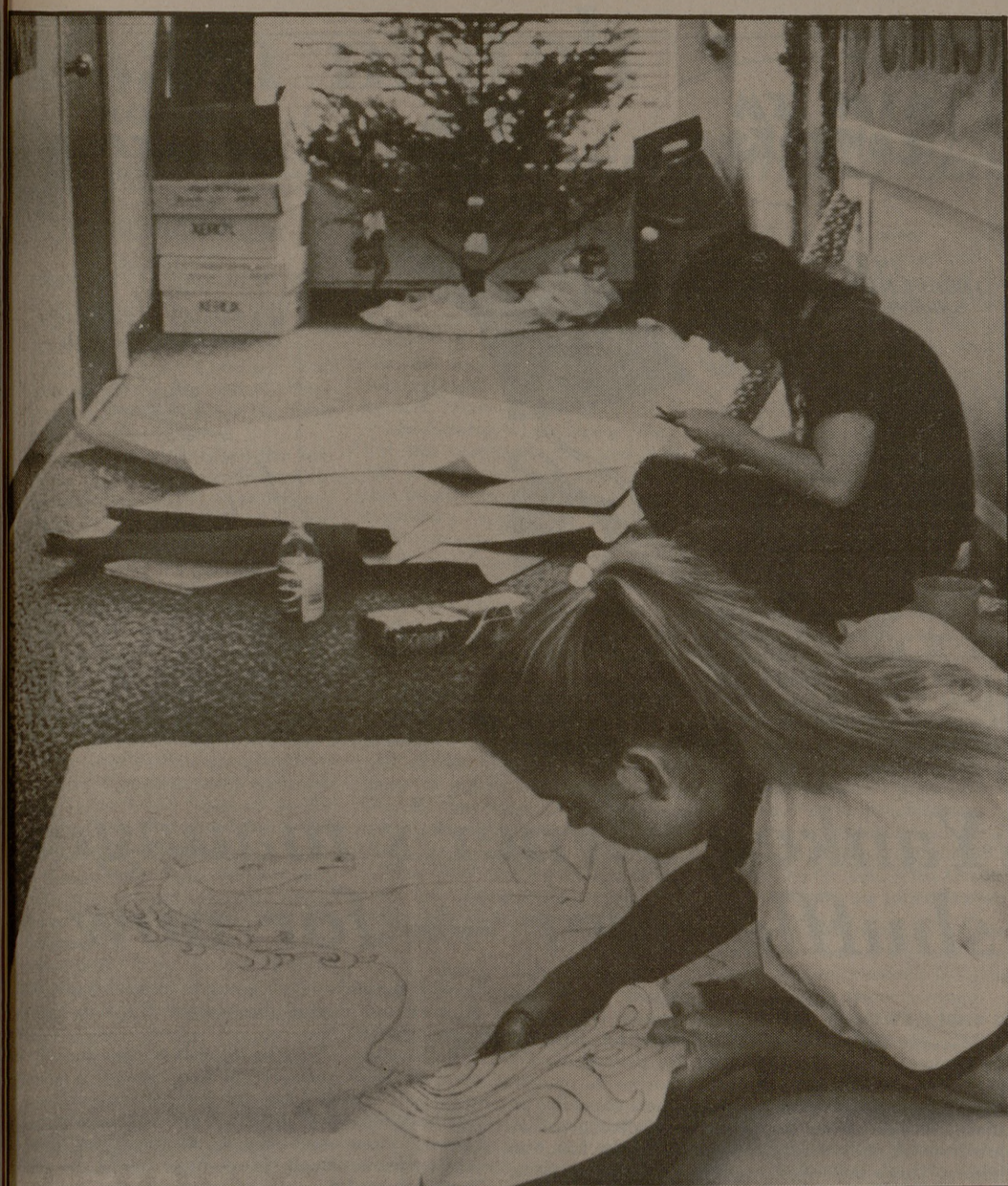


# National



**Briggs Babes**

Photo by Michelle Richie

Liz Miley, a freshman animal science major and Cathy Black, a sophomore wildlife and fisheries major, put last-minute touches on their decorations for the second floor of Briggs Hall for a contest with the first floor.

## Toys: good, bad and gross

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — This Christmas toy season, the Asteroid video game is rated among the best, a doll that vomits is billed as trash and several play guns are ranked as among the most hazardous.

The rating, billing and ranking are all part of the 10th annual toy survey by the Consumer Affairs Committee of Americans for Democratic Action.

The most disgusting toy, it said, is "Jiggles" — a set of molds out of which children can make lemon-flavored lizards and strawberry-flavored spiders. The group said the toy could teach children bad habits — namely eating bugs.

The consumer affairs group,

which dispatched toy surveyers across the country, said the lowest prices among national chain stores can be found at Toys-R-Us.

Ann Brown, head of the committee, said the most dangerous toys appear to be the variety of projectile guns, darts and similar toys. She said several "look like they were donated to us by (Libyan leader Moammar) Khadafy."

Among best toys it found were the Asteroids video game and the "Pyraminx," a three-dimensional pyramid puzzle along the lines of the Rubik's cube, last year's big-selling brain teaser.

Other toys on the "good" list were the Fisher-Price Arts and Craft kits, Penny Racers by Takara, the Whip-It puzzle by

LJN, the Air Jammer Road Rammer by Tomy, Flip and Fold Fashions by Tomy and the Crayola Caddy by Binney and Smith.

Brown said because the Consumer Product Safety Commission decided earlier this year not to impose regulations on toys which shoot projectiles the matter has been left to voluntary industry efforts.

Last week, the commission said it has not found any single toy which is dangerous in terms of federal law.

The Americans for Democratic Action group has not claimed the play guns and other toys violate federal law, but has said some could be hazardous.

The "most dangerous toy" sing-

led out by the group was the Falconmatics cap gun and the Ghost cap gun with removable silencer made by Edison toys, and ABC's Wide World of Sports Deluxe Dart Set made by Crown Recreation.

The group criticized the cap guns as being too realistic looking and difficult to supervise. It said the darts contained no warning label of any kind and should be sold in sporting goods stores, not toy stores.

The consumer group survey assigned to the "trash box" a toy called "Tummy Ache" — a cardboard doll-like figure that sticks out a pink tongue and throws up after being fed cutouts shaped like candy, french fries and other food.

## State sued by nursing homes

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — Three nursing homes specializing in caring for the mentally retarded have filed suit against the state welfare department, charging its funding plan will deprive patients of adequate care.

The suit, filed Tuesday in state district court, challenged the Department of Human Resources'

reimbursement formula for funding the Thomas Care Center in Austin, the Ada Wilson Hospital in Corpus Christi and the Convalescent Center in Dallas.

"We're asking the state to obey its own rules," said Monte Read, administrator of the Dallas facility. "We shouldn't have to sue the state of Texas to get the Department of Human Resources to com-

ply with its own procedures and state law."

The suit claims the department intended to disregard the reimbursement formula and decided to fund the three centers at lower rates.

In September, U.S. District Judge George Cire ruled the department had changed Medicare funding for the retarded without

consulting the federal government.

Cire ordered the department to revise its funding formula and submit it for federal approval before implementing it.

The suit charges the department with violating the administrative procedure act by implementing the new plan without federal approval.

## Scientist testifies at trial creationism 'not science'

**United Press International**  
LITTLE ROCK, Ark. — Scientists dissecting Arkansas' creation-science law word by word testified that no scientific evidence exists to back up the theory as explained in the statute or as presented in literature.

Requiring teachers to give balanced treatment to creationism and evolution would be "dreadfully wrong" because creation-science "is not science," said Francisco Ayala, a genetics professor at the University of California at Davis.

The American Civil Liberties Union has filed suit against Arkansas' creation-science law saying creationism is nothing more than religion and, as such, violates the constitutional separation of church and state.

The state defends the law by saying creationism can be supported with evidence that is at least as scientific as evolution. Only that evidence would be used in the classroom, state lawyers say, because Arkansas' law specifically forbids religious instruction.

Ayala and geologist Brent Dalrymple gave detailed scientific testimony Tuesday, saying many creationist writings were based on outdated or discredited research, were erroneous or were deliberately misleading.

Dalrymple, who tested moon rocks for the U.S. Geological Survey, said he particularly objected to creation-scientists' claim that the earth is no more than 20,000 years old.

"I put that in the same category

as the flat earth hypothesis and the hypothesis that the sun goes around the earth," he said.

Sen. James Holsted, D-North Little Rock, testified that his willingness to introduce the bill in the Legislature last spring grew from his personal religious beliefs.

Holsted testified to the fact that the bill passed the House and Senate with virtually no debate. The bill was signed by Gov. Frank White, a born-again Christian, who later said he had not read all of it.

### The Battalion

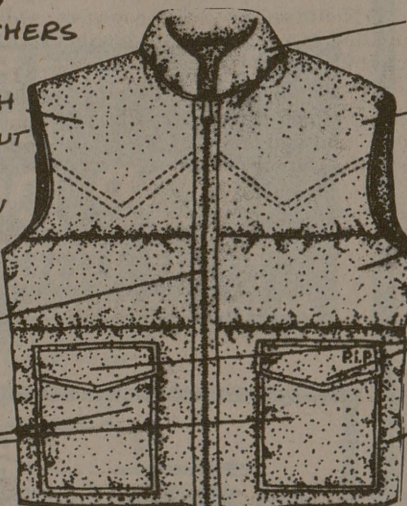
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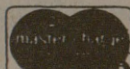
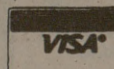
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