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Around town

Science students must take exam

Any junior or senior in the College of Science who has not previously taken the English Proficiency Examination should plan to take the test June 27 unless they have completed English 301 with a minimum grade of C. Students in the College of Science must pass the proficiency exam or satisfactorily complete English 301 by the spring semester of their junior year in order to qualify as a degree

The English Proficiency Exam will be administered by the english department. Students in the biology, chemistry, mathematics and physics departments should register for the exam in 152

Settlement

Hearing set for \$750 million nuclear project lawsuit

Associated Press

AUSTIN - The Public Utility Commission on Tuesday set a Jan. 6 hearing to determine whether the proposed \$750 million settlement of the South Texas Nuclear Project suit

"The mere fact that \$750 million is a great deal of money," PUC Chairman Phil Ricketts said, "should not cause us to presume at all that this settlement necessarily compensates ratepayers for the cost over-runs at the South Texas Project."

The hearing also will look at the "prudency" of costs incurred at the troubled power plant before Brown & Root Inc. was fired as engineer and builder in 1981. Consumers cannot be charged for costs deemed

imprudent.

Under the proposed settlement,
Brown & Root and its parent company, Halliburton, would pay \$750
million to Houston Lighting &
Power Central Power & Lighting & Power, Central Power & Light, City Public Service of San Antonio and the city of Austin. The utilities and cities sued Brown & Root, alleging mismanagement.

City-owned City Public Service is not regulated by the commission.

Austin has not decided whether it will take its \$120 million share of the settlement.

Hugh Rice Kelly, HL&P general counsel, said Tuesday's PUC decision would stall final approval of the

"It will delay it somewhat, but it's not a major delay," he said.

Ricketts said the commission's final decision probably would come next March. Under his proposal, approved by the commission, the January hearing also will include expected requests from HL&P and CP&L to pass STNP costs on to con-

"We are not in any way making any presumptions about the rea-sonableness of what the petitioners are requesting," Ricketts said of the request filed by HL&P and CP&L.

Public Utility Counsel Jim Boyle, who represents ratepayers, has asked the commission to throw out the companies' request. He said the commission has no authority to approve settlements not approved by a

Study: state economy expected to improve significantly in 1986

Associated Press

HOUSTON - The Texas economy will grow significantly this year and in 1986, with considerable gains in industrial production, employ-ment, retail sales and international commerce, according to a report released Tuesday.

in research and development, according to Texas Facts and Figures, a statistical report released annually by Texas Commerce Bancshares Inc.

The longterm outlook for Texas looks exceptionally promising," said Carol Bennett, vice president and economist for Texas Commerce. Texas is still the most attractive state in the nation for new industrial

Last year, retail sales in Texas totaled \$95 billion, falling behind only Calfornia sales of \$155.6 billion, according to the Houston-based bank's report.

Bennett said the retail outlook in

Texas continues to be bright, with sales expected to exceed \$100 billion this year for the first time and rising to more than \$150 billion by 1990.

Industrial production in Texas rose 10 percent last year and should increase 6 percent this year and 4 percent in 1986, she said.

Houston's economic outlook is particularly good because of the city's link with the space program, Texas Commerce President Beall said. He added that commercialization of the space industry will play an important role in economic

Contributing to the city's recovery are an increase of new plants and manufacturers in the area, growing international commerce and commercialization of space.

In the Dallas-Fort Worth area, The state can look forward to a construction is the only industry that bright economic future partly be-cause of its low tax rates and interest in 1985, according to the bank study. Sales in the area will increase to \$35 billion this year, compared to \$23 billion in 1984.

Wholesale trade will continue to be important to growth in Dallas, where 25,000 manufacturers do business and buyers spend \$7 billion

San Antonio also can expect to grow over the next several years because of land availablity, a low cost of living and a productive labor force, Texas Commerce predicts.

The medical industry will be San Antonio's primary source of growth, according to the report. The University of Texas last year announced plans to set up an Institute of Bi-otechnology in the city and the Texas Research and Technology Foundation, a private agency, was established there last year.

Austin will continue to attract new industries, especially in advanced technological fields such as computers. The Microelectronics and Computer Technology Corp., a group of electronics firms, announced plans in 1983 to employ about 400 scientists and engineers for its software headquarters.

Cigarette sales declining despite rise in advertising

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Cigarette sales are falling for the first time since 1969 despite record advertising expenditures by tobacco companies, the Federal Trade Commission reported Tuesday

Cigarette sales fell from 636 billion cigarettes in 1981 to 632 billion cigarettes in 1982 — the first drop in cigarette sales in 13 years, the agency said in a report to Congress.

The two-year study also showed

that cigarette sales continued to drop from 1982 to 1983, when national sales shrank to 584.4 billion

At the same time, spending on cigarette advertising climbed to nearly \$2.7 billion in 1983, the highest level ever, the commission reported. That was up from \$1.9 billion in 1982 and \$1.5 billion in 1981.

Cigarette manufacturers led all other national advertisers in newspaper advertising and ranked second in magazine advertising, the commission noted.

The commission began monitoring cigarette sales and advertising in 1965, when federal law began requiring all cigarette packages and ads to include health warnings. Cigarette advertising on television and radio was barred, beginning in 1971.

"During 1982-83, cigarette man-ufacturers continued to concentrate on associating smoking with success and a luxurious lifestyle," the commission observed.

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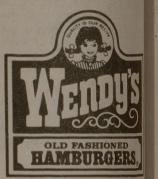
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