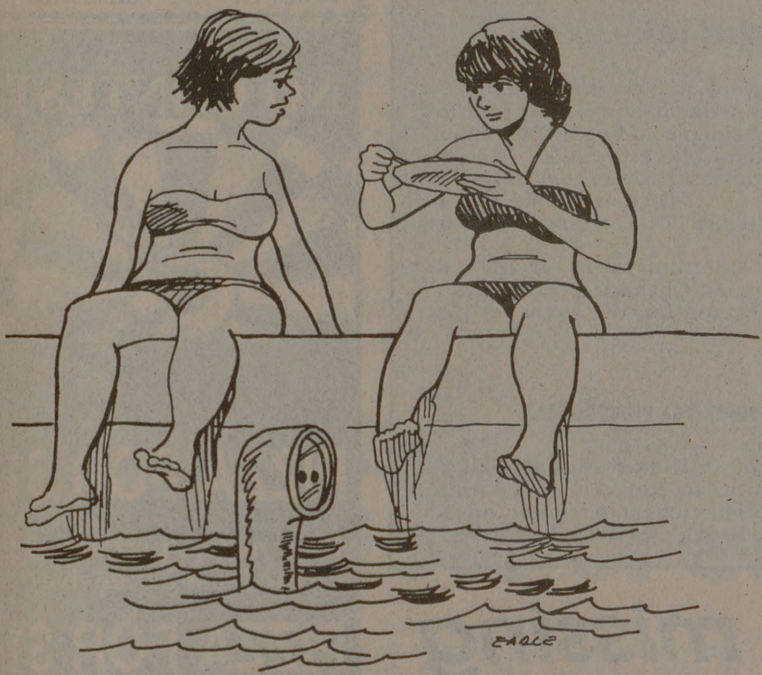


STATE AND LOCAL

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Is there something about this pool that makes you nervous?"

Pollution

A&M prof helps develop plan that could stem contamination

By PETE HERNDON
Reporter

S. Charles Maurice, an A&M economics professor, says pollution can be contained by treating it as a market commodity.

The pollution problem, Maurice says, stems from the fact that no property rights have been assigned to air or water pollution.

Under a plan published by Maurice and Charles W. Smithson, a former A&M economics professor, the government could sell pollution shares.

Maurice says factories would buy these shares allowing for a specific amount of pollution under this plan.

"People don't throw trash on their own yards," he says. "They pay a fee to have garbage men come pick it up and carry it away."

Maurice says factories pollute the rivers and air, but they don't have to pay any fee. This allows manufacturers to pollute at will, he says.

He says factories that pollute more than their shares allow would have to buy shares from factories that pollute less. Environmental groups could also compete in this market and simply hold their shares, Maurice says.

The second method Maurice and Smithson proposed would be to set

up a pollution tax comparable to the progressive income tax.

The more a manufacturer wanted or needed to pollute the environment, the higher their tax bracket would be, Maurice says.

He says production efficiency would not be hurt by either plan.

"You don't want zero pollution," Maurice says, "because costs would skyrocket. Sophisticated pollution control equipment is costly."

"But manufacturers should pay the full cost out-of-pocket for the pollution required to produce their goods," he adds.

Maurice says the biggest problem with the proposals would be getting effective legislation to enact them.

Massachusetts passed a law similar to the shareholding proposal several years ago to help clean up Chesapeake Bay, Maurice says, but it failed because factories on the Pennsylvania side of the bay did not have to comply.

Although he says the proposals would have to be federal in nature, he does not see Congress passing any bills like his proposals in the near future.

"Simply put, right now the factories upstream have more political clout than the fishermen downstream," he says.

Slow Sunday business nags Austin retailers

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Kinda Krazy, a dress shop in a heavily populated residential area of north Austin, appeared deserted Sunday afternoon, until a lone salesperson popped out of chair in a back corner.

"It's very slow today," said Jill Murphy. "In fact, I've had only one sale."

Since the Legislature voted to repeal the Sunday closing law, many Austin retailers began Sunday openings in May after assurances from authorities that they would not be prosecuted for jumping the gun, since the repeal is not effective until Sept. 1.

However, according to an informal survey by the Austin American-Statesman, businesses in the small commercial centers "are ushering in the new era with silent cash registers."

Many independent retailers are remaining closed on Sundays.

Business is brisk in the major shopping centers and large discount operations such as K-Mart, Target and T.J. Maxx.

In West Anderson Plaza, along one of the busiest residential shopping streets in the city, only three of 19 retailers were open Sunday afternoon. At Greystone Ltd., a men's clothing store, there were two salesmen on duty, compared with five during the week.

Owners of Highland Mall and Barton Creek Mall are allowing tenants to decide whether they will open before Sept. 1.

After Sept. 1, the mall officials say they will enforce lease agreements that require tenants to open during mall hours.

Two Texas tourists allegedly beaten, robbed in Mexico

Associated Press

MEXICO CITY — Only days after Mexico kicked off a campaign to attract U.S. tourists, a man and a woman from Austin said they were kidnapped, beaten and robbed by men who said they were federal police officers.

Dr. Henry Selby, a University of Texas anthropology professor, and Lucy Garretson, research director for the Austin American-Statesman newspaper, said they were attacked in the Mexico City suburb of Nezahualcoyotl Saturday night.

The incident came just as Mexico was renewing efforts to lure U.S. visitors.

Selby and Garretson said they were robbed of \$500 and a camera by two men who said they were members of Mexico's Federal Judicial Police.

"We were standing in front of a hotel waiting for a room when they approached us," Selby said. "They showed us their badges and then

forced us into the back seat of a Volkswagen."

When Garretson challenged one of the men about his credentials, she said she was slapped in the face. One of the men also hit Selby twice in the temple with a leather-covered nightstick.

Selby and Garretson said they chose to report the incident to the U.S. Embassy instead of Mexican police.

Vince Hovenac, an embassy spokesman, said the incident would be reported to Mexican authorities.

The embassy recently published a report about crimes against U.S. tourists in Mexico.

Selby said that at one point during the abduction, his attackers spoke of U.S. Ambassador to Mexico John Gavin, who has complained to Mexican authorities about assaults on U.S. tourists, often by men posing as policemen.

What's up

Wednesday

CHRISTIANS ON CAMPUS: is meeting at noon in 604 Rudder. An hour will be spent in dispensing the Triune of God.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no less than three days prior to desired publication date.

Legislative battle over offshore revenues begins

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — If all parties agreed on nothing else, they did concur Monday that Congress should settle a seven-year, \$6 billion dispute over offshore oil and gas revenues that are supposed to be shared by seven states and the federal government.

Texas Gov. Mark White testified Monday that he is sticking to the

states' demand for 37.5 percent of the revenues, including royalties.

The governors of Alaska and California also submitted testimony opposing what a congressman who favored it dubbed the "27 percent solution."

Interior Committee Chairman Morris K. Udall, D-Ariz., said he expected the committee to be told in the House budget resolution to write legislation solving the issue so the

amount of federal revenues can be determined.


The law that sparked the dispute was meant to compensate states for drainage of their resources when the federal government leased its offshore lands bordering the states' offshore property.

About \$6 billion has been deposited in an account while the Interior Department and seven coastal states — Alaska, California,

Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida — argue over what Congress meant in the 1978 law by "fair and equitable" division of revenues.

The states started out seeking a 50-50 split. The Interior Department last year offered them 16 2/3 percent. The states countered with 37.5 percent.

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Coming to the second session of Summer School?

OPTIONAL MEAL PLANS

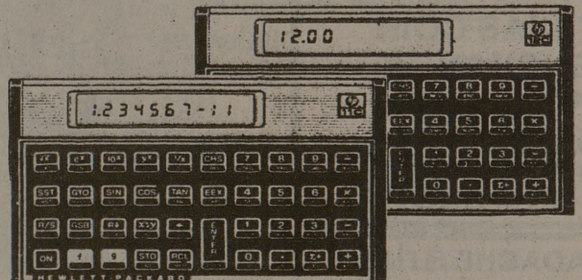
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- 5 day - 3 meals a day Monday through Friday - \$210.⁰⁰ plus tax
- Any 12 - Choice of 12 of 20 meals served during week - \$204.⁰⁰ plus tax

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