



Summer sprinkles

staff photo by Mike Davis

Despite Wednesday's scattered showers, sprinklers were going full force around the Coke Building. Mari Hughes, left, a senior management major from Longview, and

Tammy Kirk, a senior elementary education major from Dallas, dodge raindrops and sprinkler spray on their way to class and cool off their feet simultaneously.

# Ags studying sorghum as possible fuel source

Pam Barnes

**Battalion Reporter**  
Agricultural researchers at Texas A&M have begun a three-year, \$1.5 million project to use sorghum as a source for large scale production of methane gas.

Hiler is the leader of the sorghum for methane production program.

Funds totaling \$500,000 for the first year's work have been provided by the Gas Research Institute of Chicago.

Ron Isaacson, manager of the biomass and waste program for GRI, recently discussed long term plans with Texas A&M researchers from the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station — the agricultural research agency of the Texas A&M University System.

"We aren't sure whether it's

possible, but by the year 2000 or 2020 we could be producing as much as 25 percent of the nation's gas needs from sorghum," Isaacson said.

"Sorghum is the most likely source for the gas," Hiler said.

Researchers will breed and develop the types of sorghum that can most efficiently be converted into gas, Hiler said. They also will be looking at the harvesting, handling and storing of the plants. The heads of the plants will be used for food and the stalks will be used to produce the gas.

# Study shows textbook regression

**United Press International**  
AUSTIN — Citing a new study showing a regression in the teaching of evolution in Texas public schools, an anti-censorship group has announced a campaign to change the basic guidelines under which textbooks are chosen.

"This will be a much bigger, more difficult task than the open hearing process, but it has to be done," Barbara Parker, an official of People for the American Way, said Tuesday. "That's the next step."

The group successfully lobbied this year for legislation that gave textbook advocates as well as opponents the right to be heard during public hearings on school books.

Slate director Michael Hudson told a news conference his organization would work through the Texas Legislature, the state Board of Education and the news media to change the parameters used to select texts.

Hudson made the announcement after disclosing a study by a Texas Tech University professor that showed a pattern of censorship in the coverage of evolution in high school science and biology books.

One of the most controversial requirements that textbook publishers must follow in developing books acceptable to Texas is a nine-year-old rule that mandates that evolution be treated as only one of several theories of the origin of man.

Hudson said it is important that changes be made in the guidelines — or proclamations — because new texts on basic science and biology will be up for adoption next year in Texas.

Dr. Gerald Skogg, an education professor at Texas Tech, said constant attacks on evolution by textbook critics such as Mel and Norma Gabler of Long-

view "has intimidated all who write, edit, publish, adopt and use textbooks in this state."

Skogg said of the six biology texts published in the 1970s and revised in the 1980s, the coverage of evolution declined in four and remained the same in two. "The coverage of evolution in the nation's most widely used biology textbook has decreased in its last two revisions in 1977 and 1981," said Skogg. "The language has become more cautious and tentative."

Dr. Ronnie Hastings, director of science education at Waxahachie High School, said many

new college graduates are "ignorant" of the theory of evolution.

"Children are being given a view of science that is inaccurate and distorted because of this pre-censorship," he said.

Hudson said the impact of textbook purchases by Texas — estimated at more than \$65 million this year — is felt nationwide since other states are usually forced to buy whatever books are purchased by Texas.

"I'm concerned about the impact of Texas on the publishing industry," he said. "Only Texas and California have the econo-

mic power to dictate changes in textbooks before they are mass produced."

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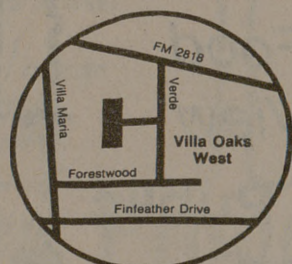
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