

etc.



staff photo by Eileen Manton

gotcha!

Senior education major Amy Billington of Brazoria, takes advantage of a warm weekend and braves the wilds of Lake Somerville to gather specimens for her entomology collection.

Handicap

(continued from page 1)

Liz Jackson said she interviewed her roommate over the telephone before they decide because they're going to be depending on this person a lot."

Goodwin and Francis halls are the only inaccessible buildings on campus. "There are a few places where we could use curb cuts so the students wouldn't have to go so far around," Elliot said. "The University has 15 to 18 scheduled."

Funding for such modifications has not been a problem in the past, and when asked what the Reagan administration has planned for the TRC, Elliot said the commission is "very much in favor of Congress."

Jeff Scott, who was injured playing football three years ago, said he has no problem getting around on campus. "I don't know if the other people have problems, but it (being in a chair) is really not a problem for me," he said. "The only difference between someone in a wheelchair is that we're shorter."

help," Elliot said. "I like for them to interview several applicants before they decide because they're going to be depending on this person a lot."

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"We're cost efficient. We're taking people off the welfare and social security roles and turning them into taxpayers."

Jimmy Hinton, Texas Rehabilitation Commission supervisor of Bryan and the University, said funds presently budgeted for the TRC are two percent more than last year.

"But a two percent increase doesn't even cover inflation, and medical bills went up 26 percent last year," Hinton said.

"In Texas last year, 15,860 handicapped people were re-

habilitated at the cost of per client. After rehabilitating these same people cost \$2 million, averaging \$200,000 per person a week. These people are using the state and federal funds more than \$700,000 before they received rehabilitation."

Hinton said Reagan's proposed budget will cut 32 percent of the funds to the TRC. "This reduction cut the number of people we are able to serve rather than a specific program. It would mean tightening the reins to serve only the handicapped."

Weinberger says Army redesigning controversial tank

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said Monday that the Army is redesigning the M-1 tank even though the \$2.7 million vehicle — the most expensive tank in U.S. history — has just begun rolling off the production lines.

In an hour-long breakfast meeting with reporters, the Pentagon chief also defended his \$258 billion budget for the coming year, saying momentum must be kept up for the administration plan to rearm America, because the Soviet "threat hasn't diminished one bit."

The escalating cost of the M-1, which began production four months ago, and its troubles in meeting Army performance specifications have made the 60-ton vehicle one of the Pentagon's most controversial weapons programs in recent years.

Weinberger said he has no plans to reduce the planned purchase of 7,058 M-1s, the

Army's first new tank in 20 years — despite reports that the new tank is vulnerable to an advanced antitank weapon.

Though he said the M-1 was an excellent tank, he acknowledged the 20-year development of the vehicle was "much too long" and said the tank is being redesigned.

"It will be produced and used," Weinberger said of the M-1, which is to cost an estimated \$19 billion for the fleet. "But it would not be very wise to say that now we don't have to do any more in the way of tanks now that we have that one."

"We do have to continue to improve, and the time to start new design is right now."

Democrats in Congress have proposed cutbacks as large as \$40 billion in the total 1983 budget authority the administration has proposed for the Pentagon, and Weinberger said he would be "very concerned with major reductions in the defense budget."

Economic signals drop in January

WASHINGTON — The government's sensitive leading economic indicators dropped 0.6 percent in January — the sixth straight month of decline, the Commerce Department reported Monday.

The new data wiped out improvement first reported for December, changing the original 0.6 percent increase estimated for the last month of 1981 into a 0.3 percent decline.

The indicators are designed to foreshadow economic trends.

Six of the nine indicators available for January contributed to the overall decline, with

new orders adjusted for inflation and stock prices dropping the most. Also down were new claims for unemployment insurance, contracts and orders for plant and equipment, changes in raw materials prices and changes in total liquid assets.

The three indicators that went up were the pace of deliveries, building permits and the money supply.

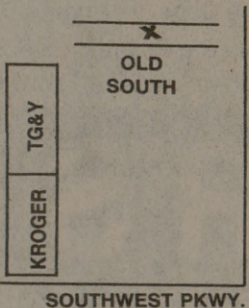
The composite index of coincident indicators, which analysts expect to bottom out two months before a recovery, dropped 1.6 percent in January, the department said.

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