

Official supports free trade

MISSION (AP) — A free trade agreement between the United States and Mexico will bolster job opportunities on both sides of the border, a former U.S. Department of Commerce official said Thursday.

William Cavitt, who once headed the Commerce Department in Mexico, told a group gathered at the South Texas Economic Development Conference that every \$1 billion of U.S. exports supports more than 22,000 U.S. jobs.

"Based on past experience, more jobs will be created than will be lost," Cavitt said.

Critics of a free trade agreement with Mexico have said they're concerned that U.S. jobs will be lost to a cheaper labor market in Mexico. Cavitt said he wants to dispel those myths.

Cavitt added that U.S. exports to Mexico doubled from \$14 billion in 1987 to \$28 billion in 1990, meaning that U.S. jobs dependent on exports to Mexico also doubled from 300,000 to 600,000.

A study by the McAllen Economic Development Center showed that 20,700 maquila jobs in Reynosa

in 1989 supported 23,400 jobs in Hidalgo County, Cavitt said.

Cavitt said he believes a free trade agreement with Mexico could produce the same successful results that have resulted from a similar arrangement between the United States and Canada.

"This is an exciting time to be involved in the Western Hemisphere," Cavitt said.

Roland Arriola, associate director of the University of Texas-Pan American's Center for Entrepreneurship and Economic Development, said the two-day conference is one of the most important South Texas events this year.

"This conference is unique in that it focuses not only on the potential impact of free trade on South Texas but also on a variety of issues, including technology training in our high schools, public entrepreneurship for cities and counties and other areas that will have a significant impact on the local economy in the years to come," Arriola said.

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Waco lawyer seeks higher damage claim in libel suit

WACO (AP) — A Waco lawyer is seeking to increase his damage claims from Belo Broadcasting Co. and former WFAA reporter Charles Duncan in the wake of a \$58 million libel verdict awarded to a former area prosecutor.

George Shaffer, in motions filed this week, is asking the 19th State District Court to increase his damage claims from \$3 million to \$12 million. Shaffer has also asked District Judge James Meyers of Austin to grant a summary judgment, forgoing a trial in his libel suit.

Shaffer's trial is scheduled to begin Nov. 12.

McLennan County jurors awarded former McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell the landmark libel verdict in April. Meyers, who also presided over that case, has not ruled whether to uphold the jury award, reduce it or dismiss it.

A judgment from Meyers is expected to be issued this week.

Shaffer claims Duncan and Belo, the station's owner, libeled him in a series of broadcasts aired in 1985.

The series said the FBI was investigating Feazell and several other Waco defense attorneys concerning accusations Feazell took bribes to dismiss cases.

Shaffer contends in his amended petition that Duncan libeled him in seven of the 11 broadcasts by lumping him with other attorneys included in the federal probe.

However, Shaffer's name was not included in FBI or state reports as being under investigation in the bribery investigation.

Shaffer said his recent request was prompted by both Feazell's verdict and a closer examination of the whole series.

An attorney for Belo did not return telephone calls from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Groups try for sound relations

tions taken by Phi Delta Theta's national office and A&M's Interfraternity Council. But he said there would be additional consequences if there were further problems with the fraternity.

Southerland said A&M has a better chance to influence change through probation than to abolish the chapter.

Koldus said many people do not realize that fraternities and sororities are not required to be recognized by major institutions.

"We wanted to have a good administrative relationship with them," he said.

The organizations can still exist off-campus, but by recognizing them, the University is able to keep a positive relationship with them, Koldus said.

Norman E. Allen, director of chapter services for the fraternity, and Phi Delta Theta representatives declined to comment.

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Motel chain, rape victim settle suit

HOUSTON (AP) — The Motel 6 chain has offered a Houston woman a \$10 million settlement in her lawsuit blaming her rape on the motel's insufficient security and a lack of concern for its guests.

The agreement between the 27-year-old Houston woman and Motel 6 came Wednesday during the third day of testimony in her lawsuit alleging negligence.

The woman was traveling alone as a photographer for United Church Directories in 1988 when she stopped at a Motel 6 in Fort Worth, testimony showed.

"She asked the management if they had security guards," said her lawyer, G. Robert Friedman. "They told her they did."

The woman, first noticed two men in a vending machine area and mistook them for Motel 6 employees, Friedman said.

Nerd House
by Tom A. Madison

Richards still undecided on fate of final ethics bill

AUSTIN (AP) — Gov. Ann Richards on Thursday defended the ethics bill passed by the Legislature, refused to say whether she would sign it into law, and added that she would allow lawmakers to work on the measure some more only after they finish writing a state budget.

"This is a much stronger bill than it is being given credit for," Richards said about the ethics legislation.

The bill passed — although it was not in written form — overwhelmingly by the Legislature about five minutes before the regular session adjourned at midnight May 27.

Since copies of the bill were produced about two days later, it has picked up a steady stream of de-

tractors, including some lawmakers and public advocacy groups.

On Thursday, Texas Media, a coalition of seven statewide news organizations, wrote Richards, asking her to either veto the bill or allow lawmakers to work on it again during the special session, which Richards has said will be called July 8.

"A bad ethics bill in many ways is worse than no ethics bill at all," Nick Voinis, chairman of Texas Media, said in the letter.

The group's major complaint is that under the bill, the ethics commission, which would administer the proposed law, would operate mostly in secret.

Other groups have criticized the bill because it would require six of

eight members of the commission to agree before initiating any kind of investigative action. The commission would be composed of four Democrats and four Republicans.

Senate members of a conference committee that worked on the bill have also asked Richards to open the special session, saying that agreements they reached with their House counterparts somehow never made it into the measure.

Richards said the Legislature could tackle the issue again after it completes work on the state budget.

The governor controls the agenda of special sessions.

What's Up

Thursday

ADULT CHILDREN OF ALCOHOLICS: General discussion at 6 p.m. Call CDPE at 845-0280 for more information.

GAY AND LESBIAN STUDENT SERVICES: General meeting in 507AB Rudder. Call 847-0321 for more information.

CAMPUS CRUSADE FOR CHRIST: First summer meeting! Everyone welcome at 7:30 p.m. at Rumors. Call Pat Roach for more information.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS: General discussion at noon. Call CDPE at 845-0280 for more information.

Friday

STUDENTS OVER TRADITIONAL AGE: Supper Club meeting at 6 p.m. at Fuddrucker's. Call 845-1741 for more information.

ALPHA KAPPA ALPHA SORORITY, INC.: Parties in Rooms 224 and 225 MSC.

Sunday

LUTHERAN STUDENT FELLOWSHIP: Bible Study at 7:30 p.m. at the Lutheran Student Center. Call Elaine at 846-5645 for more information.

Monday

COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS: Humana Hospital-Brazos Valley Texas Music Festival Chamber Music Concerts. Pro Arte String Quartet and Lawrence Wheeler, Viola. 7:30 p.m. in Rudder Theater. Call Rebecca Binder at 845-3355.

Items for What's Up should be submitted to The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald, no later than three business days before the desired run date. We publish the name and phone number of the contact only if you ask us to do so. What's Up is a Battalion service that lists non-profit events and activities. Submissions are run on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no guarantee an entry will run. If you have questions, call the newsroom at 845-3316.

Educators learn global curricula

Continued from page 1

Texas and receive three hours of graduate credit for their participation in the program.

"They (the teachers) leave with specific knowledge and materials that make it easier for them to teach this subject matter," Cooper said. "This is material that teachers can share with other teachers — a sort of chain-reaction effect."

Cooper added that the teachers who participate in this program will each teach about 200 students a year.

The program is presently funded by corporate groups, foundations and individuals who are interested in the program. The money covers the cost of teachers' tuition, room and board.

"We would like to expand and be able to separate the elementary and secondary teachers into different groups," Burke said. "But we would need additional funding since the program covers a majority of the teachers' expenses."

The Center for International Business Studies is sponsoring the program for the second year.