

Texas A&M The Battalion

Friday, August 14, 1987

College Station, Texas

Vol. 82 No. 196 USPS 045360 6 pages

Reagan voices plea for Bork nomination

NORTH PLATTE, Neb. (AP) — President Reagan, seeking to put the Iran-Contra mess behind him, carried his fight to win Senate confirmation of Supreme Court nominee Robert Bork to the nation's heartland Thursday.

pressing" than getting the federal appeals court judge seated before the court convenes on Oct. 5, Reagan said in a speech to Nebraska civic and community leaders at a ranch near this western Nebraska rail center.

Nebraska to California for a 25-day stay in Los Angeles and at his own ranch, north of Santa Barbara. He and his wife, Nancy, will return to Washington on Sept. 6.

Meanwhile, White House chief of staff Howard Baker said Reagan had not yet made up his mind on asking Congress for renewed aid to the Nicaraguan Contra guerrillas. He said Reagan would base a decision at the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30 on "such things as whether substantial progress is being made" toward implementation of a peace plan that calls for the Sandinista government to institute democracy and put a cease-fire in place.

Reagan, in a televised speech Wednesday night that was billed as his long-promised reaction to the congressional Iran-Contra hearings, said that increased cooperation with Congress "may be the eventual blessing in disguise to come out of the Iran-Contra mess."

He also pledged in his televised speech to concentrate now on his remaining agenda, including confirmation of Bork, support for rebels fighting the Contras and the package of measures he refers to as his "economic bill of rights."

Presidential hopeful speaks at Texas AFL-CIO convention

AUSTIN (AP) — Sen. Albert Gore Jr. told Texas labor union members Thursday that Americans will not tolerate another "Look Ma, no hands" presidency.

The Tennessee Democrat, the first of three Democratic presidential contenders scheduled to speak at the Texas AFL-CIO convention, seemed so pleased by a standing ovation at his speech's end that he strode into the audience to shake hands.

Texas before that March 8 election than the other candidates combined.

The Southern primary may be considered politically risky, but "when you lose 49 out of 50 states, it's time to start taking some risks," Gore said, referring to Ronald Reagan's landslide victory over Walter Mondale in 1984.

"We need to have a national message, unifying this nation, bringing us together as a people," Gore said. "And as a matter of fact, the Democratic Party has always taken that approach. Our mission has been to lift the fortunes of all Americans and not just concentrate on the wealthy few."

Later, he told a news conference he thinks the Super Tuesday southern presidential primary is so crucial that he will spend more time in

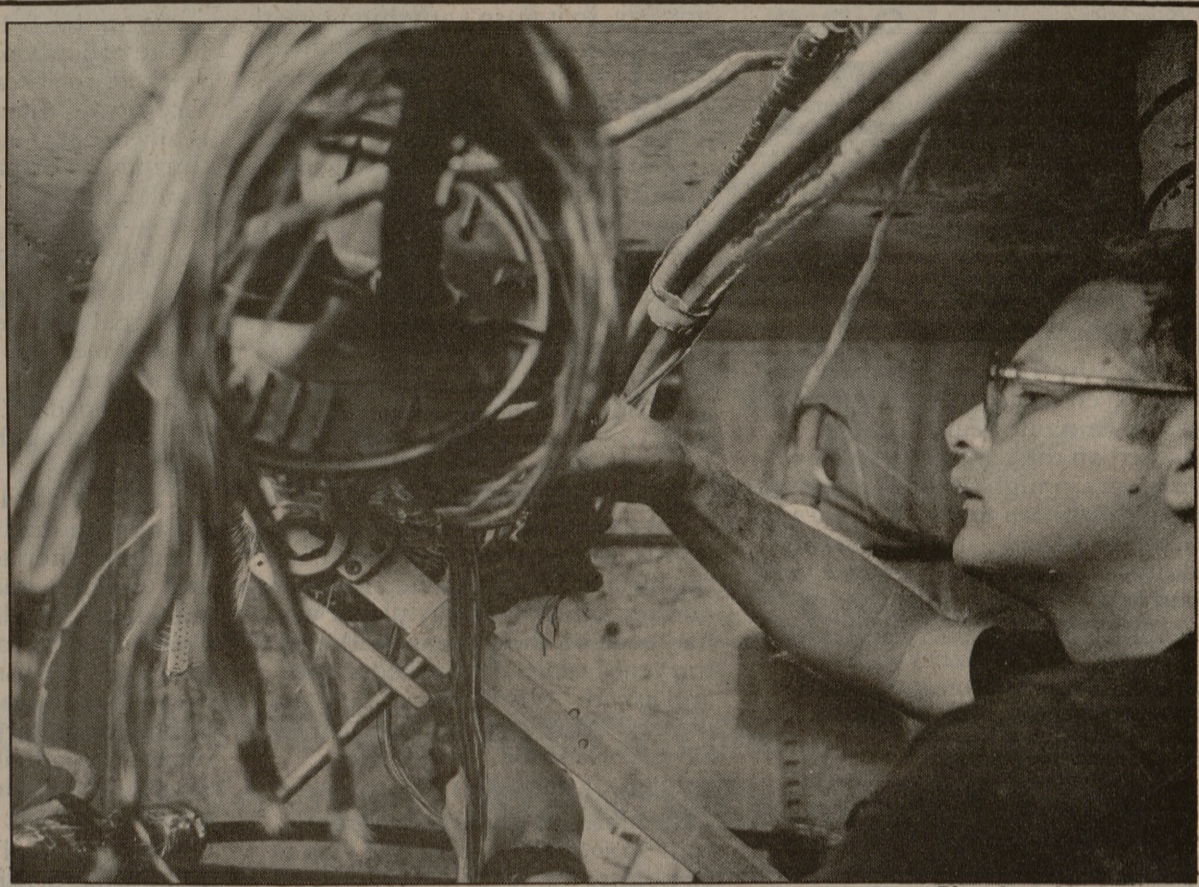


Photo by Bobby Spearman

Hot-wired

Don Beckermann, a GTE employee, works on splicing together a myriad of telephone wires.

Beckermann is splicing wires from the renovated Halbouty building into the main telephone wiring.

Vegetarians voice concern about treatment of animals

By Ed Holtgraver
Reporter

Laws established with well-meaning intent often go astray in the opinions of many. Laws designed to

Vegetarians and animal rights Part two of a two-part series

protect the health of humans often draw outrage from animal rights activists.

The pretreatment of animals killed in accordance with kosher ritual slaughter is an area of particular concern for many vegetarians, as well as humanitarians, Carmen Mason, a Texas A&M student, says.

In following with the ancient kosher laws practiced by Orthodox Jews, animals must be fully conscious at the time of slaughter, she says.

This, combined with United States sanitary laws that require the animal be off the "killing floor" when killed, produces the situation where the fully conscious steer hangs dangling from one leg, sometimes for as long as half an hour, she says.

"It is difficult to cut the animal's throat while it is moving about," she says. "A method of slaughter is to simply gouge the animal's eyes out. The head of a steer, being quite large, affords no sure grip except for the eye sockets. The steer is then killed by slitting its throat..."

When animals are killed by ritual slaughter, they are not made unconscious before the killing, Mason says.

They are alive until they bleed to death, she says.

Meat not packaged as kosher does

not necessarily mean the animal the meat came from was not killed in accordance with the method of ritual slaughter, Mason says.

"A lot of the time, only a portion of the animal that was killed by the kosher method is used for kosher purposes," she says.

"The rest of the animal is packaged and sold normally," she says. "That means a lot of the meat people buy is killed by the kosher method, but they don't know it."

Perhaps the cruelest treatment is reserved for the calves used to make veal, she says.

Taken from their mothers the day of birth, the calves are immediately placed on a "skim milk, fat and sugar" diet, she says.

This diet is what gives the veal its tender, white color that gourmets desire, Mason says.

The calves are fed this diet for 15 weeks, without any solid food whatsoever, she says.

Any amount of time much longer than this results in the calves dying from anemia, diarrhea and other infections brought on by the all-liquid diet, she says.

Also, the calves are placed in stalls that measure no more than 2 feet wide by 4½ feet long by 3½ feet high, Mason says. This is to prevent any movement at all by the calves, which would exercise the muscles and tend to damage the soft texture of the veal which gourmets desire, she says.

"Any way you look at it, it is truly an unbearable existence and not something any living animal should have to go through, especially just to satisfy the taste buds of humans," Mason says.

Ari Rozycki, an A&M student, who considers herself a lacto-ovo



Photo by Tracey Streater

Jesus Reyes, a worker at the Meat Sciences and Technology Lab, cuts a side of beef before packaging it Thursday.

vegetarian (a vegetarian who eats eggs and milk products) says eating animals is barbaric.

"It's my personal opinion that I think it's kind of barbaric that it's necessary to have to eat dead animals in this day and age," Rozycki said.

Mason asks, "Why do people love animals called pets, but eat animals called dinner?"

Rozycki says, "Because they're already packaged."

Mason says, "I look forward to the

day when humans take animals into their hearts, rather than onto their dinner plates. Animals have a value independent of their usefulness to others.

"The whole point is not whether animals can think, or whether they can reason, but whether they can suffer."

Rozycki replies, "And obviously they can."

The other major area of concern for vegetarians is the bad health ef-

fects associated with the eating of meat.

"Meat is an extremely overrated source of protein," Mason says.

Protein consists of 22 amino acids, all but eight of which can be manufactured by the body itself, she says.

These eight essential amino acids are all found in eggs, as well as most dairy products, she says. Even vegans (strict vegetarians) can find these eight other amino acids by carefully combining legumes and grains, she says.

"It is far better to get the protein you need from legumes and grains, rather than red meat, which has so much fat and cholesterol," she says.

Dudley Giehl, author of the book, "Vegetarianism — A Way of Life," points out that numerous studies have shown cholesterol and saturated fat, abundant in large amounts in red meat, lead directly to heart disease.

The United States has the highest per capita intake of red meat, and heart disease is America's number one killer, he says.

It is worth noting, Mason says, that vegans have absolutely no cholesterol in their diets, since cholesterol is found only in animal foods.

Another problem with eating meat, she says, is the extreme wastefulness of feeding grain to cattle. The grain would be better off being used as food for humans who need it, she says.

"One major contributor to inefficient food production is the use of land to raise cattle as a food source," Mason says. "Extensive grazing in various countries has resulted in severe erosion or a general deterioration in the quality of the land used for this purpose."

"Crazing cattle not only lowers the availability of land, it also lowers the quality of the land."

"A reduction in meat consumption would relieve the strain on agricultural resources, improving the quality and quantity of crops that are available."

She says she has heard all the arguments against vegetarianism, but has not heard any that could change her mind.

"People tell me humans were meant to eat meat, but the earliest known ancestors of man lived primarily on a vegetarian diet," she says. "People tell me humans were meant to eat meat because we have canine teeth. But the gorilla has huge canines, and of course gorillas are vegetarians."

Mason's roommate, graduate student Lisa Holland, says living with a vegetarian has been informative.

"I've learned something from living with her," she says. "It's made me think twice sometimes about eating meat. (But) I don't feel she has subjected me to any pressure to change my diet."

Mason says she knows only a handful of other vegetarians on campus.

"Well, as you know, this isn't the period of enlightenment," she says.

Mason recalls the statement of a farmer who said a vegetable diet could never be acceptable, because it does not furnish anything to build strong bones.

But, she says, the same farmer spent nearly all year plowing his fields, walking all the time behind his vegetable-fed oxen, which jerked him and his lumbering plow through all his fields, in spite of every obstacle.

Eight people arrested on weapons charges in drug-related cases

BROWNSVILLE (AP) — Law officers arrested eight people Thursday on federal weapons charges, most of them stemming from alleged narcotics trafficking along the Texas-Mexico border.

The eight people were among 16 indicted by a federal grand jury Tuesday.

Thirteen of the indictments were handed up against people with prior narcotics convictions or who were involved in drug trafficking during prior arrests, said Phillip J. Chojnacki, special agent-in-charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearm's Houston district.

"There are a lot of guns around here," said Chojnacki, whose district includes South Texas.

Weapons cases along the border often involve either drug trafficking from Mexico or gun

smuggling from the United States into Mexico, Chojnacki said.

He said the district has written 339 cases since last month. One-third of those cases involve suspects in the Rio Grande Valley, one of the principal drug-trafficking areas of the United States.

Christ Heart, agent-in-charge of ATF's Brownsville office, said the crackdown is an effort to enforce a recent amendment to the Gun Control Act of 1968, providing for stiff penalties for drug traffickers using firearms.

"Traditionally, narcotics traffickers are very well-armed because of the amounts of money they handle," Heart said.

Thursday's arrests were the first to result from an Operation Alliance investigation that began six months ago with the coordination of federal, state and local authorities, he said.

City Council hears complaints about alcohol sold at Northgate

By Clark Miller
Staff Writer

Alcohol-related problems in the Northgate area was the big issue at the College Station City Council meeting Thursday night.

Members of the Wesley Foundation, a group associated with the United Methodist Church, requested that the alcoholic beverage license held by Rocco's club be revoked because of parking problems and property damage at the church.

The United Methodist Church is directly behind Rocco's.

The Rev. Melvin Brinkley told the Council members that since December of 1986, the Wesley Foundation has reported ten incidents to College Station Police.

Since January of 1987, more than 40 cars have been towed from their parking lot. Brinkley also complained that empty beer bottles are littering the church property and are being used to break windows of one of the buildings and a bus on the premises.

Dub Summers, manager of Rocco's, said that the club has reimbursed the church for all the damages church officials have told him about.

Summers also said that Rocco's strictly en-

forces the law that prohibits patrons from leaving the club with any container. Because Rocco's has a license to serve liquor, no open containers can leave the premises.

He said that Rocco's is being blamed for litter left by people who purchase their beer from convenience stores or other places that serve beer in the Northgate area.

However, Brinkley said that in the three years before Rocco's opened, there were only six incidents reported to police, while there have been ten since Rocco's management took over the building.

Recent incidents have included broken windows, a church lot with stuck cars and rutted turf and a person urinating on a church building.

Michael Workman, chairman of the board of directors for the Wesley Foundation, told the council members that the foundation tried many other ways of solving the problem but that nothing has worked.

"We're not here to cause trouble," Workman said. "We're just here to see that trouble doesn't get out of hand."

This is why they want the city to take action to revoke the license, he said.

College Station Mayor Larry Ringer said that issuing liquor licenses is the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission's responsibility, but that the city would report the complaint to the TABC.

Summers said after the meeting that he did not think that Rocco's would lose its liquor license.

"I talk to the people from the TABC every two or three days," he said. "They're aware of the complaints."

Summers said that the Wesley Foundation is the only organization in the Northgate area that has complained about the club.

Representatives from the St. Mary's Catholic Church and the Presbyterian Church, both in the Northgate area, also told the Council that litter, parking and public urinating have been a problem at their churches.

"We're just incompatible neighbors," Summers said.

Brinkley agreed, saying the group was finished searching for solutions and looked to the liquor-license vote to provide an answer to the problem.