

Local drivers still unsold on idea of forming car pools

A driver can be led to water, but apparently not into a pool.

Nothing short of gasoline rationing or very high prices may induce drivers to pool transportation, even for going to and from work.

Most drivers agree convenience forms the major deterrent to car pooling. And the majority is not convinced of the seriousness of the energy shortage, at least from

the pump at their neighborhood service stations.

Several TAMU faculty-staff indicate they have given serious thought to car pools. Many didn't want to talk about it. The consensus is the crisis hasn't yet reached the stage to warrant leaving the jalopy in the drive two or three days out of four.

TAMU employees provide a classic example of the possibilities of car pooling. More than 5,000

employees drive to the campus from within a fairly compact geographical area. Most of the total miles they travel to and from work are amassed in four to six-miles-per-day round trips.

Nearly 1,400 are faculty, however. Their teaching schedules do not coincide well. Other TAMU staff face similar problems.

"There's hardly a day I'm not here at 7:30 a.m. to unlock high security areas," commented Memorial Student Center Facilities

Manager Don Powell. "And it's a rule rather than the exception when I go home after 5:30 in the afternoon."

One staff member who lives about five miles east of the campus said he and two neighbors who are TAMU personnel could easily pool, have considered it but are still driving separately.

"It's just a matter of convenience," explained Cliff Wallstein, Photo and Visual Aids Lab manager echoed by numerous others.

"If rationing happens," he added, "we'll probably take turns driving."

Dr. Henry Alsmeyer Jr. of the library staff lives within two miles of the campus. "If gasoline is rationed, I'll quickly become interested in any of several ways of getting to the campus," he said.

A bicycle he got for Christmas and walking are also possible. He would join a sizeable mob of students and faculty on bike paths. A working student wife admits walking from College View is pleasant, in the right kind of weather. Car transportation is vital otherwise, she said.

TAMU's resident experts on cycling to work are Doyle Gouglar, Agricultural Communications Department, and Howard Eilers, Journalism Department.

One student is interested in the feasibility of burning methyl alcohol in his car. He wants to know more about it.

If the rationing switch is thrown that will apparently trigger car pooling, a large source of experience about the process is available to TAMU employees.

Caldwell residents who work here have been pooling for years. A casual survey shows there are at least 20 traveling in five cars.

Veterans are Ben Trecalek and Bob Pionka, Fiscal Office; Edward Schulz, Research and Instrumentation Shop; Nita Tucker, Photo and Visual Aids, and Patsy

Albright, University Information.

"It's an economic necessity for us," noted Mrs. Tucker. "I couldn't afford the work if I had to drive every day myself. Driving 55 mph, we usually leave

Caldwell at 7:15 a.m. and here on time."

"The only time it's bad," offered, "is when someone is driving a two-door car with back seats."

Campus Briefs

University Center busy

TAMU's sparkling University Center will get a real workout during the month of January, despite the absence of students through the first three weeks of the month.

More than 12,000 persons are expected to attend the 75 events scheduled for the center, according to Chuck Cargill manager of the sprawling complex of auditoriums, meeting rooms and eateries.

Activities range from a technical session of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, scheduled the 26th, to a wedding reception early in the month.

Just about everything else in between will take place at one time or another at the center, including short courses, staff con-

ferences and student club meetings.

The facility's versatility shows best on the 24th when students, faculty and citizens of the area have a choice between poet Donald Hall, Great Issues and Political Forum presentations, Aggie Cinema, Student Government meeting, Texas Real Estate Research Center Advisory Committee meeting and Houston Television personality Marvin Zindler.

January will be a month for dancing at the center, too, with a MSC student dance Jan. 26 and two performances by the National Ballet Company, Jan. 28 and 31.

Cargill's office can provide information on other activities scheduled. Interested persons should call 845-5216.

Teague receives plaque

Aggie Club officials today presented Cong. Olin E. "Tiger" Teague with a plaque designating him a "Reveille" contributor to the club's 1974 athletic scholarship fund.

Cong. Teague, a member of the Aggie Club since 1956 was presented the plaque in his downtown Bryan office by R. F. "Bob" Bernath, president of the club.

"This contribution is the first step in reaching our 850-member Reveille program for 1974," Bernath noted. "We feel fortunate to have members like Cong. Teague supporting our athletic scholarship fund."

On hand to help with the presentation were Emory Bellard,

head football coach and Athletic Director at TAMU, and John Hopkins, executive vice president of the organization.

Hopkins explained that the "Reveille" contribution program is one of several membership opportunities offered to prospective Aggie Club members.

The top level of membership is the "12th Man" scholarship program, which constitutes a full \$1,500 athletic scholarship. Next is the "Extra Point" program, representing a \$750 contribution or more, then comes the "Reveille" program, \$100-\$750, followed by "Sustaining" membership, \$50, and "Associate" membership, \$25.

Driving tests planned

A study by the Texas Transportation Institute utilizing volunteer drivers from the Bryan-College Station area will start in a week or two, project director Gordon Hayes said Tuesday.

More than 100 residents in the Brazos Valley volunteered to take part in the project, and the applicants have been screened to 32 primary test drivers and a like number of back-up drivers.

The research program is funded by the Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Purpose of the study is to determine to what extent drivers use the built-in handling ability of different automobiles and to evaluate how cars perform when a driver has control compared to laboratory control devices.

"We have performed preliminary tests on all the applicants," Hayes noted, "and have a good cross-section of all those who applied. We also have 32 back-up drivers with scores identical to those of the primary drivers, in the event that one of the drivers drop out of the program."

"We will get the project rolling just as soon as we notify all our primary and back-up drivers," Hayes said. "The project will run for about four months, with tests being conducted on and off until all drivers have completed their tasks."

All driving tests will be made at TAMU's Research Annex. Drivers will use one of four different standard production automobiles in special maneuvers to determine driver-vehicle relationships.

A&M prof sees shortage worsening

Drawing a parallel with last summer's beef price ceiling fiasco, a TAMU professor says the much-discussed merits of holding the price of petroleum artificially low by rationing and mandatory allocation are a lot of bull.

Dr. Philip Gramm, who serves as consultant to the Ministry of Natural Resources of the Canadian government, contends that rationing, mandatory allocations and petroleum taxing will actually cause the fuel shortage to get worse due to diminished production incentives.

Gramm warns such measures will create expectations of higher prices when the controls end. Producers both foreign and domestic will have an incentive to curtail the current supply, he notes, and wait to produce more when it is more profitable.

"We need only recall frozen beef prices to visualize what could happen, and the situation could be worse with oil. Since oil can be held indefinitely, while cattle die of old age, we can expect even more hold-backs in oil than we experienced in cattle," Gramm points out. He recently presented his views to officials of the Federal Energy Office in Washington.

Dr. Gramm chides the government's track record for economic success through establishment of controls, contending, for example, that the millions of dollars spent in administering Phase I-IV failed to stop prices from rising.

"Taxpayers' money was used to produce shortages and distortions of free markets," he observes.

"The energy crisis itself is largely a product of government price ceilings on oil and natural gas that produced falling profits, falling investment and liquidation of American oil and gas reserves," Gramm says. "The Arabs have us at their mercy not because of America's inability to produce but because of the bureaucratic constraints which have disrupted the American oil and gas industry."

"It is just plain common sense that if government controls and price ceilings caused the energy crisis they are not likely to solve it," he adds. "We must in this period of crisis rely on the system which has made America the greatest agricultural and industrial nation in the world. Only free enterprise can solve our com-

plex production and distribution problems."

"With old production cost in the Middle East at 25 cents a barrel, 285 billion barrels of oil in place on current domestic wells, vast continental shelf deposits, vast shale deposits, with solar and nuclear energy developing rapidly, and possessing the greatest coal deposits in the world we do not face a long-term energy 'crisis'," Gramm emphasizes. "The real shortage, which is of crisis proportions, is a shortage in our government of imagination and common sense."

THE OPERA AND PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY

presents

THE NATIONAL BALLET OF WASHINGTON
Frederic Franklin & Ben Stevenson, Directors

in

"THE SLEEPING BEAUTY"

8 P. M.

JANUARY 31, 1974

RUDDER CENTER AUDITORIUM

Tickets: Regular, \$6, \$5, \$4

Students, \$4.80, \$4.00, \$3.20

At Rudder Center Box Office

Hours: Mon. - Fri., 9 a. m. - 4 p. m.

Tel. 845-2916

The National Ballet managed by Columbia Artists, Inc., New York
OPAS is a functioning committee of the Town Hall committee of Texas A&M University.

Friday and Saturday
January 18 and 19

9 99¢

KING SIZE
WALLET
CREATIVE
COLOR
PORTRAITS
FOR ONLY

NO LIMIT

Extra Charge for GROUPS

GET PICTURES MADE OF GRANDPA, GRANDMA, DAD, MOM AND ALL THE LITTLE ONES AT THESE SAME LOW PRICES!

SHUGART COLOR PHOTOS

ASK About Our FREE 8 x 10 OFFER

SKAGGS-ALBERTSON
301 S. College

Think of what just one company can do to stop pollution. We have.

WHAT INDUSTRY IS DOING TO STOP POLLUTION

Keep America Beautiful, Inc.
99 Park Avenue
New York, New York 10016

Please send me a free copy of "What industry is doing to stop pollution."

Name _____

Street _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____



The Battalion

Opinions expressed in *The Battalion* are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration or the Board of Directors. *The Battalion* is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a University and Community newspaper.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed and show the address of the writer.

Address correspondence to Listen Up, *The Battalion*, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsey, chairman; Dr. Tom Adair, Dr. R. A. Albanese, Dr. H. E. Hierth, W. C. Harrison, Randy Ross, T. Chet Edwards, and Jan Faber.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

MEMBER

The Associated Press, Texas Press Association

Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$6.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 6% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it or otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Right of reproduction of all other matter herein are also reserved. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

INTERIM EDITOR ROD SPEER
 Managing Editor Greg Moses
 News Editor T. C. Gallucci
 Sports Editor Kevin Coffey
 Ass't. Sports Editor Ted Boriskie

Ad Council
A Public Service of
This Magazine &
The Advertising Council

Keep America Beautiful
99 Park Avenue, New York, New York 10016

