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The Battalion

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Relief

Photo by Peter Rocha

This runner takes advantage of what appears to be a misplaced sprinkler by the floral test gardens to gain some relief from Monday's 90-degree heat. More of the same is expected today: highs in the 90s with a small chance of rain.

Tarleton prof suing System

By KARI FLUEGEL
Staff Writer

Texas A&M University System officials are waiting for information about a \$10.5 million suit against the System filed by a former Tarleton State University faculty member late last week.

News of the suit, filed by Dr. James W. Shores, reached System officials Monday.

System Chancellor Dr. Arthur G. Hansen and System General Counsel Ted Hajovsky Jr. said Monday they did not have enough details to comment about the suit.

Shores claims he was denied tenure because of his race, United Press International reported Saturday. He was denied tenure at Tarleton, a System school located in Stephenville, in 1983.

Shores, formerly an assistant professor of criminal justice, was the first full-time black faculty member at Tarleton. His employment at the university was terminated when he was denied tenure.

UPI reported that Shores filed the suit in a Fort Worth federal court claiming that Tarleton objected to his advocacy of black students and his opposition to a student organization which he called a "prejudiced, sexist group."

Shores claimed his civil rights were violated, in part, because he challenged the Purple Poo, a campus spirit organization formed 85 years ago. The members of the Purple Poo wear purple hooded robes, and their identities are kept secret.

Tarleton President Dr. Barry B. Thompson, however, said that Shores misunderstood the function of the group and described it as a "society that promotes the spirit of Tarleton State University."

Shores' suit was filed as a challenge to the entire Texas A&M system, and asks relief for a whole class of minority academicians he says has been discriminated against in the granting of tenure, which guarantees university-level teachers a job for life.

Drought threatens Texas 'water war'

United Press International

The worsening Texas water crisis has forced large-scale livestock liquidations and water rationing across western and central portions of the state, and threatens to erupt into a full-fledged "water war," pitting urban against rural interests, authorities predicted Monday.

"We've had bad droughts before, but we've never faced one which caused such an impact on urban areas," said Martin Wilson, staff attorney with the Texas Department of Water Resources.

"In the past, drought has been mostly an issue for farmers and ranchers," he said. "But the latest census shows Texas is more urban than rural. Cities, with their greater populations and industrial needs, are demanding priority."

"We could see a major water war," he said.

The opening salvo came when the agency issued orders halting the pumping of water for irrigation from the Brazos River and has threatened to duplicate the action elsewhere, despite reports ranchers

have had to liquidate herds and stock ponds have dried out.

In related developments:

- Austin Monday joined more than 65 cities in enacting tough conservation measures, prohibited lawn sprinkling and car washing between noon and 8 p.m. Landscapers have threatened suit, claiming their business will shrivel with the shrubs and grass.

- The state's largest cattle organization predicts many ranchers must liquidate "100 percent" of their cattle and sheep herds, and grasslands have been scorched "plumb to the roots."

- Authorities report an outbreak of "water piracy" in South Texas, thefts which have robbed downstream waters users on the Guadalupe, Nueces, Rio San Antonio and Atascosa rivers.

- Citizens of Corpus Christi, entering their third week of mandatory controls, held special weekend prayer sessions to bring rain. But the director of the city's water supply said it may take a major tropical storm to solve the crisis he termed "damn scary."

Democrats' convention opens

United Press International

AN FRANCISCO — The Democratic Party opened its 1984 convention Monday as Walter Mondale sought to clear the final hurdle to party unity by agreeing to a summit meeting with his rivals, Sen. Gary Hart and Jesse Jackson.

The move came midway in the opening session of the convention at the San Francisco Sheraton, which former President Jimmy Carter launched the first volley in what was expected to be a four-day convention of the administration of Ronald Reagan.

Mondale, expecting his party's presidential nomination Wednesday night, made a triumphal arrival at the convention city earlier in the day, with running mate Geraldine Ferraro stealing much of the attention.

Mondale, who at first said he wanted to meet one-on-one with his

rivals, told reporters he relented to the request for a joint meeting Monday evening because it was the desire of both Jackson and Hart.

"I really had no deep objections so I went ahead and that's what it'll be today," he said. "That's what each wanted to do."

"There is no agenda that I am aware of," said Mondale. "It will be a general discussion."

As a sea of blue "Mondale" posters and red "Hart" posters swept across the vast floor of the cavernous Moscone Convention Center, Mondale aides nailed down the Monday night meeting.

Both Hart and Jackson insist they are still battling Mondale for the nomination even though he has 109 delegates more than the 1,967 needed for nomination, but have pledged to support the eventual nominee of the party.

While loyal delegates continued the Democratic party rivalries, their wild enthusiasm swept across the convention floor for Ferraro — due to become the Democrats' first-ever vice presidential candidate. And Hart said she was his choice too for vice president.

A big cheer went up when Democratic Chairman Charles Manatt pounded the gavel to formally open the session at 2 p.m. PDT — a cheer sparked as much by Manatt's surviving a purge attempt by the Mondale forces as it was marking the beginning of the 39th quadrennial convention of the nation's oldest political party.

The intraparty squabbling largely over and rapidly forgotten, the Democrats gathered in rare scripted harmony to unite behind the preacher's kid from Minnesota and the daughter of an Italian immigrant

from New York's Queens in the uphill battle against Reagan in the November election.

In the bright sunshine outside the hall, San Francisco police arrested at least 100 demonstrators in the heart of the city's financial district Monday for blocking traffic. It was the most serious incident in the series of demonstrations that have led to the convention.

Carter launched what was expected to be a steady stream of speakers who would blast the Reagan administration policies throughout the four-day convention.

He said that since 1979 "little real effort has been made to reduce the world's nuclear arsenals. In fact, we have seen a serious retrogression."

Carter said that because of the policies of his successor at the White

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Proposed drinking age upsets locals

By SARAH OATES
Staff Writer

President Reagan will sign a bill today that could spell the end of one of the strongholds of social activity in College Station for about 14,335 students — drinking at the local nightclubs.

The bill issues an ultimatum to states: raise the minimum drinking age to 21 or risk the loss of federal highway funds. The bill has stirred up a storm of protest among some legislators, businessmen and college students.

The 27 states that do not yet have a minimum drinking age of 21 could lose 5 percent of federal highway funds, an estimated \$260 million in fiscal 1987.

However, the bill also gives states a chance to qualify for a 5 percent increase in the highway safety grants from Washington if they impose mandatory jail terms and license revocations for drunken driving offenses.

Legislators have two years in which to make a decision.

But Rep. Neeley Lewis and Sen. Kent Caperton are not happy with the threat of the loss of highway funds if the bill is not enforced.

"I'm violently opposed," Lewis said. "It's coercion and it's a poor method for legislation. If Congress wants to raise the legal drinking age,

fine, but this is not the proper way for legislature to do it.

With estimated losses of up to \$150 million in highway revenues if the state doesn't comply with the bill, Texas legislators probably will concede.

"There's no way out, from a state standpoint. We desperately need highway funds," Lewis said.

Caperton said he thinks "states can take care of their business without Congress telling them how to do it."

"I resent Congress' heavy-handed approach to this issue," he said.

Students and businessmen also have expressed deep concern about the effects of the bill.

For example, if the bill immediately became law, local nightclubs would lose a sizable chunk of business from the 19 to 20-year old student population at Texas A&M.

"I think it's wrong," said Kathy Barnhart, a 20-year old education major at Texas A&M. "Unless the law is retroactive, they'd be taking away our rights."

Lewis also said he feels the bill discriminates against young people because the problem with drunk driving is not necessarily a function of age.

"I have never been convinced that the problem we have is age," Lewis said. "They think the solution is to

raise the drinking age," he said. "That flies in the face of my experience with people under 21. I know of many 19 year olds who are responsible."

But Kirk Brown, president of the Brazos County chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, vehemently disagrees.

"Hogwash," he said, citing federal safety statistics showing that people from between the ages of 18 and 20 are more than twice as likely to be involved in alcohol-related automobile accidents.

Statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration predict that 1,250 lives will be saved per year if the minimum legal drinking age is raised to 21.

Brown said statistics from a recent Gallup poll show that 58 percent of the nation's 18-to-20-year-olds approve of raising the drinking age to 21.

"We're not saying don't drink," Brown said. "We're saying be responsible. Maturity is a factor."

"Tough," was Brown's reply to the problem of state loss of highway funds.

"I've been pushing for this bill for 10 years," he said, "and at the last legislative session they had a chance to pass it, but they laughed at us."

College Station is largely populated by college students, many un-

In Today's Battalion

Local

- John Hatch, director of the Texas A&M Legislative Study Group, tells why the group is not allowed to lobby on national issues. See story page 3.
- College Station-area apartment rents may be as low as they will get. See story page 4.

State

- Owners of 1979 or newer vehicles who have to renew their license plates in July or August will save money if they do so before Aug. 1. See story page 3.

World

- Secretary of State George Shultz defends the United States' defense alliance with New Zealand and Australia, while the New Zealand Labor Party is calling for renegotiation. See story page 3.