

Activists win right to challenge
Texas nuclear plant's permit

— Page 3

Radiation from Chernobyl
reaches U.S. in low amounts

— Page 7

Boston 'beans' Atlanta 132-99
to advance to NBA semifinals

— Page 9

Texas A&M The Battalion

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Photo by Lisa Talley

In The Bag

Norman Godwin, a senior at Bryan High School, sacks groceries at a store in College Station.

Gun control bill passed by Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate gave final congressional approval Tuesday night to legislation that would ease restrictions of the 1968 Gun Control Act but maintain an 18-year-old ban on interstate sales of handguns.

The Senate passage by voice vote sent the bill to the president.

Supporters of the gun lobby and handgun control advocates worked out an agreement that later will modify some of the gun bill. The key change would impose restrictions on the transportation of weapons across state lines.

Sen. James McClure, R-Idaho, chief Senate sponsor of the gun bill, said President Reagan probably will sign the legislation.

The legislation culminates an 18-year effort by the National Rifle Association and allied groups to change the gun law, which was enacted after the assassinations of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr.

The NRA said the bill was too restrictive for gun dealers and millions of law-abiding owners of firearms.

If Reagan signs the bill, interstate sales of rifles and shotguns would be allowed for the first time

in 18 years. Dealers in one state could sell to customers from another state, provided laws from both states are followed.

However, the current ban that prevents similar handgun sales would remain in effect.

After lobbying by the pro-gun groups on one side and handgun control groups and police organizations on the other the House voted 292-130 April 10 to send the legislation to the Senate.

While the NRA got most of the language it wanted in the bill, the retention of interstate handgun sales was a major victory for the handgun control lobbyists.

The gun control groups also won a ban on future manufacture of machine guns for the general public.

Other provisions in the main gun bill that went to the president would:

- Limit federal inspections of dealers to one unannounced visit a year.

- Result in automatic prison terms for use of a firearm during commission of violent federal crimes and federal drug trafficking offenses. The sentences must be served in addition to any imposed for the crime itself.

- Limit forfeiture of guns to weapons individually identified as involved in or used in specified crimes. After acquittals, the weapons must be returned.

- Reduce unintentional violations of the gun law from felonies to misdemeanors.

The modifications agreed to by all sides were included in a separate Senate bill, sponsored by Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., that was quickly passed by voice and sent to the House.

According to McClure, the NRA and the chief House sponsor of the gun bill, Rep. Harold L. Volkmer, D-Mo., agreed to support the modifications.

The key modification involves interstate transportation. Under the House and Senate gun bills, weapons may be taken across state lines for legitimate purposes provided the firearms are unloaded and neither the weapons nor ammunition are accessible.

The Thurmond language says the guns and bullets cannot be in the passenger compartment and if there is no separate compartment must be in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console.

U.S. achieves summit goals, Reagan says

TOKYO (AP) — President Reagan hailed the 12th annual summit of industrial democracies as a "triumph in Tokyo," saying the meetings produced a strong measure of allied unity on economic, agricultural and anti-terrorism issues. "All that we sought at the summit was achieved," he said Wednesday.

Leaders of the seven summit nations wrapped up their meetings Tuesday, voicing satisfaction that they confronted terrorism while moving toward new trade talks and a revamped world monetary policy two principal goals of the economic conference.

Reagan, returning to Washington later Wednesday following a 16-hour flight, said he was particularly pleased with the allies' united front on terrorism and said no nation should have to act alone against terrorists.

Reagan refused to divulge whether any specific counter-terrorist steps had been discussed by him and his summit partners, but said that even if they had, it would have been inappropriate to list them in the communiqué on terrorism.

Although the United States, Britain, Canada, France, Japan, Italy and West Germany failed to come to grips with the divisive and volatile issue of farm export subsidies, they did agree to a host of other initiatives, including coordinated efforts to improve nuclear safety in the wake of the Chernobyl reactor accident in the Soviet Union.

And for Reagan, there came a threat from Palestinian radical Abu Abbas, in a broadcast report, to target America for terrorist attacks.

The president's top aides declared that the Reagan administration had come away from the summit with much of what it had sought, including a statement of unity against terrorism, which singled out Moammar Khadafy's Libya "in particular."

The final summit gathering was a state banquet given by Emperor Hirohito at the Imperial Palace. For many of the leaders, it was their first opportunity to meet his eldest son and eventual successor, Crown Prince Akihito.

In saying the summit was a success for Reagan, the president's top aides cited acceptance of Baker's plan to try to stabilize currency exchange rates through a system of economic checks and balances and an agreement by the other summit partners to back preliminary talks in September aimed at lowering barriers that restrict U.S. sales abroad.

Officials revealed that as a follow-up to the talks here, Reagan will send several of his top aides across Asia to report to other governments on his economic talks. Secretary of State George P. Shultz, for instance, will fly

to Seoul to see President Chun Doo-hwan of South Korea and go from there to Manila for further discussions with President Corazon Aquino.

Following a meeting between summit sessions with French President Francois Mitterand, a Socialist, and Jacques Chirac, the new Gaullist French Premier, Reagan was asked

See Summit, page 10

Wives earn more than husbands

WASHINGTON (AP) — In families where both spouses work, nearly one wife in five earns more than her husband, the Census Bureau reported Tuesday.

That situation involves almost 5 million women and occurs most often in the 25- to 34-year-old age group, where about one-third of working wives bring home more than their spouses, the report found. The share gradually declines with age.

Robert W. Cleveland of the Census Bureau said delayed child-bearing by women pursuing education and careers is likely at least partly responsible for this age difference.

"Wives earning more than their husbands were more likely to be working year-round, full-time, to have no minor children at home, have completed college and work in professional specialty occupations or executive, administrative or managerial occupations," said the report by Cleveland and Mary F. Henson of the Census Bureau's Population Division.

Two primary reasons have been suggested for situations in which wives earn more than husbands, according to a 1984 Census analysis of these cases.

The report by Suzanne M. Bianchi and Daphne Spain said, "One is the 'female superstar' image, which stresses the wife's occupational accomplishments. The other view, which might be characterized as the 'underachieving husband syndrome,' focuses on how the husband's characteristics — retirement, illness, disability, temporary layoff or simple lack of initiative — might account for superior earnings of the wife."

Electrical power goes out at A&M for over 50 minutes

Much of the Texas A&M campus went without electrical power for more than 50 minutes Tuesday afternoon.

The power outage occurred shortly before 5 p.m. Joe Estill, director of the physical plant, said the main part of A&M's campus was affected, but not the west campus.

He said all of the generators and boilers in the power plant had gone out and that work on them would continue late into Tuesday night.

Computers at The Battalion downed by power outage

A power failure at Texas A&M Tuesday knocked out the main computer system at The Battalion.

While the staff was able to use its backup system to produce the paper, no format was available for What's Up, so it will not appear in this issue.

The Battalion staff also would like to thank the Bryan-College Station Eagle for the use of its Associated Press wire.

Senate tries to be 'voice of faculty'

Editor's note: In this, the third part of a three-part series on Texas A&M's Faculty Senate, former senate speakers talk about the senate's goals and accomplishments.

By Sondra Pickard
Senior Staff Writer

When asked about his year as the Faculty Senate's first speaker, Dr. John McDermott, distinguished professor of philosophy and professor and head of Humanities in Medicine, replied, "We got through this year — that was an amazing accomplishment."

So far three faculty members have been at the hub of the Faculty Senate as speaker. While each is different, all have a similar desire to ensure that, through the senate, the voice of the A&M faculty is heard.

McDermott said creating the senate bylaws was very crucial, but the amazing fact was that the senate came into being at all.

"The senate formed itself in a very sophisticated and detailed way," he said. "It exercised its power judiciously and wisely and has continued to gain strength and momentum."

"The Faculty Senate is unquestionably the most important single event in the modern history of Texas A&M University."

Although approval was needed from the Board of Regents, McDermott said the A&M faculty didn't ask permission to form a senate — they just did it.

"The scandal was that there wasn't any faculty senate," McDermott said. "We were the only major university in America without one."

McDermott, still a senator, said now that the core curriculum is complete, the senate's goal should be to protect faculty interests, especially trying to regain sick-leave benefits lost to the state.

"This is a scandal," McDermott said. "It's absolutely outrageous. It's just total condescension from the

state legislature to the faculties in the universities.

"We have to protect ourselves from bureaucratic condescension."

The senate's most important problem is preventing attrition and loss of interest as the novelty of the group wears off, McDermott said. So far, he said, the senate is still getting enormous attendance to meetings.

Another of McDermott's goals is to remain firm with regard to faculty prerogatives in the academic program, regardless of the administration personnel.

"Right now the administration is very sympathetic to us," he said, "but it could change quickly — especially at Texas A&M. So I keep telling the senate we cannot make decisions on the basis of who's in the office."

Dr. Murray Milford, professor of soil and crop sciences and the second senate speaker, said the senate should serve as a mechanism for the faculty to be heard on all kinds of

issues of interest to them in the University community.

"If one has that as a goal for a senate," Milford said, "then at this point it's been very successful indeed."

Milford said one of his frustrations with the senate is that it tends to move a little hastily on things, rather than taking more time to reach an agreement among the concerned parties.

"Some of us as faculty tend to picture the Faculty Senate as a decision-making body," Milford said. "It really isn't. It's a recommending. If we keep that in mind, we know we have to have other constituencies sharing our views before the president will adopt recommendations."

When issues affect both faculty and students, Milford said it would be best to try to reach a common decision between the two. For instance, in the case of senior finals, he said, the senate would have been better off re-

See Faculty, page 10