

Disabled

Able-bodied students taking handicapped students' parking spaces poses more of a burden than most realize. See page 11.

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Sand Skiing

Racing through the desert sands, or trudging, is becoming a new sport. As usual, the trend began in L.A. See page 9.

Bill to restore \$2.2 billion to defense budget

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Harold Brown is shopping in Capitol Hill for a \$2.2 billion list of post-veto items administration wants restored to the defense budget.

He faced skepticism from administration supporters as well as rough questioning by opponents in an appearance Wednesday in the House Armed Services Committee, but there was little prospect of another lengthy confrontation.

The committee is rewriting the authorization bill President Carter vetoed because it contained a \$2 billion nuclear carrier he opposed.

Brown's testimony Wednesday centered on \$545 million in weapons and equipment. The rest of the list, totaling about 2 percent of the approximately \$125 billion that will be spent on defense in the fiscal year, will be considered later by appropriations panels.

The member who supported the veto

said he found only about \$165 million of the \$545 million in new requests arguable on their merits, with the rest apparently added to support Carter's claim that large cuts in essential programs were made to finance the carrier in the original bill.

"It's an awfully weak list," he said. "There are some real turkeys on it."

Rep. Charles Bennett, D-Fla., a leader among forces who put the carrier in the original bill, said there would be no attempt to fight a rear-guard action for the huge ship.

"I want to move forward," he said, "but I don't think the committee will want to put anything in the bill they don't think is valid."

Rep. Melvin Price, D-Ill., the committee chairman, has introduced a new bill deleting the carrier and including some additional money to help the Navy pay off longstanding shipbuilding cost claims. But it would restore none of the earlier cuts made by the panel in weapons programs.

Court says landlords not liable for injuries

HOUSTON — Landlords have a legal obligation to maintain rental property in livable condition, but tenants cannot collect damages for injuries on that basis, the Supreme Court ruled Wednesday.

The high court refused to apply its landmark April 12 ruling on habitability to the damage claim of a Houston woman injured in a fall into a drain at the Sands Apartments.

Attorneys for Alberta C. Morris of Houston sought to win \$500,000 in damages for her for injuries she sustained in a Sept. 20, 1970, accident near a swimming pool at the Sands Apartments at 6315 S. Loop E.

Mrs. Morris, then 57, said she was walking to her apartment through the swimming pool area when she stepped on a

drain cover that flipped and caused her to fall into the hole.

She did not go to a doctor for several days but then had to be hospitalized for two and a half months and was out of work for about a year, she testified.

A Houston jury ruled the drain cover was not defective, however, and refused to assess damages against the manufacturer, Swimquip Inc. The jury also ruled the apartment owner, Roy D. Kaylor, was not negligent in his maintenance of the property.

W. Jiles Roberts of Houston, lawyer for Mrs. Morris, argued the implied warranty of habitability between landlord and tenant made the apartment owner strictly liable for the accident.

The Supreme Court said Wednesday it found no reversible error in that decision.

Gramm calls bill 'piecemeal' legislation

By ROY BRAGG
Battalion Reporter

Democratic congressional candidate Phil Gramm charged Wednesday that the compromise natural gas bill now before the Senate is "piecemeal legislation" and largely window dressing.

Gramm called for "a full-fledged deregulation" of natural gas prices in place of the bill.

The bill now before the Senate is a compromise of President Carter's original energy program. The bill calls for all natural gas prices in the country to be brought under one pricing guideline. The prices would be slowly escalated at the rate of inflation plus an additional 3.5 percent a year until 1985.

The bill also includes deregulation of interstate gas prices.

The bill is discussed as a deregulation bill," Gramm said, "but it is not a deregulation bill."

The bill does raise the price of gas from

\$1.50 per thousand cubic feet to \$2.01, Gramm said, but he added that under current guidelines the prices would rise to \$2 anyway.

Gramm said the bill would freeze the price of gas in Texas and "eliminate the ability of Texans to compete for their own natural gas and to consume it on a priority basis."

He said there is a surplus of natural gas in Texas of approximately 5 to 25 percent due to the lack of federal government supervision. Texans may have to pay more for their gas, said Gramm, but they have had no major shortages.

"In the last six months," he continued, "the price of new natural gas sales in Texas have actually declined at the same time that the inflation rate has been rising." Gramm again attributed the lack of federal interference with the increased number of gas wells being drilled in Texas during the last 4 years.



Poetry in motion

Photographer Robert Cook captured yet another facet of Rudder Fountain Monday night. The particles of water illuminated by soft surrounding lights creates an almost ethereal image.

Student alleges rape

By ANDREA VALLS
Battalion Staff

A Texas A&M University student was allegedly raped late Tuesday night in a vacant lot near Treehouse Apartments.

The student, a 21-year-old senior, reportedly was approached by a black male while she was putting trash in the apartment dumpster.

Police say the man forced her at knifepoint to a car where he bound and gagged her. He then allegedly took her to a nearby field and raped her.

The woman was unable to identify the model and year of the car, but noted vinyl

upholstery and a loud muffler.

The suspect is described as approximately 5 feet 8 inches to 5 feet 9 inches tall, 160 to 170 pounds, and dressed in black and white slacks.

College Station police did not say whether there was any connection between this incident and three other alleged rapes reported in June and July.

Bryan police are investigating the alleged rape of a 7-year-old child. According to reports, the child was taken from her home Tuesday afternoon and driven to a county road where the rape allegedly occurred.

Kennedy met with Soviets, dissident physicist says

UNITED PRESS INTERNATIONAL
MOSCOW — Sen. Edward Kennedy had a secret meeting with leading Soviet dissidents in Moscow last Sunday just hours after meeting Soviet President Leonid Brezhnev, dissident physicist Andrei Sakharov said Wednesday.

Sakharov told Western correspondents that Kennedy met for two and a half hours

in early Sunday with the dissidents and told them he wanted to hear their point of view on human rights issues in general.

"Senator Kennedy told us he was interested in the human rights problem and said he wanted to hear our opinions not only on emigration, but in general on human rights questions," Sakharov said.

See related story, p.9.

National appeals court proposed

WASHINGTON — The Justice Department Wednesday proposed creation of a new national appeals court to help bring uniformity to laws covering highly technical civil tax, patent and environmental cases.

The specialized court would be formed by merging the U.S. Court of Claims and the U.S. Court of Customs, and adding three judges to increase the size to 15 members.

Daniel J. Meador, assistant attorney general of the office for improvements in the administration of justice, said the proposal amounts to a "modest change" — a compromise to overcome strong resistance to creation of a national appeals court with jurisdiction over all cases.

Meador noted, in a speech to the Fed-

eral Bar Association, that Congress in the past has rejected proposals calling for establishment of a new appellate court. Such a court, second in authority to the Supreme Court, could screen out cases that might otherwise fail to reach the high court.

Under the current system, Meador said, the Supreme Court "is now reviewing less than 1 percent of the cases decided by the courts of appeals."

Meador said circuit court judges "know that the likelihood that any decision they write will be reviewed by the Supreme Court is very slight. They also know that, on many issues, there is no definitive legal ruling which must be followed. As a result, it is not unusual for the appellate courts to reach different decisions on the same issue."

Findings could make Texas uranium leader

With the development of more efficient recovery methods by a Texas A&M geologist, Texas could surpass Wyoming as the nation's second leading producer of uranium.

In the past 28 months Wen Huang of the A&M Center of Sedimentology has earned two patents for the recovery of aluminum. With the price of uranium expected to reach \$80 per pound soon, the owners of uranium reserves also are looking for improved recovery methods.

Research by Wen and his associates is aimed at perfecting leaching, a process being used on reserves in Duval and Webb counties while not yet perfected for major commercial operations.

Further north, surface mining has made uranium part of a multimillion dollar mineral business with at least three plants in Karnes County and another in Live Oak.

With the oil companies which own 72 percent of Texas' uranium reserves contributing support, Wen is deeply involved in the study of separation and extraction of uranium from lignite and sandstone deposits.

Texas has the only known uranium that comes from a coastal plains region where the mineral is intertwined with sandstone and lignite.

Wen's method would dissolve uranium using a reagent pumped in under 10,000 pounds per square inch pressure and the liquid would be drawn out through another pump. With the more efficient leaching methods available, Texas could surpass Wyoming, which in 1975 produced about one-third of the nation's uranium. New Mexico supplies more than half the mineral. Three years ago, Texas produced less than 10 percent of the nation's total.

Texas A&M researchers claim to be the first to discover that uranium concentrations are not homogenous within lignite deposits, a discovery that is both promising and alarming.

Wen said it is possible some uranium is dumped on the ground around strip mining operations if coal is found to be of a low quality. Subsequent rains could dissolve the uranium and release it into surface or subsurface water and soil.

But, he said, the lack of homogenous concentrations of uranium will make the efficient extraction of it much easier.

Enrollment official now

A record 30,901 students are enrolled at Texas A&M University this fall, Registrar Robert A. Lacey announced Wednesday.

Lacey said the fall total represents an increase of 1,487 students over figures for fall 1977.

A&M engineer: treaty 'doomed'

A former United States delegate to the U.N. Law of the Sea Conference believes the treaty is doomed, based on the reactions of the Soviet Union.

Ocean engineer John Flipse of Texas A&M University said at a Law of the Sea seminar here that the Russians are really closely aligned with the United States on some topics but have set up a holler about Third World sovereignty, leading him to conclude the pact will not be ratified.

"They wouldn't do it unless they were sure the treaty will fail and they are now trying to re-establish credibility with the lesser developed countries," Flipse deduced at the Texas A&M-United Methodist Church sponsored meeting here.

Meanwhile, a former attorney for the Environmental Protection Agency, Robert McManus, said he was disappointed in the results of environmental negotiations among the nearly 160 nations involved.

"You might say they go right for the capillaries," he commented on the "half-a-loaf" negotiations.

Although environmental issues — particularly protection of the marine ecology in the 200-mile exclusive economic zones — of will be pivotal, McManus explained that the prevailing mentality in negotiations is that of Third World suspicion that the big powers will use Scientific research as a guise for spying.

Gulf Oil Co. executive John Garrett, also a former United States delegate to the United Nations conference, said technology will allow sea floor production systems in depths of more than a half-mile within two or three years.

Conference goal: explaining sea law

Promoting lay interest in the legal aspects of marine affairs was the goal of this week's Law of the Sea Conference, sponsored jointly by Texas A&M University and the United Methodist Church.

The Tuesday and Wednesday conference dealt with the legal aspects of marine pollution, geology and biology, as well as with current political, social and technological influences on the law of the sea.

Dr. Robert Brick of the wildlife and fisheries science department organized the conference. He said that knowledge of the law of the sea is essential to all citizens, because a well-informed public will have a more intelligent position when contacting legislators on marine-related issues.

Brick said he was selected to organize the conference since he is a member of the Texas A&M faculty as well as the UMC. Both organizations have a profound interest in the law of the sea, he said.

"A&M has a substantial interest in marine affairs, including its own research vessel," he said. Disputes over territorial waters have limited the vessel's access to some coastal regions to as much as 100 miles, Brick said.

He added that as a university, Texas A&M has a broader interest in helping mankind, not only in research, but in politics as well.

"A world where affairs are conducted in a frame of law would be one where there would be less helter-skelter in international relations," Brick said.

The UMC, on the other hand, is interested in controlling technology with law. The church stresses concern over the equitable distribution of the sea's resources by taking an active interest in the United Nations Law of the Sea Conference, and by sponsoring such conferences as the one here.

The church's primary interests are rights of non-coastal and underdeveloped nations to the sea's resources.

Brick said he and Dr. Robert Abel, assistant vice president for marine programs, sought speakers who had the kind of expertise necessary to discuss the issues thoroughly. Speakers at the conference included two delegates to the U.N. conference, ocean engineer John Flipse of A&M and John Garrett of the Gulf Oil Co.

Although attendance at the meetings was low, Bric said the conference was extremely successful.

"All speakers did an outstanding job of presenting legal and highly sophisticated topics to lay audiences," he said. Many questions from the audience also indicated the conference's success, he said.