

## Living with the law

The following column, which will run three times a week starting today, is provided by the Texas A&M University student legal advisers as a service to Battalion readers:

**We're in trouble. Our apartment was not ready to move into this fall. The manager said she would pay for our hotel bill. Now she says she won't. Can we make her pay the bill? When should we start paying rent?**

Any agreements you have in writing are of course binding on the manager. An oral agreement may be enforceable also, but that would be more difficult since, as a general rule, contracts affecting an interest in real property, such as your apartment, must be written to be enforced.

In any case, do not withhold rent as a remedy. Court action may be necessary. Some lease forms may say that rent shall be abated during the time the tenant cannot live in the apartment due to construction. This would mean your rent starts the day you move in. Look closely at your lease.

Editor's note: Answers are general and should not replace the personal advice of an attorney. Questions for this column can be addressed to The Battalion or students' legal advisers in 211 YMCA.

## Lawyer tries to free Rudolf Hess - again

United Press International  
AUSTIN — An attorney who has tried unsuccessfully for more than three years to have Rudolf Hess — a former deputy of Adolf Hitler — released from Berlin's Spandau Prison said last week he would make his fourth attempt at releasing the 84-year-old former deputy fuhrer.

Merrell Frazer Jr. said he had new evidence to present to Russian officials that could free Hess, the one defendant of the Nuremberg War Crimes Trial still imprisoned.

"The Russians will never release Hess unless they feel it is in their own interest to do so," Frazer said. "I hope to show them how this will be possible."

Hess is the lone prisoner in the 600-unit prison, which is operated

by the four victorious Allied powers of World War II — the United States, Russia, France and Great Britain.

Hess, who left Hitler in 1941 and flew to Scotland on a mission of peace, has been in solitary confinement since 1966, when Albert Speer and Baldur von Schirach were released after serving 20-year sentences.

"Rudolf Hess is the only man in the history of the world to be indicted, tried, convicted and imprisoned for 'crimes against peace,'" said Frazer, "an ex post facto crime that had neither precedent nor recognition in international law either before or after the Nuremberg trial."

## Scruffy plants may be new rubber source A&M research

A projected national rubber shortage and the state's climate have encouraged researchers at Texas A&M University to help make Texas a rubber-producing state.

The potential source is a scruffy, two-foot-high desert shrub called guayule (wy-OO-lee). The United States government, several groups of university researchers and America's tire companies are interested in the plant.

And for good reason. Guayule produces a rubber chemically identical to that of the Asian rubber tree.

**World demand for all types of rubber, including natural rubber, is expected to double in the next 10 to 25 years.**

Texas A&M researchers have been awarded \$109,000 by the Southwest Border Regional Commission to study the desert plant. Commission members include the governors of Texas, Arizona, California and New Mexico — states where the plant grows naturally.

Additional money may be available soon. The U.S. Senate has approved a bill that would put \$30 million into guayule research over a four-year period. Another bill in the House calls for \$60 million over a five-year span.

Research will attempt to make production of rubber from guayule profitable.

Dr. Neville Clarke, director of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, said, "We do not propose to research the problem to death before we discover whether or not it will work. However, there is a substantial experience from development of other crops, such as sorghum and cotton, to show that

major development in economic yields can be achieved.

"We can expect to increase basic yields of guayule by not less than a factor of two over a 10-year period," he said. "It may even be accomplished in five."

In addition to Texas A&M's studies, breeding programs are under way at the University of Arizona and at the Los Angeles Arboretum. In Fort Stockton, Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. is starting nursery operations that will be followed by planting tests.

Just a few years ago, it looked like rubber would be replaced by more reliable synthetics.

But that was before radial tires, which use twice as much rubber in anatural-synthetic blend as regular tires. Truck tires use three times as much.

"The strategic importance of rubber is almost immeasurable," said

Dan Bragg, an industrial engineer at Texas A&M's Industrial Economics Research Division. "World demand for all types of rubber, including natural rubber, is expected to double in the next 10 to 25 years."

**Research will attempt to make production of rubber from guayule profitable.**

Most forecasters estimate that there will be a shortage of one million tons per year by 1985, Bragg said.

It has been estimated that 8 million acres of guayule would be needed for cultivation to meet projected demands.

"Because of its low water requirements, guayule has the potential to become a boon to vast areas of our arid and semiarid Southwest," said Dr. Charles Miller of the Texas

A&M plant sciences department. "It could bring significant relief to the chronically depressed economics of the region."

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