the construction price.

"The energy savings are better with the larger amount of earth, but our design is more cost-effective," he said. "And with optional energy sources such as solar-electric cells and wind generators, we're hoping to offer a home that will feature a zero energy bill."

Moreland says people interested in hill-homes aren't concerned with aesthetics. But while the exteriors of his homes look like shrub-covered hills, the interiors are extremely liveable.

More important than design is function, according to Moreland.

"We anticipate reducing energy bills by 90 percent," he said. "It's getting where people are paying as much for utilities as they are on their mortgages, and that's where we have such a great advantage."

Moreland and Needham agree that it's still difficult to get conventional financing for an earth-covered home.

Needham says final plans for the homes aren't ready yet, but he expects construction to begin in December or January. No sites have been selected.

"When the government finally accepts the practicality of this type of design, we'll be seeing a lot of them."



Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

## A going away present

Aggies on their way home are not immune to parking tickets as Charles Demack (far right) learns while loading his car to leave for the summer. Officer Les Cline is ticketing Demack for parking illegally in the lot shared by Aston Hall residents and senior Corp cadets.

Officer Les Cline is ticketing Demack for parking illegally in the lot shared by Aston Hall residents and senior Corp cadets.