

AT&T split to raise rates

By KAREN WALLACE
Staff writer

General Telephone customers in Bryan-College Station may see an increase in local rates and monthly phone access rates by April 3, GTE representative John Wallace said Tuesday.

These increases, a result of the Jan. 1 divestiture between American Telephone and Telegraph and Southwestern Bell, are necessary to make up for the loss of long distance service, Wallace said.

Wallace explained that prior to the breakup long distance service was more expensive for the customer to use than for GTE to provide. The opposite was true of local rates which were less expensive for the customer to use than for GTE to provide. The excess revenue from long distance rates was used to help pay the local rates.

With the divestiture, AT&T became a long distance service, and GTE became a local service, he said.

Now, GTE has no alternative but to raise the local rates to help pay for the loss of long distance revenue, said Phil Dole, AT&T representative in Austin.

"There's really nothing else to do," Dole said.

School systems blamed for low scores

United Press International

EL PASO — Low Scholastic Aptitude Test scores are brought about by a failure in the state educational system, not the influx of minority students, Texas Education Commissioner Raymon Bynum said Tuesday.

Bynum faulted the state's educational system after a report prepared by the U.S. Department of Education showed minority students traditionally have received lower SAT scores.

SAT scores are used by colleges and universities to determine which students will succeed at higher education.

Texas Hispanic leaders criticized Bynum when he allegedly blamed an influx of Hispanic students in the state for the low SAT scores in Texas.

Bynum said he was misquoted both by television reporters and reporters for the San Antonio Light.

"I said that our failure to adequately meet the educational

needs of minority people is responsible for Texas scoring so low," Bynum said.

State Sen. Carlos Truan of Corpus Christi, who was critical of Bynum, said he would give the commissioner the "benefit of the doubt."

Dr. Ernesto Perez, director of the Bilingual Education Training and Technical Assistance Network at the University of Texas at El Paso, said Bynum is making no effort to support

bilingual education programs in Texas schools.

Perez said bilingual education is important because Hispanic students who speak only Spanish learn English as quickly as possible to succeed in school once they have mastered the language.

Bynum said bilingual education is "working very well" in El Paso but that it is too early to tell whether students who participated in bilingual education will

succeed when they enter college.

Perez said the low SAT scores is the responsibility of the Texas Education Agency.

"The true fault now and always has been with the Texas Education Agency," he said. "The agency should look at itself, at its leadership, at its curriculum, and then see where the blame actually should go. The blame should be nowhere else but on the agency and on its leadership."

Judge says Continental had no choice in reorganization

United Press International

HOUSTON — A bankruptcy judge Monday sided with Continental Airlines and against three striking labor unions, who had charged the beleaguered carrier had filed for Chapter 11 reorganization to ban unions from the company.

Attendants and the International Association of Machinists began in September when Continental filed for reorganization. The company stopped flying for three striking labor unions, who had charged the beleaguered carrier had filed for Chapter 11 reorganization to ban unions from the company.

A spokesman for ALPA said the union would definitely appeal the judge's decision.

"We are disappointed and we plan to file an appeal," said ALPA spokesman Dick Smith. "I think it demonstrated that Continental sought a bankruptcy ruling to rid itself of the union contract."

this airline and its employees. After countless hours of testimony, hundreds of thousands of pages of corporate papers turned over to union attorneys and the deposing of key management officials, the court's decision is a clear sign that we did what we had to do to save Continental," Hicks said.

Since September when Continental filed for reorganization, the company has denied any attempt to bust the unions, which it still recognizes. It said it filed for protection because it lost \$521 million between 1979 and 1983, would have run out of cash by the end of 1983 and had financial problems on many fronts.

U.S. Bankruptcy Judge R.F. Wheelers Jr. said in a strongly worded statement that the company had no alternative but to file for reorganization.

"This court finds that the Continental Airlines group filed their respective Chapter 11 proceedings for the purpose of attempting to keep the companies alive and functioning and that they had no other viable alternative to that end.

"The unions have not satisfactorily demonstrated that there was any reasonable alternative under which the airline would keep operating, and this court finds that there was not," Wheelers said.

The battle between Continental and the Air Line Pilots Association, the Union of Flight

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"We are disappointed and we plan to file an appeal," said ALPA spokesman Dick Smith. "I think it demonstrated that Continental sought a bankruptcy ruling to rid itself of the union contract."

Continental spokesman Bruce Hicks said the company was pleased with judge's decision.

"This ruling definitively states that Continental has acted in the best interest of our employees, our shareholders, creditors and the traveling public," said Hicks.

"The court has stated that Continental has acted in good faith in order to preserve jobs and provide a viable future for

The company argued the striking labor unions did not understand the seriousness of Continental's financial problems and rejected the company's efforts to persuade them to make a quick \$150 million in concessions that might have avoided bankruptcy.

IAM went on strike Aug. 13 after contract talks failed.



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Mayor expects teacher conflict

United Press International

JUAREZ, Mexico — Mayor Francisco Barrio, fearing a violent confrontation between left-wing teachers and police, Tuesday called on American tourists to stay away from the border city next Saturday.

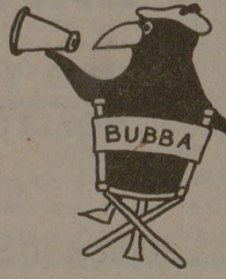
The mayor's warning, disseminated to news media in El Paso, drew angry comments from Artemio Jaime Salazar, president of the Juarez national chamber of commerce, who called for the mayor to maintain order or resign.

The protesting teachers are members of a leftwing union, "Los Democraticos," who have been critical of administrative policies of the federal Secretariat of Education. The teachers say the agency shows favoritism in promoting teachers to administrative positions and accuses administrators of corruption.

Some 28 teachers were fired three months ago when they refused to accept transfers, claiming the agency discriminated against them. They are seeking reinstatement.

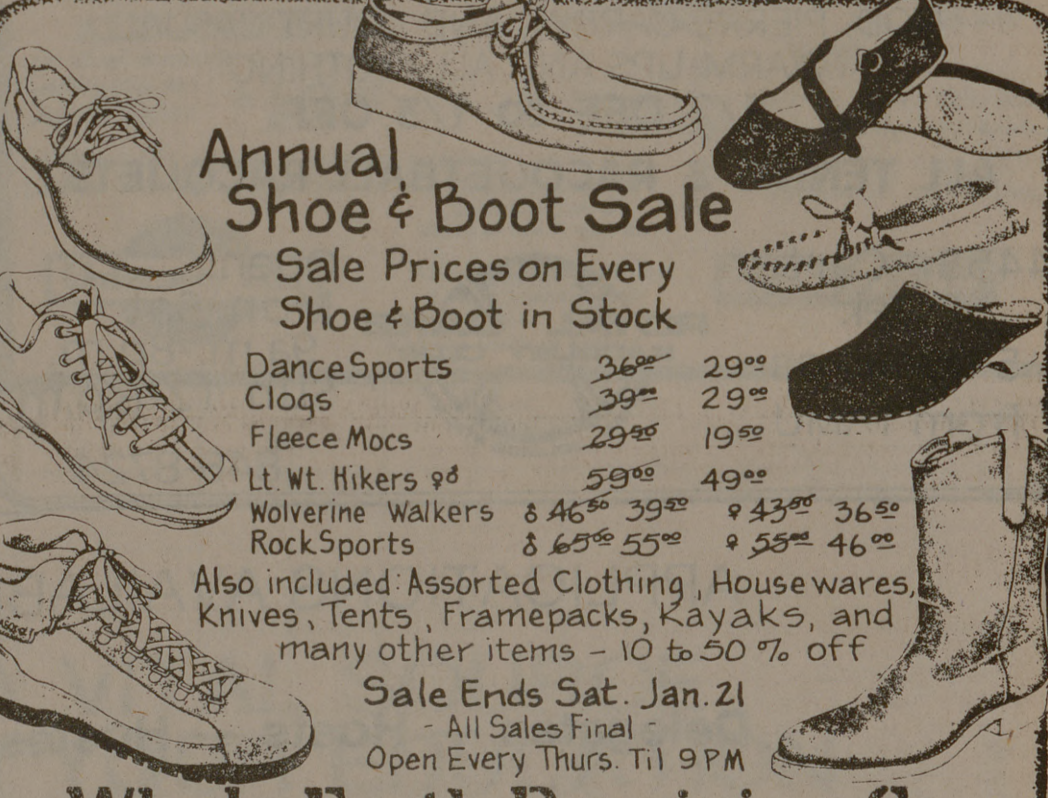
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