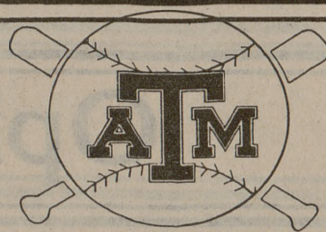


Governments find new ways to combat rise of terrorism

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Johnson hates losing as much as being away from family

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The Battalio

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House votes to weaken gun control

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House voted overwhelmingly Thursday to weaken the gun control law passed in the aftermath of the assassinations of Robert F. Kennedy and Martin Luther King Jr., but retained a ban on interstate handgun sales.

The vote came after hundreds of uniformed policemen roamed the Capitol as lobbyists.

The key vote was 286-136 and the House followed with a 292-130 tally to formally send the legislation to the Senate.

The Senate, which passed a bill last year to allow interstate handgun sales and ease other controls, can accept the House bill or insist on a House-Senate conference.

For weeks, the legislation produced high drama, climaxing with police from 21 states arriving in uniform to confront the experienced lobbying teams from the National Rifle Association and allied groups.

In the end, both sides can claim victory on the bill sponsored by Rep. Harold L. Volkmer, D-Mo. — but the gun lobby more so.

NRA chief lobbyist Wayne LaPierre pointed to the bill's lifting of an interstate sales ban for rifles and shotguns and federal guarantees that all lawfully held weapons can be taken — unloaded and inaccessible — across state lines.

The NRA also approves, he said, of provisions that would make it more difficult to prosecute unintentional gun law violations, allow dealers to transfer guns from inventories to their private collections, and force the government to return seized weapons after an acquittal.

Handgun control groups and police organizations can point to the interstate sales ban, adopted 233-184 in an amendment that reversed a defeat on the issue on Wednesday; and a unanimously-adopted prohibition on future possession or transfer of machine guns. Both measures were proposed by Rep. William J. Hughes, D-N.J., who championed the gun control forces' cause on the House floor.

The Volkmer bill was adopted with 128 Democratic and 158 Republican votes, while 118 Democrats and 18 Republicans were opposed.

Hubert Williams, president of the Police Foundation, commented after the vote, "The core of the Volkmer bill was interstate sales, and they lost that one. There still are many defects. On the whole, it is bad legislation."

But John M. Snyder, chief lobbyist of the Citizens Committee for the Right to Keep and Bear Arms, called the vote "an historic victory for America's tens of millions of law-abiding gun-owners, a smashing success for a genuine people's lobby."

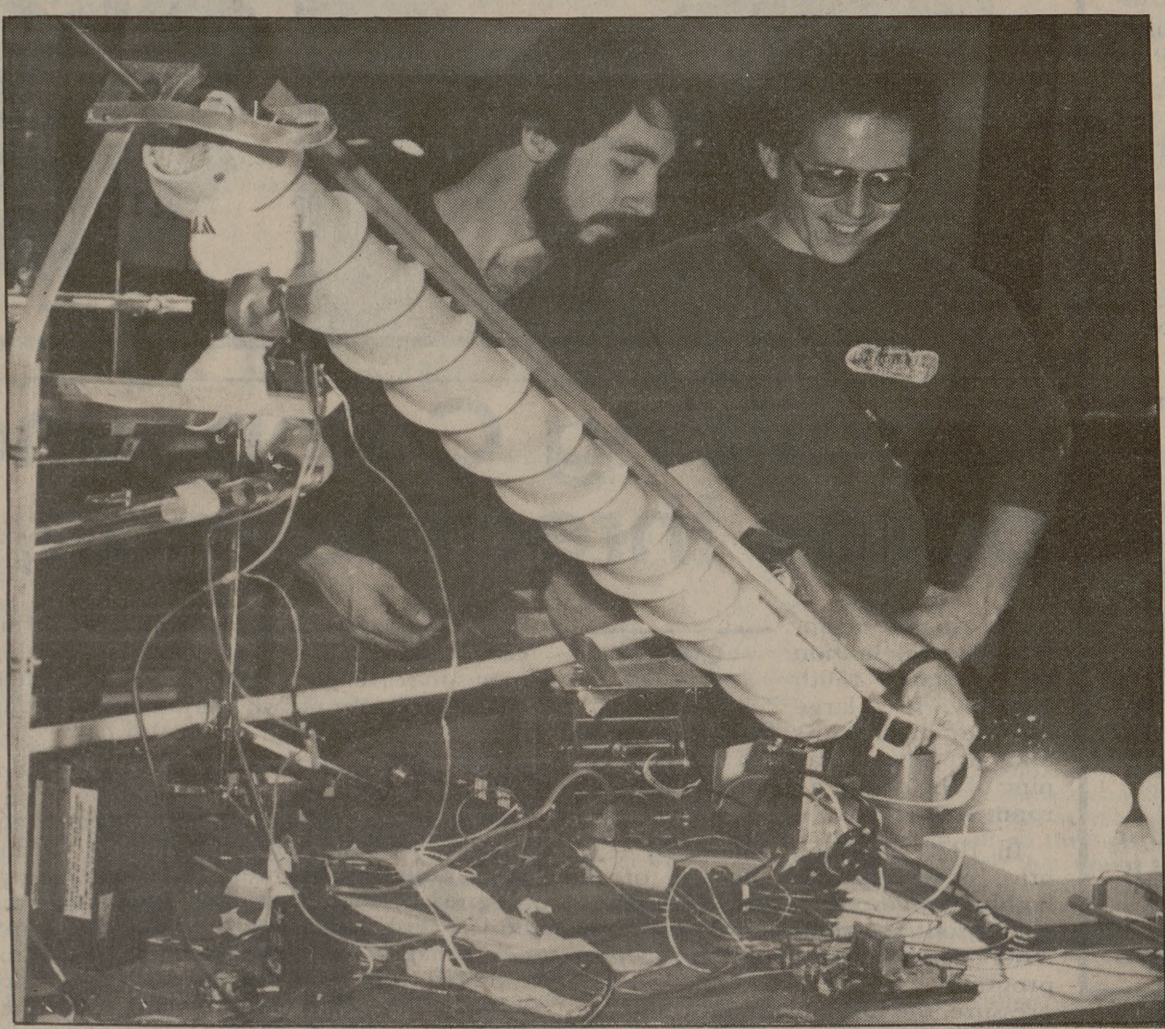


Photo by Greg Bailey

But what does it do?

Tracy Sligar and David Mabius, senior electrical engineering majors, demonstrate their "Atomic Fireball Counter." They and two friends spent

about 10 hours Wednesday night building the machine, which moves jawbreakers up a PVC tube and counts them.

Divestment

A&M regents 'can't divest to make moral statement'

By Mona Palmer
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M Board of Regents is not in the business of making moral statements through financial divestment and their job is to maximize the University's investments, says Bill Presnal, executive secretary for the board.

Presnal's statement was made in response to Board Chairman David Eller's Jan. 14 letter to Chancellor Arthur G. Hansen denying Students Against Apartheid's request for a meeting with the regents.

The organization filed a request with the board Oct. 28 to discuss divestment of \$2.9 million A&M has invested in South African-related companies. The group examined the University's investment portfolio and totaled the funds invested by South African-related companies to obtain this figure.

But Presnal disagrees with the numbers.

"That \$3 million figure. . . nobody knows where it came from," he says. "That's a fictitious figure. No-

body knows what the investments are."

The organization also requested divestment to make a moral statement, which is not within the board's purview, the letter says.

Presnal says the regents do have the final say in University investments and could order the University investor to withdraw funds from South African companies.

But, he says, they must do it for financial, not moral, reasons. Presnal says divestment for moral reasons is a matter of public policy and should be addressed by the Texas Legislature.

"It's the board's responsibility to maximize its investments," he says. "It's not their responsibility to disregard the legislative policy and start making exceptions."

"Also, their investments should be prudent. I believe that's the law."

Under the "prudent man" rule, the board is not allowed to invest in highly speculative investments.

"No one has ever . . . said an investment in a company that does a small percentage of business in

South Africa violates the prudent man rule," he adds.

"The question is whether or not they're acting properly. I'm not talking about legality. Yes, they could direct Milton Thompson (investment analyst) to not make certain investments . . . but I'm not sure they'd be following the intent or the letter of the law."

Norman Muraya, president of Students Against Apartheid, says the organization will go to the legislature if it has to, but the board is the more immediate source.

He adds, "I still do not believe that they could not divest if they wanted to."

"We're more interested in a moral reaction to the situation than a moral statement on apartheid," he says.

Sam Aletan, the organization's vice president, says, "We should be able to decide on our own morality, and we can't let money rule our lives all of the time."

"We want our money out of South Africa and we are not going to settle for anything else."

Deregulation said to save money

Natural gas decontrol sought

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Reagan administration sought to remove the only lingering controls on natural gas prices Thursday as Texas Gov. Mark White said the administration "is leading us down the road to the devastation of our national security" by not imposing a tariff on imported oil.

Energy Secretary John Herrington told the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission the administration's decontrol proposal, which he said would pump \$22 billion into the economy, "would promote competition, increase production of old (currently controlled) gas, eliminate market distortions and lower prices."

White, in town to testify in favor of the administration's natural gas deregulation proposal, told a news conference that the United States is "weak" when it sends its vice president to the Middle East "on bended knee, bowing to Mecca," to discuss stability of the world oil market.

Herrington's appearance coincided with the administration's request to Congress to, in effect,

eliminate the energy regulatory commission's price-controlling authority by decontrolling, through legislation, the roughly 40 percent of natural gas still sold at controlled prices.

The administration said its program could save consumers up to \$45 a heating season by fostering competition.

"Some of the gas, obviously, that is regulated now is not being sold because the price is too low," Herrington said. "If you let the price rise on that gas, which is substantial, you will end up with people wanting to sell that gas. Since there is more available, you will also bring down the sales price of higher-priced gas that is being sold now."

Herrington led off two days of hearings by the commission on the proposal that FERC raise the several categories of controlled prices to the highest category — \$2.56 per thousand cubic feet — well above the spot market price for uncontrolled gas.

The proposed price ceiling changes would

mean that costs to consumers would fall an average of about 20 cents per thousand cubic feet each year for the next decade. The average residential price for natural gas is now an average \$5.72 per thousand cubic feet.

The proposal also would make available about 33 trillion cubic feet of low-cost reserves that would never be produced under current regulations, he said.

Freeing price-controlled gas would lower costs because producers, to raise prices, would have to negotiate with their customers, the secretary said. But Herrington predicted that customers would be unwilling to pay more than the market price and would put strong pressure on other suppliers of uncontrolled gas, thus bringing average prices down, Herrington said.

The predictions were challenged by representatives of state regulatory bodies in New York, California and the District of Columbia.

Sims named SG president

By Frank Smith
Staff Writer

Mike Sims was declared winner of the runoff election for 1986-87 Texas A&M student body president Thursday, a result he called "a victory for the students."

Sims, a junior agricultural education major, defeated Mike Hachtman, a senior industrial distribution major, by 187 votes.

Of the 1,505 ballots cast in the Wednesday election, Sims received 813 votes, or 56.4 percent, to Hachtman's 626, or 43.4 percent. The remaining 0.2 percent didn't vote for a presidential candidate.

Sims said he thought the results reflected voters' interest in his "Aggie Plan '86" platform, adding that his name was painted no more than five inches high on any of his campaign signs.

"I think the students responded to something more than a pretty face and vague ideas," he said. Sims added that he thought it was a "smooth, clean campaign. Everybody stayed aboveboard."

Hachtman said he tried to run a campaign stressing his own strengths rather than focusing a negative campaign at Sims, a strategy he said he didn't think Sims stuck with.

"I felt he gave up campaigning for himself and started campaigning against me," Hachtman said. Following the announcement of

the results, which were made at the Lawrence Sullivan Ross statue, Sims and several supporters asked how many members of the Corps of Cadets had voted.

"That was one of our biggest stresses," Sims said. "We felt I was strongest in the Corps."

A total of 362 cadets voted.

Chris Gavras, election co-commissioner, said he thought voter turnout was comparable to that of last year's runoff election.

He said the rainy weather didn't help the turnout, especially at the Sterling C. Evans nighttime polling site.

"But overall we're pretty happy," he said.

In other runoff results, Scott Williams defeated Jared Hurta for the Class of '89 presidency. Williams captured 64 percent of the vote to Hurta's 35.7 percent.

Ten Student Senate seats also were filled in the runoff election.

Newly-elected Ward II senators are Doug Baumann, Kelly Crowell, Rudy Montoya and Virginia Standefer.

The other senators chosen were: Randall Kolb, geosciences undergraduate at-large; James Johnson, graduate agriculture; Hai On, architecture undergraduate at-large; Amy Lovett, science undergraduate at-large; and John Bryant and Greg Parnell, geoscience, science and architecture graduates at-large.

Parents' Weekend

The following is the Parents' Weekend schedule for Saturday and Sunday:

Saturday	MSC Hospitality Information and Tours of Campus
Vet Class '89 Open Horse Show Freeman Arena 8 a.m.	(Every Half Hour) 1st Floor MSC 10 a.m. - noon
Presentation of Business Simulation Results by the College of Business Administration Fellows 105 Blocker 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.	Sale of Litmus, the Student Literary Magazine 1st Floor MSC 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Federation of Aggie Mothers' Club Boutique Rudder Exhibit Hall 8:30 a.m.	MSC Camera Print Sale 1st Floor MSC 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Association of Former Students and Class of '86 Coffee and Class Gift Presentation 206 MSC 9 a.m.	College of Business Reception 2nd Floor Blocker 11 a.m. - noon
RHA Parents' Day Coffee 701 Rudder 9 a.m.	Company D-2 Barbecue Sons of Herman Lodge 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Federation of Aggie Mothers' Club Meeting Rudder Theater 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Waco Hometown Club Picnic Hensel Park #1 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m.
	Neeley Hall Potluck Picnic Location TBA Noon - 2 p.m.
	Commons Parents' Day Barbecue Commons Area Noon - 3 p.m.

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Southland Corp. ends adult magazine sales

DALLAS (AP) — Southland Corp.'s sudden reversal Thursday of longtime policy of selling adult magazines in its 7-Eleven stores angered officials with Penthouse and Playboy magazines, pleased the Rev. Jerry Falwell and caught analysts by surprise.

Falwell claimed the action would put the pornography business on its knees.

President Jere W. Thompson said in a written statement, after the May issues of Playboy, Penthouse and Forum are sold, the magazines no longer will be available in Southland's nationwide 4,500 company-owned 7-Eleven convenience stores. Southland also will encourage the 6,600 7-Elevens operated by fran-

chise to adopt the same policy, he said.

Testimony during the special hearings conducted by the U.S. Attorney General's Commission on Pornography prompted the decision, Thompson said.

"The testimony before that commission indicates a growing public awareness and concern over a possible connection between adult magazines and crime, violence and child abuse," his statement said. "Southland is very sensitive to our position as a leadership company and responsible corporate citizen."

In Chicago, Playboy spokesman David Salyers expressed disappoint-

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