

# Class takes contracting into international arena

By Jeff Pollard  
Staff Writer



Dr. John Epling discusses international construction's potential.

Amid the cries and complaints about the United States losing ground in the international trade community, one department at Texas A&M is teaching its students new ways to compete in an old field, construction contracting.

Dr. John Epling, associate professor of building construction, is the developer and teacher of the International Construction Contracting class, COSC 689, where students are taught the delicacies and potential problems that are a part of international contracting.

"The need to educate not only our own students but the construction industry in general in the international arena is overwhelming," Epling said.

As old as the idea is, the field of study is extremely new. The course taught at A&M is the only one of its type in the nation.

Steve Katz, an international-contracting lawyer in Vienna, Austria and member of UNCITRAL (the United Nations' Commission of International Trade Law), said he is surprised at the progress A&M has made.

"It is amazing that Texas A&M has accomplished in such a short time what the UN and others have been trying to do for years," Katz remarked.

It is this kind of recognition, along with A&M's accomplishments in this field, that have earned an international reputation for the University and Epling. For this reason, Epling's talents are in demand worldwide.

Epling, along with 15 other leading international-contracting lawyers from around the world, was invited by the American Bar Association to analyze and discuss the United Nations' guidelines for international-construction contracts. Epling was the only university instructor invited to speak.

"Communication is the most important part of international contracting," Epling said. "There has to

be a meeting of minds. That's tough to do when you are dealing with someone who speaks another language and comes from a different ethnic background."

To avoid this type of problem, Epling has traveled as a representative of the International Law Institute to lesser-developed countries in Asia and Africa. His most recent trip was to Ammon, Jordan where he ran a seminar on international construction project management.

"We have a great deal of capacity that is sitting idle," Epling said. "We need to go out and compete for

work in other countries. We need to export what we're not using to make the most of what we have."

Epling said the United States cannot just sit back and be content with being where it is. Americans have to remember that they are no better than anyone else; all people are equal, he said. To compete in the future, the United States must upgrade its current system, he said.

"A few years ago, if you could find a Toyota in this country, you laughed at it," Epling said. "Now everyone is laughing at General Motors."

# Welfare officials ban spankings in South Texas foster families

EDINBURG (AP) —Spanking foster children has been banned in foster homes in South Texas, according to a new rule issued by state welfare officials.

"We're trying to teach the children and the parents that there are other ways of dealing with children than pulling out a belt and spanking them," said Richard Mendoza, a child placement worker in the Re-

gion VIII headquarters of the Texas Department of Human Services in Edinburg.

The new rule applies to foster parents in a 26-county area from Webb County in the west to Jackson County in the east.

More than half of the state welfare department's 12 regional offices now forbid corporal punishment in foster homes.

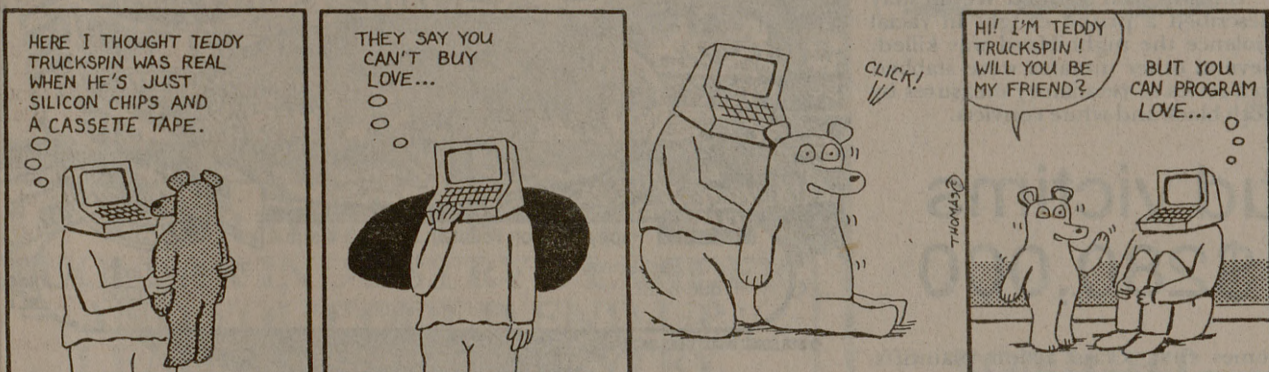
"And the other five are moving in that direction," said Dixie Camp of DHS state headquarters in Austin. Camp writes state policy manuals in various areas of child welfare.

At least one Corpus Christi family has left the welfare department's foster care program because of the new rule.

Arredondo of DHS said, "We have some foster parents who are not able to accept this."

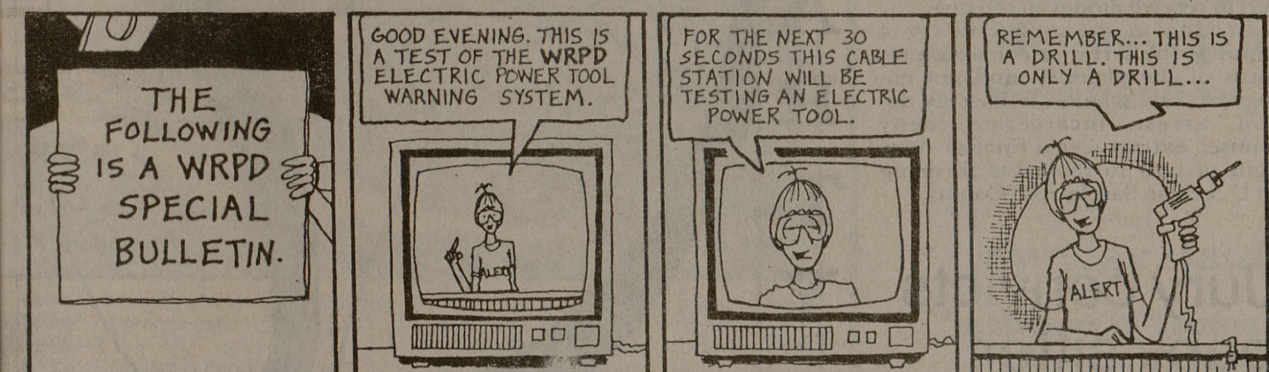
## Waldo

by Kevin Thomas



## Warped

by Scott McCullar



## "Welcome Back, Ags!"

- We have expanded our variety of fish!
- 10 gal. tanks \$5<sup>99</sup>
- Challenger I pumps \$4<sup>99</sup>
- Whisper Power Filter I \$19<sup>99</sup>
- Look for our "in-house" specials

## ANIMAL WORLD

"Where Pets Are Our Pride"

Manor East Mall 822-9315



# SIGMA NU OPEN PARTY

8 P.M. ΣN Lodge  
811 Harvey- Sundance Apts.

Everyone Welcome

For Info: Warren 764-1869  
Ed 268-0580

## Your Credit Union Has the Best Financial Deals In Town:

- Free Checking (with a \$500 min. balance)\*
- Hi-Yield Savings Accounts
- Hi-Yield Certificates of Deposits
- Hi-Yield I.R.A.'s
- Low Cost Loans
- Maroon MasterCard

\*Under \$500. \$5 a month service charge.

# Welcome Back AGGIES!

Texas Aggie Credit Union membership is open to all Former Students, Faculty, Staff and Students of Texas A&M University and members of their families.

Ask About Our New Preferred Membership Package

**CREDIT UNION TEXAS AGGIE CREDIT UNION**  
301 Dominick Dr. College Station, TX 77840 (409)990-1440

Insured by National Credit Union Administration (NCUA)

# MSC VARIETY SHOW

## Audition

## Applications Available

## Now

Room 216

MSC



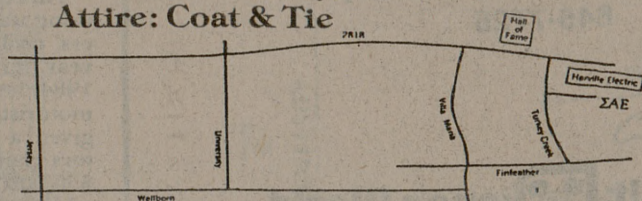
# Sigma Alpha Epsilon Spring Rush '88



**Smoker**  
At the ΣAE House  
Friday, January 22, 8:00 p.m.

**Beef & Mollusks**  
Ribs & Oysters at the ΣAE House  
Saturday, January 23, 1:00 p.m.

**Just Guys**  
Slide Show at the Hilton Ballroom  
Tuesday, January 26, 7:30 p.m.  
Attire: Coat & Tie



Mike Pfueger: Rush Chairman 822-5470  
Bill Maddox: Vice Chairman 846-9268  
ΣAE House: 822-1377