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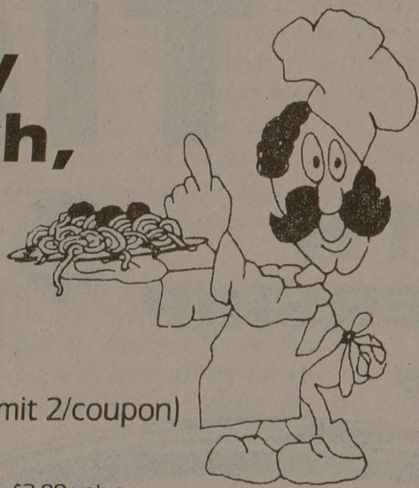
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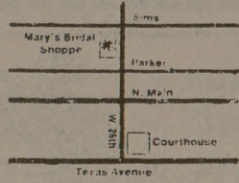


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### No consumers show at phone rate hearing

Associated Press

AUSTIN — No consumers showed up Monday on their day to tell the Public Utility Commission what they think of Southwestern Bell's rate hike request.

A company official said the total lack of attendance could be interpreted as tacit approval of Bell's request.

"I think the consumers were looking at the rate case we filed and are saying \$1.78 seems a reasonable price to keep local exchange service among the best in that nation," said Richard Harris, Bell vice president for revenues in Texas.

The full hearing, expected to last about two months, opens Tuesday. Harris said Bell will cut \$47 million from its \$324 million request filed in March. Most of the decrease is due to a new law that exempts Bell from paying the state gross receipts tax.

Consumers will pay that tax for some phone services that had been exempt under the old law.

The commission staff Monday said Bell is entitled to a \$92.7 million increase, based on a 12.47 percent rate of return. Bell wants a 13.03 percent return.

The initial Bell request would have meant a \$1.78 monthly hike in basic home phone bills. Harris estimated the \$47 million decrease would cut about 25 cents from the requested home phone bill hike.

Monday's session ended moments after it began. PUC Administrative Law Judge Shelia Bailey wrapped it up after there was no response to her call for consumer testimony. She said consumers would be allowed to testify throughout the hearing.

In previous Bell cases, testimony has included demonstrations by balloon-toting, sign-waving groups.

The consumer silence won't last, said a spokesman for the Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, which organized consumer rallies in past Bell cases.

"We'll get people down there," said Robert Longoni. "I think their message is going to be we are tired of these large rate hikes. The phone company already has enough money."

Public Utility Counsel Jim Boyle, who is calling for a \$124.4 million Bell rate cut, said the lack of consumer interest Monday should not be interpreted as approval of the company request.

"There was a good bit of confusion as to when the hearing would begin," said Boyle, the state lawyer who represents ratepayers.

### A&M prof: Communication key to successful teaching

By D'ANNA HEIDEMAN  
Reporter

Dr. Jack Y.K. Lou says teaching is a two-way street.

"In order to have a maximum capacity for learning there must be effort from the student as well as the teacher," he says.

Head of the Ocean Engineering Program, and the Ocean Engineering and Hydraulic Engineering Group at Texas A&M, Lou says he enjoys teaching and strives to do his share.

"I just wanted to quit teaching when exam grades are low, because I feel I didn't communicate what I needed to," he says.

Lou says he tries to understand and help students cope with outside pressures.

"I simply show concern when I notice a problem," he explains.

In May, Lou was rewarded for his efforts when the A&M Student Engineering Council gave him their Outstanding Faculty Award. This award is among many others he has received, including recently being named a Fellow of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

A native of mainland China, Lou and his family moved to Taiwan when he was 16, before the Communists took control.

"I have always been fascinated with the ocean and what it offers," he says. "Since I had an interest in ship design, I thought that would be one way to utilize the sea's resources."



Dr. Jack Y.K. Lou

"Practical experience has made me a better teacher. As a professor of civil and ocean engineering, his main interests involve naval architecture, ocean engineering, fluid-structure interaction and hydroelasticity. He has researched submarine dynamics, ocean systems, towing and vibrations of submerged structures.

Lou's first teaching job was as assistant professor of ocean engineering at Columbia University's new ocean engineering program in 1968. He came to A&M in 1974.

"A&M was my No. 1 choice," he says. "I had heard a lot about this University and its ocean engineering program."

Lou describes ocean engineering as an interdisciplinary field.

"This profession uses all of engineering areas and applies them to the sea," he says.

But, Lou says, some aspects that work well on land may need to be modified and improved for use in the ocean.

"The main thrust of ocean engineering is to develop new techniques and technology to enhance traditional engineering of the ocean," he says.

Lou feels the ocean engineering program is facing an identity problem because a new and not yet established, especially among recent high school graduates.

"It is safe to say our program is one of the best in the country and well-known in the professional world both nationally and internationally," he says. "In general, it is a young program with room for improvement, but one of the best."

Lou says human advancement depends on the ocean and the use of its limits.

"We are seaward, moving toward the sea, depending on the sea for food, mineral resources, recreation and even defense," he says.

After receiving his bachelor's degree from the Chinese National College of Technology, Lou came to the United States. He then obtained his master's degree from Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and seven years later received his doctorate from Polytechnic Institute of Brooklyn.

### Departmental users aided

## Computer center opens

By JERRY OSLIN  
Staff Writer

Texas A&M's new Departmental Microcomputer Support Center should fill a pressing need in helping University and System departments deal with their computer problems, says the Center's manager, Herb Graeber.

"The explosion of microcomputer use on campus has caused a real need for this type of service," Graeber says.

The center opened in early June, he says, and provides support services to departmental microcomputer users.

Graeber says the center offers support in five primary service areas: software and hardware needs analysis, software feasibility studies,

communication between microcomputers and other computers, technical support and a type of computer maintenance.

"If a department is having trouble with their computer, we can tell them if the problem is in the software or in the computer itself," he says. "Also, if there are problems between the printer and the computer, we can come in and adjust the cable."

The center also can help a department select a software system, Graeber says.

A department can send the center an example of the software system the department is considering buying and the center will evaluate the

system to see if it fits the department's needs and then recommend whether the department should buy it, he says.

The center also can train the department's personnel to run the system, Graeber says.

The center is funded jointly by the University and the Texas A&M University System, Graeber says. Services are available to any University or System department or persons working on departmental projects at no cost, he says.

The center, located in 214 Gwin Hall, is administered through the Office of the Vice President for Fiscal Affairs, Graeber says.

### Hostage

(continued from page 1)

Morning America," expressed concern the remaining hostages were endangered by the threat of U.S. retaliation.

"I feel if there's any retaliation now, our seven men are gone and any talk, any talk of it should not be taking place now while they're still holding some of our men," Anderson said.

White House spokesman Larry

Speakes, asked about efforts to win the release of the seven, said, "The United States is still dedicated to securing their freedom. We hope to increase our intelligence capabilities in it. We hope to utilize other nations that might have an influence on the situation."

Speakes noted that Assad had been instrumental in winning the freedom of the 39 hostages.

"We would hope that he could be helpful in securing the release of the

seven," Speakes said.

To keep the nation's attention focused on the remaining hostages, a campaign called "Americans United for Hostages in Lebanon" was announced to urge Americans beginning on the Fourth of July to fly a U.S. flag daily and to wear and display yellow ribbons on clothes, cars and homes until the seven are freed.

The campaign is sponsored by No Greater Love.

### Correction

Last Friday's edition of *At Large* incorrectly stated that free hot burgers, ice cream and soft drinks would be provided at the 4th of July picnic at Wolfson Cain Pool. Hamburgers and ice cream will each cost 50¢ and soft drinks will be available for 25¢. The Battalion sincerely regrets the error.

Coming to the second session of Summer School?

### OPTIONAL MEAL PLANS

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7 day - 3 meals a day, except Sunday evening - \$227.<sup>00</sup> plus tax

5 day - 3 meals a day Monday through Friday - \$210.<sup>00</sup> plus tax

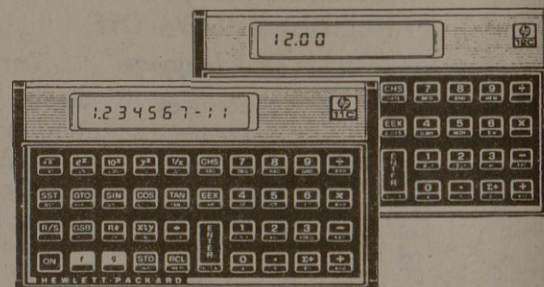
Any 12 - Choice of 12 of 20 meals served during week - \$204.<sup>00</sup> plus tax

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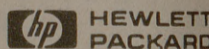
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