



The Battalion



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General Telephone Notes Problems, Seeks Solutions

By DAVID MIDDLEBROOKE
Battalion Staff Writer

"We have problems, there's no question about that. We're working on them, however, and I think our service is very good."

That was the opinion of Bill Erwin, division manager of General Telephone and Electronics Corp. in Bryan, yesterday as he talked with The Battalion about complaints received during "Gripe Night" last Wednesday.

The Battalion Intelligent Telephone Criticism Hearing, as the project was called, was conducted to give area residents a chance to voice their complaints about the telephone service. The lines at the Student Publications office were opened to receive the calls, which totaled about 30.

YESTERDAY, these complaints were presented to Erwin to see if he felt they were valid and what, if anything, could be done about them. None of the complaints dealt specifically with the Centrex system on the A&M campus, but with phone service in general.

One of the callers was Mrs. Jane Scott, a former employee of General here in Bryan who had previously worked for Bell Telephone in California.

Mrs. Scott explained what she believed, on the basis of her experience, were some of the basic problems that the Bryan office was facing.

"I noticed there was very low morale on the part of the employees," she commented. "They

really don't care whether or not the job gets done or done right. This includes repairmen, installers, and repair office workers. They just don't care."

MRS. SCOTT went on to say that there were not enough employees to handle the volume of work.

"There is only one repairman for the entire Centrex system," she remarked. "He has to take care of all the phones, both student and office, on the campus."

"That's the basic problem throughout the General system in this area," she continued. "There simply aren't enough people to handle the work load. In addition, supervisors bicker among themselves."

"I don't know of any morale problem," Erwin remarked yesterday. "In fact, I think that morale is high among our employees."

"OUR PEOPLE work as a team. They have to," he continued, "or they wouldn't be able to get anything done. We wouldn't be able to operate as a company."

"Our staff is adequate for the area," he said. "We have some peak periods, such as the first part of September, when it takes us longer to handle a specific complaint due to the large volume of work to be done. Right now we have our repair and installation men working 10 hours a day, six days a week, to handle the work, and I think they are doing satisfactorily."

Erwin said that the phone company has to know about a problem before it can do anything about it.

"When people have a problem, if they will report it in the proper manner, by dialing 18, we can get on the trouble."

MRS. SCOTT also said that, from what she knew, General was unwilling to spend money in this area to modernize the equipment and maintain it properly.

"Some of it is old and outdated," she said. "Besides that, the employees don't have the time or the inclination to get after the trouble."

"I have to disagree concerning the modernizing of our equipment," Erwin said. "The Centrex system on the A&M campus is the most modern and up-to-date equipment available."

"In addition, we've added 12 new switchboard positions in the Bryan office, and 1,200 lines to the College Station exchange. We are also installing Expanded Direct Distance Dialing (EDDD) which will become operational in August of this year."

"ADDITIONAL long distance channels have been set up," Erwin added, "between Bryan and Dallas, Austin, and San Antonio. We have also added more lines to the outlying areas that we serve."

"The EDDD equipment alone is costing General \$3.5 million," he continued, "and it will provide greatly improved service to this area. An additional \$250,000 has been spent to add more men and equipment. There are definitely plans for expansion in this area."

Students also had many complaints to voice concerning the phone service here. Nelson L. Jacob inquired as to why the university was requiring phones in the university apartments to be desk models located in the bedroom. "The university has said nothing concerning this," emphasized Howard Vestal, man-

(See Telephone, Page 2)

NBC-TV Newsmen To Film Corps For Huntley-Brinkley

An NBC-TV news crew will photograph today and Thursday the operation of the Corps of Cadets for Huntley-Brinkley news.

A future national television broadcast of the news team will highlight academic credit problems the ROTC program is having in Eastern U. S. colleges.

Bob Goralski, who will be in charge of the five-man crew, said the Pentagon suggested NBC cameras be turned on Texas A&M to show "the other side of the coin," or where the ROTC program works the way it was designed.

The television newsmen will interview university officials, take sound cameras into a military science class and focus on a Cadet Corps pass-by for the Wednesday evening meal formation.

Ags Top TU, 70-69, Take Lead In SWC



THE SIDE WITH THE 3-POINT LEAD

Aggie forward Chuck Smith (42) watches the last three seconds tick off the scoreboard in Tuesday's game as teammates (from left) Ronnie Peret, Sonny Benefield, Bill Cooksey and Mike Heitmann watch Texas bring in the ball for a last-second field goal to cut the winning margin to one point, 70-69. The Aggies remained in back court to avoid any possibility of a foul and subsequent 3-point play. (Photo by Mike Wright)

Baylor Drops To Second With Loss To Rice

By JOHN PLATZER

Another chapter in the unbelievable story of A&M's unshakable cagers unfolded before a capacity crowd in G. Rollie White Tuesday night, as the Aggies regained undisputed first place in the SWC with a 70-69 overtime victory over Texas.

Coach Shelby Metcalf's crew got help from an unexpected source last night as the Rice Owls knocked off Baylor 75-73 in Waco. The Aggies are now 7-1 in league play while the Bears and SMU are a step back at 6-2.

The Aggies connected on free shots in crucial situations twice against Texas to nail down the win. Mike Heitmann calmly dropped in both ends of a one-and-one situation to tie the game at 61-61 at the end of regulation play and send the contest into overtime.

RONNIE PERET then performed the honors at the end of overtime when he nursed in a pair of foul shots with only seven seconds remaining, to put the finishing touches on the victory. The Longhorns had one final shot but with a three point lead the Aggies became spectators from the other end of the court to cancel out any chance of a foul and three point play.

With 1:28 left in overtime, the Aggies went to a passing game attempting to protect a 66-65 lead. Bill Cooksey, a sophomore from Houston Sam Houston, got loose under the Texas basket with :33 remaining for a layup that increased the margin to 68-65 and set the stage for Peret's clutch free throws.

The win was in keeping with the Aggies' pattern of close, action-packed finishes. It was the second overtime SWC game A&M has won this year and was the fourth one point decision they have registered in conference. Their only SWC defeat thus far (to Baylor) was also by one point, 66-65.

A&M BEGAN strong in the game with Billy Bob Barnett leading the way to a quick 9-2 lead. Coach Leon Black's Steers (See Ags Top TU, Page 4)

CATE's 7-Subject Network Benefits 20 High Schools

High school students in 20 East Central Texas schools have opportunity to receive instruction in seven subjects taught over "blackboard-by-wire" from Texas A&M.

Structured through the Creative Application of Technology to Education (CATE) Center, instructional opportunities include physics, related math, English composition, basic Russian, slide rule, logarithms and computer programming.

Dr. Thomas J. Moffett, CATE director, noted the seven classes are available to all students of high school level at Allen Military Academy, A&M Consolidated in College Station, Brenham, Caldwell, Cameron, Crockett, Hearne, Huntsville, Kemp and S.F. Austin in Bryan, Madisonville, Navasota, Rockdale, Snook and Somerville.

IN ADDITION, Latin Ameri-

can cultures is transmitted to A&M Consolidated Junior High, College Hills, South Knolls, Henderson and Ben Milam Elementary Schools in Bryan and College Station.

"A student interested in taking any of the subjects should contact his principal," Moffett said. Curriculum materials are developed by CATE Center personnel. Text distributed to schools, slides, transparencies and manuals are prepared and produced in the center's art and printing departments.

Each course is structured to supply material, knowledge and teaching capabilities the individual school might not be able to separately provide. English composition is organized to help college-bound students acquire skill in composition and rhetoric.

BASIC RUSSIAN is instructed by a retired Army officer who has 23 years of linguistics experience.

Latin American culture is structured on materials collected by teachers who toured Central and South American countries with the Programa de Educacion Interamericana headquartered at A&M.

The computer programming course takes advantage of A&M's third-generation IBM 360/65 computer. Students learn to write programs which are computer-solved through computer-connected hardware at the center.

Ticketing Begins In Parking Lots

Campus Security officers started writing tickets in the day student lots Tuesday, said Morris A. Maddox, assistant security chief.

Maddox pointed out students were allowed last week and Monday to register their vehicles prior to the start of ticketing.

"We will continue working student parking lots on campus for violations," Maddox said.

He estimated more than 75 percent of the students have already registered their vehicles.

Maddox said all vehicles displaying an "F" decal on their window are required to re-register, as well as new students on the campus for the first time.

Registration fee for the spring semester is \$5 and can be paid in the security office in the YMCA Building.

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RV's To Lead Rex Parade In Mardi Gras

King Rex's official honor guard for the Rex parade of New Orleans' annual Mardi Gras celebration will be the 129-cadet strong Ross Volunteers.

RV Commander Robert J. Foley of Premont said the entire company will march in the Tuesday parade and be at the Rex Ball in New Orleans' Municipal Auditorium Tuesday evening.

Three platoons, staff and color guard will precede King Rex's float.

The Rex honor guard appearance of the Ross Volunteers will be the second of the year for the oldest military organization at A&M. The RV's formed the traditional honor guard for Gov. Preston Smith's inauguration in Austin last month.

At New Orleans, the company will be housed on the "U.S.S. Guadalcanal," a Navy helicopter assault craft to be berthed on the Mississippi River at the foot of Canal Street. The A&M cadets will stay Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nights.

"The location is just a few blocks from the French Quarter," Foley noted.

The company will be entertained Monday evening by the New Orleans A&M Club at the Lamplighter upon invitation of Judson Smith, 1959 A&M graduate and New Orleans club member.

Foley said the company will return to the campus Wednesday.

Director Making Winter Plans For YMCA's Summer Fish Camp

By DAVE BERRY
Battalion Staff Writer

A&M's summer Fish Camp is active even in the winter months.

At least it is for Gary Anderson, director of next summer's 16th annual Fish Camp, who is in the midst of preparations for next summer's camp.

"Fish Camp was initiated at Bastrop 16 years ago by J. Gordon Gay, YMCA secretary and religious coordinator until his retirement last year, Anderson said.

"Since then, the camp has grown from 16 participants to next summer's four groups of 100 each, with 25 camp counselors per group. The camp has also since moved from Bastrop to Lakeview Methodist Assembly near Palestine.

"The purpose of the camp," located next to a lake in Texas hill country, "has been to prepare the incoming freshman students for the responsibilities and leadership required of college students," continued Anderson.

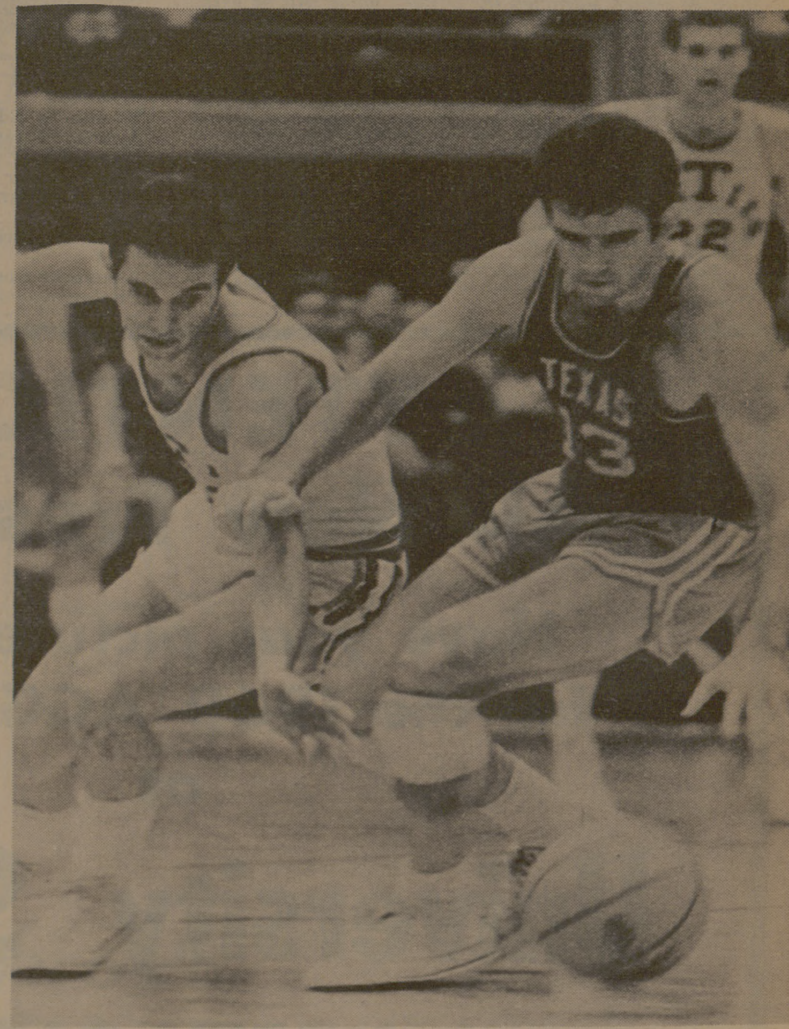
"In the past this has been accomplished through various activities and seminars involving the freshmen, some campus student leaders and faculty members. The presence of both faculty and student leaders at Fish Camp gives the freshmen a more bal-

University National Bank
On the side of Texas A&M.
—Adv.



ALPERT'S TJB IN DISGUISE?

The Baja Marimba Band, born out of a tune Herb Alpert felt needed a different sound, will be 'coming in the front door' of G. Rollie White Coliseum at Texas A&M Saturday. Julius Wechter and his "Speedy Gonzales" group will perform as a Town Hall special attraction.



BALL HAWK

Sonny Benefield moves in to steal the ball from Texas University Larry Smith while Mike Heitmann watches in the background. A&M won the Tuesday's thriller in overtime 70-69 before a jam-packed crowd in G. Rollie White Coliseum. (Photo by Mike Wright)