

Local / State



Underwater canoeing

Staff photo by Brian Tate

Claire Bond and Buzzy Burwell maneuver their tipped canoe during Dr. Mickey Little's canoeing

class Tuesday at Wofford Cain Pool. Handling the swamped canoe is part of the safety skills test.

The canoeing class usually meets at the Skiddadoo area by Easterwood Airport.

Inmates surrender, release 8 hostages

United Press International
BASTROP — Three federal prison inmates armed with one pistol briefly held eight guards hostage but gave up the apparent escape attempt because more guards were rushed to the scene, a prison spokesman said Tuesday.

No one was hurt in the incident Monday at the Federal Correctional Institution near Bastrop.

Prison spokesman Beeler Gausz said four guards were taken hostage and held for about a half-hour. He said four other guards who rushed to the scene were held

for a few minutes before other guards arrived.

Gausz said the hostages were bound and locked in rooms adjacent to the woodworking factory by the inmates. He said one of the guards managed to work himself free and telephoned security, which rushed more aid to the scene.

Gausz said the inmates made no demands of officials and apparently were trying to escape. He said they finally surrendered after realizing they had no chance.



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Videotapes aid instruction

BY RACHEL BOSTICK

Battalion Reporter
Videotaping of dignitaries and experts can aid instruction in the classroom, said Dr. Samuel A.

Kirkpatrick, head of the political science department. The department videotaped American historian Henry S. Commager's lecture at Texas

A&M University March 30. Kirkpatrick said a videotape can be made upon the request of a teacher in the department or if a lecture is relevant to a class.

The videotapes are generally used for teaching purposes but can be loaned out of the department on request, Kirkpatrick said.

It was easy for the department to videotape, he said, since it has its own equipment. He said the political science department will be doing more taping in the future, so long as time and the necessary resources are available.

Commager was brought to Texas A&M by the University Lecture Committee, Dr. Donald McDonald chairman of the committee said. The committee spon-

sors four lectures a year, three of which are in conjunction with the different colleges, with the fourth being given by a faculty member at Texas A&M.

For the most part, permission from the speakers alone is needed to videotape, Kirkpatrick said. Sometimes there is a problem with this, because some speakers feel it interferes with copyright, especially with popular lectures, Kirkpatrick said.

MSC Great Issues and Political Forum usually record speeches they sponsor but have not made any plans to videotape in the future, said committee advisers Suzanne Becker and David Mucci.

Drinking age bill gets compromise

United Press International
AUSTIN — A second compromise on legislation raising the minimum legal drinking age in Texas to 19 would place an unfair burden on retailers to prove their customers were old enough to buy beer and liquor, a lobbyist for the Texas Retail Grocers Association said Tuesday.

Johnnie B. Rogers said the latest compromise agreed to by members of a House and Senate conference committee places the burden of proof on the seller of alcoholic beverages to verify the age of the customer rather than leaving the burden on the customer to prove he or she is of legal age.

"This changes the burden of proof from the perpetrator to the victim, no question about that," Rogers said.

The latest compromise in the month-long dispute concerning the drinking age bill now goes to the House and Senate for consideration. If either house fails to go along with the revisions, the conference committee again will be forced to resume negotiations.

"It does put the burden on the retailer, no question about it, but that's part of the business," said Rep. Ron Coleman, D-El Paso, who proposed the compromise. "I don't think that's an onerous burden on the retailers. If there's a scintilla of doubt in the retailer's mind, he should check that driver's license."

Coleman's proposal provides that retailers would violate the law against selling to minors if they sold beer or liquor to a person under 19, and failed to require a valid driver's license or other photographic identification issued by a government agency as proof of the purchaser's age.

The House initially had amended the bill to create a legal presumption that the retailer "knowingly" sold liquor or beer to a minor illegally if he failed to ask for proof of age.

The first attempt at compromise was rejected by the House, forcing the conference committee to try a second time to iron out

differences between House and Senate versions of the bill. Coleman's suggestion removed the legal presumption, and specified only that a retailer violates the law if he or she sells alcoholic beverages to a person under 19 and does not check proper identification.

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