#### THE BATTALION F Page 11

## Course combats math anxieties

United Press International DENVER — For people who we such a dread of math they ld rather pick up the whole tab unch rather than try to divide up cost, Nancy Angle thinks she has

he math teacher at the Univerof Colorado's Denver campus is ing a special course for people ghtened of math. She calls it mbating Math Anxiety.

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Most people aren't aware of the noblem of mathematics anxiety, nut Angle says it is widespread and flicts millions of Americans. There teacher for 13 years, became in-

her course provides a treatment. According to her figures, two-

thirds of America's college-educated adults, many of them women, suffer from some form of anxiety about addition, subtraction and related functions 'This might simply be embar-

rassment about using a pen and pad to divide a luncheon ticket, or it might be real terror about using math on the job," the university professor said.

special math courses for low achievers. She said in order to teach students, they had to change their at-titude toward the whole subject. "Math really has a bad image in people's minds," she explained.

'When someone finds out I'm a math teacher, he'll say: 'Oh, yuk. I can't even balance my checkbook' or 'It was my worst subject in school." Angle said the attitude usually is rooted in a person's earliest experi-ence with math. She said the prob-

Angle, who has been a math lem stemmed from the fact many teachers failed to make math rele-

vant to their students. "Math is an abstraction and, at the high school level, it is taught as if everyone were used to thinking in abstractions, when in reality, they are not," she said.

is no known cure, but Angle says terested in the problems of math and she believes a large part of that Mexico-bound anxiety two years ago after teaching is cultural.

Angle said she somewhat understands their fear because even she suffered from a mild form of math anxiety during her graduate school days.

'Here I was working on my Ph.D. and teaching math and I had his course that was really hard," she said. "It had me worried. I'd go home at night and cry my eyes out." She said she believes it is necessary to make mathematics relevant to the students and therefore concentrates more on problem-solving than on rote memorization. She said there seems to be a disturbing current trend to "rote learning.

'This whole back-to-basics movement is creating individuals who are whizzes when it comes to formula math, but absolutely terri-

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Gas talks find **U.S.** diplomats

United Press International WASHINGTON — Deputy Secretary of State Warren Christopher plans to return to Mexico for another round of negotiations on the deadlocked issue of natural gas sales to the United States, U.S. officials said Tues-

day. The officials indicated Christopher probably will visit Mexico City sometime before a third meeting between President Car-ter and Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo, which is scheduled Sept. 28-29 in Washington. This would be Christopher's

second trip to Mexico in less than a month. He made a trip there in late August to talk with Mexican Foreign Minister Jorge Castaneda, but that meeting ended in a deadlock as far as the natural gas negotiations were concerned.

The key issue in the natural gas talks is price. Mexico wants to tie its current gas price to that of other fuels the gas would replace, such as heating oil.

An earlier agreement between the two American neighbors was vetoed by former Energy Secretary James Schlesinger because the Mexicans were asking for \$2.60 per thousand cubic feet



### national briefs

Chrysler chief resigns amid aid controversy

#### **United Press International**

DETROIT — Chrysler Corp. Chairman John J. Riccardo, who has abored for months to win government aid for the struggling com-pany, has taken the ultimate step in that quest by announcing his

Riccardo, 55, said Monday he will ask Chrysler directors to aprove his early retirement Thursday. The move clears the way for the pointment of Chrysler President Lee A. Iacocca, hired by Riccardo

at year, to take the chief executive post. Like his predecessor, Lynn Townsend, Riccardo is stepping down at time of Chrysler crisis, but Riccardo said government support for he firm now seems likely.

His retirement, he said, could help silence critics who have attribted the company's problems to mismanagement.

It also will satisfy his physicians, who Riccardo said recommended e retire after he was hospitalized this summer for treatment of a eart ailment

### Tri-nation Mideast talks begin in Washington

WASHINGTON — Egyptian, Israeli and American negotiators are eginning a series of talks aimed at assembling a mutually acceptable are to supervise the final stages of Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai

Tuesday's talks, beginning a day after the first anniversary of the Comp David accords, took place against a rising level of discord between U.S. and Israeli officials over a series of issues, including economic assistance and the Israeli bombing of southern Lebanon. Secretary of State Cyrus Vance was to preside over the first session of the talks, which will include Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan and Defense Minister Ezer Weisman, and Egyptian Defense Minis-tr Kemel Hanner Ali er Kamal Hassan Ali

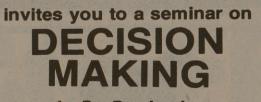
#### Executive returns to job after three-year Venezuelan ordeal

TOLEDO, Ohio - Dressed in a fashionable, gray pin-striped suit, William F. Niehous strolled into is new office at Owens-Illinois Inc. Monday and plopped down in a high-backed black leather chair. The etched nameplate outside his office said simply: "W.F. Nieh-ous." Only the flock of photographers peeking in the doorway hinted there was something different about this working Monday. For Niehous, the Owens-Illinois executive held captive by terorists in the steamy jungles of Venezuela for more than three years, his first day back at work was "an enjoyable return to reality." "I feel very great," said Niehous, who was abducted from his Caracas, Venezuela, home by leftist terrorists in 1976 and held cap-tive for 40 months.



She also notes that two-thirds of her students are women. They seem to have a special problem with math

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