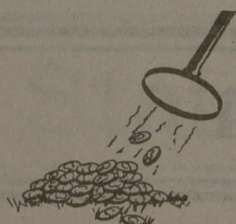


Brazos Valley treasure hunters help people find valuables

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Uranus emitting signals

Associated Press

PASADENA — Voyager 2 has discovered Uranus emits weak radio signals, suggesting it has a magnetic field that could reveal the length of a day on the planet and whether it has a molten rocky core, scientists said Thursday.

"If you want to know how long a day is on Uranus, you have to measure the magnetic field," said Ed Stone, Voyager project scientist at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory. "It's the way we will know how rapidly the planet is rotating."

The existence of a magnetic field also means Uranus must have flowing electrically conductive material in its interior, which is hidden by the planet's thick atmosphere, he said.

Such material could be molten rock in the planet's core or electrically charged particles in liquid oceans, he added. While temperatures on Uranus are far below the normal freezing point of water and many other materials, its high atmospheric pressure could prevent water or other substances from freezing.

Meanwhile, Voyager imaging team leader Brad Smith said recent photos of Ariel and Oberon — two of Uranus' five largest moons — show patches of bright material, probably ice that may have collected in impact craters.

But the photos aren't sharp enough to determine if such craters, which would be created by meteorites, actually exist, he said.

Voyager 2 makes its closest approach to Uranus and the planet's five major moons today — the most distant objects ever visited by a spacecraft. Project manager Dick Casser said the spacecraft will pass within about 50,600 miles of the planet at 51 seconds after 9:58 a.m. CST today.

"We've been waiting 4½ years for this," Stone said. "It's the crescendo of discovery we're facing."

The space probe already has discovered nine new moons orbiting Uranus, raising the total of known moons to 14.

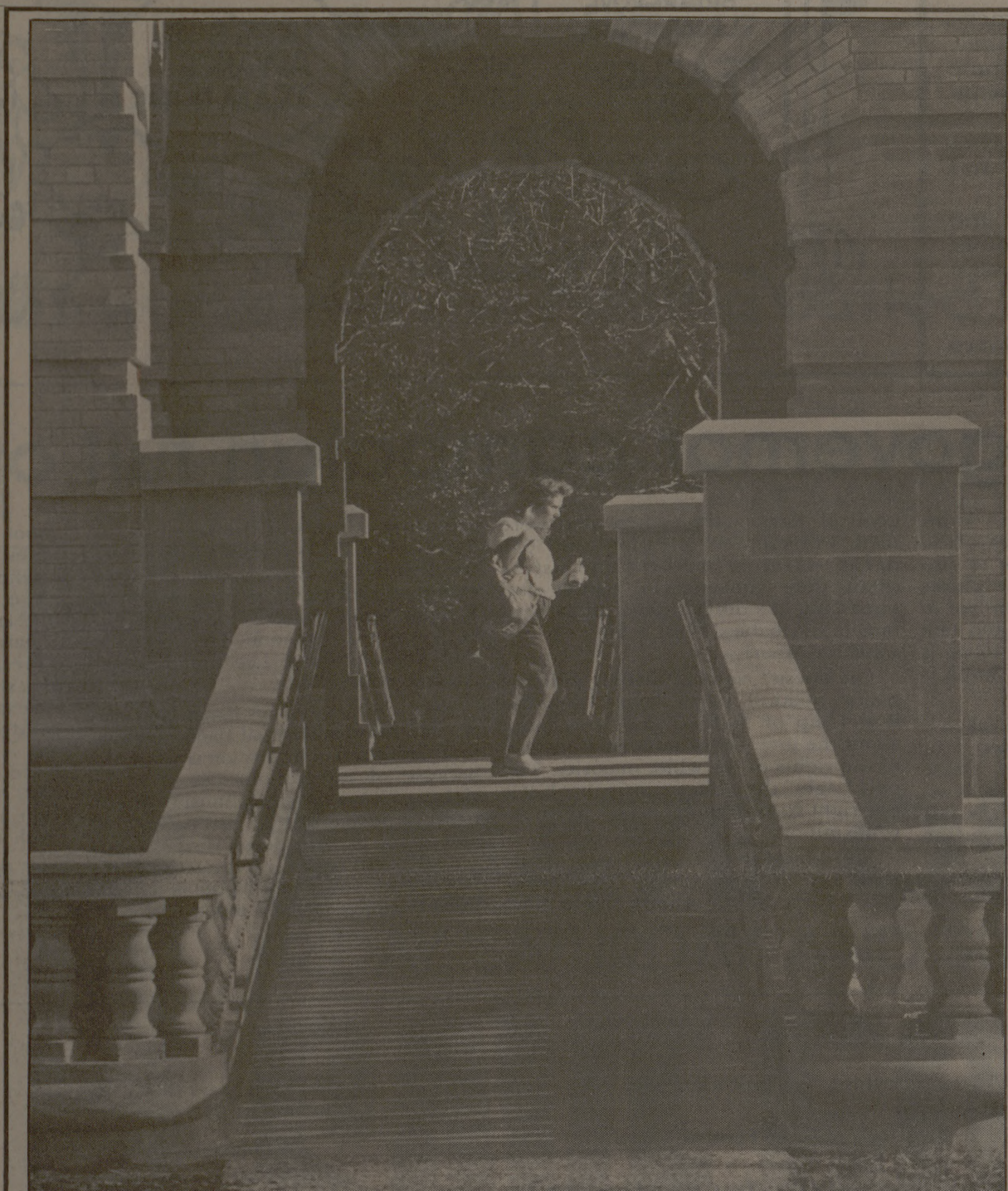


Photo by DEAN SAITO

Moving On

The arches and ramp of Texas A&M's Academic Building frame this student as she exits from the building. The ramp is a reminder of a facelift the building recently underwent.

Organization key to appeals process

Fall grades can still be appealed

By FRANK SMITH
Staff Writer

Although Texas A&M's academic appeals panel has already conducted regular appeals hearing for the semester, students still can appeal semester grades if they begin the process sometime this spring, said William Perry, panel chairman.

According to University regulations, a student can appeal a course grade if he thinks his final grade reflects a capricious, arbitrary or unduly academic evaluation. "If a student thinks his case meets one of those criteria he first should discuss the matter with his instructor, Perry said.

Should the student still be dissatisfied after meeting with the instructor, he can appeal to the head of the department in which the course is offered, Perry said. If the department head denies his request, the student can then take his case to the dean of the college in which the course is offered, Perry said. If the dean denies the appeal, the student can go to the academic appeals panel and plead his case.

"You come to see the chairman, fill out some forms, attach your appeal and then a meeting is held," Perry said.

"The deadline for getting the paper work done with the chairman of the appeals panel is five working days before the meeting day."

The panel meets in the first week of each long semester, usually on Wednesday or Thursday, Perry said. University regulations require that the panel be comprised of a chairman, four faculty members, three students and two student alternates. However, the presence of three faculty members and two students is deemed sufficient for a quorum.

"Summer meetings are sometimes difficult because if the students on the panel aren't going to summer school... it's not possible sometimes to get a quorum," Perry said.

The scheduling of the panel meeting for the first week of the semester may not leave much time for a student to process an appeal of a fall semester grade for the spring panel meeting, Perry said.

However, he pointed out that in such a case the student doesn't lose his right to an appeal. "It's just that they may not be able to have it heard right in the spring."

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Bentsen urging floating fee on imported crude

Associated Press

HOUSTON — U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen is proposing a floating fee on imported crude oil that would raise the price in the United States to \$32-\$34 per barrel range.

He said Thursday he feared the steep decline in oil prices would tempt Americans to forget about energy conservation and allow the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to regain control of the oil market.

"Once you get OPEC to get conformed, it (the price) will really go down," Bentsen said at a news conference.

The actual price of oil dropped below that level, revenue gained by the fee could offset dollars lost because of recently approved budget legislation, he said.

According to Bentsen, each \$1-per-barrel fee annually would contribute \$1 billion to the Treasury.

White asks Congress to continue tax incentives

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Gov. Mark White, saying he is monitoring almost hourly the plunge in spot market oil prices, again Thursday urged Congress to preserve tax incentives for U.S. oil and gas production.

While the Texas economy would suffer in a long-term price drop, White said, national defense also is at risk.

"If you had a \$5 tax, you'd have \$5 billion of revenue," he said.

The oil price futures market has shown signs of settling at levels near \$20 a barrel, following a week-long trading frenzy that left prices for crude at their lowest levels in six years.

This week's price slide to as low as \$18 a barrel only shows how volatile foreign oil supplies are and how quickly those prices can change, White said.

"Don't be fooled by the price today," he said. "We know the price can fly upward whimsically if we ever fall into the trap of becoming dependent once again on foreign imports."

White said the United States today is risking a return to dependence on foreign oil that rivals the U.S. need before the 1973 Arab oil embargo.

"This further points out the need for the president of the United States and members of Congress to reconsider action taken on the so-called tax reform bill that would diminish the incentives for production of oil and gas in Texas," he said.

Already, he said, the government has moved to relax automobile mileage standards.

White also wrote Sen. Robert Packwood, chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, urging senators considering tax reform legislation to preserve tax incentives now enjoyed by oil and gas investors.

During his weekly press conference, White noted that most Texas oil is sold under long-term contracts which aren't affected by this week's spot price plunge.

"My deepest concern is that as they further go down, the people will go back to being wasteful like before 1973," Bentsen said.

Already, he said, the government has moved to relax automobile mileage standards.

U.S. to perform flight exercises close to Libya

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The United States has ordered its two aircraft battle groups in the Mediterranean Sea southward toward Libya and notified civilian air traffic officials there the carriers will be conducting flight operations over the next week.

Pentagon sources said Thursday that the moves in no way presaged any type of military attack on Libya and that all operations would be conducted in international airspace and waters.

One official added, however, that the exercise was intended to demonstrate that the United States would not be intimidated by an increased Soviet naval presence in the region, nor by Libyan leader Col. Moammar Khadafy's decision to place his own military forces on alert and to pledge continuing support for Palestinian terrorists.

"It's asserting the right of passage in international airspace, with plenty of notice to everyone in advance of our peaceful intent," one source said.

Through diplomatic channels, meanwhile, the United States told the Soviets the situation was touchy

and urged care be taken, said a U.S. official who insisted on anonymity.

Another source said the flight operations had been approved earlier in the week by the National Security Council "as a warning that we're not forgetting these terrorist attacks. We know what Khadafy has done and we want him to know we're prepared to respond."

A White House official denied reports that the exercise was a deliberate provocation of Khadafy.

"Reports that it is a stern message on terrorism are just wrong," the official said, speaking on condition he not be identified. "It is not designed to provoke Libya. We are not flying over the Gulf of Sidra; we are not flying over the Libyan land mass."

Another senior official, commenting on an earlier published report that the administration hoped to goad Khadafy into attacking U.S. forces to give the United States an excuse for retaliating, dismissed the suggestion with an expletive.

"Anyone who says a thing like that doesn't know Ronald Reagan," the source said. "The point is to discour-

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Philippine president defends war record

Associated Press

MANILA, Philippines — President Ferdinand E. Marcos said Thursday he will ignore the "crazy individuals" who question the war record on which he built his political career.

He made the comment in a campaign speech to a crowd that included many World War II veterans, after The New York Times published an article citing U.S. Army investigations that found his claims of leading guerrillas against the Japanese to be fraudulent.

In its Thursday editions, the Times cited 400 pages of Army reports on Marcos' military career. The reports said Ang Mag Maharlika, the guerrilla group he says he led, never existed as a fighting organization and was not controlled adequately because of the desertion of its commanding officer — Marcos.

The president, 68, is said here to have won 28, 32 or 33 medals, depending on the Philippine government report accepted. He is described here as the most decorated soldier of the war and claims more honors than Gen. Douglas MacArthur, who directed the Allied war in the Pacific.

His war record is so important to Marcos that he talks about it in nearly every interview and speech, and in 1982 closed down a newspaper that printed articles challenging it.

He says he suffered five war wounds and tells war stories in his

campaign speeches for the Feb. 7 election, in which he is opposed by Corazon Aquino, widow of assassinated opposition leader Benigno Aquino.

Controversy over his military record is not new.

During a Marcos visit to Washington in September 1983, Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger gave him a case containing replicas of U.S. medals supposedly awarded to him, including two Silver Stars and a Distinguished Service Cross.

Three months later, the Washington Post published an article in which it said "an 18-month effort to verify Marcos' claims to high American decorations raises serious doubts about whether he actually was awarded them."

The paper said its investigation included searches of U.S. military archives, official military histories, personal memoirs and portions of Marcos' personal file at the U.S. military records center in St. Louis, and conversations with Filipino and American veterans.

A Filipino editor, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Thursday, "It is his most sensitive issue, the one that really hurts him as a macho man."

Marcos blamed his opponents for The New York Times article.

"Those who collaborated with the enemy have no right to question the

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