

## Battle over evolution heats up

AUSTIN (AP) — The long-running controversy over how much to teach about evolution erupted again Tuesday before the State Textbook Committee.

"We can no longer hold Texas science education hostage to knowledge and religious zealots," Dr. Steven D. Schafersman, president of the Texas Council for Science Education, told the committee considering nine proposed earth science textbooks.

"We must end this blight of ignorance that has afflicted our state for so long," he said.

But Mel Gabler, a professional textbook consultant who has been a vocal proponent of evolution passages, said that scientific evidence against evolution is consistently censored.

"We are not asking that creationism be taught," Gabler said. "We merely ask that textbooks be intellectually honest and observe the scientific practice of providing both 'for' and 'against' whenever evolutionary arguments are presented."

Mike Hudson, spokesman for the American Way, urged the committee to adopt the science textbooks recommended by the science teachers "and resist attempts to replace scientific consensus with sectarian religious belief."

Hudson, state director of the self-styled anti-censorship group, also warned that Texas' action might be a national test case. He said the U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear an appeal of a court ruling declaring Louisiana's creationism law unconstitutional.

"Whether you know it or not, your actions here could influence the case," Hudson said.

The committee is holding hearings on selection of \$114 million in textbooks for Texas public schools. The final selections will be made by the State Board of Education.

Many publishers use the Texas book as a guide in offering textbooks to other states.

Hudson said that Texas "has been plagued by this anti-science movement" since 1974 when the state Board of Education adopted the so-called "anti-evolution textbook rule."

Under that regulation, all science books had to carry a disclaimer that evolution is treated as theory rather than fact. The board overturned the rule in 1984.

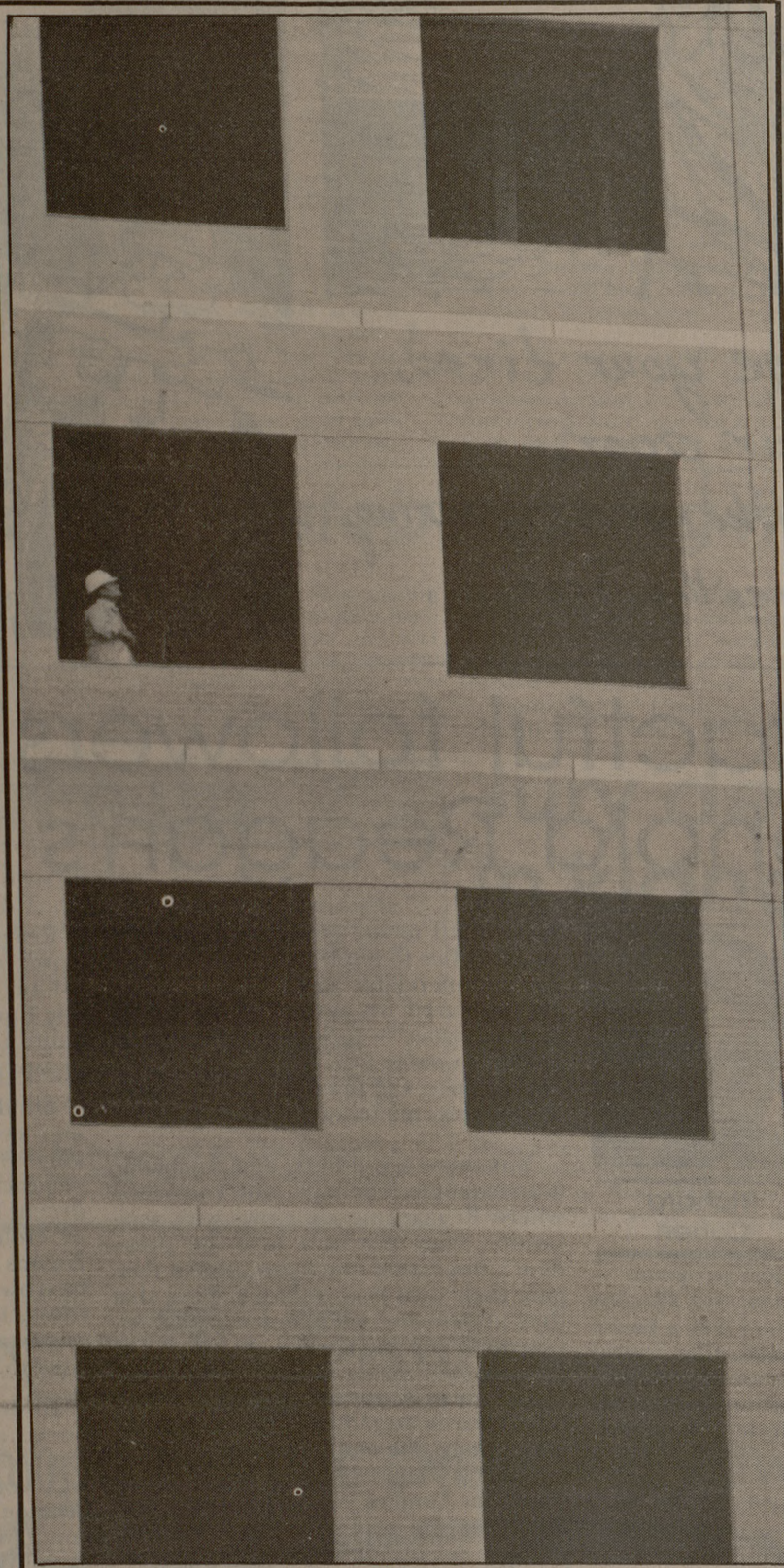


Photo by Anthony S. Casper

## Taking a Break

A construction worker on the new Civil Engineering Building takes a rest Tuesday afternoon. The engineering office complex, under construction behind the Zachry Engineering Building on Spence Street, is due to be finished in May or June of 1987.

## Flight crew blamed for crash of Delta 191

WASHINGTON (AP) — A flight crew's decision to land during a thunderstorm despite little information about ominous wind shears caused a Delta Air Lines jet to crash near Dallas last August, a federal agency concluded Tuesday.

The National Transportation Safety Board said the Lockheed L-1011 jumbo jet had flown into a multiple microburst — a violent downdraft in a thunderstorm — and was unable to recover enough altitude to avoid falling into ground 6,000 feet short of the runway.

The accident killed 137 people, including a motorist traveling along a road near the Dallas-Fort Worth airport. There were 27 survivors.

The board rejected proposed findings by its staff — and one of its

own members — which would have placed primary responsibility for the crash on Capt. Edward N. Connors, who had 29,300 hours of flight experience, 3,000 of them in the plane he piloted on that fateful day last August.

Instead, the board said, "the probable causes of this accident were the flight's crew decision to initiate and continue the approach into a cumulonimbus cloud which they observed to contain visible lightning, the lack of specific guidelines, procedures and training for avoiding and escape from low altitude wind shear, and the lack of definitive wind shear hazard information."

"The airport does not plan to comment on the NTSB's report until

it has had a chance to study it in its entirety," D-FW spokesman Joe Dealey said.

Investigators faulted several weather centers for failing to detect the storm cell more quickly, but said Delta's own training manual bars pilots from flying beneath thunderstorms at altitudes below 20,000 feet.

The board effectively held that Connors, who had a reputation for being especially cautious about severe weather, should not have continued his descent when his copilot spotted lightning ahead of the plane.

Staff investigators also noted that pilots of other aircraft had witnessed severe weather in the area, but failed to report the conditions to the airport control tower.

## Kremlin awaits reply to disarmament plan

MOSCOW (AP) — Mikhail S. Gorbachev says the Kremlin wants an American response to Soviet disarmament proposals before deciding whether to extend its moratorium on nuclear testing.

With the Soviet unilateral ban on tests expiring on Aug. 6, the Soviet leader said a decision on whether to resume testing "depends to a large extent on whether the United States of America is going at long last to set about disarmament."

Gorbachev spoke Monday to a group of scientists meeting in Moscow to urge an end to nuclear testing. His remarks were reported Tuesday by the Soviet news agency Tass.

"We have not yet received satisfactory replies to our proposals . . .," Gorbachev said. "The only thing we have received is the declaration that SALT II is dead."

A Foreign Ministry spokesman on Tuesday welcomed a U.S.-Soviet meeting in Geneva next week to discuss President Reagan's decision to abandon the 1979 treaty.

But spokesman Gennady I. Gerasimov said Moscow attaches much more importance to Washington's response to Gorbachev's proposals for reducing strategic and medium-range nuclear weapons.

The scientists from 34 nations who gathered in Moscow appealed to Gorbachev to extend the Soviet

moratorium, which has already been extended three times.

The United States has refused to join in halting testing, in part because it says a complete test ban could not be verified.

Last week, a private group of U.S. scientists installed seismic monitoring equipment near the Soviets' main nuclear test site in Kazakhstan in a project the group and its Soviet hosts say is designed to prove that a test ban is verifiable.

Thomas Cochran, the leader of the group and one of the scientists who met Gorbachev on Monday, was quoted by Tass as telling the Soviet leader that the Kazakhstan project has "fully demolished" White House arguments that a test ban cannot be verified.

Frank von Hippel, another U.S. scientist present at the meeting, said Gorbachev is under domestic pressure to resume nuclear tests.

A U.S. official who demanded anonymity told The Associated Press in Washington on Monday that the United States agreed to the Geneva meeting on condition other issues could be raised at the session.

They include allegations — denied and countered with like accusations by the Soviets — that the Soviets violated the SALT treaty by withholding information about missile tests and deployed an illegal long-range missile, the SS-25.

## Bryan passes no-smoking ordinance

BRYAN (AP) — A no-smoking ordinance will make lighting up illegal in most of this city's public facilities and work places beginning Oct. 1.

The ordinance, which the City Council passed on a 5-2 vote Monday, prohibits smoking in hospitals, schools and elevators. Violators can be fined \$25.

Among those places exempt from the ban are bars, tobacco shops and offices to which the general public doesn't have access. There, employers can designate part or all of the business as a smoking area, councilman Ben Hardeman said.

Restaurants are partially exempt, but the law says they must have adequate smoking and non-smoking areas.

"The idea here is to make the employer think about it and evaluate the work place," Hardeman said.

But some residents are unhappy with the new ordinance.

Councilman Randy Sims, who owns a barbecue restaurant, voted against the no-smoking law, saying few customers complain about smoking in the restaurant.

"In 23 years, I've only had a half dozen people complain to me," he said. "I think we know our customers better than the City Council does. If enough people wanted a non-smoking area, don't think Randy wouldn't put one in."

Sims said general laws, like the city-wide smoking ban, should be put before the voters.

Susan Calhoun, a city hall employee who smokes two packs of cigarettes daily, also was upset with the ban.

"What bothers me is that they think they can dictate our day-to-day life," she said.

## U.S. troops to help on Bolivian drug raids

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — U.S. Army troops and helicopter pilots are preparing to take part with Bolivian police in raids on the country's most important cocaine-processing laboratories, U.S. and Bolivian officials said Tuesday.

Six Army Black Hawk helicopter pilots and backup personnel arrived in Santa Cruz on an Air Force C-5A

transport plane Monday, witnesses said. The U.S. assault helicopters are being prepared to fly to a secret jungle base in the Beni region, located northeast of La Paz, Santa Cruz dailies reported Tuesday.

At least 100 U.S. military personnel based in Panama are expected to arrive within the next few days to participate in raids that police and

the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency hope will disrupt Bolivia's multi-billion dollar cocaine industry, according to the U.S. and Bolivian officials.

The helicopter pilots have received instructions to shoot back if fired upon, said a U.S. official, speaking on the condition he not be named.

An administration source in

Washington declined to say how many helicopters were airlifted to Bolivia other than saying the number was "less than 10."

Richard Feldkamp, a DEA spokesman in Washington, said the drug raids would begin soon but refused to provide details on when the helicopters arrived or where they are currently located.

Col. Marvin Braman, a Pentagon spokesman, had no comment when asked about the operation.

The dispatch of military helicopters to a foreign country for drug enforcement work is highly unusual.

In Washington, one official said the operation has been mounted at the request of the Bolivian government.

## Job status at Houston NASA center shaky

SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP) — Sen. Phil Gramm said Tuesday that the Johnson Space Center will gain 2,000 jobs over the next few years, but Rep. Mike Andrews said the center could actually lose employees due to changes in space station contracts.

In a telephone interview Tuesday, Gramm, R-Texas, said he was assured by NASA administrator James Fletcher that about 2,000 new jobs

would be added to the center as space shuttle flights resume and final work is performed on the space station project.

But in a later interview, Andrews, D-Texas, said a NASA study shows the Johnson Space Center could lose 350 jobs soon.

He also said the center could fail to gain 1,900 potential jobs due to a redistribution of work contracts on the space station.

Andrews, however, said that Fletcher assured him that no changes would be made without first consulting the congressional subcommittee that has oversight responsibility for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Mark Hess, a NASA information specialist in Washington, said the confusion may stem from two official memos outlining a proposal to

redistribute contract work on the space station.

He said the proposals would move responsibility for outfitting space station modules from the Johnson center to the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala.

The plan also calls for moving development of a propulsion system for the space station from Huntsville to Houston.

The estimated net effect would be

to reduce the Johnson role in the space station development from about \$2.5 billion to about \$2 billion, Hess said.

"In terms of civil service jobs, there will not be a sizable reduction, if there is a reduction at all (at Johnson)," said Hess.

"For contractor employees, I'm not sure," he said. "The Johnson effort on the space station is still a very sizable one."

But Hess said the precise effect of any of the proposed changes is not yet clear.

Gramm said he was told by Fletcher that an "ongoing reorganization program" is not complete, and that "to this point Houston may well lose a few jobs to Huntsville, but that by the time the reorganization is complete next spring, Houston could gain jobs."

## Former addict pleads for crackdown

## Congress begins cocaine probe

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former "crack house cook," who prepared a seductive and lethal form of cocaine for customers, told Congress on Tuesday of his own self-destructive, \$400-a-day habit and pleaded for a crackdown on drug dealers.

"I have one suggestion," said the reformed drug addict, who was hidden from view as he spoke. "That suggestion is to make it known it is serious, it is

epidemic, and it can kill. It is no joke to fool around with cocaine."

Using the assumed name Michael Taylor, the 29-year-old Washington man testified from behind a partition, saying he feared retaliation from cocaine dealers for telling his story, as both House and Senate panels focused on the drug threat.

Taylor told the Senate Governmental Affairs subcommittee on investigations that it was cheap to

purchase and easy to use "crack," a potent, purified form of cocaine that causes instant highs and can be quickly addictive.

The Senate committee also heard from two other former crack addicts and from a drug expert who said the Reagan administration and Congress are not doing enough.

"We are not serious about the war on drugs," said Dr. Robert Byck, professor of psychiatry and

pharmacology at Yale University Medical School, who called for more money for drug research and for a public awareness campaign.

Crack is often sold in vials of one dose each, is affordable at \$10 or so a dose, and is easily smoked, making it the "fast-food" of illegal drugs, he said. That ease and a ready supply has outstripped government efforts at drug-abuse prevention, he said.

## Robot helps scientists view Titanic's interior

WOODS HOLE, Mass. (AP) — Deep-sea explorers Tuesday got their first view of the sumptuous interior of the sunken Titanic, using a lawnmower-size robot to take pictures of the luxury liner's grand staircase and a chandelier hanging from a ceiling.

"It was like landing on the moon," the excited expedition leader, Robert Ballard, said in a ship-to-shore conversation. "We went down about four decks into the ship and went into one of the rooms off the staircase and went right up and looked at

a beautiful chandelier hanging on the ceiling."

Ballard told colleagues at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution that he and two other scientists inside a tiny submarine then maneuvered above the sunken hulk.

The researchers were able to peer inside the Titanic's remains using the video robot Jason Jr., which is attached to the submarine Alvin by a cable and is remote-controlled. Jason Jr. contains video and still cameras and can be rotated 170 degrees on its axis to provide panoramic views.