

Sully's Symposium
A&M run-off candidates to face off

Page 4

Here's mud in your eye
Hogs take Aggies in baseball series, 2-1

Page 8

The Texas A&M Battalion

Vol. 80 No. 123 USPS 045360 10 pages

College Station, Texas

Monday, April 1, 1985

"Taking his position at the hub of things, the writer contemplates the mystery of the universe."

Rep. Delco to speak here tonight New tuition bill to be discussed

By JERRY OSLIN
Staff Writer

The chairman of the House Higher Education Committee, State Rep. Wilhelmina Delco, D-Austin, will speak on the current tuition bill and higher education tonight at 7 in Rudder Theater.

The speech is sponsored by the Black Awareness Committee and the MSC Political Forum.

The House recently passed a bill, sponsored by Delco, that would increase tuition for state college and university students.

Under Delco's bill, resident tuition would increase from the current \$4 per semester hour to \$8 for the 1985-86 school year and to \$12 for the 1986-87 year.

The bill also would raise tuition for non-resident students from the current \$40 per semester hour to \$120 for the 1985-86 school year and to \$180 for the 1986-87 year.

The bill also calls for 25 percent of all tuition to be set aside for student financial aid.

The bill must be passed by the State Senate and signed by Gov. Mark White before it becomes law.

But a plan proposed last week by Lt. Governor Bill Hobby and supported by State Sen. Kent Caperton, D-Bryan, would raise resident tuition to \$12 for the 1985-86 school year and to \$16 for the 1986-87 year.

The Hobby plan also calls for 9 percent of the tuition increase to be set aside for student financial aid.

Gay rights forum, debate to be held

By ANN CERVENKA
Staff Writer

Is the closet open?
The answer to this question concerning the civil rights of homosexuals will be the topic of a forum and a debate this week.

Monday, members of Gay Student Services will speak at Rudder Fountain. Political Forum and Great Issues will co-sponsor the open forum from noon to 2 p.m.

Tuesday, a debate, sponsored by Political Forum, will feature Gara Lamarche, director of the American Civil Liberties Union in Texas, and Houston City Councilman John Goodner.

The ACLU is known for fighting to protect the civil rights of any group, whether far left or far right, said Jim Schicker, Political Forum national programs director.

Lamarche said he lobbies and works through the court to protect civil rights.

"We exist to support the protections in the Bill of Rights," Lamarche said. These rights include freedom of speech and press and due process.

"Our concern is about equal rights for homosexuals," he said. "No one should discriminate on the basis of personal qualities."

In January, the Houston City Council passed an ordinance that would outlaw discrimination against homosexuals in city employment.

Once the referendum went to the voters, Goodner led a fight against

See Gay rights, page 7

Correction

The Battalion incorrectly reported Friday that graduation ceremonies are being held May 3, at 3 p.m.

The ceremonies are at 2 p.m. May 3. The Battalion regrets the error.



Hey, Where'd They Go?

Photo by GREG BAILEY

These cadets resort to hiding under cover to shelter themselves from the cold, rainy weather that blew in for Saturday's March to

the Brazos. This year the Corps raised over \$47,000 to benefit the March of Dimes charity.

Donations linked to defense?

PACs' spending rises

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The nation's largest defense contractors have doubled their political donations since President Reagan took office, with the top 20 firms pouring \$3.6 million into 1984 congressional and presidential campaigns.

The surge in campaign contributions occurred as government contracts to those firms swelled over last four years by nearly 150 percent to \$69 billion in 1984. Opinions differ, however, on what effect the donations have on defense spending.

Sen. John Warner, R-Va., the top congressional recipient, said the contributions gain the firms no special attention. But Fred Wertheimer, president of Common Cause, the citizens lobby, called the political donations "a critical part of the lobbying process."

An Associated Press review of

contributions by political action committees, or PACs, affiliated with the 20 leading defense contractors, found that most top congressional recipients are supporters of Reagan's \$1.8 trillion arms buildup, including many on committees that handle military spending bills.

Of the 20 House members receiving more than \$15,000 from those PACs, 17 voted last week to approve the president's request for \$1.5 billion to build 21 more MX missiles. Thirteen of the 14 senators who received more than \$30,000 backed Reagan on the MX. Sen. J. Bennett Johnston, D-La., was the only exception.

Through its PAC, Rockwell International Corp. increased contributions from \$59,625 in 1980 to \$328,440 in 1984, a jump of 450 percent, according to Federal Election Commission figures.

Rockwell spokesman Dan O'Neal said the firm's higher PAC spending came from new employees hired to work on the bigger defense contracts and from larger donations by more senior employees who have an "increased awareness of the value" of political contributions.

Corporate PACs raise their funds through voluntary contributions from salaried employees. Trade associations, political interest groups and labor unions also have PACs.

Lockheed Corp., the fifth biggest contractor, was the heaviest PAC spender among the top 20 defense firms, contributing \$420,191 to candidates for federal office in 1984. That total represented a 325 percent increase over four years earlier. Lockheed's Pentagon contracts rose from \$2 billion to \$5.2 billion during that period.

CS council candidates discuss priorities

By MICHAEL CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

The quality of life, the development of the industrial park and continued area growth were the choruses most frequently sung at Friday's College Station city council candidate forum.

Two candidates are running for Place 1 which is currently occupied by Alvin Prause. Roy Kelly, the owner of A-I Auto Parts, and Fred Brown, the owner of Fred Brown Mazda-BMW, both want tougher scrutiny of the city's budget.

Kelly says his top three priorities for the city are evaluating the city's financial position, bringing in more industry and keeping citizens involved in the community. Brown says keeping the quality of life, soliciting new industries to come to the area and running the city like a business are his top goals.

Kelly says the Industrial Development Foundation should work more closely with the council while Brown says the industrial park should be turned over to the Industrial Foundation and that Texas A&M should be used as a carrot to attract new businesses.

Both men agreed, the city should not use money refunded from elec-

trical overcharges to finance a city library. Kelly says the money should be channeled back into the utilities department for future use, but Brown says the money should be returned to consumers.

A non-binding questionnaire concerning the library is on the April 6 ballot. City officials are using the ballot to determine if taxpayers would accept a two cent increase per \$100 evaluation in their property taxes.

Place 3 has three candidates competing for the position. Roy Hann Jr., head of the environmental engineering division of A&M's Civil Engineering Experiment Station; Mike Hachtman, an industrial distribution major from Dallas; and Terri Tongco, a one-year member of the Planning and Zoning Commission, are battling for the position vacated earlier this year by Vicky Reinke. Reinke moved to Maryland.

Hann says his top priorities are attacking problem areas that exist and improving the quality of life. Hachtman says maintaining the quality of life, finishing the industrial park and improving communication between the city and the University are his goals. Financial accountability for all departments, improving business growth to help expand the tax base and maintaining neighborhood qual-

ity are Tongco's top priorities.

Hann says the construction of a library is part of the cultural development of the city, but he would not pull funds from one area to finance the new building. Hachtman says the new library, if constructed, should specialize in one particular field so as not to duplicate services provided by A&M's library. Hachtman also says the money from the overcharges should be given back to consumers. Tongco says the money from the overcharges wouldn't be enough to start the library and any proposal for it should co-operate with Bryan's public library system.

Garnes Bond, an attorney, and Jim Gardner, a councilman from 1974-78, are running for Place 5, currently occupied by Gary Anderson. Bond says he wants to improve intra-governmental cooperation to achieve common purposes and make sure government officials ask the right questions about issues. Gardner says he wants to optimize benefits from the area's growth, strengthen the planning function in the city and have a thorough review done on the city's industrial park.

Bond says he had not studied the library issue and Gardner says he is glad the voters are participating in the decision-making process.

Petition filed concerning voting rights

By MICHAEL CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

The Texas A&M chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union filed a petition with the U.S. Justice Department Friday requesting an investigation of possible violations of the Voting Rights Act by the City of College Station.

Also, the group has asked the Texas Civil Liberties Union to consider filing a class action lawsuit against College Station and the College Station Independent School District for infringing upon registered voters' civil rights.

If taken, both actions raise the possibility that the results of the coming election may be disqualified.

The possible actions against the city and CSISD were prompted by the city's combining of precincts 20, 21 and 35 for the April 6 elections. A&M Civil Liberties Union representative Chris Bowers said the consolidation "discriminates against students. The three precincts are almost entirely composed of student voters."

The petition filed with the Justice Department says the city may have violated section 5 of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. That section says any change to existing voting regulations must not "have the purpose and will not have the effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race or color." Bowers said in this case the minority is the students who don't have transportation to vote at the designated polling place at the old College Station Municipal Building behind Northgate.

The city has used the consolidated districts for local elections since 1981 because student voter turnout traditionally has been low. In the 1984 city elections, only 27 people cast their ballots at the combined precinct. However, Bowers said the consolidation is not the result of low turnout, but the cause.

"If you consolidated all the voting boxes in the school district and put them in Millican," Bowers said, "I guarantee you maybe 200 people out of thousands of registered voters would vote. Then the people in the school district could say, 'See, there's a low voter turnout and therefore

the consolidation is justified.'"

Since the last city election, voter registration in those precincts has increased 230 percent, and the space available for use has been reduced to one-third of its original size. Also, an A&M student is running for a seat on the council in this election. Those changes, Bowers said, makes the continued use of the consolidated precincts unacceptable.

College Station Mayor Gary Halter said last week that the distance to the voting place is not excessive.

"I don't think it's any more to ask a student whose interested in the city — and I think students should be — to go a distance slightly greater than the Dixie Chicken to vote, than it is, for example, for a non-student resident to go from the other side of the bypass all the way to the municipal court building," Halter said.

While Bowers doubts the Justice Department will act on the petition before the election, he said in the past the results from elections have been discarded when the procedure used was unfair. The petition requests "expedited consideration."

The city may have to worry about more than the Justice Department. The Texas Civil Liberties Union, Bowers said, will decide early this week on whether to sue the city and the school district for infringement of voters' civil rights. The lawsuit would be based on the information submitted to the Justice Department.

The consolidation may be intentionally inconvenient for students, Bowers said, and he blames the poor attitude of city officials for the changes.

"I don't like this conclusion," Bowers said, "but it's the only conclusion there can be. . . . I would have to blame the poor attitude of the officials. . . . I'm not saying everybody in College Station or that even many people in College Station have a poor attitude about students, but I think there are a few elected officials that do. These officials are dividing the 'regular people' and the students. I think that's unfortunate."

Bowers includes Halter among those officials who, he said, are trying to intimidate students.

Student's campaign irritates Mayor Halter

By MICHAEL CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

All is not well in electionland.

With less than a week remaining before the April 6 city council and school board elections, Mike Hachtman's campaign for a council seat has irritated College Station Mayor Gary Halter.

"I do know that he is trying to portray me as anti-student," Halter said last week. "I have told him that I do not appreciate him impugning my reputation in order to gain some sort of advantage."

Although Halter would not give examples of how Hachtman was portraying him as anti-student, Hachtman said the problem surrounds a quote reported in the Houston Chronicle. In a March 3 article of the Chronicle, Halter is quoted as saying:

"They're (students) like the loc-

custs that disappear for four years and reappear to vote in national elections." In the article, Halter went on to say that students don't get involved in local politics.

Halter's student/locust comparison has been used by Hachtman in his campaign for the unoccupied Place 3 seat.

Hachtman said he is not trying to portray the mayor as anti-student. Hachtman said, "We want to show the community we're not locusts and that we do care about what's going on here, so we will get out and vote."

Halter is counting on a large student turnout to bring him victory, but traditionally students have largely ignored local elections.

On Wednesday, Hachtman apologized to Halter, but main-

See Hachtman, page 5