

'This will be another election year to cast a negative vote against wacky liberal ideas.'

- WALTER W. TAYLOR

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Vanessa Williams' fall and rise

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Corpus Christi Caller Times

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General says CCAD safe from 'hit list'

By Ben Goodwin
STAFF WRITER

The future of the Corpus Christi Army Depot appears secure because of its expertise in helicopter repair, says Lt. Gen. Charles W. Brown, the nation's top adviser on military assistance for foreign allies.

Brown was in Corpus Christi yesterday to make his first inspection of the depot and to speak to the local Association of the U.S. Army chapter.

Depot praised for quality performance

In an interview yesterday, Brown said the depot is unlikely to be on any "hit lists" of facilities that may be considered for closing to save defense dollars. A committee is studying military bases that may be recommended for possible closure. Brown said he has not seen a list of the bases being considered for closure.

"As long as there are helicopters, the Army will use them and as long as there are helicopters, the Corpus Christi Army Depot will be here, in my opinion," said Brown. "I don't think you have anything to worry about since all of the helicopter repair work has been consolidated in Corpus Christi."

The depot employs about 3,800 people, making it Corpus Christi's largest employer.

In remarks he delivered to the local Army association Thursday night, Brown, whose job is to plan the sale and financing of defense training and materiel for allies, emphasized the role of CCAD.

"For example, the face of war-

fare is changing and as it does, the work in the Corpus Christi depot becomes increasingly critical," Brown said. "Whether in Asia or Latin America, the new challenges are narcotics trafficking and anti-democratic insurgencies."

And since the helicopters used in the work are generally 1960s vintage, he said, the Army depot work is indispensable.



Please see Depot/20A

Lt. Gen. Charles W. Brown

S. Texas schools to get funds

Education board OKs \$1.8 million

By Dana Palmer
HARTE-HANKS AUSTIN BUREAU

AUSTIN - The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recommended yesterday that \$1.8 million be shared by six South Texas universities to help them with start-up costs for new degree programs.

The approval came quickly without much debate about the amount, despite criticism from state Sen. Carlos Truan, D-Corpus Christi.

Truan noted in his letter to board Chairman H.M. Daugherty of El Paso that the money was welcome, "however, the \$1.8 million is simply not enough to enable our universities in South Texas to begin the long process of improving their degree program inventory."

State Rep. Eddie Cavazos, D-Corpus Christi, said Higher Education Commissioner Kenneth Ashworth, who recommended the funding, is "insensitive" to the needs of South Texas and called for his resignation.

Truan, in his letter, said the universities need the extra help to overcome a history of inadequate state funding and lack of degree offerings in South Texas.

Truan urged an increase in the request, noting that in 1983, the Legislature approved \$2.2 million in program development funds only for two black universities - Prairie View A&M and Texas Southern University.

"Surely, South Texas, which has been limited for so long by our system of higher-education funding, deserves equivalent treatment," he said.

Under Ashworth's plan, Corpus Christi State University would receive a total of \$400,000 for the two years of the biennium; Texas A&I University at Kingsville, \$400,000; Pan American University at Edinburg, \$400,000; the University of Texas at San Antonio, \$400,000; Laredo State University, \$100,000; and Pan American at Brownsville, \$100,000.

Please see Schools/20A

Competition for the colors



TOM HAND/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

T.J. Ramos peeks from behind a squadron flag while teammate Matt Duke guards the flank during a color guard competition for the American Legion state convention at Bayfront Plaza Convention Center. Story/1B

Lehman hurry-up left single bidder for pilotless craft

Israelis won \$100 million contract

By Mark Thompson
KNIGHT-RIDDER NEWSPAPERS

WASHINGTON - An Israeli company won a \$100 million contract to build pilotless aircraft for the Navy after then-Secretary John F. Lehman Jr. put the project on a fast track that bypassed normal purchasing procedures and forced out all other competitors.

Now federal prosecutors are looking into the relationship between Melvyn R. Paisley, Lehman's former procurement chief, and the Israeli company, whose spy-in-the-sky drones are two years late and today are aboard only a single Navy vessel. Twelve of the roughly 36 drones delivered to date have crashed.

Lehman put the contract to build the drone on a hurry-up schedule shortly after he returned from a visit to Israel in 1985.

Abandoning the Pentagon's usual process to develop and buy military hardware, the Navy published a list of requirements for its drone and invited defense firms to submit bids. The Navy's specifications bore a striking similarity to those of the Israeli Pioneer aircraft.

Search warrants made public two weeks ago indicated that federal investigators were looking at the Pioneer's Israeli developer and Paisley, one of the central figures in the two-year investigation of possible fraud and bribery in the awarding of Pentagon contracts.

That revelation has rekindled a controversy that has surrounded the project from the day Mazlat, Ltd. won the contract. Mazlat is the Israeli company that designed and built the drone. It teamed with an American partner, the AAI Corp., of Baltimore, Md., for the Navy contract.

This week, Richard L. Rumpf, once Paisley's top deputy and still a top Navy procurement official, acknowledged that the competition was strange. "There was only one bid," he said, and only Mazlat's drone participated in a demonstration for the Navy Weapons Center at China Lake, Calif., in late 1985.

From the start, the Navy's drone contract was different.

First, the Navy sought bids on the drone

Please see Drone/20A

4 killed in torrent of water as Juarez water tank ruptures

By Holden Lewis
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

CIUDAD JUAREZ, Mexico - The wall of a concrete water tank ruptured Friday, killing four people and injuring 20 when a torrent gushed through a neighborhood of adobe houses, destroying nine homes.

Residents said they had recently warned city officials about cracks in the 3-year-old tank, which was perched on a hillside.

More than 750,000 gallons of water poured down the hillside, officials said, and the tank's east wall, about 120 feet long, separated cleanly from the rest of the tank.

A 90-foot section of the 9-inch-thick, reinforced concrete wall was thrown 20 feet across a dirt road and came to rest against a house. The rest of the wall broke away

and blocked the road.

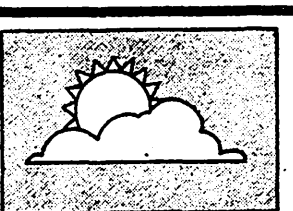
Manuel Ortega, director of the city Water and Sanitation Department, said the tank was built in 1985, though neighborhood residents said the tank was six months old. Ortega said crews worked on the tank about six months ago.

The tank was about 120 feet wide, 60 feet deep and 12 feet high. Ortega said it was at full capacity, or 780,000 gallons.

"We heard a very loud sound, like an explosion," said Vicenta Saucedo, 33. "But I didn't pay attention because I was feeding my children breakfast. And then the girls went out to see what happened, and I went

Please see Rupture/20A

Board proposes revising schools' shares of construction, equipment funds./1B



High in high 90s

Partly cloudy skies. High today - high 90s. Low tonight - mid-70s./4A

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Bilingual Dukakis, Bentsen woo voters in McAllen

By Steven Komarow
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

McALLEN - Democratic presidential nominee Michael Dukakis and running mate Lloyd Bentsen launched their general election campaign Friday with a trip to Bentsen's home area and a promise that "We're going to make every American a shareholder in the American dream."

About 1,000 supporters endured blazing heat to greet the Democratic ticket on an airport tarmac near Bentsen's family home of Mission. "I don't want to kid you," Dukakis said. "This is going to be a tough race."

A Mexican band played, and both Dukakis and Bentsen, perspiring in the July heat, addressed the crowd in both English and Spanish. Dukakis' command of Spanish helped him win Texas in the Super Tuesday primary.

"You know how important Texas

Convention success keys Dukakis campaign

By R.W. Apple Jr.
NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

ATLANTA - Michael S. Dukakis, no longer an aspirant but the Democratic presidential nominee, sought Thursday night to put his imprint firmly on his party, on a convention that until he addressed it had seen little of him and on a nation that still scarcely knows him.

Dukakis laid out a moving vision of "the next American frontier." He introduced himself to the nation as a "product of the American dream," in which every American, he said, must be made "a full shareholder."

Analysis

All through his speech, he sought to draw his listeners back to two historic ideals of the Democratic Party, economic well-being and selflessness in public service.

"This election isn't about ideology," the nominee declared in an obvious bid for the votes of those who supported President Reagan in the past. "It's about competence."

Within the hall, at least, and apparently on television as well, Dukakis succeeded brilliantly, delivering his speech with punch and panache. The delegates ate it up, cheering, shouting, chanting and

Please see Dukakis/7A

is going to be to us. And we need your help," Dukakis told residents of the state also claimed as home by the certain Republican nominee, George Bush. "I know what you did on Super Tuesday for Michael Du-

kakis. You can do it again." Bentsen said, "What we have seen on the part of Michael Dukakis is a reaching out, a bringing in, of all segments of society. The pair met briefly with report-

ers. Asked about Bush campaign manager Lee Atwater's characterization of his acceptance speech as negative and non-specific, Dukakis replied, "Well, he's an expert on both subjects."

Dukakis and Bentsen then headed for Houston for another rally, after which they were bound for California for the night. Bentsen was to accompany Dukakis throughout a five-state, coast-to-coast swing over the weekend.

Aboard their plane were several members of the Texas congressional delegation and Ann Richards, the state treasurer who delivered the Democratic keynote address in Atlanta Monday night.

Enroute to McAllen, Dukakis noted that the community is in the Rio Grande Valley, an area suffering unemployment of "25, 30, 35 percent."

"We're going to make every American a shareholder in the American dream - that's what this campaign is all about," he said.

Earlier, former Democratic rival Jesse Jackson gave Dukakis and

Please see Campaign/4A