

STATE AND LOCAL

A&M students train aboard ship

Wiatt: Careless attitude invites property thefts

Associated Press
ABOARD THE TEXAS CLIPPER — It was well past midnight as the training ship Texas Clipper churned southward across the Gulf of Mexico. The moon seemed to settle along the horizon to the west, alternately dodging behind low clouds, then reappearing to illuminate a silvery path across the sea.
 On the darkened bridge of the ship, sophomore Arne Christiansen stood watch in the tedious hours. "It's hard to explain, but I love it — the quiet, the sea itself," he said.
 It matters not to Christiansen that he is training for a little-understood job in a seriously declining industry at a school the state had proposed to kill.
 The lure of the sea never has been evidenced more strongly than in the 200 merchant students at Texas

A&M University at Galveston, most of whom are now aboard the Texas Clipper for its annual summer cruise.
 "I just always knew this is what I wanted to do," said Kristyn Mangold of Richardson as she and other cadets took their turn on maintenance duty.
 While most of her friends from Dallas work toward business degrees at other universities around the state, Mangold works toward a degree in marine biology and a third mate's license.
 Like Christiansen and the other merchant marine cadets aboard the Clipper, Mangold is not deterred by poor job prospects or recent legislative attempts to close her school. Job worries are old hat by now. The number of cargo ships sailing under the U.S. flag has dropped from 580

to 492 since 1980.
 The decline of the U.S. merchant fleet poses a threat to the nation's independence, the students say. More than 94 percent of all U.S. exports and imports are now carried by foreign vessels, according to the U.S. Maritime Administration.
 "And the really sad part is that there is no awareness of this problem," said senior Stu Lilly of Dallas.
 In spite of the grim industry conditions, most students are confident they can find work, however — if not on a ship, then as ballast control officers on semi-submersible offshore drilling rigs.
 "I always hear how bad it is, but all my friends have found jobs. You just have to get out and look for them," said senior James Hazzard.
 Insult was added to injury in March when the Texas House Ap-

propriations Committee voted to close A&M-Galveston and sell the campus as a budget-cutting move. "I had no warning whatsoever," A&M-Galveston President William Clayton said.
 The action later was rescinded, but not before a kick in the shins from "Texas Monthly" magazine, which suggested that the university's bayside campus be "sold to Holiday Inn."
 As much as possible, however, those problems have been left ashore while the Clipper makes its 2½-month voyage to the Mediterranean. Ports of call will include St. Georges, Bermuda; Las Palmas in the Canary Islands; NAPLES, Italy; Cadiz, Spain; and Ponta Delgada in the Azores Islands. The ship will return to Galveston Aug. 4.

By **BRIAN PEARSON**
Staff Writer

Irresponsible backpack and bicycle owners at Texas A&M are practically begging thieves to steal their property, a University Police Department representative said.
 Although the percentage increase of backpack and bicycle thefts from last year to this year is unavailable, the numbers have greatly increased, said Bob Wiatt, director of the department.
 From September 1984 to May 1985, 256 bicycles at an estimated value of \$44,531 were reported stolen, he said.
 Wiatt said the careless attitude of people on campus has caused thieves to go on a stealing rampage.
 "People think nothing is going to happen if they leave their backpack unattended or their bicycle unsecured," Wiatt said. "Then they're totally shocked when they come back and find that somebody ripped 'em off."
 Wiatt said some students have been taking action to find bicycle and backpack thieves.
 One student who had his backpack stolen came back the next day with a friend and put a decoy backpack in the same spot, Wiatt said. A "student" came by and took several books out of the backpack and walked off. The two students watching caught the student and brought him to the University Police.
 "This student, as it turns out, we had talked to the week before be-

cause he was involved in the forging of several thousand dollars worth of checks by using identification that had been reported stolen from backpacks in the past which he claimed he had merely 'found' in restrooms," Wiatt said.
 The student was taken to Brazos County Jail Thursday, he said.
 Wiatt said the student admits to the forgery but denies stealing anything.
 "You take a handful of people like that who don't mind stealing one or two backpacks a day, and they can create havoc," he said.
 University Police are using several techniques to combat the problem of the thefts, Wiatt said.
 He said the department is having plain-clothes policemen ride around campus on bicycles and look for people stealing things. He said suspicious-looking vehicles carrying several bicycles are stopped and investigated.
 Wiatt said the majority of thefts of bicycles occur during the day. He said people just walk up unnoticed and steal unsecured bicycles off of the racks. He said no one in the area thinks the bicycle is being stolen.
 "We are urging the people to use common sense and put a good chain and lock on their bicycle," Wiatt said.
 "The main thing is the careless attitude on the part of the owners of these pieces of property," he said. "Be aware that this is not 'Alice in Wonderland,' this is the real world."

Judge orders bridge to be torn down

Associated Press
WACO — A state district court jury has ordered a \$100,000 bridge over the Brazos River torn down, despite the claim of a sand and gravel company owner that he needs the bridge to stay in business.
 The jury Wednesday also ordered bridge owner John Trice to pay the state \$88,000 in damages for obstructing a navigation route and trespassing on state property.
 Trice, owner of J&J Sand and Gravel, built the bridge four months ago.
 In testimony during the six-day trial, Trice said that he built the bridge to shorten the distance from his company on the river's south side to markets on the river's north side.
 The bridge is located on the Brazos River between the Patrick Community and Gholson.
 Trice said his business would fail without the bridge, which shortens the route from Waco to Dallas by 35 miles.
 In his final summations to the jury, Assistant Attorney General John Richard Carter said the Brazos River has been reserved for the public since the first Spanish land grants were issued.
 The bridge is the river's only man-made obstruction between the Lake Whitney dam and Waco, he said.

Return of Halley's comet

Prof offers viewing tips

By **DONNA DAVIS**
Reporter

Dr. Roger A. Smith, of the Texas A&M physics department, calls most comets "dirty snowballs," but Halley's Comet is special, he says.
 The reason Halley's is so special is because it returns about every 75 years.
 Unlike other comets, Halley's has a short orbit that usually brings it back into the earth's orbit within a lifetime. The comet last crossed the earth's orbit in 1910.
 Smith said if it weren't for the gravitational pull of Jupiter and Saturn, Halley would return in a consistent amount of time. But, since the pull does slightly alter Halley's orbit, the period sometimes changes.

Smith said the comet consists of two parts: the head, made of ice and dust, evaporates in orbit, leaving a trail of gas and particles behind called the tail.
 The tail is the shooting effect illustrated in pictures of comets, and often is confused with shooting stars, he said.
 Smith said when Halley's is observed it will seem to be motionless, even though it is constantly moving.
 Comets are brightest when closest to the sun, Smith said. But, this time, since the earth will be further away from the sun in its orbit, Halley's comet will be harder to sight, he said.
 Smith also said to beware of merchants trying to sell cheap telescopes to view the comet. Only a good set of binoculars will give the visual advan-

tage needed to see the comet, he said.
 Before mid-April of next year, Halley's will be easiest to spot in the early-morning southern sky and at sunset after the middle of April.
 Smith suggested that Halley's could be more easily observed from a point south of College Station, away from the haze of the city lights.
 The physics teaching observatory, near Easterwood Airport, will be open so interested viewers can have a better place to watch the comet, Smith said.
 Smith, also the adviser for the Association of Amateur Astronomers, said some of the group members will be present to assist observers with the telescopes. Smith said the club probably will start looking for Halley's Comet sometime in January.

B-CS children to compete in finale of Summer Playground Program

By **PATRICIA CAMPBELL**
Reporter

Bryan and College Station children will be competing in a field day today for the grand finale of the first Summer Playground Program offered by the Bryan Recreation and Parks division.
 The activities, starting at 8:30 a.m. at Tanglewood Park on Carter Creek in Bryan, include sports competitions such as tag-of-war, and nonathletic games. Ribbons will be awarded to every child and each of the three schools participating will receive a trophy for first, second or third place, according to the total number of points each has accumulated during the games.
 "We try to keep a balance between athletic and nonathletic activities,"

Laura Robertson, director of the program, said. "One of the funniest games we play is the lifesaver pie game when the kids have to find a lifesaver in a whipped-cream pie without using their hands. We always have tons of fun."
 The Summer Playground Program is offered to all children between the ages of 6 and 12. The children are separated into three groups which meet at three locations: Crockett Elementary School at 401 Elm Street, Fannin Elementary School at 501 Baker St. and Lamar Elementary School at 1901 Villa Maria Road. Each group meets at its respective school on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 8:00 to 12:30 p.m.
 During the course of the session,

three full-time staff members, including one director and two assistants for each school, will take the children on field trips to Pooh's Park, Brazos Valley Museum, Bryan Police Station and Triangle Bowl.
 The children also will go swimming once a week, learn about several safety programs, do arts and crafts and watch educational films.
 Registration for the second session will be held at all three playgrounds on July 2 and 3 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The cost per child is \$15.
 Registration for the session is on a first-come-first-served basis and will be limited to 60 children. This session will run from July 8 to July 31, when the second and final field day will be held.

Around town

MADD sponsors used furniture sale

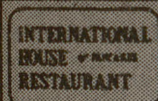
Mothers Against Drunk Driving is holding a used furniture sale Saturday beginning at 8 a.m. at 1812 Welsh in College Station. Over 800 pieces of furniture, including dressers, couches and beds, will be sold.

Local arcade will host benefit contest

Games Galore, 1511 S. Texas Ave., has been selected as one of 25 family arcades nationwide to be a site for CARE's Campaign for Africa fund-raiser video contest. For more information on the contest, contact Games Galore 693-7711.

Blood pressure checked free at Wendy's

Wendy's restaurants in Bryan-College Station are hosting free monthly blood pressure checkups by St. Joseph's Home Health/Home Care. Checkups will be held the second Tuesday of each month in the College Station Wendy's, 202 Southwest Parkway and the fourth Tuesday of each month at the Bryan Wendy's, 3216 Texas Ave. The free checkups will be available from 8 to 11 a.m.



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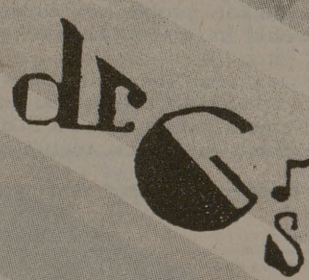
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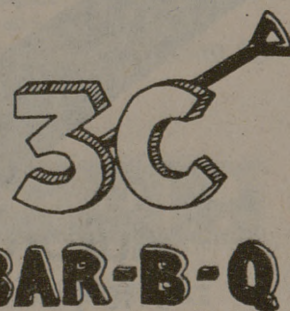
Going out of Business Sale

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Saturday June 29

Free draft Beer, Discount prices on all beer, wine food items, glassware, tables, chairs
everything must go

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Friday Nights
 5-10 p.m.

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