

# Abuse

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seling to its residents, Maydene said. In addition, the home provides clothing for those who have no access to their personal belongings, and transportation on a limited basis.

Phoebe's Home does not charge for its services, but expects its residents to do all the daily chores, such as cooking and cleaning, Maydene said.

The home has four paid staff members and a staff of volunteers that cover the shelter 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Women who wish to contact the shelter should call 775-5355 or the 24-Hour Crisis Hotline.

Maydene said women put up with constant abuse for different reasons: a feeling that they are economically dependent on their husbands; a belief that they may be responsible for his violence; depression and "learned helplessness"; a fear of being subjected to more severe beatings; a fear of breaking up the family; mixed emotions of love and hate for their spouses; a desire to protect their children; a hope that their husbands might change and a fear of the unknown.

One 26-year-old resident with three children was married to her husband seven years before she left him. She said they had had an abusive relationship ever since they were married.

"Some women feel it's their fault," she said. "I often felt like I pushed one sentence too far. I left because I didn't want my children to see it (abuse) any more."

She also said, "In one aspect I'm lucky because I have a job and transportation."

Another resident at Phoebe's Home is 25, has four children, and is still looking for a job. She said, "I'm not going back, somehow I'm going to start over ... take care of myself."

She said going to Phoebe's Home "was like going home to grandma. I've felt better from the first moment I got here."

## Educator receives grant

# Course aids reading

University News Service

A Texas A&M University educator has received a grant from a Dallas foundation to continue her research on the effectiveness of a multi-ethnic reading curriculum.

Initial studies by Dr. Donna Norton, associate professor of educational curriculum and instruction, show that stories which tell about the traditions and values of different ethnic groups may be more effective than "Dick, Jane and Spot" in improving children's reading skills and their attitudes about ethnic groups.

The total reading program is a combination of prepared teachers, good materials and follow-up activities that Norton has correlated with more than 300 books at various reading levels about the cultures and lives of American Indians, Hispanics and blacks.

Test results of a group of 54 eighth graders in a Bryan junior

high remedial reading class which used the reading program showed that the class improved an average of two grade levels after using the materials for only eight months, said Norton. Racially the group included 50 percent black students, 31 percent Hispanic, 19 percent white and two percent American Indian.

Eighty-two percent of the students gained at least one grade level and 66 percent gained two or more. Three students gained five grade levels and five students gained four grade levels. At the time of the final testing, 27 of the students were reading at their expected grade level, she said.

The \$55,757 Meadows Foundation grant will allow Norton to put the program into use with fifth through eighth grade remedial students in Bryan schools. Seven teachers and about 150 students will be involved in the project with the

children's reading and writing skills tested before and after use of the program.

The foundation was created in 1948 by Algur H. Meadows for the benefit of the people of Texas.

Norton said her research, which has been adapted for each grade level, focuses on the essential elements of education mandated by the state. About 40 stories are included in the curriculum for each grade level in addition to books focusing on ethnic themes that Norton and her assistants have rewritten for different reading levels.

"I think at one point in time the content of what children were reading was not considered important," she said. "It was thought that you could teach reading with any kind of material and I suppose with the average child this is true. Now we're starting to look more at the whole instructional environment."

# Flooding in Austin relieves drought, strands motorists

United Press International

AUSTIN — The summer-long drought that prompted strict water rationing in the state capital was washed away by a 7-inch downpour, and rescue workers braced Thursday for another possible deluge.

A dozen automobiles were swept away in rain-swollen creeks or stranded in high-water crossings, a stranded woman was plucked from a treetop and about 20 families were evacuated Wednesday night during the worst storm to hit Austin in 17 months, authorities said.

There were no injuries reported, but firefighters said they made 30 "life-threatening rescues" and more than 125 other calls during the vio-

lent thunderstorms.

The National Weather Service in Austin reported more heavy rain moving into the area Thursday.

"It's possible some of the showers that are moving through the area could become heavy this afternoon (Thursday)," an NWS spokesman said. "It wouldn't take that heavy of a storm to give us a recurrence of some flooding because the ground's already saturated."

Fire department Capt. Danny Stamper said rescue workers and fire, police and emergency management offices were monitoring the incoming storms closely.

"We're preparing for the worst," Stamper said.

Chuck Harrison, director of the

capital's emergency management department, said Thursday the flooding was among the worst to strike the city since Memorial Day 1981, when 13 residents drowned.

Although the rain relieved months of drought in the city, where water restrictions were in effect for weeks during the summer, public works Director Richard Ridings said the flooding had not managed to feed the city's water supply.

"The sad thing is that the rainfall has not occurred to the west of Austin, which feeds our water supply," Ridings said. "It generally fell on the central part of town and is running off to supply adequate water to Bastrop."

# Report: Existing arms treaties not kept

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan sent Congress a long-awaited report Wednesday that concludes the Soviet Union has displayed "selective disregard" for arms control agreements over the past 25 years.

The report found that Soviet practices related to about half of the arms control agreements during the period "show material breaches — violations, probable violations or circumventions — of contractual obligations."

The report, prepared by the bipartisan General Advisory Committee on Arms Control and Disarmament, was requested by conservatives in Congress who contend the Soviets have violated existing arms treaties over the years.

Reagan, in a letter that accompanied a heavily censored unclassified version of the report, did not go so far as to repeat his past allegations of Soviet treaty violations and, in fact, even placed distance between himself and the report by noting the

document had not been reviewed by the administration.

"For its part," he said, "the administration continues to be seriously concerned about Soviet behavior with regard to compliance with arms control obligations and commitments."

The report, a historical record covering the years 1958 to 1983, alleged the Soviets have breached or circumvented commitments in 17 nuclear and non-nuclear areas.

Going further back in time than the most recent administration re-

port on the subject, the advisory committee said the Soviets:

- violated a commitment to end atmospheric nuclear testing in 1961;
- introduced offensive weapons into Cuba in violation of unilateral commitments to the contrary in 1962 (the year of the Cuban missile crisis) and from 1970 to 1974;
- and have ignored terms of the ratified SALT I agreement and unratified SALT II pact through the development, improvement and deployment of weapons systems beyond negotiated limits.

## Police beat

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

### MISDEMEANOR THEFT:

• A student reported that his black leather wallet was stolen from 110 Veterinary Medicine. The wallet contained \$8 in cash.

• Eight traffic cones were stolen from in front of Rudder Tower.

### BURGLARY OF A MOTOR VEHICLE:

• Nine gallons of gasoline were stolen from a car parked at Easterwood Airport.

# Downtowners host Bryan Westfest

By LORI BROOKS  
Reporter

Westfest '84, an old-time western festival, will start tonight and run through Saturday.

A country-western street dance will kick-off the festivities Friday night, and the Hall of Fame Gang will provide the entertainment.

The events on Saturday include a chili cook-off, magician show, the dancing fiddler Johnny Boriskian and a children's petting zoo sponsored by the FFA Greenhand Group from Stephen F. Austin State University.

StageCenter will be performing skits, and arts and crafts booths will be set up along the sidewalk. Food and beverage booths will be sponsored by local groups and restaurants.

Sidewalk sales and demonstrations will be given by area merchants. Courts Saddlery will show how to make a saddle, Catalina Hat-

ters will show how they make hats and The Wood Works will demonstrate how they make antique furniture reproductions.

Westfest is sponsored by the Bryan Downtowner's Association and is designed to promote the downtown area and generate a community atmosphere.

Festivities begin tonight at 8 p.m. in downtown Bryan. Admission is free.

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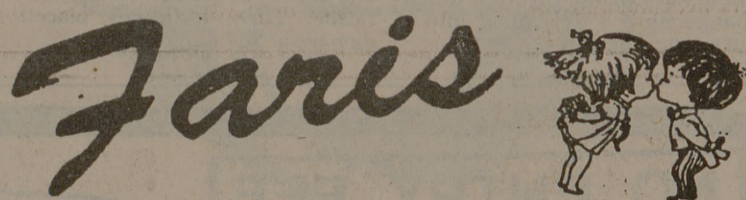
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on

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For More Info Call 693-5506.

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