



Riding the rapids??

photo by Bill Robinson

It was perfect weather yesterday for these three business majors to catch some rays — at least until the University Police asked them to leave. John Cook, a Dallas junior, and

graduating seniors Mike Peterson of Dallas and Mike McGinnis of Friendswood floated in the fountain in front of the Chemistry Building for about an hour.

Reagan studys arms positions

WASHINGTON — President Reagan is looking at possible changes in negotiating posture in the nuclear arms talks in Geneva in response to Soviet President Yuri Andropov's proposal to perhaps cut Soviet nuclear weaponry.

Deputy press secretary Larry Speakes said Reagan has dered a study of possible shifts in the U.S. position when the Strategic Arms Reduction Talks resume in early June.

Andropov Tuesday proposed cutting the number of warheads on the medium-range, intermediate-range missiles to the total of 1,000 on both sides. He may present the proposal at the separate S-U.S.S.R talks on the Intermediate Nuclear Forces which resumes May 17 in Geneva.

It was the first time Andropov has said the Soviet Union would be willing to cut its nuclear weaponry to match Western figures.

"We're looking at it," said one White House aide.

Soviet Ambassador Anatoly Dobrynin, attending a diplomatic corps reception at the White House Tuesday night, was asked whether Andropov's proposal was new.

"Of course, it's new," he said with a smile. "Before we counted planes and missiles, now it's warheads."

Reagan first proposed the "zero" option, meaning elimination of all medium-range missiles in Europe. He later proposed an "interim" solution which would reduce the missiles to an equal number on both sides.

In a meeting with Republican congressional leaders Tuesday, Reagan indicated he will respond to a letter from three influential senators who linked their support for the MX missile-basing plan to a more flexible U.S. position at the START talks.

Speakes said the letter from Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Charles Percy, Bill, and Sens. Sam Nunn, D-Ala., and William Cohen, R-Maine, reflects "the bipartisan spirit needed to achieve our goals."

Nine House members sent a similar letter to Reagan Monday.

The letters asked Reagan to incorporate the recommendations of his bipartisan Commission on Strategic Forces into the U.S. position at the arms talks. They also called on him to support a "build down," under which two nuclear weapons would be destroyed for each new one produced.

Aides indicated Reagan, while endorsing most of the committee's suggestions, has reservations about the "build down"

'It tears at me all the time'

Inmate prays for strength

United Press International WETUMPKA, Ala. — Judith Ann Neelley says the execution of John Louis Evans III has not made her more concerned about death. Neelley, the teenage mother of three children, is sentenced to die for killing a Georgia girl.

The 18-year-old Murfreesboro, Tenn. woman was sentenced to death April 18 for the shooting of Lisa Ann Millican, 13, of Lafayette, Ga. The child's body was found last September in the Little River Canyon near Fort Payne.

Evans, a drifter from

Beaumont, Texas, became the first person to be executed in Alabama in 18 years when he was electrocuted April 22 at Holman Prison for the 1977 murder of a Mobile pawnbroker.

Neelley told the Birmingham News the going had been rough, but she had become "settled in" at the 282-inmate prison north of Montgomery. She said she spent much of her time praying and reading the Bible.

"I don't ask God for me not to be electrocuted. I just ask that if I'm going to be electrocuted, to give me strength to go through

it," said Neelley.

Wearing a white prison dress and rubber thong sandals she bought from the prison canteen, Neelley presented a much different image than during her trial when she wore stylish clothes loaned by her attorney's secretary.

Neelley admitted during her trial that she killed Lisa Millican, but her defense was that she had been battered so much by her husband, Alvin Neelley, that she killed almost without thought when he ordered her to.

Alvin Neelley is himself in a Georgia jail awaiting trial for

murder in the shooting death of Janis Chatman, a young Rome, Ga., woman he and his wife are also accused of killing.

The jury recommended life imprisonment for Mrs. Neelley, but DeKalb County Circuit Court Judge Randall Cole imposed the death sentence because of the "heinous, cruel and unacceptable" circumstances surrounding the child's death.

Neelley said people "don't know how sorry I am. It tears at me all the time, but there's nothing I can do about it."

Research bill to help profs

United Press International WASHINGTON — Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, introduced a bill Tuesday that would give tax breaks to industry — supplementing the salaries of engineering instructors.

Bentsen, who has been vigorous in pointing out the shortage of engineering instructors at U.S. colleges and universities, said his bill would create new jobs without driving up the cost of living because it encourages private industry to spend more money on basic research and development.

"U.S. industry now spends only 3.6 percent of every research dollar on basic research and development, down from 7 percent in the mid-1970s," he said.

"Basic research — which has led to such things as the transistor and the integrated circuit — is giving way to applied research — in which products utilizing transistors and integrated circuits are developed," he said.

The bill would allow firms to claim the 1981 research and development tax credit for payments to supplement the salaries of engineering faculty.

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