

A&M student designs software for use in fishing tournaments

— Page 6



Condon's A&M spikers blast bumbling sports media types

— Page 9

Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 81 No. 5 USPS 045360 22 pages in 2 sections

College Station, Texas

Friday, September 6, 1985

Court reverses comparative worth ruling

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Business groups Thursday praised a federal appeals court ruling as a crippling blow to the concept of comparable worth, while labor unions and feminist leaders said they would continue to fight for the pay equity idea in collective bargaining, legislation and the Supreme Court.

The decision by the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco on Wednesday "makes our efforts (on the pay equity issue in

Washington state) a little harder and a little tougher," said Gerald W. McEntee, president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Thursday. "We recognize it as a setback."

The union will appeal the ruling to the Supreme Court and "we believe that we have both the law and equity on our side," McEntee told a news conference.

In contrast, Virginia Lamp, a labor relations attorney at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, said "com-

parable worth is an idea with superficial and political appeal, but which is now legally bankrupt" because of the court decision.

Comparable worth, also known as pay equity, is the concept of paying men and women similar wages for different jobs judged to be of similar value to an employer.

In reversing the nation's first comparable-worth court ruling, a three-judge appeals panel in San Francisco said employers can use prevailing market condition in set-

ting wages, and need not follow surveys they commission.

In 1983, U.S. District Judge Jack Tanner in Seattle held the state of Washington liable for damages to 15,500 of its employees after a study commissioned by the state showed a 20 percent salary gap between workers in predominantly female and male jobs that required similar levels of skill, mental demands, accountability and working conditions.

Despite the ruling, McEntee said that the union and Washington state

officials have agreed to proceed next Monday with previously scheduled talks on a possible out-of-court settlement on the lawsuit, filed by AFSCME in 1982.

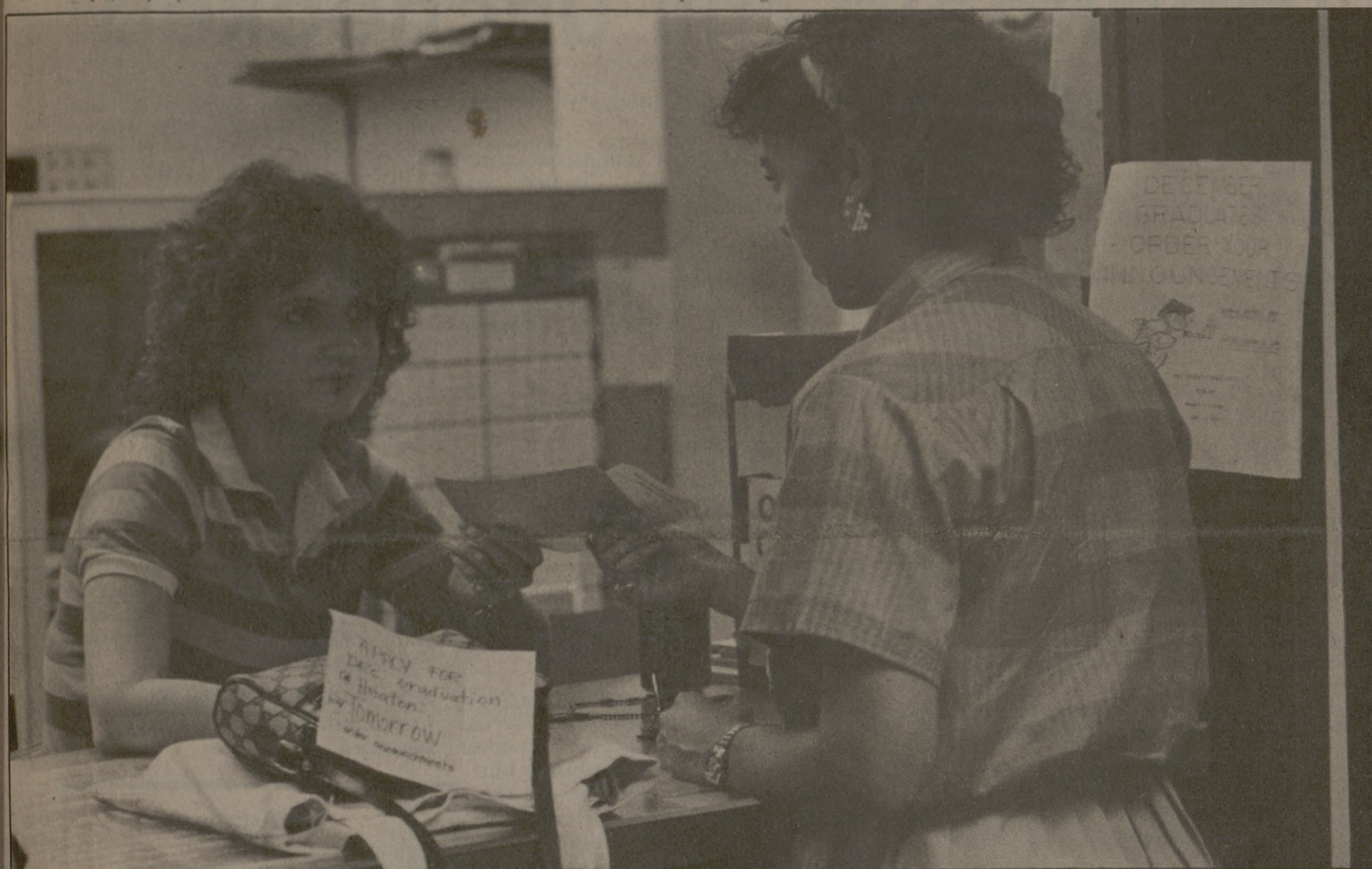
"I think the word is shock," McEntee said of his reaction to the ruling. But he stressed that more than 20 states have begun to conduct studies or have implemented some form of comparable worth.

About half of the rank and file in AFSCME, the largest union of pub-

lic employees, are women.

The wages of working women nationally are just 68 percent of men's wages, the Labor Department says. The wage gap is closing, but not fast enough to quell the debate over comparable worth.

"We intend to break out of the ghetto of low wages . . . one way or another," Eleanor Smeal, president of the National Organization for Women, said in a speech at the National Press Club.



Zip '85

Nancy Jumper, a Texas A&M senior journalism major from Lufkin, applies for December graduation. Jumper got help from Liz Ranft, a

junior marketing major from Hamilton. Seniors must apply for graduation by September 13 in 105 Heaton Hall.

Reagan takes tax campaign on road again

Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — President Reagan resumed his campaign for an overhaul of the income tax system Thursday, playing the underdog challenging the vested interests he says are the enemies of change.

"The special interests may think they have this one locked up tight, and we may be starting this battle for tax fairness as underdogs," Reagan told more than 13,000 students and faculty members at North Carolina State University.

But Reagan said he wanted to remind "the nay sayers, people who tell you it can't be done . . . that this is America, and there are no limits except those that we put on ourselves."

"A lot of cynics in Washington are laying odds against our fair share tax plan," Reagan said. "Our plan has too many enemies, they say, enemies among those with a vested interest in the status quo — 'status quo,' that's Latin for the mess we call the present income tax."

"The present system, with all its shelters and loopholes, is not only unfair, it's dumb economics," the president said in the university's sweltering Reynolds Coliseum.

Although many of the provisions he now complains about were initiated or expanded by his massive

1981 tax cut bill, Reagan's new plan generally would lower individual tax rates, notably for those in the highest brackets, while eliminating many of the deductions and credits that give preferential treatment to particular groups.

While Reagan didn't name the nay sayers to whom he referred, leading members of both parties in Congress have been skeptical about the prospects for passage of a major tax overhaul plan this year.

House Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., D-Mass., told reporters as the House returned from recess Wednesday, "I found very little sentiment for the tax reform bill" among business executives or average citizens. The people on the street — they never even mention it.

Rep. Dick Cheney, R-Wyo., chairman of the House GOP Policy Committee, expressed a similar view, saying most members he has spoken to found tax revision low on their constituents' lists of legislative priorities.

The president, displaying his best campaign style, took off his suit jacket and stumped for his plan, cheered on by a roaring, foot-stomping, crowd reminiscent of the mass audiences Reagan drew a year ago during his drive toward a landslide re-election victory.

Shuttle pass system revised

New sticker issued without charge

By ANN CERVENKA
Staff Writer

Have you ever lost your shuttle bus pass and had to pay \$45 for a new one? As of this semester those students who lose their passes will be issued new ones without charge.

"If you lost your bus card last year, it was like losing a \$50 bill," said Carol Ellison, vice president of student services.

"Someone could pick it up and use it so you would have to go buy a whole new pass."

This semester, a sticker is being placed on the student's I.D. card to eliminate the hassle of carrying a separate pass.

"It was so easy to lose the pass," she said, "but people are more likely to hold on to their I.D.s."

Ellison said she received com-

plaints last year from students forced to buy new cards after losing their original ones.

She said Bus Operations looked into a new form of bus pass in previous years. However, they decided against the stickers because the cost was more than paper cards and the student I.D. cards did not have enough room for such a sticker.

"All these things are kind of null and void now," Ellison said.

"For the convenience of the students, they thought it (the sticker) was a good idea. It was what the students wanted."

Bill Conaway, supervisor of operations at Bus Operations, said in most cases a student will be issued a new pass without hassle. However, as a safeguard, each case will be handled individually.

Conaway said when purchasing a pass, each student must present his fee slip and I.D. card.

The student's name, I.D. number, bus pass number, address and phone number are placed into a computer.

"It (issuing new passes) is not a blanket policy," he said.

"But if a person loses a pass and comes to us, we will run his name through the computer and then most likely issue another pass."

However, if a person's name is on the computer more than one time, indicating that he may have been picking up new stickers and giving them to other people, Conaway said the matter will be turned over to the University Police.

"To stop fraud, we have our own little plan," he said.

The stickers are placed next to the picture on the I.D. cards so that the passes can only be used by one person.

"It doesn't make sense to try to pull some game with us," he added.

Conaway said the new passes will eliminate some of the problems encountered last year, such as several people using the same pass.

"It's a lot easier for us to issue them and for the students to pick them up," he said.

"It also helps the students because if they lose it they don't have to buy a whole new pass."

Conaway said the stickers cannot be taken off without being torn, therefore preventing several people from using the same pass.

The cost of the pass is the same as last year, \$44.50.

Discovers of Titanic fear exploitation of sunken wreck

Associated Press

WOODS HOLE, Massachusetts — Researchers who found the wreck of the Titanic headed for home Thursday with the chief scientist promising he was bringing back "spectacular" film from the expedition.

The Navy-owned research ship Knorr, operated by Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, was scheduled to dock Monday at this Cape Cod town.

Officials said Dr. Robert Ballard, chief scientist on the U.S.-French mission, will try to arrange a return trip, possibly next summer, to explore the sunken luxury liner in a manned submersible known as the Alvin.

Woods Hole officials said there is concern the future may bring scavengers to the wreck site, about 560 miles off Newfoundland.

"Ballard is very concerned with the exploitation of the Titanic," said William Marquet, senior engineer at the Woods Hole Deep Submergence Laboratory, which is headed by Ballard. "Wreck-ruining destroys archaeological finds."

Dr. Robert Spindel, head of the Woods Hole Ocean Engineering Department, said numerous questions must be answered before another visit to the wreck is scheduled.

"Mainly, it's a matter of safety."

But also it's a question of what you could learn about it," he said, adding that possible reasons for inspecting the ship in a manned vessel would be the chance to learn more about such things as corrosion and preservation.

"We don't know that much about the preservation of things at the depths of the sea floor," he said.

Asked how Woods Hole could safeguard the Titanic, he said: "We've tried not to release the exact position of the ship and the exact depth of the find. But we heard aircraft were in the vicinity. I don't think there is anything we can do about that."

He said Woods Hole would act to protect the Titanic only if someone were to try to salvage it. "We'd have to appeal to a higher authority to ask them that the Titanic remain where it is, as it is."

John P. Eaton of New York, historian of the Titanic Historical Society, said the site should be "protected by some international group and be kept free of all marauders."

Filming since the wreck was found Sunday was done by a video camera aboard the Argo, an unmanned submersible developed by Ballard.

Ballard said the explorers had not seen the stern of the ship.

Cookbook proceeds benefit library

By CYNTHIA GAY
Staff Writer

Somebody's cookin' at the library, and, thanks to the Dallas County A&M Mothers' Club, Texas A&M students shortly will get a broader and more thoughtful taste of Texas and its history.

The club's "Hullabaloo in the Kitchen" cookbook has made such a hit with Aggies in the past two years that the members are passing along the profits to A&M, said Bonnie Leissler, vice president at large and chairman of the club's cookbook committee.

Inspired by a series of Battalion articles on the plight of needed library funds, she said the club decided to make Sterling C. Evans Library the target of its second gift to the University. Last year the members completed a \$25,000 Presidential Endowed Scholarship fund.

The club will officially donate another \$25,000 to the Sterling C. Evans Library this fall, intending that the money will buy Texas-related materials and enrich the library's mutual endowment fund.

Current President Peggy Erickson and Leissler will make the joint presentation on Oct. 12.

"The money will be very well spent," said Charlene Clark, development and promotion coordinator at the library.

She said the new materials will be on the shelves and on microfilm by the beginning of the spring semester "so that students can see benefits immediately."

Leissler, last year's club president, said she was motivated to prompt the mothers to help out the library by The Battalion articles printed last November by staff writer Donn Friedmann, lamenting the relatively small portion of Texas A&M funds that went to the library.

See Library, page 5