

# THE BATTALION

Vol. 72 No. 24  
16 Pages

Wednesday, October 4, 1978  
College Station, Texas

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

## Thought about 'unthinkable'?

- Preparing for nuclear attack is not a topic of everyday conversation, but President Carter wants to revitalize civil defense programs. Even so, some families are already prepared. See page 11.

- The "most competitive scholarships in the world," are up for grabs. For details see page 4.
- Railroad unions could go on strike — again — about the time of Turkey Day. See page 5.



Battalion photo by J. Wagner Tynes

## Iron Curtain???

This sign was hung near the west side entrance of Texas A&M University campus late last Thursday night. Mickey McDermott, a senior dairy science major, says he made the sign and

hung it there because it reminded him of the gates of West Berlin, Germany. McDermott studied at the Institute last summer as a member of the TAMU in Germany program.

## Criminal court tries Trial Act

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN, Texas — Prosecuting attorneys say the Legislature overstepped its jurisdiction by trying to ensure defendants and speedy verdicts with the Speedy Trial Act and hope the Court of Criminal Appeals will declare the statute unconstitutional.

The court began hearing arguments Tuesday on the act, which requires prosecutors try all major felony cases within 90 days or dismiss the charges.

At least three murder suspects have been freed without trials because prosecutors failed to meet the 120-day deadline.

Prosecutors say the law, passed by the Legislature and effective July 1, is an encroachment upon the judicial branch of government.

Tuesday's test case will involve a felony drunk-driving charge against Linzy Wade of Austin, who wants the charge against him dismissed because he was not tried within 120 days of his Feb. 5 arrest.

The Wade case centers on the issue of whether the 120-day limit was retroactive. The Wade case is the first detailed challenge of the law that the appellate court

has agreed to consider. The court earlier refused to take up appeals on behalf of Mary Lou Anderson of Richmond, the first woman sentenced to death in Texas, and James E. Wright Sr. of Eastland, who faces a murder charge for shooting his wife in a courthouse. The law requires courts to dismiss charges against defendants in cases where

the state is not ready for trial within 120 days on a felony offense, 90 days on Class A misdemeanors, 60 days on Class B misdemeanors or 30 days on minor infractions such as speeding.

The time limit is waived if the defendant agrees to a delay, or if the defendant is not available to stand trial within the prescribed time period.

Mike McCormick, executive director of the prosecutors' association, said Texas would need four times as many courts and attorneys to eliminate court backlogs and handle cases as rapidly as the new law requires.

He said the Legislature has no business setting time limits for trial of persons accused of crimes.

## Carter gets bill to expand power Coast Guard has over tankers

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — The House Tuesday passed and sent to President Carter a bill strengthening the Coast Guard's authority to regulate tanker safety and closing U.S. ports to tankers with a history of oil spills or other violations.

The legislation is designed to prevent massive oil spills such as the rash of disasters that have fouled beaches around the world over the last few years.

The final version of the bill passed the

Senate by voice vote Saturday, and the House by unanimous consent agreed to a series of technical Senate amendments Tuesday, sending the legislation to the White House.

One of the strongest provisions gives the Coast Guard authority to ban foreign vessels from U.S. ports for a variety of reasons. No on-vessel inspection is required.

A vessel may be banned from U.S. ports or territorial waters if it has a serious his-

tory of pollution accidents; does not comply with U.S. or international safety, equipment or construction regulations; does not meet proper crew and manning standards; discharges oil illegally, or fails to comply with various other requirements.

The bill also gives the secretary of transportation authority to regulate port safety, to regulate transfer of oil between tankers at sea, and to establish sea routes into ports.

The legislation sets new crew, manning and inspection requirements, and provides that any foreign tanker operating in U.S. waters must meet or exceed these standards.

In general, the legislation follows new international standards, but it is stronger in some respects.

For example, it covers existing vessels between 20,000 and 40,000 deadweight tons, requiring that segregated ballast or crude oil washing systems be installed by 1986 or when the vessel is 15 years old, whichever is later.

## Bryan woman has an answer for those who 'just can't get up in the morning'

By SUSAN WEBB  
Battalion Reporter

Sometimes groggy-headed students have a hard time responding to an alarm clock. But Jane Kraft, of Bryan, has a remedy for this. She operates a telephone wake-up service and greets her student customers with a cheerful, "Good morning, it's time to wake up."

Kraft began the wake-up service earlier this fall, but has received little response.

"I got a lot of calls in the beginning, but most people thought it was a free service," Kraft said. "One man that called seemed to be under the impression I was going to come to his house and knock on his door to wake him up," she said.

Kraft charges her subscribers to the service a fee of \$5 per month for calls Monday through Friday.

Kraft explained that her wake-up service does have an advantage over the alarm clock system. "Most people who have a snooze button on their alarm clock, just keep pushing it. Or if they turn the alarm off, it's off," Kraft said. "If you have to get up to answer the phone, I think that tends to wake you up, especially if it is in another room."

Kyle Crews, one subscriber, says the wake-up service is quite helpful. Crews, a senior majoring in journalism at Texas A&M University, said, "When you figure the investment you have in classes, the service is very economical."

Crews also said the wake-up service is very reliable. "She (Kraft) hasn't missed a day yet and calls almost to the minute," he said.



focus

The Battalion is starting a new weekly features-entertainment tabloid. Take a leap into the old past of the Renaissance in Thursday's Focus.

## To sit or not to sit Crowd 'asks' student to get off grass

Lindsey Scoggin, a junior, was the center of attention as he sat on the grass of the Memorial Student Center reading a book Tuesday morning.

He said later he was waiting for his next class.

Several students told him he shouldn't be sitting on the grass, which they said should be treated like the MSC. The MSC is dedicated to former students who have died in wars.

A crowd gathered around the lawn as students yelled taunts and threats at Scoggin to get him to move. He didn't and the crowd reacted with shouts of "Send him to t.u.," and "Are you a communist?"

He did not move and a woman walked out onto the grass, picked up his books and shoes, and threatened to take them with her if he didn't get off the grass.

Scoggin left the grass to get his things and some students threatened him with violence. A crowd of about fifty persons gathered around as two women stepped

forward and questioned the man's reasons for sitting on the grass.

When he said he was just waiting for class, the women said he was infringing on the rights of all students at Texas A&M if he violated their rights by sitting on the grass.

"It wasn't my objective to harass anyone," Scoggin said later. "I had no intention of causing a problem and I wasn't

See related opinions, photograph, page 2.

bothering anyone. I wasn't hurting the grass and it wasn't memorialized.

"When I first sat down I didn't even think about it causing a problem. But when people started harassing me I took my stand. All I wanted to do was enjoy myself."

The status of the grass around the MSC came up last year when the Student Gov-

ernment passed a resolution to make the grass a memorial around the MSC and Rudder Tower.

The MSC Council denied the resolution in a meeting Oct. 27, 1977.

The MSC Council also adopted a policy that says, "As the MSC grounds are a part of a living campus and at times are used as a teaching aid, the use of the Memorial Student Center grounds will not be discouraged. The use of the Memorial Student Center grounds will be left to the discretion of the individual."

In spite of the MSC policy, some still think the grass should be treated as a memorial and encourage others to do so.

Some people watching Tuesday morning agreed with Scoggin's action. "My grandfather was an ex-Aggie that was killed in World War I," one student said. "If he were here today he would want me to sit on the grass and enjoy it. He would probably sit out there and enjoy it with me. He always enjoyed sitting outside no matter where he was."