

Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 83 No. 141 USPS 075360 12 pages

College Station, Texas

Thursday, April 24, 1986



Photo by Tom Ownbey

Wheelin' And Dealin'

Tom Dulaney, a freshman from Corpus Christi, picks out the bike he wants to bid on in the bike auction held near Rudder Fountain. Dula-

ney said \$50 was as high as he would bid at the auction, which was sponsored by the Texas A&M Living Historians.

Libya claims U.S. planning terrorist acts

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — A Libyan official claimed Wednesday the United States and Israel are planning terrorist actions in Europe that will be blamed on Moammar Khadafy's government as a pretext for future military attacks on Libya. The information came from intelligence sources in "friendly states, including European countries," Information Minister Mohammed Sharafeddin told reporters. He gave no further indication of his sources. Sharafeddin said the attacks would happen "within the next hours," an Arabic phrase that means "in the near future."

"This information stresses that Mossad (Israeli intelligence), together with American intelligence, want to conduct operations in Europe and they want to put the responsibility upon the Jamahiriya (Libya)," Sharafeddin said. In Washington, White House spokesman Larry Speakes said: "The CIA is not causing terrorist incidents in Europe."

The Libyan minister said the alleged plot's objectives were "to create a lack of confidence in the European public opinion which is sympathetic with the Jamahiriya, especially after the barbaric American aggression... and to create and find a justification for aggression, especially after the failure of the first aggression."

"For this reason, we want to make the public opinion aware of this campaign which is staged by Mossad and American intelligence."

When asked what sort of attacks were planned, Sharafeddin replied: "Operations similar to the West Berlin nightclub bombing."

An American sergeant and a Turkish woman were killed in the bombing April 5 and 230 people were injured, 63 of them Americans. The United States says the attack on the La Belle disco, a haunt of American soldiers, was planned by Libya.

Sharafeddin was asked how many attacks there would be and replied: "You may ask Mossad and American intelligence. They know the number."

Earlier Wednesday evening, the information minister told foreign journalists they must leave the country by the end of the week.

About 250 foreigners were admitted to the North African country after the U.S. air raids April 15 on Tripoli and Benghazi. They were kept in one hotel, taken on carefully guided tours and shown what Khadafy wanted them to see.

"Your mission is over," Sharafeddin told them.

He said no more tours were scheduled and the government needs the hotel space.

He denied statements by other of-

ficials that the expulsions were ordered in retaliation for actions by Western governments against Libya.

Other officials told foreign journalists earlier in the day that they must leave immediately, and some did.

They said the foreigners were ordered out in response to such actions as the Common Market's imposition of sanctions on Libyan diplomats and nationals, and Britain's arrest and planned expulsion of 21 Libyan students.

Common Market justice ministers plan to meet Thursday in the Netherlands with U.S. Attorney General Edwin Meese to coordinate and improve measures against terrorism, U.S. and Dutch officials said.

State jobless rate lower for March

AUSTIN (AP) — The statewide average unemployment rate for March was 8.4 percent compared to 8.8 percent in February.

The March rates of unemployment in some of the urban areas of Texas by the Texas Employment Commission for March are compared with revised February figures (in parenthesis).

Dallas 5.4	(5.7)
Austin 5.5	(5.4)
Fort Worth-Arlington 5.9	(6.3)
Bryan-College Station 6.1	(6.2)
Amarillo 6.6	(7.1)
San Angelo 6.9	(6.0)
San Antonio 6.9	(7.3)
Sherman-Denison 6.9	(7.1)
Lubbock 7.0	(7.4)
Waco 7.1	(7.2)
Killeen 7.6	(8.0)
Wichita Falls 8.1	(8.1)
Tyler 8.2	(8.7)
Abilene 8.3	(7.6)
Midland 8.3	(7.8)
Houston 9.2	(9.5)
Victoria 9.2	(8.8)
Texarkana 9.5	(9.9)
Brazoria 10.3	(11.0)
Odessa 10.4	(9.2)
Corpus Christi 10.8	(11.5)
Longview-Marshall 11.5	(11.9)
El Paso 11.6	(12.1)
Laredo 17.1	(18.6)
Brownsville-Harlingen 17.5	(18.8)
McAllen-Edinburg-Mission 21.5	(23.5)

Government scraps pass laws for blacks

South Africa announces reform

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — The white government formally announced Wednesday that it will make the most sweeping reform in generations of apartheid by scrapping dozens of laws that restrict the movements of blacks.

But it said blacks still will not be permitted to live in white areas.

Anti-apartheid leaders complained that the reforms, while welcome, do not address the demands of South Africa's 24 million voteless blacks for a share of political power.

In other action, Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee announced Wednesday that the sentences of at least 20,000 prisoners will be reduced by six months in a general amnesty to be declared May 31.

He said the amnesty, to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of South Africa, will not apply to people imprisoned for offenses related to racial unrest, robbery, rape or assault.

A total of 34 laws and proclamations, some dating back 60 years, will be repealed when Parliament, dominated by the government's National Party, enacts the proposed legislation.

Enforcement of the "pass laws," which bar blacks without permits from living or working in white areas, was halted Wednesday, and the government began releasing prisoners jailed on pass offenses. The government said a maximum of

245 prisoners were affected by the move.

Millions of blacks have been arrested under the pass laws.

A policy statement submitted to Parliament in Cape Town described the laws as "a relic of the past." It

said the system, called influx control, would be replaced by "planned, positive urbanization" involving a uniform identity document for all races.

Blacks will be free to move from

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High court urged to uphold deficit law

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court was urged Wednesday to uphold a law requiring a balanced federal budget by 1991 because the deficit is "a growing cancer that may soon become inoperable."

The justices, refereeing a major constitutional confrontation between Congress and the White House, heard two hours of arguments over the Gramm-Rudman act. A decision is expected by July.

Several justices voiced doubts about the validity of the law's central provision aimed at forcing automatic cuts in the deficit.

But Lloyd N. Cutler, who defended the law, referred to the na-

tion's spreading red ink as "a growing cancer that may soon become inoperable" and imperil the nation's economic health.

Cutler, who was White House counsel in the Carter administration, represented the comptroller general, whose office is the focus of the case.

The comptroller general, appointed by the president for a 15-year term and removable only by Congress, has the key job under Gramm-Rudman of determining deficit-reduction levels.

A special three-judge federal court ruled Feb. 7 that Gramm-Rudman breaches the separation of pow-

ers between the executive and legislative branches because of Bowsher's role. The panel said the law, in effect, empowers an officer of Congress to perform an executive function.

Solicitor General Charles Fried, the Reagan administration's top courtroom lawyer, urged the justices to uphold the lower court's ruling.

"Here we have an officer (the comptroller general) who gives orders to the president," Fried said. "These powers are entirely novel. This grant of authority violates the Constitution."

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College, computer store conflicts not uncommon

By Mike Sullivan
Staff Writer

The friction between Texas A&M's Micro Center and local computer dealers isn't unique to A&M, and many universities around the nation have reduced the tension in their communities by revising the programs to include area dealers.

Larry Berry, president of KLS Computers, filed suit Jan. 29 claiming Bill Wasson, A&M's vice chancellor, created a retail outlet on campus that competes unfairly with local computer dealers.

In Champaign, Ill., which neighbors the University of Illinois at Urbana, the effect of the micro center program prompted a lawsuit and a revision of the university's original plan.

Champaign has a population of about 103,000, including 35,000 students, which is about the same as the Bryan-College Station area.

Retailers in Champaign were voicing complaints similar to College Station dealers.

Computer dealers in Champaign say Illinois' micro center captured the lucrative student market with their low prices, causing area retail computer sales to fall off drastically.

Mark Sapoznik, business manager of Illinois' center, says "Some local dealers filed a suit claiming the operation constituted unfair competition with the private sector."

Sapoznik said the suit was withdrawn after the university agreed to close their center and work through the local dealers, allowing them to represent the university as agents.

Students must now go to local dealers to buy computers, Sapoznik says. He says students give a cashier's check to the dealer, and the dealer takes the check to the university and buys the computer for the student.

The dealer is reimbursed a percentage of the list price by the university for their service, Sapoznik says.

"The net effect is that the students are probably paying 2 percent more based on

the list price," Sapoznik says. "For example, on a \$2,000 system, students are paying about \$40 more."

Sapoznik says he doesn't like the new program because when the university was purchasing and selling computers through its own outlet, the process was more efficient and prices were lower.

Computer retailers in Champaign aren't completely satisfied with Illinois' new arrangement either.

Ed MacCamack, of Computer Resolutions in Champaign, says the new program is better than the old one, but he would rather have the university stay out of the computer business altogether.

"I just don't think universities belong in the computer business," MacCamack says.

He says that in a town with a relatively small population, such as Champaign or College Station, the general public won't pay retail prices because they know students can get computers for close to cost.

"When students are paying close to cost and a regular customer comes in and I try

to charge him retail, he just laughs," MacCamack says.

Computer retailers in Ann Arbor, Mich., which has a population of about 107,000, including 35,000 students, caused the University of Michigan to close its center for the same reasons.

Computer retailers in Ann Arbor say the university took their student customer base away when they opened the center.

Conrad Mason, director of Michigan's program, says their center had been in operation since 1982, but was finally forced to close in February because of increasing pressure from local dealers.

Mason says the new program works through local dealers much like Illinois' program.

John Bergren, service manager for Computer-Madic in Ann Arbor, says Michigan's new program only includes certain dealers, and they aren't one of them.

Bergren says that because the new program doesn't include them, Computer-Madic has not regained any sales.

"We're not included, so it's definitely had a negative impact on us," Bergren says.

While universities with micro center programs in smaller towns are trying to cope with local dealer pressure, university micro centers in larger towns are enjoying the rights of regular retailers.

Tom May, technical support for the University of Texas' center, says their center is run like a regular computer store.

"We try to act as much like a retail outlet as we can," May says.

Austin has a population of about 455,000, including 50,000 UT students.

Computer retailers in Austin claim the large population lessens the impact of UT's micro center on local business.

Nancy Holmes, educational sales representative for Computer Craft Austin, says they have two stores located close to UT, but their sales haven't been noticeably affected.

A&M survives rollercoaster season