

Watching and waiting

staff photo by Irene Mees

When you're hurt P.E. class isn't much fun. Phyllis Phillips, a senior from San Antonio studying special education, leans on her crutches while she watches her tennis class go through its paces. She injured her foot recently in a wreck and will just have to watch instead of play for awhile.

Students failing geography test

United Press International
LUBBOCK — Geography Professor William B. Conroy gives his Texas Tech University students a world map test at the beginning of each semester. The results are usually disappointing.

On the average, Conroy says his students score less than 50 percent in identifying major countries, including Vietnam, Poland, Thailand, Morocco, Nigeria, Venezuela, Syria and Iran.

And he says the lack of geographical knowledge is not limited to students at Texas Tech.

"Typical American students in grades one through 12 get very little background in geography," he says. "Teachers are not prepared to teach it. They devote their time to stressing the basic skills of the language arts, arithmetic and other subjects with which they have greater familiarity."

Conroy does not advocate the elimination of basic skills in public schools, but believes geography is important enough to warrant a class in its own right.

"A knowledge of geography is important in understanding world conflicts and serves as a base in making sound decisions in resolving those conflicts," he says. "At the very least, every student needs to develop a mental map of the locations and names of countries, major cities and other major features on the earth's surface."

He says such a mental map is essential in sorting out and organizing information learned in a variety of subjects, as well as in the news.

Conroy blames grade school curriculums for the students' lack of geographical knowledge. He says since the 1920s, schools have included geography under the broad category of social studies, which includes history, anthropology, sociology, econo-

mics, psychology and political science.

"By the time students get to college their mental maps — their ability to picture where countries, cities and other major features are in the world — are not filled in," he says.

Conroy says Soviet and European children know much more about U.S. geography than students here know of Soviet and European geography.

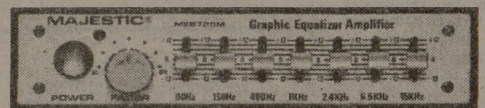
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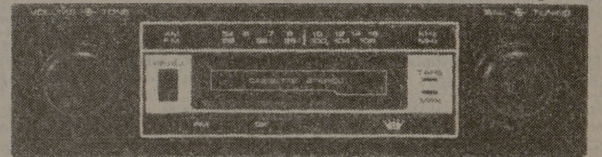
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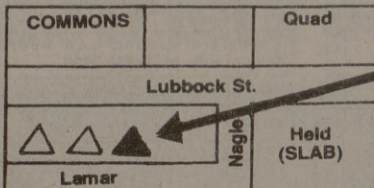
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Wood case defendants may be tried separately

United Press International
SAN ANTONIO — A trial in the assassination of federal Judge John Wood begins Tuesday, but attorneys do not know whether all four defendants will be tried together or separately.

Federal Judge William Sessions has scheduled a hearing Friday for arguments on separating defendant Jimmy Chagra's trial from the others. The move was requested by government prosecutors because Chagra's brother Joe has refused to testify against Jimmy.

Joe Chagra, who pleaded guilty last week to conspiracy to murder Wood, has agreed to testify against at least one other defendant as part of a plea bargain. Sessions will hear arguments on whether to move the trial outside San Antonio — a request he had temporarily denied until he tried first to seat a jury in San Antonio.

Publicity about the case since then has further hurt the

chances of seating a fair jury in the city where Wood was killed, said Warren Burnett, attorney for Jimmy Chagra's wife, Elizabeth. He has asked again that the trial be moved.

Most of the publicity has concerned a letter Mrs. Chagra reportedly wrote to Katie Wood, the slain judge's wife, confessing to the slaying and apologizing for her role. The letter blamed the death on Jimmy Chagra.

Also charged in Wood's death are Charles and Jo Ann Harrelson. Harrelson is accused of shooting Wood for \$250,000 from Jimmy Chagra. Mrs. Harrelson is charged with conspiracy to obstruct justice.

Mrs. Harrelson has asked for a separate trial. Harrelson's attorney has asked that Harrelson be tried after Jimmy Chagra.

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