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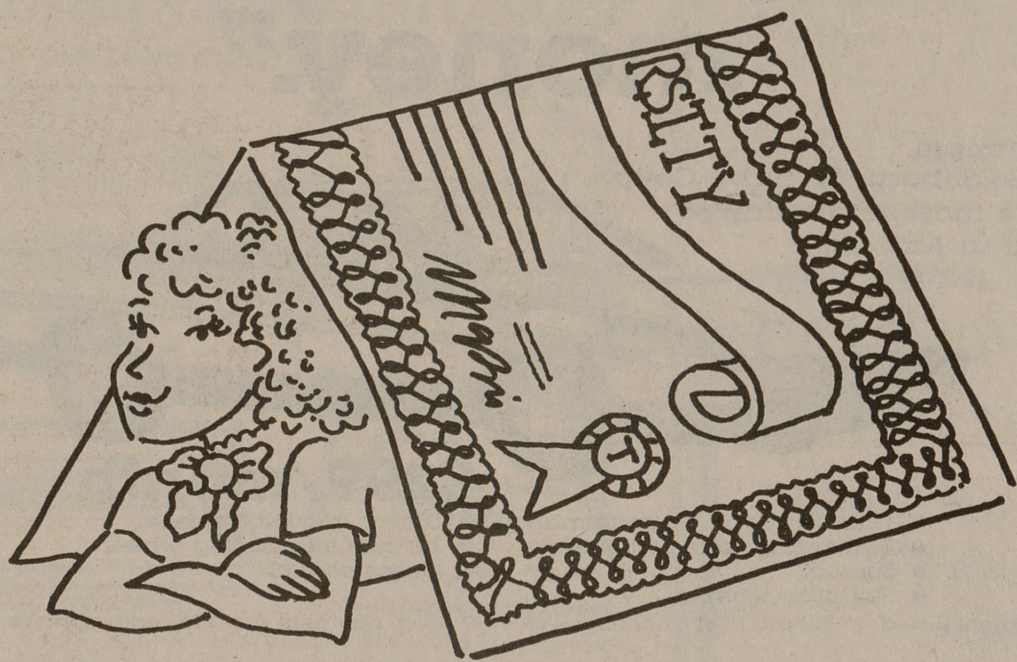
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El Paso project may cause I-10 traffic jam

EL PASO (AP) — The traffic jam that ate El Paso is coming soon to this West Texas city's stretch of Interstate 10, the main artery from Jacksonville, Fla., to Los Angeles.

Whether it be commuters in this dusty border city or vacationers making cross-country trips this summer, a project to widen part of Interstate 10 from three to four lanes will slow them down faster than a highway patrolman in a rear-view mirror.

In fact, the \$25 million project to expand a 2.9-mile section of the highway is expected to ground traffic to a crawl, officials said.

Local residents can skirt the section under construction by taking side streets or vary their commuting hours to and from work to avoid rush-hour traffic.

El Paso, spread along the north bank of the Rio Grande, is nearly bisected into east and west by the Franklin Mountains, which end just north of I-10. The only quick way to get from one side of the city to the other is on the freeway.

The project, funded by federal and state monies, will take about 2½ years. But six months before it is finished, expansion of another section of I-10 is scheduled to start. It will be years before I-10 is free of concrete barricades and yellow flashing lights.

"We're not going to close it down," said Betty Best, a spokeswoman for the local office of the Texas Highways and Public Transportation Department. "There'll still be three lanes going in each direction. They'll just be a little narrower."



Photo by Stephanie No...

Owl's Well

Craig Farquhar, a wildlife graduate student at Texas A&M, holds a young great-horned owl, which he captured from a ledge outside the library. Dr. Keith Arnold, a professor of wildlife sciences, banded the owl and then returned it to the ledge.

Reform

(continued from page 1)

one city or town to another seeking work but will be allowed to live only in authorized residential areas, not with the country's five million whites.

Anglican Bishop Desmond Tutu, one of the country's best-known black leaders, cautioned blacks to "be aware of the small print" in the government policy statement.

"Some form of influx control may be brought in through the back door," said Tutu, who won the 1984 Nobel Peace Prize and has just been

elected archbishop of Cape Town.

Murphy Morobe, a spokesman for the anti-apartheid United Democratic Front coalition, questioned whether the government would desegregate neighborhoods and give blacks a significant political role.

President P.W. Botha "still has to answer on the question of political representation for blacks at the decision-making level," Morobe said.

Reaction from white moderates was more enthusiastic. Colin Eglin, leader of the opposition Progressive Federal Party, predicted an economic upturn for the country when

it became "free from the rest of the past... and imbued with a new positive spirit."

The South African Institute for Race Relations, a private organization, said abolition of the pass along with official recognition of black unions in 1979, was "the most important reform in South Africa since World War II."

The government's policy statement said the government would "protect and defend the rights of all on the grounds of race or color... acceptable."

Gramm-Rudman

(continued from page 1)

Several justices seemed to agree that the comptroller general is a legislative officer, not an independent agent as defenders of Gramm-Rudman insist.

Steven R. Ross, representing the bipartisan leadership of the House, said Congress picked Bowsher for the key role in Gramm-Rudman out of painstaking compromise.

He was chosen to set the deficit-reduction figures "in order to insure these calculations were walled off from political considerations," Ross said.

But Justice Sandra Day O'Connor asked, "Wouldn't you concede the

historic role of the comptroller general is an employee of the legislative branch?"

Justice William H. Rehnquist, recalling his days as a Justice Department lawyer in the Nixon administration, added: "If the president wanted a favorable opinion, he went to the attorney general. If Congress wanted a favorable opinion, it went to the comptroller general."

Cutler argued that the powers granted the comptroller general are not unique, noting that several federal agencies headed by officers who serve fixed terms and may not be removed at will by the president.

Cutler said if the Gramm-Rudman law is declared unconstitutional, "you would take over the

side" many other quasi-independent federal agencies, including the Federal Reserve Board and the Federal Communications Commission.

Michael Davidson, the Senate general counsel, said the comptroller general performs as "a scorekeeper under Gramm-Rudman. The power over deficit reduction is retained by the president and Congress, he contended.

While the case will be decided in issues obscure to many, the case will have far-reaching practical sequences.

The deficit for this fiscal year is estimated at \$202.8 billion. Gramm-Rudman law requires the figure to be no higher than \$190 billion for the next fiscal year.



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