

# THE BATTALION

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## The Weather

Today	Tomorrow
High . . . . . 65	High . . . . . 67
Low . . . . . 43	Low . . . . . 46
Chance of rain . . none	Chance of rain . . none

## Liability bill debate awaited

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — Sen. Bill Meier, D-Eules, has given notice to Senate colleagues to be prepared to debate a controversial products liability bill that would effectively bar suits against the manufacturers of cancer-causing drugs and other products with long-term harmful effects.

Meier, whose product liability legislation two years ago triggered a series of Senate filibusters, said he will bring up the bill any time he is assured of the necessary two-thirds majority vote — 21 votes if all 31 senators are present.

He included the proposal on the Senate's "intent calendar" last week, and is leaving it on the agenda for this week so supporters and opponents will know he may bring it up.

"I'm still trying to be sure we have the two-thirds vote. I think we're real close to having that amount," Meier said.

"I'm counting noses every day to be sure we have the right quorum present. We have 20 or 21 votes in support of the bill, and one of two of those are suggesting amendments and we're looking at them," Meier said.

Asked if he is willing to accept

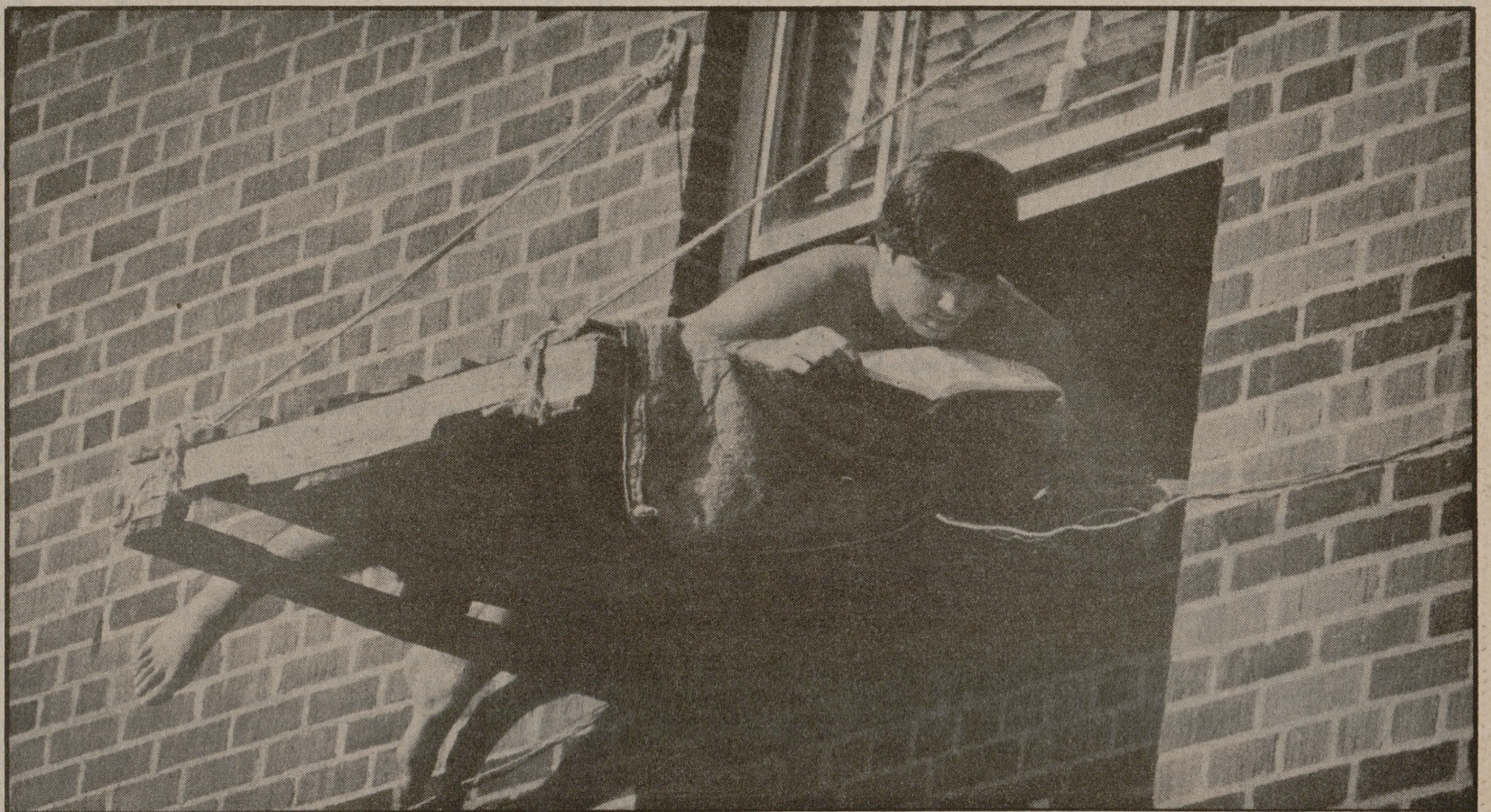
changes to the bill in a swap for additional votes, the senator replied, "I'm willing to look at any amendments people have. I don't profess to have a lock on the right way to do this, particularly when I don't have the votes."

Meier's bill would require product liability suits be filed within two years of the date of any injury resulting from a defective or harmful product, or within five years of the date the product is purchased. That would eliminate suits filed as a result of cancer or other long-term harmful effects.

It also would exclude evidence at product liability trials of any changes or advances in technology made after the product involved in the suit was manufactured.

Sen. Lloyd Doggett, D-Austin, has been the leading opponent of Meier's proposals to take away some of consumers' advantages in products liability cases.

Meier said the dean of the Senate, Sen. Chet Brooks, D-Pasadena, is one of the senators still undecided on whether to support or oppose the bill, and may seek some amendments in exchange for his support.



**Hanging out**

Enjoying the sunny relief from recent rains, freshman Jeff Harper Davis-Gary lounges outside his dorm-room window. Jeff is a third-floor resident of

Staff photo by Brian Tate

## Officials see 'no end' to C.S. building growth

By PHYLLIS HENDERSON  
Battalion Reporter

The number of apartments in the Bryan-College Station area is increasing at a tremendous pace, and officials don't see an end in sight.

Since 1976, 5,940 living units, in the form of duplexes, fourplexes or apartments, have been built in the area. College Station, with 4,005 of these units, accounts for 67.4 percent of the increase.

"It's definitely a boom," Coy Perry, a College Station building official, said. "We just keep growing."

Bruce Bramlett, with Summitt Properties, agreed. "I don't think there's any question that there's been a boom," he said. "According to our research, there are 2,700 units under construction now."

Perry said he expects the growth to continue

over the next few years. In 1980, he said, 940 units were added, more than doubling the 1979 figure of 390. "I imagine this year we'll double last year," he said.

The growth of Texas A&M University and the influx of new industries in the area are the major causes of the increased numbers of apartments, D.R. Cain, a College Station developer, said.

"I think A&M is going to continue to grow," Cain said. Industry will also continue to grow in the area, he said, because it is a spin-off of the growth of the University. These factors will cause the number of apartments to continue to increase over the next ten years, he said.

Jan Winniford, student development specialist in the off-campus housing office, said apartment growth should continue increasing steadily. "With increasing enrollments," she said, "I think you would assume Bryan-College Station

would continue growing."

The major problem that may occur with this increasing development is surpassing the market, Bramlett said. "We don't think the market is overbuilt now," he said, "but that is something everyone must look out for."

Developers and officials are not in agreement on where this development will take place.

"South College Station will be the major growth area," Cain said, "because of the land availability and the desirability of the area."

Marielene Farrar, with A&M Apartment Placement Service, agreed that south College Station has the greatest growth potential.

Bramlett disagreed. "The areas around malls and the western regions will experience the most growth," he said. Students are going to realize south College Station is farther from the Univer-

sity than Bryan, he said, and this will limit its growth.

Students have been forced to the outskirts of the city in recent years because of the increasing labor force, Bramlett said. However, he said, now there is going to be a "polarization of working people away from areas of student-based housing."

Although the supply of apartments is meeting the demand now, Winniford said, in the fall there will probably be a scarcity. "It's tight in the fall when enrollment is highest," she said. When enrollment drops in the spring, she said, more apartments are available.

"Every apartment we've got . . . will be in use (in the fall)," Bramlett agreed.

Students should begin their search for fall housing in the spring, Farrar said. "The best

time is in early April," she said.

Students who wait until the fall to look for housing often can't find anything, Cain said. "I've seen students sleeping in their cars until something became available," he said.

The increase in the number of apartments has several effects, Bramlett said. "It makes for a healthy economic atmosphere," he said, "but the community is losing its small-town atmosphere."

It also makes it difficult for the cities to maintain the quality of services they provide, he said. For example, he said, there have been problems with phone service and garbage collection, but "they're not without effort."

Bramlett said: "I hope they (the cities) can keep up satisfactory services, and in time, get even better."



**Out for a spin**

Photo by Flavio Villacorta

Mark Damuth, freshman biology major, spins around on his skateboard on the walkway over Wellborn Road.

## Freeman considered for A&M presidency

An official at the University of Pittsburgh is under consideration for the presidency of Texas A&M University, The Battalion has learned.

Dr. Jack E. Freeman, senior vice chancellor for administration at Pittsburgh, visited the Texas A&M campus over the weekend, talking to University vice presidents about the permanent presidency, a Texas A&M source said Saturday.

Freeman checked into the MSC Hotel Friday and checked out Saturday morning.

Dr. J.M. Prescott, vice president for academic affairs, would not comment on Freeman's visit. Freeman, in a telephone interview from his home in Pittsburgh, also had no comment.

Freeman, 49, is a native of Fort Worth. He received his bachelor's degree from Baylor University in 1953. A retired air force major, he has taught at the U.S. Air Force Academy and has worked with the U.S.A.F. headquarters. He served

as president of the University of Pittsburgh-Johnstown from 1971-1974.

Freeman's name is the first to surface from the search committee's list of 20 nominees. The chancellor's office has said the list includes people from within and outside the System.

The search committee, authorized by the Texas A&M System Board of Regents, has narrowed over 400 nominees down to 20. These names are being screened by a personnel consulting firm, and a final list of candidates will be presented to a special committee of regents.

That committee, including Board Chairman H.R. "Bum" Bright, Vice Chairman John Blocker, Chancellor Frank W.R. Hubert and former Chairman Clyde Wells, will recommend one final candidate to the regents for consideration.

## Miners protest benefit cut

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — Coal miners by the hundreds converged on Washington today for a march on the White House to protest President Reagan's plans to cut their black lung benefits by nearly \$400 million next year.

The protest coincides with a two-day "memorial period" walkout by 160,000 union members to honor dead and dying black lung victims.

Black lung, a respiratory disease contracted by inhaling coal dust, costs 4,000 deaths annually, according to the United Mine Workers union.

The union estimated 8,000 miners would take part in today's rally outside UMW headquarters and march to the Ellipse, the grassy oval just south of the White House.

Union President Sam Church Jr. was to address the protesters from the headquarters balcony, the first time the gallery has been used for a labor speech since the days of union leader John L. Lewis.

Miners from Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Kentucky, Virginia and other coal states, including Utah and Wyoming, traveled by bus, plane and car to Washington for the rally.

The miners oppose the administration's proposal to reduce the federal black lung program by \$378 million in the fiscal 1982 budget. The 12-year-old program provides benefits to 80,850 miners and their families.

The union has acknowledged the black lung disability trust fund owes the government more than \$1 billion and needs to be put on a sound financial footing. At present, it is financed by a tax of 25 cents per ton on surface-mined coal and 50 cents per ton on underground-mined coal — insufficient revenue to pay for all current benefits.

## Election filing closes today

Today is the final day for student election candidates to file applications. Applications may be picked up and filed in 216A Memorial Student Center.

A notice in Friday's Battalion incorrectly stated that the filing deadline was Tuesday. The Battalion regrets the error.

Offices to be filled include: student senators and student body officers; yell

leaders; class councils and the Graduate Student Council; Off-Campus Aggies and the Residence Halls Association.

Students wishing to run for a Student Government position must turn in a petition of signatures from their constituency by 5:30 p.m. today.

Candidates for student body president must have an overall grade point

ratio of 2.5, while student senate vice presidents and college and living area senators must have a 2.25 overall.

Election dates are March 31 and April 1.

On March 30, The Battalion will include a supplement listing all offices and their candidates along with interviews and pictures of candidates for some of the positions.