THE BATTALION Page 9

Signs of spring

These daffodils are just two examples of a wide variety of es two mie pring flowers seen blooming around the Texas A&M camStandard set for committing mental cases

United Press International WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court ruled 8-0 Monday the Con-stitution requires only "clear and convincing" proof that hospitaliza-tion is needed before a state can order someone committed indefinitely to a mental institution.

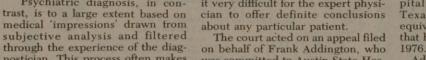
Chief Justice Warren Burger said that "middle level" legal standard, now used by 20 states, "strikes a fair balance between the rights of the individual and the legitimate concerns of the state.'

The high court rejected arguments that the Constitution requires states to apply the standard that is used in criminal and juvenile delinquency cases, and which is harder to prove: whether commit-ment is needed "beyond a reasonable doubt.

A handful of states now use that 'unique" standard, and are free to continue doing so, Burger noted. But he said the "reasonable doubt" standard is one that historically has been reserved for criminal cases and is not required by the Constitution.

"The subtleties and nuances of psychiatric diagnosis render certainties virtually beyond reach in most situations," Burger wrote. "The rea-sonable doubt standard of criminal law functions in its realm because

there the standard is addressed to specific, knowable facts.



"Psychiatric diagnosis, in con-trast, is to a large extent based on medical 'impressions' drawn from about any particular patient.

Texas, jury found "clear, un-equivocal and convincing evidence" that he was mentally ill in February

nite commitment requiring less than evidence "beyond a reasonable doubt" was a violation of the Constitution's guarantee that everyone's rights will be protected by "due



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ick W. Plapp, a Texas A&M ersity professor of entomology, bes Americans' attitudes to-chemical use. He says the e who use chemicals today think about the long-term Information that use.

to the environment there are s to be obtained and costs to aid," Plapp said. "The person gets the benefits often doesn't important p ally campu Peurala ab t he cost."

eek, in whis problem with chemicals conrivals. the plant in teaching and doing research at 500 women ostly it didnr s A&M for 10 years. His reh focuses mainly on inseclped over es and how they work.

ody might h app said that in terms of agricul-chemical use, "the problem been with chemicals that last too m about ehl came to know as a fighterg." He said most insecticides rd commen use are biodegradable, ow that wining that they will break down

e 1960s, invironmentalists

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NOW LEASING FOR SUMMER AND FALL. OPEN WEEKENDS.

Plapp said there is a problem now with insecticides that kill all the insects in the field, including the

natural predators of the pests. With natural control destroyed "you become insecticide dependent," he Research is currently being done to develop natural controls and decrease the farmer's dependence on

chemicals. Plapp said the Environmental Protection Agency supports this research because less chemical development will decrease the testing they have to do. Plapp clarified the meaning of the

word "ban," which he said is sometimes misused by the media when talking about government actions concerning chemicals.

He said when the government officials "cancel" a chemical they actually intend to renew it, and when they "suspend" it, they plan to ban the chemical. He said "ban" is used

really know which has happened. Plapp said the problem is that bureaucrats change the meaning of words for their own purposes.

meaning of words is infinite.

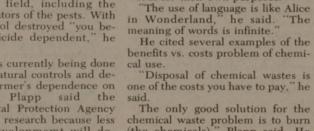
"Disposal of chemical wastes is one of the costs you have to pay," he

chemical waste problem is to burn (the chemicals)," Plapp said. He said they must be burned at a very high temperature and this is expen-

It becomes more expensive to get rid of chemicals than it is to produce them," he said, adding that this is a cost industry is not yet

Relating to energy, Plapp cited Houston as an example of Amerithe large amount of oil refining done there, and won't realize the bad effects for one or two generations. He said these effects are illus-

the cancer mortality rate to be "significantly higher" along the Gulf Coast, where there are many large petro-chemical complexes.



Sive

ready to pay.

cans' shortsighted attitude toward chemical use. He said the city is enjoying the monetary benefits of trated by studies that have shown

Clark G. Thompson of Houston, fighter, USTIN — Land Commissioner Armstrong, the Sierra Club, attorney for the Galveston Bay group, said provisions in the bill

without leaving toxic products for both, and the public doesn't really know which has happened.

eston Bay Conservation and ervation Association and citi-

United Press International

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om Seabrook, Taylor Lake e, Buda and Fort Worth th, stren y urged the Senate Ecoocedur Development Committee to e a bill they said would allow

exas Air Control Board to igmportant health and site conher dutie ations in approving pollution

of local pre Tom Cobb of Seabrook said the passed bill would relieve the gency from complying with ments of the Clean Air Act. al governments and the of this state will be deprived pportunity to bring (the) arand capricious air board to Cobb said.

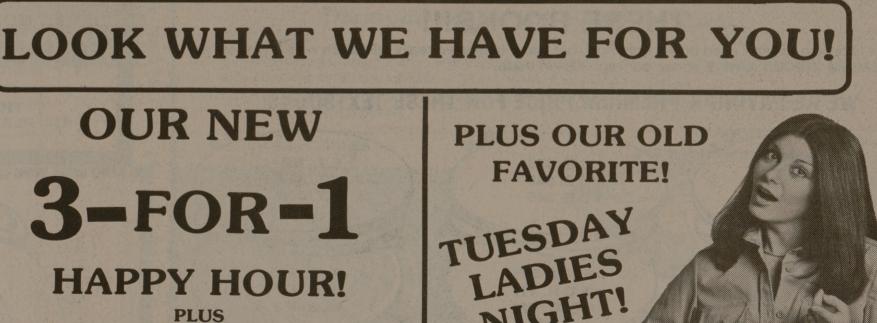
would eliminate statutory require ments for the Air Control Board to consider potential injury to the health of nearby residents and interference with their property when deciding to grant permits for operation of plants that emit pollutants.

Armstrong said he was concerned this semester. about provisions in the House-passed bill that would keep the Air Control Board from acting as a referee in disputes where actions of one city on a pollution site may affect citizens of another town.

"We need some umpire, if you want to call it that, where the actions of one community directly bump into the rights of another community," Armstrong said.

master's degrees from Ohio State University and his doctorate from the University of Wisconsin in 1959. Before coming to Texas A&M he worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for 10 years. He is teaching one graduate entomology class

Plapp received his ba



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