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Wednesday, October 4, 1978 College Station, Texas

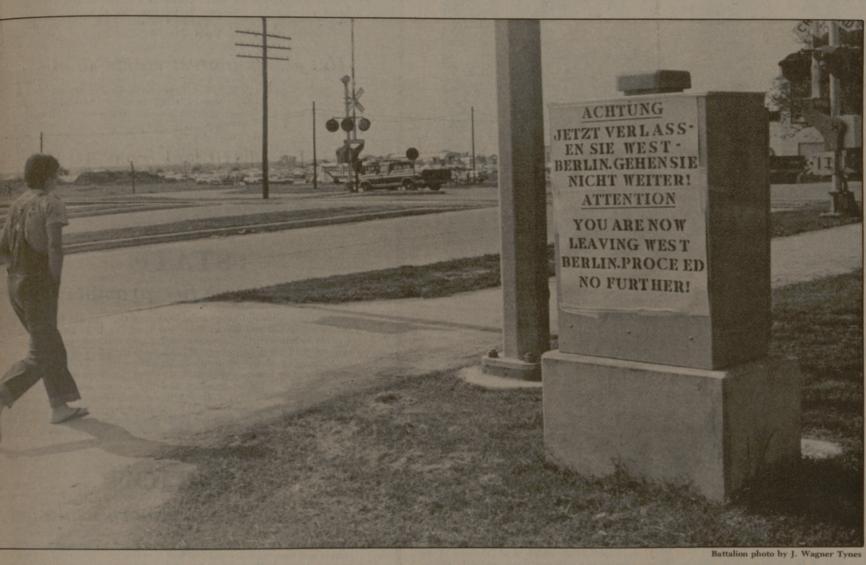
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#### Thought about 'unthinkable'?

• 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.



#### 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

#### Criminal court tries Trial Act

United Press International
USTIN, Texas — Prosecuting attors say the Legislature overstepped its diction by trying to ensure defendants and speedy verdicts with the Speedy \$2.29 Act and hope the Court of Criminal eals will declare the statute uncon-

> he court began hearing arguments day on the act, which requires protors try all major felony cases within days or dismiss the charges.

t least three murder suspects have tors failed to meet the 120-day dead-

ecutors say the law, passed by the Legislature and effective July 1, is an gement upon the judicial branch of

esday's test case will involve a felony unk-driving charge against Linzy Wade Austin, who wants the charge against dismissed because he was not tried hin 120 days of his Feb. 5 arrest. The Wade case centers on the issue of

ether the 120-day limit was retroactive. he Wade case is the first detailed chalnge of the law that the appellate court

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 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 re-

He said the Legislature has no business setting time limits for trial of persons ac-

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

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 re-

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

ply 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 require-

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

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,

center of attention as he sat on the grass of the Memorial Student Center reading a

He said later he was waiting for his next

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

students yelled taunts and threats at Scog-

gin 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?"

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

A crowd gathered around the lawn as

book Tuesday morning.

## Case against prisons begins

HOUSTON — A federal judge Tuesday angrily warned the state's lawyers to limit their questioning of prison inmates who have accused the Texas Department of

Corrections of mistreating them.
U.S. District Judge William Wayne twice admonished Assistant Attorney General Ed Idar Jr. in cross-examination of inmate Lawrence Pope, 60, during trial of a suit demanding court-ordered improvements in prison conditions.

"I'm just simply telling you you'd better hurry up," Justice said as Idar struggled at length to make a point about prison administration.

"I want to see that you are given your due process rights," the judge told Idar. "But this is taking an unconscionably long

Justice Monday began non-jury trial of eight inmate lawsuits charging unconstitu-tional prison conditions including overcrowding, abuse, harassment, poor medical care, slave labor and denial of access to

The case, brought on behalf of the more than 24,000 inmates in Texas' 15 prisons, was expected to take four months to try.

Inmate David Resendez Ruiz, 36, who filed the first of the consolidated suits in

June 1972, testified Tuesday he was de nied adequate medical care for self-inflicted mutilation of his foot tendons.

"My only way out of solitary was to mutilate my tendons," Ruiz said. "I mutilated the tendons on my right foot. I was transferred to the hospital."

He said he was forced to take a resulting cast off too early because he was put to work and that the foot "didn't heal prop-"He said he had cut himself 15 times and had never received psychiatric

Ruiz also said he and other inmates were sprayed with Mace by prison employees while locked in their cells.

He said he lost 10 pounds in 14 days in solitary confinement despite a federal

court order requiring adequate diet, but the state objected to the testimony on grounds that it related to another lawsuit.

Pope Monday testified he was denied meetings with co-plaintiffs, harassed with nude searches before and after using a prison legal library and punished for writing letters to lawyers.

On cross-examination Tuesday, Idar disputed each allegation. Idar spent 30 minutes trying to explain the "strip-searches" allegation through questions and

answers from Pope. Justice interrupted.
"Is the point of all this that he could have left the writ room (legal library), gone to the piddling room (craft shop nearby) and armed himself with a knife?" Justice asked impatiently.

"That's exactly the point, your honor," Idar replied. On cross-examination, Assistant Attorney General Harry Walsh challenged Ruiz' testimony he had been forced

After a lengthy hostile exchange, Walsh asked, "I take it by your answer that no one directed you to take that (cast) off, did they?" Ruiz, who had said he had to take it off to go to work shelling peas and peanuts,

Walsh also disputed Ruiz' charge he had been denied psychiatric treatment after the self-mutiliation, then been punished unjustly because he sought to enforce his civil rights and that he and others were maced unjustly.

Under questioning, Ruiz said that in a decade in prison, he knew of only two macing incidents.

On cross-examination of Pope, Idar elicited testimony that he was on some occasions allowed to consult with co-plaintiff inmates and that strip-searches related to use of the legal library might have been more security-related than harassing, as Pope charged. Idar also offered a four-inch stack of writs, petitions and lawsuits Pope had filed in courts to show he was not denied access to the courts.



tocus

The Battalion is starting a new weekly features-entertainment tab-

Take a leap into the old past of the Renaissance in Thursday's

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

By SUSAN WEBB

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 morn-

ing, 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

Lindsey Scoggin, a junior, was the forward and questioned the man's reasons

To sit or not to sit

Crowd 'asks' student to get off 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

"It wasn't my objective to harass any-one," Scoggin said later. "I had no inten-tion of causing a problem and I wasn't

See related opinions, photograph,

bothering anyone. I wasn't hurting the He did not move and a woman walked 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

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

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 out-

side no matter where he was.