

# Defense plans may suffer

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — Some Texas defense programs are likely to suffer without the guardianship of Sen. John Tower, departing chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, a Dallas newspaper reported Sunday.

Tower's decision not to seek re-election — combined with the death of his Democratic counterpart Sen. Henry Jackson — could also make for a dramatically different armed services panel, Washington observers told the Dallas Morning News.

Key Congressional aides predicted new leaders of the committee were unlikely to be the strong

advocates of military spending that Tower and Jackson were, the News said.

Tower, the Republican chairman, and Jackson, the minority leader, together accumulated more than 50 years experience in the Senate, most of which was spent on defense and foreign policy issues.

"Few people on Capitol Hill really do understand foreign policy and understand the relation of military power with foreign policy," said one Senate staff member. "We have just lost two of the people around here who did."

When Tower leaves his post next year, his Republican succes-

or as chairman of the 18-member armed services panel will probably be Sen. Barry Goldwater of Arizona who is more interested in budget matters than in foreign policy, the newspaper said.

But if the Democrats win back control of the Senate in the 1984 elections, Sen. Sam Nunn of Georgia would likely become chairman of the panel. Nunn is generally considered to be more of a military reformer than Republicans Tower or Goldwater.

Texans are also concerned about how the state's defense interests will fare without Tower's strong leadership. Tower's departure will have a "significant effect"

on Texas over the long-term, the newspaper reported.

Some programs that may be hurt are those in the earliest stages of development, like the tilt-rotor aircraft manufactured by Textron Bell of Fort Worth. Other programs farther along may face early termination without Tower's advocacy.

On the House side, few shakeups are predicted in the composition of its 45-member armed services committee. The panel has never had the homogeneity that its smaller Senate counterpart boasted and Congressional aides say they expect no radical changes in issues.



staff photo by Guy Chandler Hood

## Where's the party?

This group of freshman cadets whooped it up Friday on the quad in anticipation of the upcoming weekend football game.

The Aggies beat the Arkansas State Indians 38-0. For more information see the game story on page 11.

# Miss America expresses her views on abortion

**United Press International**  
ATLANTIC CITY — Vanessa Williams, who "made some waves" by becoming the first black woman to win the Miss America title, stirred the waters even more Sunday by saying she favors legalized abortion.

The 20-year-old Syracuse University junior, who shattered one of the nation's oldest remaining racial barriers Saturday night by winning the coveted crown, rolled out of bed Sunday after two hours of sleep and plunged headlong into a hectic schedule in which she will travel 20,000 miles during the year.

After an early-morning photo session on the beach, the 5-foot-6 brunette, who also was the first black woman to win the Miss New York title, sat down to breakfast with reporters and quickly made it clear she does not see herself as a beauty queen.

"I've never felt like a beauty queen and I don't think I ever will, because that's a stereotype I don't agree with," said Williams, the daughter of two Millwood, N.Y., public school music teachers. Williams wasted little time in getting herself apart from previous pageant winners, who usually

ducked controversial issues.

She told reporters she is a political "independent" who opposes legalization of marijuana, backs the Equal Rights Amendment and thinks women should be permitted to choose abortion.

"I think it's (abortion) a right that women should have," she said. "It should be there for women to use, but I don't think everyone should use it."

Most of the questions focused on her race, an issue that bothers her.

"At times I get annoyed because it seems the people and press aren't focusing on my accomplishments," said America's new sweetheart. "I've made some waves and I'm ready to handle that. People aren't used to dealing with changes, but it just had to happen."

Her Convention Hall triumph marked a milestone in the pageant's 63-year history. Only a dozen blacks have competed since a "whites-only" rule was lifted in the late 1950s. Until Cheryl Brown of Iowa crossed the color line in 1970, blacks had appeared

on stage only once, playing "slaves" in a production number in 1922.

But Williams, who wants to be a Broadway stage star, said she will not use her title as a platform for pronouncements on black issues.

"Just because I'm black doesn't mean I'm going to favor every black position," said the 110-pound, green-eyed singer.

The year on the road has been lucrative for most Miss Americas — Miss America 1983, Debra Sue Maffett, earned more than \$125,000 in appearance fees — and Williams expects to do as well, although possibly before different audiences.

"If I don't have the regular bookings, I will have other ones which don't normally book Miss Americas," she said confidently. "Like the Urban League."

Miss America 1984 said she is prepared for her "grueling" reign, although it means a lengthy separation from her family and a "very supportive" boyfriend.

# Wang offers new classes

**United Press International**  
TYNGSBORO, Mass. — A tiny college barely visible from the nearby river road is attracting people who create software for some of the nation's top computer companies, offering an education not found at most big universities.

The Wang Institute is the computer industry's answer to an old problem: the inability of a traditional academic institution to provide skills for many of the pragmatic problems that come up in the workplace.

The institute, founded by An Wang in 1979, attracts students and support from big names in the industry. Digital Equipment Corp., Hewlett-Packard, Raytheon, Prime Computer and Data General are among corporate supporters of the school, which is independent of its founder's firm, Wang Laboratories.

It represents an unusual cooperative effort among businesses in an extremely competitive industry.

The institute still is in its infancy. There were only 34 students and a small handful of faculty members this year. Growth is being controlled, partly because of the slow process of attracting highly qualified teachers to an

academic experiment.

Students receive a master's degree in software engineering, a rare program differing from the computer studies usually offered at universities. The traditional education focuses on computer knowledge, but the institute teaches its students to use that information for product development.

It also stresses two imperative corporate concerns: time and money. Students have to develop products on time and within a budget.

William McKeeman, chairman of the institute faculty, said American companies may have an edge in software development, but they'll need to offer better training to maintain an advantage into the future.

"I think there is a present awareness that there are other countries, specifically Japan, that are much more vigorously pursuing high technology. One thing the United States has pretty much of a lead in — at this point — is the software side of the business, getting the programs actually done. But the perception is we don't do it very well," McKeeman said.

"We (the institute) would like to be copied," he said. "I think peo-

ple are watching us very closely to see if this is successful."

Software specialists who apply must have at least one year of experience in development and most work while they attend the institute. Students may attend on a full-time or part-time basis.

"I couldn't have learned in five, six years, 10 years maybe, what I've learned here," said Todd Leadbeater, a Wang Lab employee.

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Beyond Limits, oil on canvas (detail), c. 1980, Gene Peebles, Collection of Gary Ellingsworth



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