

A&M group can't lobby some issues

By JULIE ENNIS
Reporter

Two student leaders representing more than 250,000 students from 20 Texas colleges and universities lobbied in Washington recently to oppose a national drinking age. One university not represented in the coalition was Texas A&M.

The coalition was coordinated by the University of Texas' Texas Student Lobby, the lobbying arm of the UT Students' Association.

John Hatch, director of the Texas A&M Legislative Study Group, says Texas A&M did not join the coalition because the Legislative Study Group's bylaws limit the LSG to participation only in statewide legislative issues.

A lack of funds and manpower to lobby against national legislation were factors that helped determine the restriction, he says.

Two years ago, Texas A&M lobbied in Austin to raise the drinking age to 19, Hatch says.

"As soon as the drinking age became a national issue, the Legislative Study Group couldn't participate," he says.

Texas A&M cannot officially participate in the coalition, so students that want to express their opinions should first register to vote, Hatch says, and then write their congress-

men and senators. "Many people think that writing their congressmen isn't worthwhile — it is," he says. "They value opinions from citizens interested in the issues."

Hatch, a junior business major from Big Spring, says the LSG is similar to the Texas Student Lobby. The LSG was officially designated three years ago by then student body president Pat Pearson, to represent Texas A&M in Austin.

Since then the LSG has grown into a 30-member committee that researches state legislative issues relating to Texas A&M.

Last year the LSG researched issues such as tuition, minority recruitment, international student fees, faculty salaries, and the Permanent University Fund, Hatch says. The LSG answers to the student body president and the Student Senate.

Hatch says the Student Senate recommends current issues to the LSG. "After an issue is recommended to us by the Senate, an issue coordinator is assigned from the LSG to research it with the help of his committee," he says.

The issue coordinator represents Texas A&M students in Austin.

"The committees determine the pros and the cons and a 'position' pa-



John Hatch

per is presented to the (Texas A&M) Senate."

He says the amendment to raise the national drinking age was overwhelmingly passed by the U.S. Senate despite the efforts of the Texas Student Lobby representatives.

"It looks pretty bleak for the TSL," Hatch says.

The defeat in the Senate, Hatch says, is likely to cause the Texas Student Lobby to redirect its efforts toward reeducating the congressmen in Washington. This, he says, would provide time for a stronger grassroots student lobbying effort and maybe reverse the decision in the House.

New Zealand wants renegotiation

Shultz defends U.S. alliance

United Press International

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Secretary of State George Shultz Monday defended the United States' defense alliance with New Zealand and Australia as an "unshakeable relationship" despite demands to have the treaty renegotiated.

Shultz made the comments at the opening of an annual ANZUS alliance meeting, overshadowed by the New Zealand Labor Party's election victory Saturday on a platform calling for a renegotiated treaty banning nuclear-armed and nuclear-powered ships from the nation's ports.

New Zealand officials said the nuclear ships issue did not arise during the first day of the two-day meeting, which brought together representatives of the United States, Australia and New Zealand.

But Australian officials told reporters their American counterparts were concerned that a nuclear ship ban could threaten the ANZUS treaty — and sour relations between the United States and New Zealand.

Without mentioning the nuclear ship ban, Shultz defended the ANZUS alliance at the opening session and said Wellington and Washington had an "unshakeable relationship."

"There is no greater testament to the friendship between two peoples than a resolute commitment, such as that embodied in the ANZUS treaty, to come to the defense of a valued ally," Shultz said.

Prime Minister-elect David Lange, who does not assume office until next week and was not represented at the ANZUS meeting, has said he wants to renegotiate the three-na-

tion defense treaty and ban U.S. nuclear-powered and nuclear-armed ships from New Zealand's ports.

Political observers said Lange was under pressure to moderate his ANZUS policy, although his Labor Party's powerful anti-nuclear left wing would resist.

Shultz was expected to meet Lange Tuesday before leaving Wellington, the final stop on his two-week, six-nation tour of Asia and the Pacific. He has already visited Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Australia.

Shultz met Monday with outgoing Prime Minister Sir Robert Muldoon, whose National Party ruled nine years before its defeat at the polls Saturday.

Fighting flares near airport

United Press International

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Syrian troops Monday took control of villages in northern Lebanon to end five days of clashes between two pro-Syrian militias, but fighting flared near Beirut's newly reopened airport.

But the outbursts of sniper fire and shelling in the capital did not appear to disrupt Beirut's 12-day-old, Syrian-mediated security plan that allowed the Lebanese army to take over rival Christian and Moslem strongholds and reopen key crossing points along the Green Line dividing the city.

Christian and Moslem radios reported light anti-aircraft, machine gun and mortar fire between two villages less than 1 mile south of Beirut International Airport.

A police spokesman described the clashes as "brief" and had no immediate report of casualties. He said the sporadic fighting lasted for about two hours in the late afternoon and did not disrupt air traffic.

Beirut's port and airport reopened a week ago, 154 days after they were closed during a Moslem revolt.

In northern Lebanon, Syrian troops took over positions in em-

battled villages where the 1,500-man private "Marada" army of former President Suleiman Franjeh and the rival 1,000-strong militia of the Syrian Social Nationalist Party fought for five days.

Beirut radio said the militiamen disengaged peacefully, allowing Syrian troops to take over their positions, one day after their leaders agreed to a peace plan arranged in Damascus.

The artillery, rocket and heavy machine-gun battles that began last Wednesday left at least 30 people dead and wounded 150 others before ending Sunday, the respected An Nahar newspaper reported.

British dockworkers join strike

United Press International

LONDON — Dockworkers at Britain's last major port to operate normally Monday joined a week-old dock strike and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher met with Cabinet ministers to review the country's mounting labor troubles.

Longshoremen at Dover, Britain's "gateway" to Europe, voted two-to-one to stop handling all cargo bound for the continent, union officials said.

The strike at Dover, which took effect at noon, will not affect the

30,000 vacationers and 7,000 cars that pour through the port daily this time of year, the peak holiday season.

Maritime traffic at more than 60 major ports, including Liverpool, London, Glasgow and Felixstowe, has been halted by the walkout, which flared July 10 when a contract laborer, rather than a dockworker, was used to shovel iron ore at a northern port.

Although that dispute was resolved, the dockworkers' union is now demanding guarantees of fu-

ture work. Union and port officials are scheduled to take part Tuesday in separate talks with government arbitrators.

The longshoremen's walkout increased pressure on Britain's economy, already pressed by an 18-week-old coal miners' strike that has closed 135 of Britain's 175 coal mines.

Thatcher has vowed to invoke emergency powers enabling the government to use troops to move essential supplies from strikebound ports if necessary.

Car owners can save with prompt renewal

By LINDA SANTINOCETO
Reporter

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.

The tax package to fund the education reform bill, which includes an increase in vehicle registration fees, will take effect Aug. 1 — Gov. Mark White signed the tax bill Friday.

This means some vehicle owners will be seeing an increase in their license plate renewal fees.

Elaine Hanus, supervisor of the motor vehicle division of the Brazos County tax office, said the tax hike will not affect people who have to re-

new their plates in July if they do so before Aug. 1. Anyone who needs to renew plates in August can do so in July and still pay the old rates, Hanus said.

The law bases registration fees on the vehicle's age instead of weight.

Some people are better off waiting until the new rates take effect, she added. If you have a 1978 car and are paying \$33.80, your license plate renewal fee will be \$28.30.

The new fees will cost owners of 1978 or older cars \$28.30 to register. For a 1979, 1980 or 1981 model the new fee will be \$38.30. All 1982 or newer models will cost owners \$46.30 to register.

Police Beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Monday.

MISDEMEANOR THEFT:

• A green Vista ten-speed bicycle was stolen from a student's apartment porch.

• A red and black Huffy Windsprint ten-speed bicycle was stolen from the Underwood Hall bike rack.

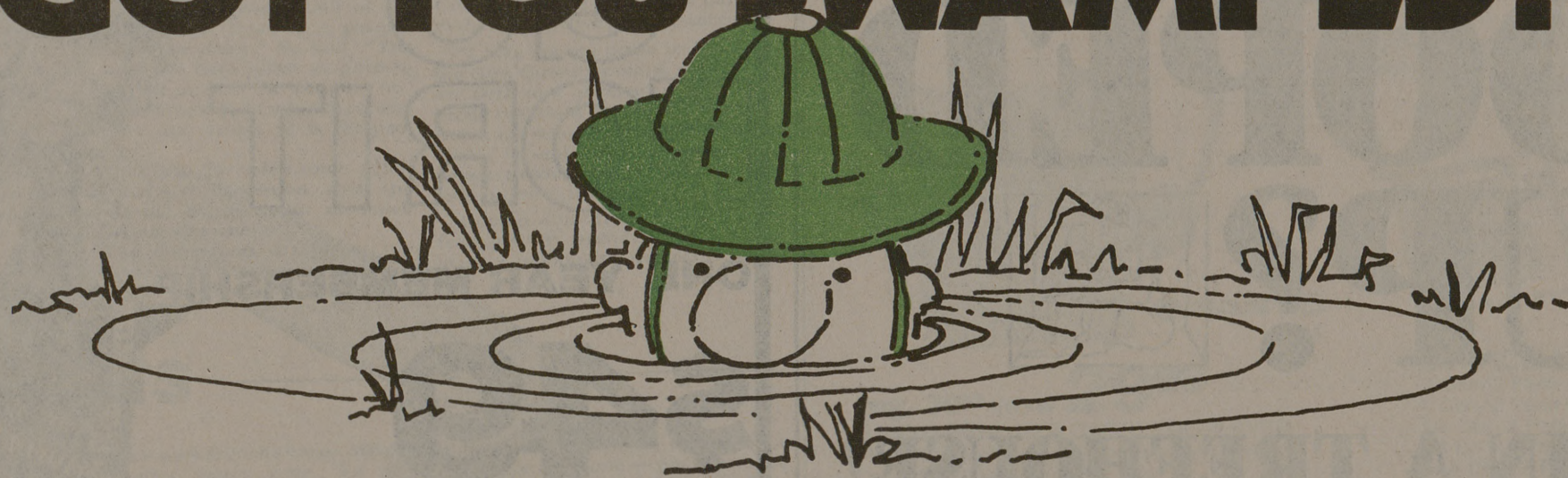
CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:

• The passenger door window was broken on a 1978 Ford Mustang parked on Lamar Street.

ASSAULT:

• A student reported that while she was walking across the Academic mall, an oriental man rode up to her on a bicycle and grabbed her around the neck. She broke away from him and he fled the scene. Investigating officers were unable to locate the man.

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