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Plimpton beware

Battalion reporter Lyle Lovett took a page from George Plimpton's book of participatory journalism by dancing with the Houston Ballet Wednesday. See page 9.



We grow bikes, too

Bikers beware! When the sprinkler systems are turned on, your vehicle might grow an inch or two, but more likely it'll just rust. These bicycles were parked near the Michel T. Halbouty Geosciences building on Spence St.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Westmoreland says U.S. can't be isolationist

By DOUG ERCK
Battalion Reporter

The United States cannot resort to isolationism because of its dependence on foreign imports, former U.S. Army Chief of Staff William C. Westmoreland told a group at Texas A&M University Thursday.

"Our country does not have the option of retreat into isolationism," he said. "American reliance on foreign materials is made evident by our importing more than 60 percent of our oil."

Westmoreland spoke about some of the most pressing trouble spots of the world, then opened the program to questions.

"Our nation and the world around us is a state of drastic transition," said Westmoreland, "with political, moral, economic, and military conditions composing changing national strengths."

He said that the population of poorer countries continues to boom, and the total world population is growing at a rate of 172

per second. He said that the advancements in industrial technology is also growing and is contributing to military growth.

Most of the program dealt with the military and political relationship of the United States with the rest of the world.

Westmoreland repeatedly compared the United States with the Soviet Union. "The Soviets are adding men to their armies while we are cutting ours in half. The U.S. defense spending is the lowest it has been in 26 years, while the Soviets are spending three times what we are."

Westmoreland attributed the ever-increasing military advance by the Soviets to their direct aggressive attitude.

The national will and the moral attitude of a nation may be just as important as its actual military strength, Westmoreland said. "Our adversary may try to destroy our moral attitudes, thus lowering our will, and try to submerge us without firing a single shot."

Again, in citing trouble spots around the globe, Westmoreland focused on military and political problems which affect the United States. "Latin America could have a great future if they would control their population growth," he said.

Westmoreland expressed his concern for the status of Cuba as being a source of trouble for the Western Hemisphere. Cuba's army is three times the size of the U.S. Army, and Cuba has for years been an extension of the Soviet Union, he said.

General Westmoreland was the Army's Chief of Staff from 1968 to 1972. After he completed his four-year term, Westmoreland retired, thus ending a 36-year career which included a brigadier general promotion at age 38 and a two-year term as Superintendent at West Point Academy. He is serving as chairman of the Governor's Task Force for Economic Growth in South Carolina.

Local bank sells exotic animals

By ROY BRAGG
Battalion Reporter

The Bank of A&M will continue to sell animals from Exotic Wildlife Unlimited in an attempt to liquidate all operations of the compound.

Dennis Goehring, president of the bank, made the statement Thursday at a press conference called by the bank to clarify its position concerning the future of the park.

The Bank of A&M has been operating the park since April when the bank foreclosed the operation.

as though we had given her a fair chance."

Both Goehring and Johnson said the bank has lost money on the deal, although neither would speculate exactly how much was lost.

"It's been a tough situation for us and we've had to bite our lips several times," said Goehring, referring to the money lost on the park. The bank filed charges last week against May and two former employees of the compound. May was forced to leave the compound when the bank

sought a no-trespassing injunction against her.

The other charges were against Bill Calfee and John Forgie involving misapplication of gate receipts and the theft of a metal gate.

The animals are currently under the care of Bank of A&M employees and Dr. Dean Brown of the Texas A&M vet school.

Goehring said the buyers being sought for the animals are zoo directors, breeders and private collectors.

'Texas Politics' — new version of dirty game

AUSTIN — Politicians with a penchant for throwing dirt at opponents now can buy specially packaged supplies from a venture called Politex, Inc.

The ordinary soil comes packaged in handcrafted, mahogany boxes complete with instructions on how to succeed in a game parodying the state's highest officials and political process.

"Texas Politics" is the first in a series of totally authentic games designed to give people insight into the way politics are really played," author and public relations consultant Dave Helfert explains. "This game follows the tenets of accepted political and governmental strategy as practiced in Texas for the last 130 years."

Deluxe versions — "We don't have any ordinary ones," Helfert says — go on sale in department stores next month at \$30 a box.

Both versions feature a carved caricature depicting a truck dumping dirt on the Texas Capitol on the box top and a plastic bag full of soil inside.

"To the untrained eye this game might appear like little more than a box of dirt," the introduction says.

"It is. This is the fundamental ingredient of politics as we know it, from the campaign trail to the halls of the Legislature."

Success in the game is measured by the amount of dirt each participant can get on the other players. By improvising with a little water, one can get into mudslinging.

"The player with the most dirt gets to be the governor. The titles of the other players (lieutenant governor, speaker of the House, senators, representatives and so on) are determined according to the amount of dirt they have accumulated. Lobbyists provide their own dirt and the Capitol press takes dirt from everyone and spreads it around. The taxpayer doesn't get anything at all, but that's just the way it goes."

The instruction booklet features drawings by cartoonist Ben Sergeant depicting an unhappy taxpayer pierced by a giant screw, state agency officials as faceless bureaucrats, lawmakers with rings through their noses, reporters as snoring bystanders and lobbyists with cheshire-cat smiles.

"Representatives," the booklet explains, are "members of the lower house of the Legislature. There are 150 members of the House, all

motivated by the herd instinct, fear of the speaker of the House and the voters back home, mitigated somewhat by the desire for wine, women and song (wine and song are optional)."

"Being a senator is more prestigious than being a member of the House, because senators get bigger offices and more money to hire staff. This in turn keeps the unemployment rate down among gorgeous Capitol groupies and go-jocks. Senators are not motivated by the herd instinct. They are motivated by simple greed and self-interest," the booklet explains.

The game is the brainchild of Rodney Kelly, a former Senate sergeant-at-arms who currently operates a direct mail marketing company.

Kelly got Helfert to draw up the satirical instruction sheet and incorporated Politex, Inc. to market the ready-made dirt for politicians.

"Without the dirt, Texas politics might be more productive and responsive to our citizens," the gamemakers conclude. "However, it would be boring as hell and probably not worth the effort of keeping up with."

For anyone unfamiliar with the

subtle shades of meaning in politician's dialogue, producers of the new game "Texas Politics" offer a glossary:

"Dirty tricks" — what someone else tries to pull on you.

"Revealing dirt" — what you pull on someone else.

"Landslide vote" — when your side wins, even if by only one vote.

"Dirt poor" — how you started out, used especially at election time.

"Filthy rich" — how your opponent started out, used especially at election time.

Texas, two others to file federal suit

GRAPEVINE, Texas — The attorneys general of Oklahoma, Texas and Louisiana — states which produced 85 percent of the nation's natural gas — Thursday said they would jointly challenge gas pricing provisions of the energy bill Congress passed in its closing session.

The legal experts said they would file suit against the bill as soon as it is signed into law by President Carter.

Oklahoma Attorney General Larry Derryberry said his state would also file a separate suit challenging requirements of conversion from natural gas to coal.

"We all agree that the prime thrust of our suit is our contention that the federal government has no constitutional authority to control the price of a product produced and sold solely within a state," said Texas Attorney General John Hill at the conclusion of a morning conference which also included William Guste of Louisiana.

Guste said the legal challenge would be difficult to win but was worth the fight no matter the odds.

"We believe this act goes beyond the right of Congress to regulate commerce between the states because it tells a state, 'Either you do the regulations provided in this bill at a cost incidentally of probably \$1 million in Louisiana or we will regulate it for you.'"

"And we don't believe that they can do this on a product produced solely within a state," Guste said.

The energy bill, which the three attorneys general expect Carter to sign soon, would for the first time set price controls on intrastate gas and require each state to cause its regulatory agency to enforce the federal pricing structure.

"We recognize the nation needs a national energy policy and we're not attempting to turn off the valves," Hill said.

The attorneys general emphasized that they did not object to other portions of the bill including tax credits for homeowners to increase energy efficiency and the utility rate provision which would end discount prices for high volume gas consumption.

Only Oklahoma will challenge the coal conversion requirements of the bill which would wean industry away from oil and natural gas use. Derryberry said coal con-

version would cost Oklahomans \$5 billion. "We believe we can make a strong argument that the federal government can't impose upon a state such an economic burden," Derryberry said.

Derryberry said the joint lawsuit will determine whether the federal energy bill "passes constitutional muster."

"I've never filed a law suit that I thought I wouldn't win and I'm not planning to start now," said Derryberry, a lame-duck officeholder who failed in an attempt to become his state's Democratic nominee for governor.

"It will be a real tough uphill fight but it's my obligation to make that fight," said Guste, who has not announced whether he will seek re-election or another office.

Hill, the Texas Democratic nominee for governor, said Texas had always "done our fair share in providing energy to the nation."

"But if the (intrastate) pricing mechanism is allowed to stand, this bill provides our state regulatory agency, the Railroad Commission, be required to set up the mechanism to regulate and enforce that pricing provision and we don't think that's fair," Hill said.

"We (Texas) did not feel the federal government can — as a policy or right — impose a federal pricing structure on gas produced solely in this state and used solely in this state," Hill said.

"We are not trying to scuttle the energy bill in its totality," the Texas attorney general said. "But we are seeking to delete the provision from this bill that would control our prices."

"If the (energy bill) will perpetuate this foolishness of other people in other states being able to purchase this gas for a lower price than our people pay for it," Hill said.

The provision in the energy bill that the attorneys general object to is the one dealing with natural gas. That provision would lift federal controls on the price of newly produced natural gas by 1985 with an immediate price of about \$2 per 1,000 cubic feet. That would increase about 10 percent a year until 1985.

Controls would be reimposed, but only briefly, if the economy suffered too much. Homeowners would be protected from the initial high prices.

But controls would extend for the first

time to the intrastate market — the selling of gas wholly within the borders of the state that produced it. And that, the attorneys general said, they couldn't abide with.

He called it "unnecessary interference in our state government."

Derryberry said the bill also called for the conversion of natural gas use to coal. He said it would cost his state \$5 billion to make the conversion.

He also said the federal price control of intrastate gas could result in a 43 percent increase in cost for Oklahoma consumers.

Guste, whose governor disapproved of Thursday's meeting, said, "historically, our problem has been that so much of our gas has been siphoned off to the East Coast when we have tremendous need for it."

He also said the new bill would force states to spend public funds to enforce the new federal regulations.

A representative from the New Mexico attorney general's office also was invited to attend Thursday's meeting, but New Mexico Gov. Jerry Apodaca, a supporter of the energy bill compromise, said he did not want the state to become involved in any challenge.

Hill said he hoped to have Texas' suit filed by next week. But he doubted whether any action would be taken on it before his term as attorney general expires this year.

Guste also has said Louisiana would challenge the bill — with or without Texas and Oklahoma. However, Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards, a consistent critic of President Carter's energy policy, said he was not sure a lawsuit would be productive.

Oklahoma Gov. David Boren, however, has suggested filing a suit. He attacked the Federal Energy Act as a "gross abuse of federal power."

Hill said Texas had no quarrel with most of the bill.

"We approve many of the measures in this bill. We do need conservation and recognize the need to convert to other energy sources," he said. "But we are seeking to delete the provision from this bill that would control our prices."

Rent subsidies from HUD may be available to students

By SCOTT PENDLETON
Battalion Staff

Some Texas A&M University students may soon be able to get a portion of their rent paid by the government.

The Brazos Valley Development Council submitted a plan to the Department of Housing and Urban Development which, if approved, would provide 97 "assistance units" to Brazos County and 53 units to six other counties.

Delwin Rhode, the BVDC rural housing coordinator, said that HUD promised to decide next Tuesday whether or not to fund the plan.

County residents, including Texas A&M students who live in non-university housing, may then apply to the BVDC to receive a rent subsidy. University housing is disqualified from the subsidy because it is state-owned, Rhode said.

If the plan is approved, the BVDC will begin advertising that the subsidies are available within the following few days,

Rhode said.

About 30 people have already expressed interest in the subsidies. They have been placed on a waiting list, Rhode said.

Once HUD approves the plan, Rhode said, those people will be notified they may apply for the subsidies.

Although the elderly and the handicapped are the plan's primary targets, the applications will be considered on a first-come, first-served basis, Rhode said.

"We're going to try to be as impartial as we can," he said.

Qualification for the subsidy is based on income and rent guidelines. An individual in Brazos County would have to have a total income of no more than \$8,000, be paying more than 25 percent of that income on rent and utilities, and live in a one-bedroom apartment that rents for no more than \$179, including utilities.

Under the subsidy plan, the individual would pay only 25 percent of his income

on rent, and the rest would be paid by the government.

The BVDC plan allocates 10 subsidies to Burleson county, six to Grimes, 11 to Leon, seven to Madison, nine to Robertson, and 10 to Washington County.

Rhode said HUD would allow unused subsidies in one county to be moved to another county if needed.

The subsidies were allocated on a population basis, Rhode said. The allocation also took into account the fact that Brenham, Navasota and Hearne already have rent subsidy programs.

Two other plans that the BVDC submitted were rejected. The first called for 250 subsidies, which was more than HUD wanted to fund.

The second outlined one plan for the seven-county area. HUD wanted a separate plan for each county.

Currently, the BVDC has a different plan for each county, totaling 150 subsidies.