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 February 9th  
 222, Health Center  
 1:00p.m.-4:00 p.m.
- \* **INFORMATION TABLES**  
 Monday - Friday  
 MSC Hallway  
 10:00a.m. to 2:00p.m.
- \* **DRUG CONTROL CAMPUS GAMESHOW**  
 February 11th  
 MSC Flag Room  
 12:00-1:00p.m.

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# Reagan picks former professor to run Commodity Commission

By Jeff Pollard  
 Staff Writer

After she built her reputation by tearing through the red tape in the President's Office of Management and Budget, President Reagan has nominated former Texas A&M economics professor Wendy Lee Gramm to head the Commodities Futures Trading Commission.

Gramm, who is the wife of Senator Phil Gramm, R-Texas, has been with the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs in the OMB since 1985 and will fill the chair that has been vacant since last July.

Susan Philips, the previous chair-

man, resigned the position to return to education.

At her confirmation hearing before the Senate Agriculture Committee, several committee members expressed their support for Gramm but also expressed their concern that her inexperience could be dangerous at this time.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., the chairman of the Agriculture Committee, said that he has "... serious concerns regarding your (Gramm's) lack of experience in either the financial or commodities markets, especially at such a crucial time."

Sen. Thomas Daschle, D-S.D., expressing the same reservations, went on to say that, given her ability and

past success, the senators "ought to take the gamble."

Both senators said they plan to recommend Gramm's nomination to the full Senate for confirmation.

The committee is expected to vote on the matter sometime next week.

The CFTC is the commodities counterpart to the Securities and Exchange Commission and controls the buying and selling of commodities at future prices.

The CFTC also oversees the exchange of stock futures, a new type of futures trading based on the stock-market index and changes in stock prices.

Because of its close ties to the securities market, which the SEC regulates, it has been suggested by many

people that the two commissions combined to make regulating efficient.

When asked at her hearing supported this proposal, Gramm said the CFTC should remain the primary regulator of index futures.

"I don't believe that any more any sort is necessary or even appropriate at this time," Gramm said.

Since leaving the economics department in 1978, Gramm has directed a Reagan task force on regulatory relief, run the Bureau of Economics at the Federal Reserve Commission and served as the assistant director of the FTC's division of consumer protection.

# Senate OKs emergency bills for student election revisions

By Jeff Pollard  
 Staff Writer

In two emergency bills voted on and passed by the Student Senate on Wednesday night, last minute changes in regulations and final dates for student government elections were approved for the spring.

Additions made to the election regulations include several house-keeping chores, definition of terms involved and shorter length of the campaign from nine to seven days.

The filing period for candidates begins on Feb. 25 and lasts through March 4. A meeting for those who filed was scheduled for March 8 and the campaign officially begins on March 20. The bill set the election for March 30 and the run-off, if needed, for April 4.

The two bills had to be introduced on emergency status because election regulations require that revisions be made at least 15 days before filing for office begins. Wednesday was the 15th day before the start of the filing period.

The Faculty Senate's smoking resolution was discussed. The resolu-

tion banning smoking on campus is being studied by the Student Services Committee and members are asking people on campus for input.

Melinda Moore, chairman of the Student Services Committee, said that it will probably endorse all parts of the resolution except those that ban smoking at Kyle Field, Olsen Field and in dorms.

Other items discussed include:

- The committee reviewing academic advising had its first meeting last week. Kristen Hay, chairman of the committee, said that it is reviewing the policies of advising groups in the different colleges and will make recommendations for improving the system.

- The subcommittee looking into extending the Q-drop period reported that Faculty Senate members were against the idea. Daniel Sparks, chairman of the subcommittee, said the faculty felt that extending the Q-drops period would allow students to fall behind in their degree plans and cause more problems than needed. The committee is now looking at allowing students to drop after the Q-drop deadline but only

under approval of an adviser or dean.

- Crime Prevention Week, sponsored by the Student Services Committee, is next week (Feb. 15-18). Scheduled activities include visits from P.C., a robot police car from the Bryan Police Department and McGruff the crime dog, a speaker night on Wednesday and a security fair on Wednesday and Thursday. Speakers for speaker night include members of the Bryan and College Station police departments, a representative of Brazos County Crime Stoppers and Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department.

- It was announced that GTE is planning to donate 2 cellular telephones to the school for emergency use in remote parking lots. The office of Student Affairs at A&M, which is in charge of setting up the service, is currently taking recommendations as to which two parking lots will be supplied the telephones.

- Other important dates to remember include the spring blood drive during the first week of March (Mar. 1-4) and Big Event on Mar. 5.

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# Texas citrus industry fails in fight to ban Florida fruit

HARLINGEN (AP) — The government's decision to lift a 3-year-old ban on shipments of Florida citrus fruit Tuesday surprised leaders of the Texas citrus industry, who have fought to keep Florida fruit out of the state.

"It's taken us aback. We're kind of in shock," said Les Whitlock, administrator of the Texas Sweet citrus marketing organization.

"It very definitely appears that the USDA has bent to the threat of a suit and a suit already filed against it," said Whitlock, who also serves as general manager of the Texas Valley Citrus Committee, a federal marketing order.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture on Tuesday lifted the ban that had been placed on shipments of Florida citrus to other citrus-producing states after a nursery strain of the bacterial citrus canker disease was discovered in Florida in August 1984.

The disease weakens trees and mars fruit.

The USDA ruling, effective Thursday, is estimated to mean \$25

million in annual sales to Florida's citrus industry.

Florida officials had urged a lifting of the USDA shipping ban, saying the nursery strain was not a threat.

A USDA spokesman said Tuesday the new rule was based on a proposal the USDA published in September to lift the restrictions. That proposal was later withdrawn after more cases of the disease were discovered in Florida nurseries.

A Florida company filed suit against the department last week, contending that the ban unfairly prejudiced the Florida crop.

Whitlock blamed the suit for the decision. "I think it was not a decision made by the regulators in the trenches, but by the lawyers in Washington," he said.

Andy Welch, a spokesman for the Texas Department of Agriculture in Austin, said the state will fight the entry of Florida citrus, and said one possibility would be a court injunction.

"They have bowed to the pressure of Florida citrus producers, totally ignoring the threat that the canker

could cause, the tremendous threat to the citrus industry."

The Texas citrus industry is concentrated on about 30,000 acres in the state's three southernmost counties, with the highest concentration in Hidalgo County.

Texas growers say they are finally recovering from a 1983 freeze that devastated the industry. This year's Texas crop is estimated at \$55 million to \$65 million.

Mike Martin, whose family operates Warehouse Farms Inc. in Mission, the lower Rio Grande Valley's largest citrus shipper, said the USDA provided no advance notice of Tuesday's action.

"I really don't know how they slipped it in, to tell you the truth," Martin said.

In addition to the threat to the Texas crop, because of its concentration in a small area, Martin said the state's growers could lose some of its market share in California.

Nancy Robinson of the USDA's Animal & Plant Health Inspection Service said the small Gulf Coast area of Florida will remain under the shipping ban.

# Officials plan elk transfer to West Texas

EL PASO (AP) — State wildlife officials announced Wednesday to transfer up to 50 elk from Oregon to the West Texas mountains to try to establish the wild herd in the rugged area a century ago.

If the animals thrive, the state someday might allow elk hunting, said Charles Allen, wildlife director of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

Oregon Game and Fish Department officials are scheduled to begin corralling 50 to 60 Rocky Mountain elk Monday near LaGrande, a town also surrounded by national forest in the northeastern part of the state.

Elk are overpopulated in the area and have been eating haystacks and fields of produce. "They're basically nuisance elk," Allen said.

Texas is trading 300 LaGrande turkeys for the elk, he said.

The elk will be trucked to Horn, Texas, this month and be split into two herds. One group will be released in the Davis Mountains east of Van Horn and the other will be placed in the Davis Mountains north of Marfa.

Elk used to range all over Texas, but hunters, aggressive predators and diseases introduced from domestic livestock contributed to the animal's demise in the late 19th century, said Parks and Wildlife spokesman David Cottom.

"This is just to restore a lost part of Texas heritage," he said.

The animals will vary in sex and age, and some will be fitted with transmitters that will allow wildlife officials to track them and learn about their eating, aging and reproductive habits.

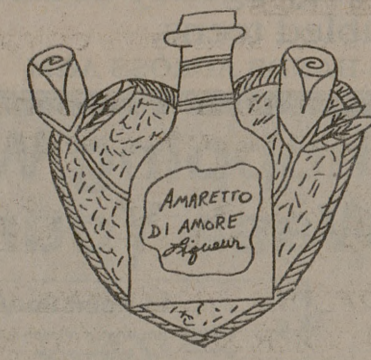
Allen said the transfer is designed to determine how the elk will fare in the West Texas mountains. There is some doubt because the Rocky Mountain elk is not identical to the Merriam elk that once grazed West Texas.

The Davis Mountains are covered with poderosa pine and are considerably lusher than the brown Wylie Mountains, which are more open and covered with brush.

"We've got a proven track record in other states that they do well (in the Davis Mountains), Allen said, adding that he hopes the animals can adapt to the Wylie Mountains.

"If they don't, they might migrate to the Davis Mountains," he said. "It's not that far."

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