

# Local / State

## Theme of Clean Air Week is energy conservation

May 3-9 is Clean Air Week in Texas as proclaimed by Gov. Bill Clements. The governor asks individuals, businesses, industrial leaders, organizations and governmental agencies to pledge themselves to more effective action for clean air.

The Texas Air Control Board, the state agency responsible for controlling and abating air pollution, and the American Lung Association of Texas are co-sponsoring Clean Air Week.

"Energy conservation is the theme for this year's Clean Air Week because of the relationship between energy production and air pollution," said Alan K. Pierce, M.D., president of the American Lung Association of Texas, in a press release.

Also in the press release, TABC Executive Director Bill Stewart said: "Because air is our most pre-

cious natural resource, it is important that air quality be maintained by limiting the amount of air pollutants. We hope that Texans will use this special week to become more aware of the relationship between energy use and environmental pollution and will think about ways to conserve energy.

Pierce has several suggestions for ways to reduce air pollution:

- do not burn leaves and trash
- keep automobiles properly tuned and keep pollution control devices maintained
- use car pools and public transportation and walk rather than ride as much as possible
- conserve energy in the form of electricity and gasoline.

## Seismographic survey ship seized off Iranian coast

HOUSTON—A seismographic ship owned by Houston-based Western Geophysical Co. has been seized off the Iranian coast, a spokesman for the firm's parent company confirmed Saturday.

The Western Sea, of Panamanian registry and reportedly carrying a British crew, reportedly was seized late Thursday or early Friday in the Persian Gulf by the Iranian government.

The ship reportedly had permission to be in Iranian waters.

Western Geophysical is a subsidiary of Litton Industries, based in Los Angeles. It is involved in

land, air and marine seismic surveys for oil and gas exploration firms worldwide.

A Litton spokesman in Los Angeles confirmed the ship was seized but said further details would have to be released from the worldwide seismographic firm's London office.

Meanwhile, Wayne Prince, director of security for Western Geophysical in Houston, said he could not confirm the ship seizure and referred inquiries to the London office.

Corporate spokesmen were unavailable for comment in London. State Department officials in

Washington were unable to confirm reports the ship had been seized.

Western Geophysical has Texas offices in Houston and Galveston.



**Skiing is believing**

Karl Kaufmann, a senior geophysicist major from Corpus Christi, tries out his ski on the waters of Lake Somerville.

Kaufmann deserted the rigors of classwork to relax in the warm sun and cool water one day last week.

Photo by Stuart Hatcher

## Embargo lift will not affect grain prices, economist says

By JERI JONES  
Battalion Reporter  
Lifting of the Russian grain embargo will not affect the price consumers pay for grain products, says a Texas A&M University agricultural extension grain marketing economist.

"Grain prices don't make up

total food prices in the grocery store," Roland Smith said. "An 80-cent loaf of bread only contains a 7-cent value of wheat. If wheat goes up 25 cents a bushel, only a fractional amount of increase will occur in the raw product to make that loaf of bread."

Factors such as inflation have more effect on the economy than the lifting of the grain embargo by President Reagan April 25, Smith said. If the lifting of the embargo has an effect on food prices, it will occur in the summer due to drought conditions, he said.

Lifting the embargo means food prices will remain stable for Americans only if there is an excellent growing season in North America and good weather conditions in Argentina, Australia, New Zealand and the Soviet Union. Poor weather this spring and summer will cause more world demand for U.S. grains, Smith said.

The United States is projected to market 70 percent of the world feed grain and 45 percent of the world wheat.

Argentina will have a double production of feed grains to put on

the world market, because of a good 1981 feed grain harvest. Therefore, Argentina will be a competitor for U.S. grain exports to the Soviet Union.

For farmers, the end of the embargo means more optimism as a result of increase in incomes, because of more demand for corn, wheat and soybeans, although many farmers said the lifting of the embargo came too late, Smith said. The embargo caused the agricultural sector of the economy to carry all the burden of world diplomacy.

Former President Carter imposed the embargo on grain shipments to the Soviet Union, Jan. 4, 1980, to express U.S. displeasure with the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan. The embargo applied to Soviet purchases of U.S. grain above the eight million tons a year specified in the 1972 five-year agreement.

Reagan, while campaigning for the White House, disagreed with the imposition of the embargo. So, as he promised in his campaign, he lifted the embargo, on the

ground that it was an unfair burden on farmers and an inadequate retribution to the Soviets.

With the embargo lifted, the Soviets are free to begin negotiations with American grain dealers for future sales.

"We are in better bargaining position for feed grains, but grain prices have not improved that much since the lifting," Smith said.

While the American farmer and the U.S. Olympic Team suffered because of the embargo, Smith said, other countries, such as Argentina, gained because the sold grain at a premium. U.S. corn was selling for \$130 a ton in 1980, while Russia was buying corn for \$150 a ton from Argentina. This represents a \$20 premium, Smith said.

Smith added that agricultural trade overseas brings in money to the economy, which offsets the trade imbalance of energy.

"We must maintain a viable agricultural industry throughout the world," Smith said.

## Judge may require airline to hire men

DALLAS — A U.S. district judge is expected to decide within a few weeks whether Southwest Airlines must dump its women-only hiring policies and accept a 29-year-old man's application for flight attendant school.

Since its first flight 10 years ago, the airline has mounted a distinctive marketing campaign based on gender — the airline as woman serving the male businessman.

It was a gimmick company officials said they felt was needed to get attention in the highly competitive airline business: female flight attendants and ticket agents dressed in hot pants, serving "love potions" instead of drinks, the airline expanding into new territories by "spreading love," dubbing the automatic ticket dispenser a "quikie machine."

Airline president Howard Parnam said the gimmick remains important to the company's success. "Feminine charm and beauty is one of the ingredients of success at Southwest Airlines, and we believe a very important one," Parnam said. "We've got a lot invested in that approach."

"If we were to have to hire males, we would lose some of that investment. It potentially could hurt Southwest businesswise and we don't feel we should be subjected to that risk."

The attorney for Greg Wilson, who is seeking to become Southwest's first male flight attendant, said the airline is damaging equal opportunity employment laws.

Attorney Don Maison said discriminatory hiring practices cannot be justified to accommodate marketing strategy.

"I have found their defense staggering from the outset in its implications to fair employment," he said.

Wilson, meanwhile, remains eager to work for Southwest. "I do want to work for Southwest," he said. "But even if I was to change my mind, I would want to pursue this. I'm concerned for others like myself. We have been discriminated against. They shouldn't get away with it and I don't think they will."

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