

# CALL-AMERICA

## FREE PHONE!

And save up to 30% on every long distance call.



For a limited time Call America will give you a free AT&T Trimline desk top or wall telephone when you sign up for Call America long distance service. The phone retails for \$79.95 and includes a one-year warranty. Just pay our \$10 initial fee for residential service and get your free phone.

Call America is the lower priced, higher quality long distance company in Bryan-College Station. You can Call America for up to 30% less than the other guys—less than MCI, less than AT&T, less than Star-Tel.

No WAITING in lines. No BUYING a phone. NO DEPOSITS. And the best long distance at the best price in town.

**Call more. Pay less. And get a free phone.**

**callAmerica**

106 E. 26th / Bryan, TX  
779-1707

## Lack of doldrums upsets D.C.'s 'serenity expert'

WASHINGTON (AP) — What ever happened to the summer doldrums?

"It should be quiet, but it isn't," said Charlie McDoldrum, an expert on the lack of activity that overcomes the nation's capital every August.

This is the month when everybody in Washington is someplace else getting away from it all. The president is on his ranch exercising his cutting axe on dead trees; Congress, having temporarily run out of words, is out of town finding new ones; nothing is stirring, not even the House.

McDoldrum, an imaginary being who reappears Brigadoon-like every August when a journalist's mind turns to finding news in a vacuum, ticked off some of the activity that has disturbed the serenity. There was that tax revision frenzy that churned up half the month and still hasn't died off. There was that eerie groan coming from the big, marble monuments to bureaucracy all over town when the Gramm-Rudman budget cutting effects were calculated.

August should be the month in which government takes a breather

from the rest of the year, when the bureaucratic pulse slows to comatose.

It's generally a time when no one gets into a sweat over the composite index of leading, coincident and lagging economic indicators, the gross national product, the consumer price index, or capacity utilization. It's a time when one is challenged by whether the surf is up, not the monthly deficit.

Instead, McDoldrum pointed out, "this year we have had to worry about South Africa and sanctions, drought, hurricane, Nicaragua, the space shuttle, the Rehnquist-Scalia nominations, Nancy's maid and the impeachment of Judge Harry Claiborne. Even politics didn't take the vacation it's supposed to. We had the Michigan mishmash and the Southern primary, for crying out loud.

"Then there are the baby strikes at the Baby Bell telephone companies and USX, which we wouldn't get upset about except that news accounts remind us that it was formerly U.S. Steel, the activity over getting another Reagan-Gorbachev

summit, the fallout from the noble fall-out, the grain sale.

McDoldrum blames the cans, although he concedes that the only classic dolt-drum thing to do with cycles, pen a seven-year itch.

There is an argument for both theories on why the August law of doldrums is defiled.

Supporting the seven-year theory, the record shows that during the last Democratic presidency, there was so little dolt-drum capital that Jimmy Carter's show support for the trans system — made headlines.

McDoldrum, who works for a Virginia newspaper, glumly says that the only classic dolt-drum story coming out of Washington August was the reopening of venerable old Willard Hall eight years.

### Firms had 'engines in gear'

## SDI spurred missile labs

WASHINGTON (AP) — Three years before President Reagan started the nation with his Star Wars dream of basing nuclear missile defenses in space, the Boeing Co. created a special office to line up ballistic missile defense contracts that experts predicted were on the way.

"We got an early start," Mike Gamble, who became strategic defense coordinator for Boeing in 1980, said. At the time, the company had several dozen contracts with the Pentagon on projects that were later consolidated under the Strategic Defense Initiative, nicknamed Star Wars.

"In 1980, there was a perception here that some of the emerging technologies could be used for ballistic missile defense," said Gamble, interviewed by telephone from Boeing headquarters in Seattle.

The situation was much the same at Hughes Aircraft, Lockheed, McDonnell Douglas and Rockwell International, companies which are among the top 20 Pentagon contractors and the top 10 doing Star Wars business.

Despite the conventional wisdom among many politicians and scientists that strategic defenses were impractical because they could be overwhelmed by offensive weapons, the perception was growing among the weapons laboratories and defense contractors that ballistic missile defense was becoming technologically possible.

Thus when Reagan surprised most of the world with his March 23, 1983 speech calling for Star Wars research, the big defense contractors already had their engines running.

After the speech, the Pentagon swept various missile defense research programs into the new Strategic Defense Initiative Organization and proposed spending \$26 billion on them through 1989, an increase of about \$9 billion over planned spending. Congress is paring Reagan's plan by about one-third, back closer to the original spending levels.

While many in the scientific, business and political communities remain skeptical of Star

Wars, the research has picked up.

"Suddenly, the contractors found themselves drenched in dollars," said Joseph Camp, an analyst with Paine Webber in New York.

To a large extent, the big contracts to the major corporations involve what the Pentagon calls "terminal defense," shutting down nuclear warheads as they drop from space toward Earth. Much of the work on more sophisticated space-based components, such as lasers that experts say are being done by smaller companies, universities, and federal weapons laboratories, although some of these contracts are also going to the giants.

Astronomer Carl Sagan, a Star Wars opponent, argued at a recent Washington debate that the Pentagon spending on Strategic Defense Initiative is creating a "steam effect" in the weapons industry which may force a later administration to deploy the systems which Reagan ordered research.

## Today's entrepreneurs not big risk takers, survey says

NEW YORK (AP) — The entrepreneurs who start today's new companies seem to be very different from those who founded the great corporations at the turn of the century or before.

The oldtimers, biographies indicate, created their companies to own, manage and develop. But newcomers, a survey suggests, are very much interested in sharing the risk with the public rather than going it alone.

Asked at a meeting earlier this year, 30 of 37 entrepreneurs said they expected their companies to be acquired in the next five years. Most said they had been approached about a business combination in the preceding year.

This, perhaps, didn't displease the author of the survey, Baltimore-based New Enterprise Associates, a venture capital firm that runs big risks with small companies — many destined to fail — in search of a rare big payoff.

Like others in the venture capital business, NEA believes it cannot know enough about the companies it finances. It examines all the figures, and it sits on the boards. It monitors executive performance. Sometimes it fires.

It has access also to the various studies of psychologists, sociologists, economists, behaviorists and others who have examined the species in recent years with probing questions about parentage, neuroses and the like.

But NEA, which invests for limited partnerships, sought to know its own entrepreneurs rather than acquire redundant information about the species in general. It invited 40 of its entrepreneurs to a gathering at Napa, Calif.

The average age of the companies surveyed was 2.6 years, with average 1985 revenue of \$7.9 million. Sales grew by an average of 291 percent last year; this year they are expected to grow 176 percent.

The entrepreneurs are a confident bunch, as expected.

At a time when larger companies are paring payrolls, they expect to increase their work forces by 39 percent. And they plan to spend no less than 34 percent of revenue on research and development.

Overall, they aren't especially worried about a recession. Asked to express their concern about a possible recession, only 13 percent said they were very concerned. Sixty-three percent said "somewhat." Twenty-four percent said "not at all."

"And if I was, who would know it?" the aspiring politician complains.

To which More rejoins: "You, your pupils, your friends, God. Not a bad public, that."

More's advice fell on deaf ears. Today, under less dramatic circumstances, many young, talented people are loathe to even consider a career in the classroom.

The teaching profession is in a time of turmoil. Teachers have always had complaints about their pay, status and working conditions. But an impending shortage of new instructors now has pushed some educators and civic leaders to call for radical changes in the way teachers are trained and how schools are run.

Two high-level panels — the Holmes Group, composed of education deans from several dozen research universities, and the Carnegie Forum on Education and the Economy, an offshoot of the Carnegie

But they worry — a great and view their venture as a emotional risk, even more so than a financial risk. Asked if failure meant a great financial loss, 28 percent said yes. Asked if it would be a great emotional loss, 58 percent responded affirmatively.

They worry especially about new tax proposals, which would reduce the capital gains that so many of them seek as individuals eliminate the investment tax credit which they rely on to finance growth.

## Groups propose solutions to 'crisis' in teaching field

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the play "A Man For All Seasons," when an ambitious young man named Richard Rich asks Sir Thomas More for help in securing a government job, the chancellor urges him instead to become a teacher, saying, "You'd be a fine teacher, perhaps even a great one."

"And if I was, who would know it?" the aspiring politician complains.

To which More rejoins: "You, your pupils, your friends, God. Not a bad public, that."

More's advice fell on deaf ears. Today, under less dramatic circumstances, many young, talented people are loathe to even consider a career in the classroom.

The teaching profession is in a time of turmoil. Teachers have always had complaints about their pay, status and working conditions. But an impending shortage of new instructors now has pushed some educators and civic leaders to call for radical changes in the way teachers are trained and how schools are run.

Corp. — are calling for abolishing the bachelor's degree in education. Teacher colleges, and education departments within universities have been a target of criticism for decades about lax standards, "Mickey Mouse" methods and poorly prepared graduates.

It has become an increasingly popular choice for college students. Until recently, teacher status made it possible for schools to hire new teachers despite a sharp decline in the pipeline from campuses. But that situation is rapidly changing.

With elementary enrollment falling again thanks to a baby boom and with many teachers nearing retirement age, public schools will have to hire a million or more new teachers over the next decade.

The Holmes and Carnegie groups want all prospective teachers to major in the liberal arts and humanities and to complete most of their professional education in graduate school, internships and on the job.

Carnegie is currently funding development and other efforts the groundwork for carrying out the key recommendation: creating national standards board for teachers.

If you're considering retirement, Consider moving to Walden.

Come home to Aggieldand.



Our stereotypes of senior adults (and retirement housing) are fading. Thank goodness. Seniors are retired from routine, sure. But they are still busy, active and alive.

They want to travel, to go, to learn, to grow. And they want a carefree environment that supports independent living in a safe, secure surrounding without daily drudgery.

If you are considering a retirement move, please give us a visit or a call. We are a warm, caring community built for active senior adults.

Amenities include:

- Close to Texas A&M and its educational, cultural and sports activities
- 24 hour security and support staff
- 2 excellent meals (and private kitchens, too)
- transportation
- laundry and dry cleaning service
- weekly housekeeping
- activities, travel, library, exercise, spa, pool, etc.
- parking, storage, elevators, convenience store, etc.

# Walden

Dr. Jarvis and Alma Miller, managing directors  
Walden on Memorial  
2410 Memorial Drive/Bryan  
823-7914