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Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

Check Mate

The White Queen, senior industrial technology major Kristine Kirsch, looks worried as the Black Queen's Knight, senior nuclear engineering major Tom Reinarts, looks to the chessmaster for approval to capture her.

The Human Chess Tournament was sponsored by the Society for Creative Anachronisms and MSC Cepheid Variable Friday evening on the Quadrangle.

On tap

A&M, CS water supply tested for inorganic chemicals

Editor's Note: This is the first in a five-part series of articles concerning the tap water in the city of College Station and on the Texas A&M campus. Today's article deals with inorganic chemicals found in the tap water in College Station.

By TRENT LEOPOLD
Senior Staff Writer

Katherine Knoble's mother doesn't like the taste of College Station's water so she bought her daughter, who used to be a Texas A&M student, a water purifier last year for her birthday.

When Knoble's birthday rolled around this year, she realized that the purifier had been connected to her faucet for about a year, and so it was about time to change the filter.

As she opened the purifier and pulled the filter out she was surprised at what she saw — a mass of black slime.

"It's just water that has been going through there," she said. "Where did all of that black goo come from?" The answer to that question isn't easy, but what it amounts to is that there's more in drinking water than meets the eye.

This past August, The Battalion secured the services of ROMECC, a local laboratory, to perform some

College Station Tap Water

Inorganic Chemicals

	TDH April 1982	ROMECC August 1985	STANDARDS
Arsenic	less than 0.01	na	0.05
Barium	less than 0.5	na	1.0
Cadmium	less than 0.005	na	0.010
Chromium	less than 0.02	na	0.05
Lead	less than 0.02	na	.05
Mercury	less than 0.0002	na	0.002
Selenium	less than 0.002	na	0.01
Silver	less than 0.01	na	0.05
Fluoride	less than 0.4	.55	1.6
Nitrate as N	less than 0.02	1.0	10.0

All numbers in the chart, except pH levels are expressed in parts per million (mg/l) unless otherwise specified. The notation "TDH" stands for "Texas Department of Health." The numbers listed under the "STANDARD" heading reflect maximum allowable or recommended levels. The notation "na" stands for not applicable.

tests on College Station's tap water.

In addition, Texas' Department of Health has a set of written standards the city of College Station and

all public water systems are required by law to follow.

They were written to comply with the federal "Safe Drinking Water Act" and the "Interim Primary

Drinking Water Regulations" set forth by the Environmental Protection Agency.

The standards specify the maximum allowable levels for certain chemicals in addition to the maximum allowable levels for radioactivity and biological components of the water.

Since College Station's water comes mainly from three wells in Sandy Point, a residential subdivision north of the city, the law states that the water be tested for inorganic chemical levels at least every three years.

Inorganic chemicals include such things as arsenic, barium, lead and selenium which are toxic to humans when taken in large enough amounts.

Benny Luedke, College Station's water utilities superintendent, said Friday the last time inorganic chemical tests were reported on College Station's tap water was June 10, 1982.

"It is kind of scary to think that

the water we drink has not been thoroughly tested for inorganics since '82," said Dr. Rod O'Connor, president and chief executive officer for ROMECC at the time he interpreted some of the tap water tests his company conducted for The Battalion.

College Station's city engineer, Elroy Ash, said the reason a test for inorganic chemicals has not been conducted by the city since 1982 is because "the state doesn't want a chemical analysis from us."

"The state has informed us that they will come and get it (the sample) when they feel it is necessary for one," he said.

Paul Bronnenberg, a sanitarian for the Texas Department of Health's division of water hygiene, said College Station is not exempt from testing for inorganic chemical levels in the tap water every three years as specified in the state's current drinking water standards.

"However he (Ash) is partially correct when we (you) realize that

the state now goes out and collects the sample, where that wasn't the way it was done in the past," Bronnenberg said.

Bronnenberg said individual city governments within the state still are responsible for securing the inorganic chemical analysis, but the state collects the sample.

The Department of Health has a record of an analysis conducted on Aug. 28, 1984. But Luedke said that analysis was not for the tap water supply, but rather for just one well in the water system.

"The last analysis for the entire distribution system was in 1982," Luedke said. "The test in 1984 was just for one of the wells in the system."

The chemical analysis will vary only a small amount at one particular well when compared with the analysis of the entire raw water supply, Luedke said.

Tomorrow: A look at the radioactivity levels and biological components of College Station's tap water.

Arrest of Palestinian demanded by U.S.

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Indignant about Italy's "incomprehensible" release of a Palestinian accused of murdering the Achille Lauro hijacking, the Reagan administration demanded his arrest Sunday in Yugoslavia, where officials indicated they would not cooperate.

FBI Director William Webster said Yugoslavian authorities "have declined to detain" Mohammad Abu el Abbas, an associate of Palestine Liberation Organization leader Yasser Arafat, who was taken into custody along with the four men accused of hijacking the Italian cruise ship and killing one American.

Abbas, whom a U.S. official said was spirited out of Italy disguised as an Egyptian sailor, flew Saturday night to Yugoslavia, where American diplomats immediately requested that he be held for extradition.

State Department legal adviser Abraham Sofaer, however, said that there still was a chance Abbas could be arrested, though only a slim one.

"They may have at this point refused to detain him," Sofaer said, "but they have not turned down our request for provisional arrest."

But a government official said Yu-

goslavian authorities in Belgrade indicated during informal conversations with U.S. diplomats that they consider Abbas to have diplomatic immunity and therefore wouldn't detain him.

In Belgrade, a Yugoslavian government spokesman said: "We have good relations with the PLO, and we support the Palestinian cause. You can draw your own conclusions."

Under the extradition treaty between the United States and Yugo-

slavia, "we have up to two months during which they are supposed to detain him and give us an opportunity to file formal extradition papers," Sofaer said.

The release of Abbas by Italian authorities was a disappointment to U.S. officials who had been triumphant over the dramatic capture of the four pirates.

Abbas, leader of the PLO splinter-

See U.S. orders, page 7

U.S. official criticizes Italy

Associated Press

ROME — U.S. Ambassador Maxwell Rabb on Sunday sharply rebuked the Italian government for releasing a top PLO official who accompanied the Achille Lauro pirates out of Egypt, firing a new salvo in the diplomatic row between the two countries.

In a two-hour meeting with Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti, Rabb also asked for extradition of the four Palestinians who hijacked the luxury liner and are accused of killing 69-year-old Leon Klinghoffer, a partially paralyzed American passenger.

Rabb said he told Andreotti that the release of Mohammed Abbas, sought on a U.S. arrest warrant charging him with being involved in hostage-taking and piracy, was "incomprehensible to the government of the United

States and to the people of the United States.

Italian judicial authorities had determined there were no legal grounds to hold Abbas, the Foreign Ministry has said.

Prime Minister Bettino Craxi, in a statement Sunday night, said: "When all the facts are known and examined with objectivity and with the necessary serenity, you will see then that the decision taken by the Italian government . . . was just and wise."

Italian officials had been instrumental in arranging for the Palestine Liberation Organization to help negotiate an end to the two-day hijacking last week in which about 500 passengers and crew were held hostage.

Abbas, a close associate of PLO

See Italy, page 7

Ag offers spotting tips for Halley's comet

University News Service

One of the first Texans to report seeing Halley's Comet says the public should read up on the comet but avoid purchasing top-of-the-line telescopes they won't need when Halley's has come and gone.

Texas A&M graduate student Paul Bradley of Irving, who first sighted Halley's in the early hours of Sept. 20, said star charts and a local astronomy club can do much to help citizens watch the fabled phenomenon.

Bradley's observation, made on a 14-inch telescope operated by the Texas A&M Physics Department, is the first Texas report of Halley's Comet outside of the powerful McDonald Observatory in West Texas and possibly the 41-inch scope at Stephen F. Austin University.

In December, he said, someone will be the first person to sight Halley's Comet with the naked eye since 1910, when the comet last visited. In November, many people should be able to find Halley's with binoculars provided the moon and weather cooperate.

Bradley offered a list of suggestions to persons interested in watching Halley's Comet and its tail that should be millions of miles long:

- Consult lunar tables. A full moon may wash out the comet even at its brightest. The darker the sky, the better.

- Study starfinder charts to know where to look, and read up. Several handbooks exist that cost \$5 or less.

- Get out of the towns and cities where even the haze of building and street lights can wash out the chances of seeing Halley's Comet. Since the comet will be overhead in the fall and closer to the southern horizon in the spring, it is important that any skylight from large cities be behind you when watching the night sky.

- Avoid buying more comet-watching equipment than you need. "Most people will be able to see all they want beginning in November with a pair of good binoculars — 7x35, 7x50 or 10x50," Bradley said. Bigger ones make your hands shake too much.

- In the spring, when Halley's is closest to the Earth, watchers need to make sure they are on high ground with an unobscured view of the southern horizon, where the comet will be only 10 or 15 degrees above the horizon. People living in wooded or mountainous areas should seek the highest point available.

Students lead anti-apartheid march

By MARK RUDOLPH
Reporter

Students Against Apartheid at Texas A&M, in recognition of National Anti-Apartheid Day, led about 200 A&M students and faculty in a protest march Friday against apartheid in South Africa.

Kenyan Norman Muraya, president of the organization, said the reason for the protest was to increase public awareness of apartheid.

The march, which started at College Station City Hall, proceeded around the northeast corner of the A&M campus and ended at Rudder Fountain.

Before the march, Muraya told the protesters that Students Against Apartheid takes apartheid very seriously and demands equal rights for the 24 million oppressed people in South Africa.

"South Africa, in its darkest hour, is appealing to the United States," Muraya said. "South Africans demand immediate equality — one man, one vote."

Carey Cauley Jr., president of the Brazos Valley chapter of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, said before the march that he was very happy to see the protesters.

"I never thought I'd see the day when an Aggie would stand up for something," Cauley told the crowd.



Students Against Apartheid lead protest march along University Drive.

Photo by JOHN MAKELY

Cauley said he was not being critical of Aggies, it was just that he had never seen people in the community stand up against something they didn't believe in.

Cauley compared apartheid to America's history of segregation.

"In South Africa, a black man does not exist," Cauley told the

crowd. "In America, blacks were at least considered three-fifths of a man."

Cauley thanked the protesters and told them he appreciated the fact that someone in Brazos County had the nerve to stand up and say that apartheid was wrong.

Ron Gay, democratic party chairman for Brazos County, told the crowd that the rally would not bring an end to apartheid, but possibly a beginning to the end.

"I ask that each one of you

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