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Noon
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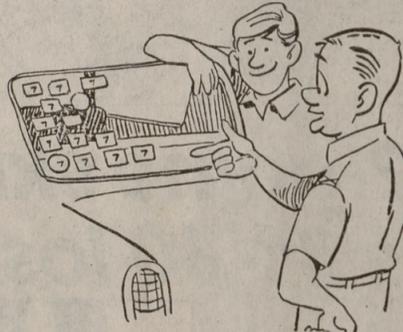
A Question and Answer Forum simultaneously broadcast on 1240 KTAM. Show your Aggie Spirit and Win 4 tickets to the Texas A&M-UT game.

Battalion Classified 845-2611

World and Nation

Slouch

By Jim Earle



"Now that's what I call seniority!"

Romanian man seeking asylum in United States

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A Romanian merchant seaman jumped ship in Jacksonville, Fla., the Justice Department reported Wednesday, and a government source said he requested political asylum in this country.

The source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said no decision had been made on whether to grant asylum. Meanwhile authorities studied the results of an interview with him.

Patrick Kortan, Justice's deputy director of public affairs, said he could not identify the seaman or provide details of the circumstances surrounding his leaving of the vessel. But the source identified the seaman as Stefan Vrancea.

Kortan said an interview in Romanian was completed Wednesday evening by an interpreter under contract with the government.

He said earlier the man was in the custody of Immigration and Naturalization Service agents and "isn't going anywhere until they have questioned him thoroughly in the right language."

Kortan evidently was alluding to the case of Soviet seaman Miroslav Medvid. Medvid twice jumped off a Soviet grain freighter near New Orleans last month but was returned to the vessel after telling U.S. officials that he wanted to return to the Soviet Union.

Duke Austin, an INS spokesman, said Wednesday, "We can't comment publicly until they (the person or people who would defect) go public themselves."

The State Department issued a statement confirming it was interviewing a Romanian seaman in Jacksonville, Fla.,

Defense spending World military expenditures reach \$800 billion this year

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — World military spending will reach \$800 billion this year — \$60 billion more than last year — continuing a post-World War II weapons buildup at the cost of social programs, a report by arms control advocates said Wednesday.

The United States and the Soviet Union, with 11 percent of the world's population, account for more than half the military spending, the report said.

Among the United States and other U.S. allies, annual per capita military spending amounts to about \$45, compared with \$11 for health research, the report said. The world spends about \$450 to educate each child and \$25,600 to support each soldier.

The findings, based on official U.S. and international statistics, were published by World Priorities, an economic research group whose sponsors include the Rockefeller Foundation, the Arms Control Association and the World Policy Institute.

The aim of the report is to use official statistics to demonstrate the disparity between spending on weaponry and that on health, welfare and education.

For example, it said:

- The Soviet Union spends more on its military than the governments of all the developing countries combined spend for the education and health care of their 3.6 billion people.
- The U.S. Air Force budget is larger than the cost for educating the 1.2 billion children in Africa, Latin America and Asia, including Japan.

- Developed countries on average spend 5.4 percent of their GNP for military purposes, 0.3 percent for development assistance to poor countries.

- Since 1960, Third World military spending has increased five-fold, and the number of countries ruled by military governments has grown from 22 to 57.

Politicians looking toward '86 races

Associated Press

Democrats and Republicans informally inaugurated their 1986 election campaigns Wednesday, posting rival claims of success on the day after off-year balloting produced a GOP runaway in New Jersey and a historic Democratic sweep of Virginia.

Statewide races aside, several of the nation's big-city mayors savored new terms in municipal elections, including Ed Koch in New York, Coleman Young in Detroit and Kathy Whitcomb in Houston. Miami's sixth-term Mayor Maurice Ferre was the most notable casualty. He ran third behind Raul Masvidal and Xavier Suarez, who will square off in a runoff election Tuesday.

Democratic Party chairman Paul G. Kirk Jr. hailed moderate Governor Gerald L. Baliles in Virginia as the profile of a winner, and said accompanying, first-time statewide victories Tuesday by a powerful, historic and positive force.

Baliles, somewhat more modestly, said of his party's triple victory, "Obviously we have a winning formula in Virginia and people may be asking questions about it."

Noting that President Reagan had campaigned for the losing GOP ticket in Virginia, Kirk said Democrats "need have no fear" of presidential popularity as they bid to win control of the Senate in 1986.

But at the White House, spokesman Larry Speakes countered that Republican GOP Gov. Thomas Kean was re-elected by a landslide in New Jersey, and said the significant thing was GOP control of the State Assembly for the first time since 1972.

Leaders of both parties had agreed in advance that New Jersey and Virginia were the key battlegrounds as they looked ahead to the 1986 congressional elections, with the GOP looking for signs of a nationwide Republican realignment and Democrats hoping for a comeback after Reagan's 49-state reelection sweep in 1984.

New atlas views Earth from space

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Its publishers call it "the most riveting look at our continent ever put between covers of a book." Before the first copy was ready, 200,000 had been sold for \$29.95 — or \$39.95 for the deluxe issue, which comes with a magnifier.

The National Geographic Society's "Atlas of North America," unveiled Wednesday, looks at the continent from space and presents a stunning portrait.

In vivid blues, greens and reds — photographic images printed in colors other than their own to bring out details invisible to the human eye — the atlas is, according to the society, "a new way of seeing the earth that is neither mapping nor photography, but does the work of both and better than either."

In addition to containing the familiar maps and illustrations found in conventional atlases, the new one makes heavy use of pictures from space to show not only what the earth below looks like but also what it's made of and how it is being shaped by natural and man-made forces.

The society got its pictures from Landsat satellites, weather satellites, crews of the Apollo, Skylab and shuttle spacecraft and from airplanes.

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