

# THE BATTALION

Vol. 73 No. 117  
8 Pages

Friday, March 7, 1980  
College Station, Texas

USPS 045 360  
Phone 845-2611

## Grocery chains to freeze prices

United Press International  
Two major supermarket chains, Safeway Stores Inc., and A&P, and a strong East Coast operator, Giant Food Inc., provided a measure of good news today for inflation-trapped shoppers by being the first to agree to a voluntary price freeze on many of their products.

Safeway, operator of 2,100 supermarkets in the Mid-Atlantic states and west of the Mississippi, announced a 30-day freeze, effective immediately, on all goods it sells under its own "Scotch Buy" label.

A&P also placed a 30-day freeze on all its private-label Ann Page products and generic products — hundreds of food and household items — sold in company outlets, primarily located east of the Mississippi.

Giant, which has 120 stores in the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia, said it will announce Sunday a ceiling at present levels on 300 items it sells under its brand name plus 100 generic prescription drugs. Giant's ceiling will last 21 weeks, through Aug. 2.

The companies were the first three to

respond to a letter sent Wednesday to 50 food chains by Esther Peterson, President Carter's consumer affairs adviser, urging them to launch a voluntary program of price ceilings.

"The president has asked me to determine what more we can do to keep the cost of food from rising so rapidly," Peterson wrote. "As you know, he and I both firmly believe that mandatory price controls would be unproductive."

"My own belief is that a voluntary price ceiling on some commonly purchased food products would help ease the inflation pressures that are causing such hardships for all consumers."

"I have always believed the voluntary way is the best way," her letter said. "Excessive government regulation can cause costly disruptions in our economy."

"It is far better for the business community to recognize its responsibilities and, on its own initiative, help find a solution to this problem."

Food prices rose 10 percent nationwide during 1979, and were a major part of the overall 13 percent inflation rate.



Staff photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

### First serves

Freshman Ernest Duncan tries to serve a tennis ball to his opponent during a physical education class on the Texas A&M University courts.

The University's courts, and classrooms, will be deserted next week as students leave for spring break beginning today.

## Judge defends court system

By CAROL HANCOCK  
Campus Staff

Fallacies in the Texas judicial system appear to be exaggerated, an associate justice of the Supreme Court of Texas said on the Texas A&M University campus Thursday.

Charles Barrow, a three-year member of the court, told a noon gathering of close to 100 people in A&M's Rudder Tower that in the Texas court, there's no such thing as cliques and justices rarely group together in votes.

There is often very forceful debate over cases in the court, Barrow said. It's not rare for a case to end in a 4-5 vote, he said.

Leads among justices and briefing attorneys are exaggerations of rare incidences, he said. "We've never had a leak in our court. You just couldn't have it, our system wouldn't work," Barrow said.

He said he has never been offered or threatened to sway a case and has never observed it as common practice in other parts of the system.

Barrow dispelled two myths about the judicial system; you can't keep a case tied up on appeals forever and appellate courts are not exclusive tools for the rich.

The Texas system is a bifurcated one, he said, meaning the appellate courts are divided into three separate courts: the Court of Civil Appeals, the Court of Criminal Appeals and the Supreme Court. By having a bifurcated system, the flow of appeals is faster and the courts are less clogged, Barrow said.

If a justice has let a case gather dust, he is legally required to explain the hold-up, he said. "You can't have a slow system and have it called justice."

Costs for filing an appeal with either the Civil Appeals Court or the Supreme Court are minimal, Barrow said. It costs \$25 to file with the Civil Appeals Court and \$15 to file with the Supreme Court.

The system is not without its problems, Barrow said. The problem of congestion is a major concern of the justices, he said. Barrow did not have an immediate solution to the problem but said an effort should be made to limit the number of briefing attorneys.

Another problem Barrow mentioned is the failure of the trial court system to follow society's move from rural to urban dominance. Something needs to be done to put the judge where the business is, he said. "We need some form of administration, not to flirt with a judges independence, but to quickly put the judges where the cases are."

Barrow said there is a fallacy in the partisan election system. By voting down the party ticket, electors are seldom aware of who they are putting into office.

The partisan system is better, however, than the federal system of judges being appointed for life terms, he said. A non-partisan system would be even better, though.

Barrow's speech was sponsored by MSC Political Forum.

## Salon '80

### A&M students make their best showing

By BRIAN BLALOCK  
Campus Reporter

Salon 80, a statewide photography contest sponsored by the Memorial Student Center Camera Committee, produced the best overall showing by Texas A&M students ever.

Contestants from Texas A&M placed second among the six schools represented in the competition with 39 points. Sam Houston State University was first with 58 points.

The six schools represented in the March contest were Odessa College, Sam Houston State University, East Texas State University, North Texas State University, the University of Texas and Texas A&M University.

The contest, which was started in 1958

and has only missed two years since then, was open to any university student, staff or faculty member in the state. Contestants competed in 11 categories and two divisions, color and black and white.

Points were awarded in the contest as follows: Best of Show, 5 points; first place, 3 points; second place, 2 points; third place, 1 point and honorable mention, 0 points.

Texas A&M students who placed in the contest were: in the category of architecture, Jack Holm had a second place in the black and white division and a honorable mention in the color, Rick Denney took third place in the color competition. In the experimental category Bob Brooks received a honorable mention.

In the photojournalism category, Lee Roy Leschper Jr. took first place in the

black and white division and Jack Holm won first in the color division. Diana Sultenfuss won first place in both divisions of the candid portraiture category.

John Trant finished third in the black and white division. Elliot Atlas received an honorable mention. Jack Holm was third in the color division and Bob Brooks got a honorable mention.

Jack Holm won first place in the color competition of the casual portraiture category. In the black and white division, John Trant was second and Ed Martinez finished third.

Lloyd Stot received a honorable mention in the formal category while Rick Denney won first in the black and white division of the sports category. Rick Denney received a honorable mention. Paul Childress got a

honorable mention in the color competition.

In the still life category, Hank Weghorst was second, Mark Pearcy received a honorable mention. Marc Chaloupica won the color division and Stan Fikes was third.

Texas A&M students did not place in either division of the commercial category and none placed in the black and white divisions of the nature and landscape categories.

However, in the color divisions of the nature and landscape categories, Texas A&M students did quite well.

David Oldham won first place in the nature category, Marc Chaloupica was third, Rick Denny, David Wolpo and Robert Werner got honorable mentions.

## First deadly nuke slip may halt the industry

United Press International  
LAKE CHARLES, La. — Although no one has died yet in a nuclear power accident, the first such fatality could seriously affect the future of the industry, a nuclear engineer for Gulf States Utilities says.

Dr. Lynn Draper, vice president and technical assistant to the chairman of the board of GSU, said the public is so fearful of the potential hazards of nuclear power that even one death could set the industry back several years.

Is the nuclear power industry prepared for its first death, which the law of averages would indicate must come sooner or later?

"I think the answer is probably no," Draper said. "It's such a dreadful prospect. We have to be open and forthright with the public and tell them what we're doing is trading risks, we're trading coal mining accidents, we're trading gas ruptures — we're trading all these things for the low probability of a nuclear accident."

"Now, if we had an accident at a nuclear power plant that claimed a number of lives — say 10 or 15 — at this point I have a feeling nuclear power plants would not continue to be built. We might continue to operate the ones we have, but I don't think we would get additional ones."

Draper, 37, has the background to make such a bleak prediction. As a member of the two-man "Truth Squad," he retraced the footsteps of anti-nuclear activists Jane Fonda and Tom Hayden, trying to offer a second side to the controversial issue.

It was like trying to draw an audience for an amateur band concert the night

after The Beatles left town.

But Draper, who was part of an industry group that investigated the country's worst nuclear accident last year at Three Mile Island, said public anxieties may be calmed if nuclear power continues its death-free track record.

"If that improbable accident were to occur after we had been operating plants for 50 years or some reasonable time, then people would see that most of the time nuclear plants are safe," Draper said. "I'm hoping that the argument and the public understanding is becoming more sophisticated."

"We cannot have electricity without some risks. Nuclear power is one of the risks we take."

Draper said an average of between 100 and 175 coal miners die each year from accidents and disease. He called the radioactive fallout at Three Mile Island, while the worst on record, not enough to harm the population around the plant substantially.

Draper said at sea level, a person is subjected to about 150 millirems of radiation every year — about 100 coming from cosmic rays and the remainder from medical X-rays, minerals in the soil, building materials, food, TV sets and weapons fallout. He said the level of radiation rises to 175 millirems in the mile-high atmosphere of Denver.

Measurements at the crippled Three Mile Island plant showed the average person living 50 miles away from the facility received 1.5 additional millirems, Draper said. Had a person stood next to the plant fence throughout the crisis, he would have been subjected to an extra 85 millirems, he said.

## Ford is sounding like a candidate

United Press International  
WASHINGTON — Gerald Ford is sounding more like a candidate every day and a group of prominent Republicans have formed a committee to convince him to get involved in the primary campaigns.

Meanwhile, two columnists reported today Ford has decided to run, barring the unexpected.

Columnists Rowland Evan and Robert Novak, in a copyrighted column that did not quote Ford directly saying he would get in the race, said Ford told them he would reveal his plans with a March 20 announcement geared to the primary filing deadlines of Michigan and Ohio, two states he considers crucial to his candidacy.

In the Evan-Novak interview, Ford said if support he is seeking from GOP leaders fails to develop and he decides then not to run, "At least I would then have made it clear I was willing to make the effort if called upon and I could not be blamed if our party gets beaten in November."

A group headed by former Air Force Secretary Thomas C. Reed Thursday formed a draft-Ford committee, calling him "uniquely qualified by his experience ... to lead the nation at this critical time."

Ford was to meet late today with John Sears, who was fired last month as campaign manager for Ronald Reagan, the former California governor Ford says cannot beat a Democrat in the general election.

## Families sue company for death of two boys

United Press International  
BROWNSVILLE — The families of two 16-year-old boys who burned to death in a 1965 Mustang are seeking \$60 million from the Ford Motor Co., already the defendant in a massive lawsuit involving the Pinto automobile.

U.S. Magistrate William Mallet will preside at today's pre-trial hearing on the suit, which claims the popular car contained nine specific design defects that caused its gasoline tank to explode after it was struck from behind.

In addition, the family of the man driving the automobile which struck the Mustang, and who also later died of burns, has indicated it wants to join its \$36.8 million claim against Ford with the other suit.

Hector Daniel Arizmendi and Carlos Garcia were killed March 12, 1978, on

Farm Road 2061 in neighboring Hidalgo County. The driver of the Mustang, Robert Gene Schach, had stopped and gotten out to help two other cars.

While the pair remained inside the Mustang, the suit said, another automobile driven by David Lyssy slammed into its rear, causing the gasoline tank to burst into flames and burning the trapped youths.

The suit alleges the explosion of the fuel tank and resulting deaths were "a direct and proximate result of a series of design defects" in the Mustang which made the automobile "unreasonably dangerous to a user or consumer."

The families' attorney said pre-trial actions probably will be lengthy because depositions will have to be taken from Ford officials at the company's Dearborn, Mich., headquarters.

## Boston University—a hotbed of unrest

United Press International  
BOSTON — During a decade of calm on the American college campus, Boston University has stood out as a hotbed of unrest.

BU, poor cousin of such wealthy educational giants as Harvard and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, at the same time has pulled itself out of the red. It is in the black despite a paucity of endowments.

At the helm of this transformation is John Silber, 53, a tough-talking, philosophy-quoting Texan.

In a word, Silber walks on hot coals. He has defied faculty union organizers, battled striking workers, denounced angry students, accused the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts of McCarthyism, and generally told off those who disagreed with him.

Silber's critics — students, faculty and former BU board members among Boston's business and social elite — said in interviews he is capricious, arrogant, insulting, intimidating, offensive, authoritarian, totalitarian, unfair, and vindictive.

On the plus side Silber's supporters say he was the right man at the right time to carry out the difficult job of putting a faltering university back on its feet.

Silber acknowledges he may be the most hated man on campus. He sometimes seems to relish the idea.

"It may be that I'm the most hated man on campus because, how many people are hated?" Silber asked. "But they didn't ask who's the most respected, or most loved."

"I've heard people who have denounced me publicly say privately, 'Silber, we're going to build you a statue, as soon as you leave, or at least as soon as you die,'" he said, and he smiled for the

first and only time during a one-hour interview.

Silber has variously referred to his academic colleagues and professional underlings as fools, coffeehouse unionists, lemmings and Judas goats; and has labeled BU students as shortpants Communists trying to overthrow society.

Silber, educated as a philosopher, was born in San Antonio, Texas. He came to BU from the University of Texas in Irvine where he was Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

"One of the things you learn from reading Sophocles ... is it's amazing the way one character attributes his own worst qualities to the person that he's decided is his opponent," Silber said in an interview.

Silber has amazing staying power. When he came to BU in 1971 he told the board of trustees to review his performance after five years and reevaluate its decision to keep him on as president of the 22,000-student university. In 1976, the board undertook its review and a committee determined Silber was, at best, overextended. The Faculty Senate conducted a review of its own and voted by more than 3-1 to request his dismissal by the board.

Since then Silber has consolidated and strengthened his power on the board. Now his critics say the board is no better than a puppet reacting to the tugs of strings pulled by Silber.

Undaunted, the renamed Faculty Assembly recently approved a renewed motion for Silber's dismissal by more than 2-1. Instead of firing him, the board is soon likely to give him an overwhelming vote of confidence and encourage his contractual prosecution of five faculty members for participating in a sympathy strike by BU clerical workers last September.

Where in Texas could a postcard with nothing on it but a picture of a dime and a box get through our U.S. Mail? Dime Box was renamed Old Dime Box, and is located on what is now Highway 21. Mailboxes are attached and are a clear customer at Scotty's. Five boxes have been coming here live.