

It's a small world

staff photo by Octavio Garcia

Cal Young, an architectural design graduate student from Bartlesville, and Janice Frizzell, a graduate student from Houston, look like giants when standing by Young's proposed model of the engineering-physics building. Frizzell also designed a model. Houston engineers, as well as the company with the contract for the construction of the building, evaluated the proposals.

Habib says solution close for Israel, PLO

United Press International
U.S. envoy Philip Habib, "a couple of days" from a peaceful solution to the Lebanon war, took his shuttle diplomacy back to Beirut today where Israeli warplanes lashed Palestinian targets and shelling rocked the capital.

The Israeli military, accusing Palestinian guerrillas of violating the unofficial cease-fire, said its jets went into action early this morning, after a night of rocket exchanges and gunfire.

Habib returned to Beirut Wednesday from Jerusalem, saying he was satisfied about talks with Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin on a com-

plex plan to remove the Palestine Liberation Organization from Lebanon.

The envoy was meeting today with Lebanese officials on ending the 68-day war. "A diplomatic solution is very close," Lebanese television quoted Habib as saying. "All we have to do is work out the details."

A senior Israeli official in Jerusalem agreed with his optimistic assessment, saying "there is reason to believe we are close to reaching agreement. It's a matter of a couple of days."

Military sources in Lebanon said the pullout from west Beirut by the outgunned and outnumbered PLO

guerrillas could begin by the end of the week and be completed within 15 days.

The Israelis coupled nearly 12 hours of shelling, which intensified late Wednesday, with 40 bombing sorties by warplanes that covered west Beirut with a curtain of smoke.

In an ominous comment, Israeli Defense Minister Ariel Sharon said Israel would not withdraw from Lebanon until Syria removed 40,000 troops stationed since the 1975-76 Lebanese civil war in the eastern Bekka Valley.

Noting Israeli artillery is located only 16 miles from Damascus, Sharon said, "the Syrians will have to decide what they prefer."

Congress main obstacle

Reagan pushes tax hike

United Press International
WASHINGTON — President Reagan took to the road to sell a \$98.9 billion tax increase to the public and now hopes to use a proved selling pitch to win over a reluctant Congress.

During a three-hour visit to Montana Wednesday, Reagan hammered away at arguments that the White House hopes will comprise a formula for making the tax hike palatable to lawmakers with election-year jitters.

The applause he heard in the West seemed more a general endorsement of his policies than for the tax bill. But Reagan and his advisers left convinced they can make a formidable case to Congress on behalf of the package they say is necessary for economic recovery.

"You watch," said one aide. "He's

pulled this off before. It may look like an uphill fight, but we've still got some time and his powers of persuasion."

Reagan arranged to use those powers today on at least three more delegations of House members — adding to the dozens he personally has lobbied at the White House in the past 10 days.

The president kept up the private pressure Wednesday even during his visit to Montana by making phone calls from Air Force One to congressmen as well as business groups that might aid White House lobbying.

The administration is going to great lengths to convey the message Reagan already is winning over reluctant members of Congress.

As he boarded Air Force One Wednesday for the flight to Montana with Reagan, Rep. Ronald Marlenee,

R-Mont., told reporters he had strong reservations about the tax bill and said it would fail by a 2-to-1 margin.

By the end of the flight, presidential aides were parading Marlenee before reporters to tell of a conversion he had undergone during a talk with Reagan aboard the plane.

"The president is a very convincing man and his efforts to close tax loopholes and reduce the deficit deserve support," Marlenee said. "I'm inclined to support him."

What of his earlier statements? "Well," he replied, "I changed my mind."

In search of more public support and congressional converts, Reagan is considering giving a nationally televised speech on the tax package.

AT&T antitrust suit may be settled soon

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A federal judge's suggested changes in a settlement to break up American Telephone & Telegraph Co. are being greeted with cautious optimism by many — including the government and AT&T.

On Wall Street, a top analyst predicted the revisions would remove months of uncertainty in the market for AT&T holdings.

U.S. District Judge Harold Greene announced Wednesday he will approve the settlement reached last January between AT&T and the government, but only if both sides agree to his modifications.

Greene warned if they don't agree he would reject the proposed settlement and order a resumption of the government's 7-year-old antitrust suit

against the world's largest company. AT&T and the Justice Department both expressed pleasure with what they called Greene's acceptance of the overall concept of the proposed settlement and said they immediately would begin talks to see if they can agree to his changes.

Their proposed consent decree calls for AT&T to spin off 22 majority-owned telephone companies — about two-thirds of its \$120 billion in assets — in exchange for dissolution of a 1956 government ban on what kinds of businesses it can enter, particularly the lucrative markets for new communications services.

AT&T would retain its long-distance operations and its manufacturing and research arms, Western Electric and Bell Laboratories.

Greene listed 10 changes he wants

to see in the agreement, most of them having to do with giving the spin-off companies greater freedom to enter new businesses.

The judge also said the divested local telephone companies must be allowed to retain the Yellow Pages and to sell telephones and switchboards to customers. The original decree lets the parent company handle both ventures.

Greene gave the Justice Department and AT&T 15 days to submit the decree, with the called-for changes, or to reject it.

Assistant Attorney General William Baxter, the administration's top antitrust official, had previously warned the government would restart its antitrust suit if the court tried to alter the terms of the settlement.

New GTE policy: only 10 free local assistance calls

by Rebecca Zimmermann

Battalion Staff
If you use local telephone directory assistance, you may be surprised when the operator asks for your phone number. Don't be — there's a reason she asks.

Aug. 1, General Telephone began a policy of allowing each phone line 10 free local directory assistance calls per month. After those 10, the customer is charged 25 cents for each phone number he requests.

GTE public affairs division manager John Wallace said to correctly record calls to directory assistance, the operator answering the information request asks for the caller's number. The operator then records the re-

quest on a computer card.

Wallace said the new charge for directory assistance places the cost of this service on the people who use it.

Before the new policy was initiated, someone who seldom used directory assistance paid the same amount as someone who telephoned for assistance 50 times, Wallace said. The cost was simply figured into the basic monthly phone rates.

The 10-call limit applies to each separate phone line, he said. If there are two phone lines in one residence or business office, there is a 10-request limit for each line. But, extension phones on the same line are included in the monthly limit.

Two phone numbers may be re-

quested each time the customer calls directory assistance. So, up to 20 numbers may be obtained before a charge is assessed for requests.

Calls from pay phones or hospitals and calls made by certified handicapped people who have difficulty using the phone book are exempt from the service charge, Wallace said.

And, callers don't have to give their phone numbers to operators when calling long distance directory service because the call is automatically recorded by a computer, he said.

Wallace said charges are not made for long distance directory assistance because the service cost is offset by the long distance call which usually follows the request.

Study shows floating good for students

Wet behind the ears, but learning fast

By Hope E. Paasch

Battalion Staff
Studying while afloat in a sensory isolation tank makes difficult concepts easier to grasp, according to results of a study conducted during the spring semester by a Texas A&M professor.

For two years, Dr. Thomas Taylor, a visiting assistant professor of chemistry, has used electroencephalographs (EEGs) to study the learning process. He used EEGs, which measure brain activity, to see how flotation affects learning. Recent research using EEGs shows that learning occurs on several different levels.

The lowest learning level is sim-

ple memorization, the next is understanding a concept as it is presented and the highest level is called synthesis thinking. On this learning level, several different concepts are combined to form a new idea.

Statistics from Taylor's study on flotation learning show that subjects who learned while floating performed much better than the control group when answering questions which required synthesis thinking.

"There's no question that the experiential group learned more,"

he said, "but where they learned is the most important point. People who floated learned at a different

cognitive level. The results show that the more difficult the concept, the bigger the difference in the performance of the two groups."

To eliminate as many variables as possible, the subjects were chosen from 453 original volunteers. After extensive screening, 40 females were selected. Complete statistics were gathered for 20 of the subjects.

Only females were used in the study because basic physiological differences in the way men and women think do exist, Taylor said.

During the study, the control group and the experiential group studied by listening to learning tapes. The control group for the experiment listened to the tapes while

lying on a couch in a quiet, dark room. The experiential group floated while they listened.

"The only difference in the two groups was that the experiential group was floating," Taylor said.

Floating is a method of relaxation that consists of lying in a sensory isolation tank, suspended in 10 inches of warm salt water. The completely enclosed tank is 8 feet long and 4 feet wide. Floating sessions usually last one hour.

The study was funded by the Float to Relax Corp. The Denver-based corporation has set up several Float to Relax facilities across the United States, including five in

Texas. John Moran is the co-owner and manager of the College Station facility, which opened last spring.

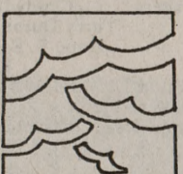
"We wanted someone to prove what we already know," Moran said. "I don't have a Ph.D. so I can't tell the world it really works. A&M has international credibility."

"I believe we are on the frontier of the mind. We are exploring a way to open up to the other 90 percent (of the brain) that we are typically told we never use."

Taylor said he is interested in EEG research because he doesn't think exams are a suitable diagnostic tool.

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forecast

Partly cloudy with a 30 percent chance of rain; highs in the mid-90s; low in the mid-70s.