

Congressman defends vote for Contra aid

Associated Press
BROWNSVILLE — Rep. Solomon Ortiz, one of only two Mexican-American congressmen to support sending military aid to Nicaraguan rebels, said he voted his conscience and ignored politics.
 "Politically, the best thing for me to have done was to go along with the rest of the Hispanic caucus, vote against aid for the Contras, see if we could get a good alternative and then vote with the rest of them," Ortiz, D-Corpus Christi, said during a visit to Brownsville Saturday.
 Ortiz said he supported President Reagan's plea for \$100 million in aid to the Nicaraguan rebels because he feared an extended negotiating period in Congress would give the Sandinista government time to mount an offensive against the rebels.
 Ortiz said he and Rep. Manuel Lujan Jr., R-N.M., were the only Mexican-American congressmen to vote in favor of sending aid to the Contras.

New checkout time set for A&M residence halls

By D. ANN BEELER
Reporter
 Students living on campus this semester may be forced to find time between finals to pack their belongings, because they'll have to check out of their dorm rooms by 3 p.m. instead of 5 p.m. on the last day of finals.
 Ron Sasse, associate director of student affairs, said students will receive information about this new checkout deadline as soon as the resident advisers have been informed.
 "Due to a change in the finals scheduling, we're closing residence halls sooner," Sasse said.
 But according to Robert Lacey, Texas A&M registrar, there were no changes in the finals scheduling for this spring.
 Sasse said the new time change will make it easier for the staff to leave earlier and enable the custodial staff to get trash moved and things cleaned up.
 "If we finish up on Friday, we don't have to pay the custodial staff overtime," Sasse said. "Plus, the landfill is still open on Friday and we can get rid of all of the trash."

"If we extended the time limit or changed it to Saturday, we'd just be postponing our problems or moving Friday's problems to Saturday."
 — Ron Sasse, associate director of student affairs

Sasse said students who don't make the deadline will be charged a \$15 or \$20 administration fee.
 Vicki Neal, a fourth floor resident adviser in Hobby Hall, offered a different perspective on the deadline.
 Many girls put off moving out until the last minute, she says. Out of 60 girls, at least 35 to 40 of them will wait until 30 minutes before the checkout deadline to move their belongings, she says.
 "That last week is absolutely ridiculous!" Neal said. "We have to move out, inventory rooms and turn in our keys to the head resident by 12 noon on Saturday."

"I don't want to be here until Sunday. I want to leave here just as badly as everyone else."
 Sasse said that under the new deadline there still will be plenty of time for students to get packed and moved out.
 "I suppose everyone must assess his own circumstances," he said. "If we extended the time limit or changed it to Saturday, we'd just be postponing our problems or moving Friday's problems to Saturday."
 Pat Hoffman, resident adviser for Hart Hall, said the ruling won't affect that many students.

Hoffman says if a student would pack during dead week and during finals week, packing wouldn't be such a problem.
 "I think if you moved the deadline to Saturday at three in the afternoon, someone would have a problem with that," he added.
 Jay Halpin, a Puryear Hall resident adviser, said if a student needs to stay late due to extreme circumstances, he may seek special permission to spend the night and leave the following morning.

Autumn Hills deliberations continue

Associated Press
SAN ANTONIO — Despite twice reporting a deadlock, a jury was ordered to return Monday and resume deliberations in the murder-by-neglect trial of a nursing home corporation and four of its current and former employees.
 State District Judge Don Morgan gave the panel Palm Sunday off after more than 25 hours of deliberations in the case against Autumn Hills Convalescent Centers Inc.
 The nursing home and the employees are charged in the Nov. 20, 1978, death of Elnora Breed. The 77-year-old woman died 47 days after she was admitted to an Autumn Hills nursing home in Texas City.

The state contends the nursing home provided such poor care that Breed died of starvation and infection. The defense, however, claims Breed died of cancer.
 Jurors sent two notes to Morgan Friday indicating they were deadlocked, but the judge instructed them to continue deliberating. The jury received the case Wednesday.
 Defense attorney Roy Barrera said the jury's request to recess Sunday indicates "these people are no longer in a deliberative mood."
 "Obviously, they are not close (to a verdict)," he said, adding he thinks the jury is hopelessly deadlocked.
 But prosecutor Jim Vollers said the jury has "not indicated that they

are deadlocked. It'd be my guess that they are making progress."
 The jurors asked Saturday to look at the credentials of the individual defendants, a chart outlining the chain of command in the corporation and certain testimony from Autumn Hills president Robert Gay.
 The testimony requested focused on Gay's knowledge of state health department inspections of the Texas City nursing home. The health department withheld funds and put the nursing home on probation several times in 1978.
 The jury also asked to look at a report prepared by a prosecution witness who did a study of the amount of Ensure, or liquid nutrient, on

hand at the nursing home in 1978. Breed's doctor ordered her to be fed 600 calories of the nutrient through a nasal tube daily.
 The report said there were many days the nursing home had no Ensure on hand, but nurses charted it was given to patients.
 Morgan earlier instructed jurors they could also find the defendants guilty of involuntary manslaughter. A murder conviction would carry a penalty of five to 99 years or life for the individuals and monetary damages for the corporation.
 Involuntary manslaughter carries a penalty of two to 10 years in prison.

Dangers of hydrogen sulfide gas addressed

Associated Press
ODESSA — In farming country, it causes lunging. In rayon plants, it causes "spinner's eye." And in the oil fields of West Texas and around the world, hydrogen sulfide can kill.
 The by-product from a cracked injection well nearly drove Debra Perrin insane after it asphyxiated seven of her family members and a friend in a February 1975 tragedy in Denver City, 90 miles north of Odessa.
 "I've got a good God," said Perrin, 31, who now lives in Big Spring. "If I didn't, I'd be crazy right now."
 More than 10 years later, she has finally accepted her loss. But she can't accept what she calls the public's lack of concern about the constant menace posed by hydrogen sulfide, the Odessa American reported recently.
 The foul-smelling but invisible compound permeates the oil fields of West Texas, and safety expert King Hyde calls it an insidious gas because it can kill people before they know they have even been exposed.

Hyde, who owns Standby International, a Midland-Odessa company that manufactures and leases safety equipment for oil field use, said although its odor is pungent — like rotten eggs, some say — hydrogen sulfide damps a victim's sense of smell at about the same time it reaches fatal concentrations.
 In its lethality, hydrogen sulfide ranks just behind hydrogen cyanide, the deadliest of natural gases, and is about six times more toxic than carbon monoxide.
 About 20,000 people in unincorporated west Odessa make their homes among oil and gas wells, pipelines and tank batteries — prime candidates for a hydrogen sulfide leak, the newspaper reported.
 Several residents in the Odessa area have complained about the compound that is so corrosive that warning signs have to be specially coated so they won't disintegrate.
 Hydrogen sulfide's long-term effects are still unclear, although a 1977 National Institute for

Occupational Safety and Health report said it can cause brain and nerve damage.
 But while that report urged further study, nothing substantial has been done, officials say.
 The federal government years ago recommended stricter standards for worker exposure to the gas, but never pushed the proposal. Today's U.S. exposure standard is nearly 20 years old and is double the level permitted in such countries as the Soviet Union.
 When amendments to state hydrogen sulfide rules were proposed in 1984, 25 oil and gas producers spoke on the record against them and seven others took a neutral position.
 But although no one spoke in favor of the stricter safety measures during the Railroad Commission's public hearings, the commissioners adopted the new rules in June 1985.
 Those guidelines require well and pipeline operators and processors to train their employees to deal with hydrogen sulfide and to use only servicing companies whose workers have received similar safety training.

cut here

Defensive Driving Course
 Mar. 25 & 26 Mar. 31 & April 1
College Station Hilton
 Pre-register by phone: 693-8178
 Ticket deferral and 10% insurance discount

cut here

CAMPUS INTERVIEWS FOR CONSTRUCTION JOBS
April 4, 1986

Martin K. Eby Construction Company, Inc., one of the top 200 construction companies in the U.S., will be at Texas A&M on April 4 to interview May Construction Science graduates and Civil Engineers with construction options. We have both field engineering and estimating positions to fill.

Our company does heavy civil, industrial and building construction work nationwide. Sign up in the Placement Office to interview and hear about our job opportunities.

EEO/m/f/h



HALLEY'S COMET
 FILM DEVELOPING SPECIAL

\$1.89	\$2.49
12 EXPOSURE	15 DISC EXPOSURE
\$3.29	\$4.49
24 EXPOSURE	36 EXPOSURE

C-41 Color print film, 3 1/2 x 5 Single prints only
 Offer good March 24th—March 28th 1986

PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES AT GOODWIN HALL
 &
 TEXAS A&M BOOKSTORE IN MSC

"...jazzy, snazzy playing and outright virtuosity."
 —Seattle Times

"These duo-pianists put Brahms next to Ragtime" wrote the New York Times of Katia and Marielle Labéque. MSC OPAS will present the Labéque Sisters March 27 at Texas A&M Rudder Auditorium.

Sisters Katia and Marielle have performed together since their childhood on the southwest coast of France. Both won first prize in the annual competitive examinations at the Paris Conservatoire in 1968. They have delighted audiences and critics all over the world with their music.

Their extraordinary music radiates freshness and excitement with insightful renditions of Mozart, Brahms, Stravinsky, Gershwin and many Ragtime composers.

The MSC Opera and Performing Arts Society brings great performers from all over the world. Don't miss the magic! Tickets are \$8.75 for non-students and \$7.25 for students at the MSC Box Office, 845-1234. VISA and MasterCard accepted.

The Association of Former Students

Spring Senior Induction Banquet

Monday & Tuesday, April 7 & 8, 1986
6:30 p.m.
MSC Room 224



All May graduates are invited to attend. Complimentary tickets will be available as long as they last, Mon., March 31, Tues., April 1 and Wed., April 2 in the lobby of the Forsyth Alumni Center.

This is your invitation to attend the formal induction of all Class of '86 graduates. August grads Welcome.

TICKETS GIVEN ON FIRST COME-FIRST SERVED BASIS