

Editorial

Blackmail

By JERRY NEEDHAM
City Editor

The recent actions taken by the Bryan Council in the utility rate proceedings with College Station indicate a lack of total understanding of the situation existing here in Brazos County.

Bryan's actions can be called nothing but blackmail. Bryan officials, in effect, delivered an ultimatum demanding an almost unconditional surrender. The choices offered were to accept Bryan's offers or to go to court.

From all indications, Bryan's demands for an increase would not have held up in court. College Station spends \$3.5 million a year purchasing electricity from Bryan. Most of this money is redistributed and circulated in Bryan and Brazos County. This is a tremendous economic boon in almost anyone's book.

If College Station officials are antagonized into resorting to other sources for utilities (such as Gulf States Utilities), that \$3.5 million would be leaving this region of Texas. The Bryan Council does not seem to understand the implications of such an action.

This writer is not advocating that Bryan should sell utilities below cost to College Station just to preserve a sizable economic input into their community. Bryan officials however, should show a willingness to submit the matter to an impartial arbitrator if College Station officials favor that course of action.

The recent surrender of College Station to terms dictated by Bryan might lead Bryan to believe College Station is a pushover. This writer urges the College Station City Council to stand up for their rights.

Bryan's position of treating the city of College Station as a single-family residence in Bryan is unfair. If Bryan wants to do it this way they should be required to provide the same services to College Station that they provide their own residents. These responsibilities include installing and maintaining transmission lines, reading meters, collecting fees, and suffering losses for those who don't pay.

Bryan has overshadowed its sister city to the south for many decades, but now College Station is becoming a city in its own right.

Bryan is in the driver's seat now, but who's to say what the situation will be in 10 or 20 years. It appears Bryan officials intend to subjugate College Station to its will at all costs — even friendship.

A cooperating and friendly attitude should be preserved between the cities, but College Station should not bear the complete burden of preserving this goodwill.

Time will tell who has won and who has been left behind.

Seminar focuses on student writing

Students today face an unparalleled crisis in writing despite a greater need than ever to communicate effectively, says a TAMU English professor.

TAMU is the host of an institute in Dallas this week that may lead to some solutions.

Dr. Forrest Burt, TAMU associate professor and institute director, reports that what started out as a regional meeting on the teaching of writing has reached national proportions because of the wide interest in writing skills.

Although the July 21-25 institute is limited to 75 persons, representatives will be there from 15 states. Texas institutions to be represented include Southern Methodist University, El Centro, Mountain View Community College, Tarrant County Junior College, Ranger Junior College, San Antonio College, University of Houston and Turner High School in Carrollton.

During the six-hours-a-day workshop, participants will seek possible solutions in writing instruction by becoming writing students themselves.

Three well-known figures will criticize the teachers' work. They are James Kinneavy of the University of Texas, Peter Elbow of Evergreen State College in Washington and Lou Kelly of Iowa State University.

Moderating the workshop will be Dr. Elizabeth Wooten of the Modern Language Association and Association of Departments of English in New York.

The institute is being held at the

TAMU Research and Development Center in Dallas.

Sensing a need for help in student writing, Dr. Burt and other planners began preparing an institute of regional scope for Dallas and Fort Worth. Before all was done, however, it became apparent that this was an issue of nationwide attention. A number of schools in other states put in bids to send representatives, Burt said.

The informal, action-reaction format of the workshop is expected to determine the success of the program and the ultimate success of other institutes in the planning stages, Burt said.

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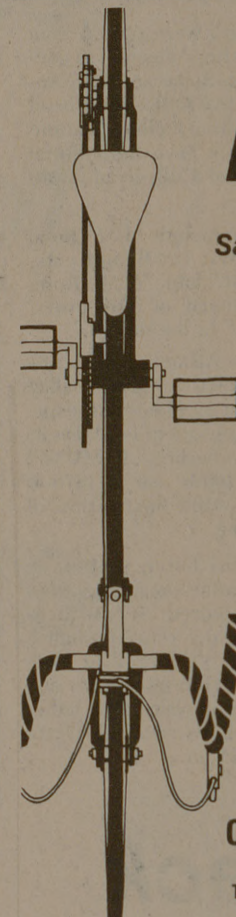
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Space research may aid earth's energy problems

CAPE CANAVERAL — The Apollo-Soyuz Test Project may yield valuable information about applying space technology to the earth's energy and environmental problems, according to U.S. Rep. Olin E. Teague, D-Tex.

However, original plans for the joint U.S.-Soviet space mission did not include the 27 experiments carried out by the Apollo-Soyuz crews. Half of the experiments were requested by the Defense Department.

"We wanted to be sure we had more than a \$250 million handshake in space," Teague said.

"One project, for example, will

teach us more about the way crystal formations are affected under zero gravity conditions," Teague said.

NASA (National Space and Aeronautics Administration) scientists believe that if certain assumptions prove true, the crystal experiment could lead to accelerated ways to converting certain materials in space or space-like environments to produce greater yields of usable fuel.

Teague said that the Apollo energy experiments may result in a renewed interest in the entire space program as a vital research tool.

He noted that the House last April authorized the first budget in-

crease for NASA programs since 1966.

Teague said that while the increase from \$3.3 billion to \$3.6 billion is small, "It is encouraging to see a reversal in the downward trend which has plagued the space program for ten years."

Teague said the space program has resulted in many practical technological advancements such as weather and communications satellites and has made significant contributions to the medical field. For example, the development of pacemakers for coronary patients came from space research.

'Texas Monthly' features projects

TAMU, particularly its research program, is featured in the August issue of "Texas Monthly."

The nine-page cover story written by James Fallows is entitled "Super Hero! How the Aggies Are Going to Save the World."

Special emphasis is given to the programs being conducted by the Food Protein Research and De-

velopment Center. Included are the Center's glandless cottonseed, coconut and peanut projects, which hold promise as major low-cost sources to offset worldwide protein shortages. Coverage also is given to numerous other projects in agriculture, engineering and oceanography.

The writer for the Austin-based

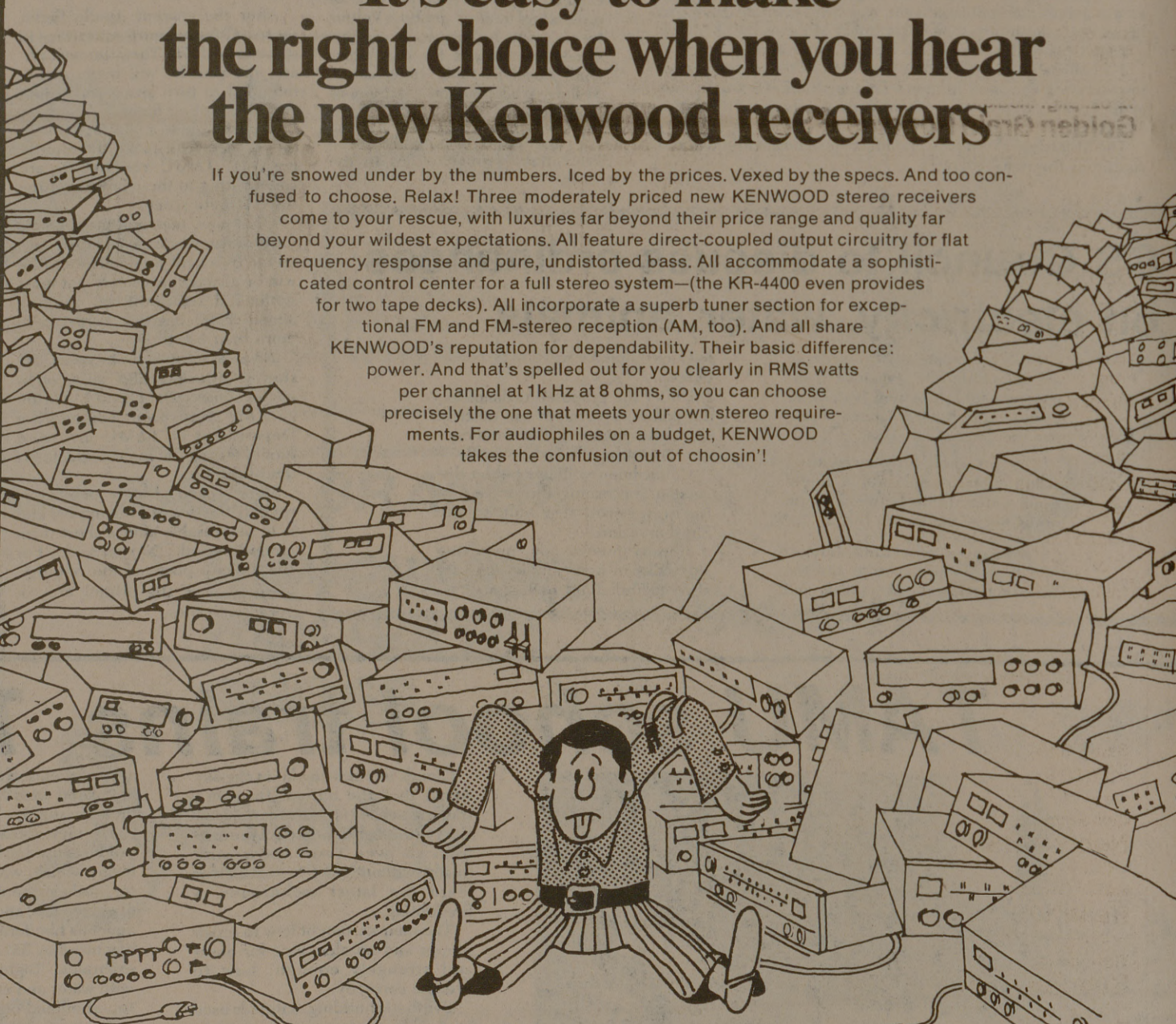
magazine also contrasts TAMU growth and expansion with that of other schools. He notes, for example, "in the middle of national academia's darkest hour, the Aggies are lolling in the sunshine of big funding and fast growth, outstripping even their traditional Southwestern rivals in the bigger-is-better sweepstakes."



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