

Senior finds public attitude important when planning rapid transit systems

Rapid transit systems in major Texas cities face more problems than just right-of-way acquisition, construction costs and maintenance, according to research by a Texas A&M aerospace engineering major.

Public opinion about mass transit is another problem, Gene Witt found.

The Garland senior surveyed public opinion about rapid transit in Dallas.

Witt found that the words "rapid transit" conjures in peoples' minds the idea of a chain of subways, overcrowding and loss of a sense of individuality.

"Everytime a mass transit sys-

tem was suggested, the idea of a crowded subway train came into focus," Witt said in an aerospace engineering course report to Dr. Charles A. Rodenberger.

Witt's research, including individual interviews with a large number of randomly selected individuals, was preliminary to the feasibility study of a variety of rapid transit systems. He examined surface vehicles, the overhead monorail and pneumatic tube conveyances.

"Witt started his survey by telephone, but got so many negative responses, he decided to go back and do it in person," Rodenberger said.

Equally negative results were obtained. Witt said he feels preconceived ideas of subways as a solution to rapid transit and a bad connotation already associated with subways led to the negativism.

"Even though a rapid transit system could be proved more economical and safer to the individual, the majority indicated they would rather drive their own vehicle," he added.

Most people questioned seemed to resent having their individuality curtailed, Witt said. Financing of rapid transit systems primarily by county and state governments

also caused opposition, due to tax increases.

The aerospace engineering major found that the average individual had no information about the designs and purposes of rapid transit systems.

He said he believes that the Dallas-Fort Worth area is sufficiently metropolitan to warrant such a system, especially in connection with the regional airport facility servicing the cities and their suburbs.

"The idea is in practice on a small scale at Dallas Love Field," Witt reported. Braniff Airways

installed and maintains a railway system from car parking lots to the aircraft boarding lobby.

"This innovation, which provides a quiet, comfortable ride to the individual flight lobby, has met with great success because there is no delay in securing tickets or carrying baggage great distances. Baggage is checked at the entry point of the train," he explained.

"This transit system has greatly relieved the parking situation just at this one terminal," Witt said.

THE BATTALION
Page 2 College Station, Texas Wednesday, January 13, 1971

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Degree, experience offered by Peace Corps program

BROCKPORT, N.Y.—The State University of New York, College at Brockport is looking for students who want to earn college credit while preparing to teach mathematics and science as Peace Corps volunteers in Latin America.

The program is designed to fill the need for mathematics and science teachers in developing Latin American countries. It includes one academic year flanked by two summers of fully subsidized and integrated academic courses and Peace Corps training.

Graduates receive either an A.B. or B.S. degree, secondary school teacher certification and an assignment overseas to a binational educational team as a Peace Corps volunteer. While they are serving overseas, volunteers may earn up to 12 hours of graduate credit.

Peace Corps and college officials announced today that the unique Peace Corps/College Degree program at Brockport will be extended with the admission of a fifth group of candidates in June.

Unique features of the program include: Academic credit for Peace Corps training; two fully-subsidized summer sessions totaling 30 semester credit hours; in-depth Peace Corps training which is fully synchronized with a liberal arts education; specialized professional preparation; individualized programs; intensive audio-lingual Spanish training in small classes; opportunity for double majors, and supervised overseas graduate work.

According to Peace Corps officials, the Brockport program is the only one in the country to grant full academic credit for Peace Corps training.

The decision by the Peace Corps to extend the four-year-old program was made after a comprehensive evaluation in which graduates of the program serving as Peace Corps volunteers in Peru, Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras and the Dominican Republic were interviewed along with their host country counterparts and overseas Peace Corps staff.

The elite honor military unit, organized in 1887, will form an honor cordon and saber arch at the noon inauguration ceremonies on the state capital steps and provide an honor escort and vehicle guards for the governor and lieutenant governor in the 3 p.m. inaugural parade.

The 118-member company commanded by Edward E. Duryea also was invited to attend the Tuesday evening inaugural ball.

The program is open to students who are in good standing at any accredited college or university and who will have completed their sophomore or junior year by June.

Applications must be made to the Peace Corps/College Degree Program; State University College at Brockport; Brockport, New York 14420 by March 1.

Rep. Bill Presnal of Bryan furnished support for RV inauguration arrangements. The legislator has a personal interest in the Ross Volunteers. While in the commandant's office at Texas A&M, he had RV advisor responsibility.

Applications must be made to the Peace Corps/College Degree Program; State University College at Brockport; Brockport, New York 14420 by March 1.

Forty members of the company will be involved in the inaugural ceremony. The honor cordon and saber arch will be formed by 32 active seniors and eight juniors.

"Members of the RVs take great pride in identifying as the Governor's honor guard," Col. Jim H. McCoy said. The commandant said the cadets will give up several mid-year holidays to prepare themselves for the event.

RVs honor guard at Smith ceremony

Drug dependents' social rehabilitation, foreign health planning, environmental effects on mental health and health aspects of space travel will be topics of spring semester Health Education Seminars at Texas A&M.

Planning director Mario Zetzman will give the March 3 seminar on health planning and service delivery systems in England and Yugoslavia.

The company will return to the campus Friday and Saturday to work in Saturday and Sunday drills. Texas A&M's spring semester classes begin Monday.

The Rev. Fr. Dermot N. Brosnan, executive director of San Antonio's Little Village of St. Patrick, will be featured for the Feb. 3 seminar. His topic will be "A Comprehensive Social Rehabilitation Program for Drug Dependents."

"The Effect of the Environment on Mental Health" will be the topic of Stuart Fisher's April 6 seminar. Fisher is planning director of the Texas Department of Mental Health and Retardation.

The company also will appear in New Orleans Feb. 19-23 as King Rex's honor guard in the annual Mardi Gras.

Seminars coordinator Mrs. Melba Halford said Father Brosnan's presentation will be at 4 p.m. in 113 Biological Sciences Building.

Health Education seminars are designed for students in the health education degree programs of the Health and Physical Education Department, headed by Dr. Carl W. Landiss. Attendance is open, however, to all interested individuals, Mrs. Halford said.

Other seminars in the monthly series sponsored by the Health and Physical Education Department will be in the library conference suite.

State Comprehensive Health

State Representative Bill Presnal of the 18th Legislative District, composed of Brazos, Grimes and Madison Counties, took the oath of Office for his second two year term in the lower house Tuesday.

Presnal was elected to his second term as state representative in the recent elections without opposition. The oath of office was administered by Secretary of State Martin Dies Jr.

Presnal begins second term

State Representative Bill Presnal of the 18th Legislative District, composed of Brazos, Grimes and Madison Counties, took the oath of Office for his second two year term in the lower house Tuesday.

Mutscher has completed his first term as speaker and fifth term as a member of the Texas Legislature from the neighboring 19th Legislative District.

"Speaker Mutscher has indicated to me that he will make appointments to the 45 House standing committees on Jan. 21, the day after Gov. Preston Smith is expected to address a joint session of the Texas Legislature," Presnal said.

The Battalion

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PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz

WOODSTOCK IS JUST LIKE A LITTLE KID.

HE LIKES TO TRY TO CATCH SNOWFLAKES ON HIS TONGUE.

I HATE HAVING SO MANY FAULTS...

THERE'S A VULTURE SITTING ON YOUR SNOWMAN...

ANY VULTURE CAUGHT SITTING ON MY SNOWMAN GETS CLOBBERED!

I'D REALLY LIKE TO BE A BETTER PERSON.

FIRST HE'S GOING TO HAVE TO GAIN A LITTLE WEIGHT...

I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO KNOW THAT YOU WERE PERFECT?

TAKE IT FROM ME, IT'S A GREAT FEELING!