

Mostly cloudy today with light rain. Maximum temperature today 93°. Winds out of the north at 5-10 m.p.h. Minimum temperature tomorrow morning 73° with a maximum of 96°.

# The Battalion

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Today in the Batt

Record review ..... p. 4  
Coaches ..... p. 7  
Promotions ..... p. 5

## Penwalt says arsenic levels fault of previous owners

By GERALD OLIVIER

The committee on hearings of the Texas Water Quality Board will file a report on the possibility of action to be taken toward the cleaning of Finfeather Lake.

The TWQB held a public meeting Monday to determine the extent to which Penwalt Corporation of Bryan may be liable for arsenic pollution in the lake.

David Beck, lawyer for Penwalt, contended that the liability rests

with Cotton Poisons Incorporated, the original owner of the plant where Penwalt is now located. Beck said two private suits were filed against Cotton Poisons in 1943 for arsenic pollution.

Penwalt purchased the plant in 1944. Penwalt employee William Culber said the arsenic levels in the lake have been stable since 1952. Evidence produced by the TWQB showed a marked increase of the levels in the late 1960's.

John Campbell, Penwalt plant manager, said the company has fully complied with TWQB rulings regarding seepage from storage ponds. Campbell said Penwalt has spent \$5,000 per year for treatment of the ponds with ferric sulfate and lime. The treatments were stopped last year when the TWQB said they were no longer necessary.

Dr. John C. Reagor, TAMU department of toxicology, said no danger exists if present levels are

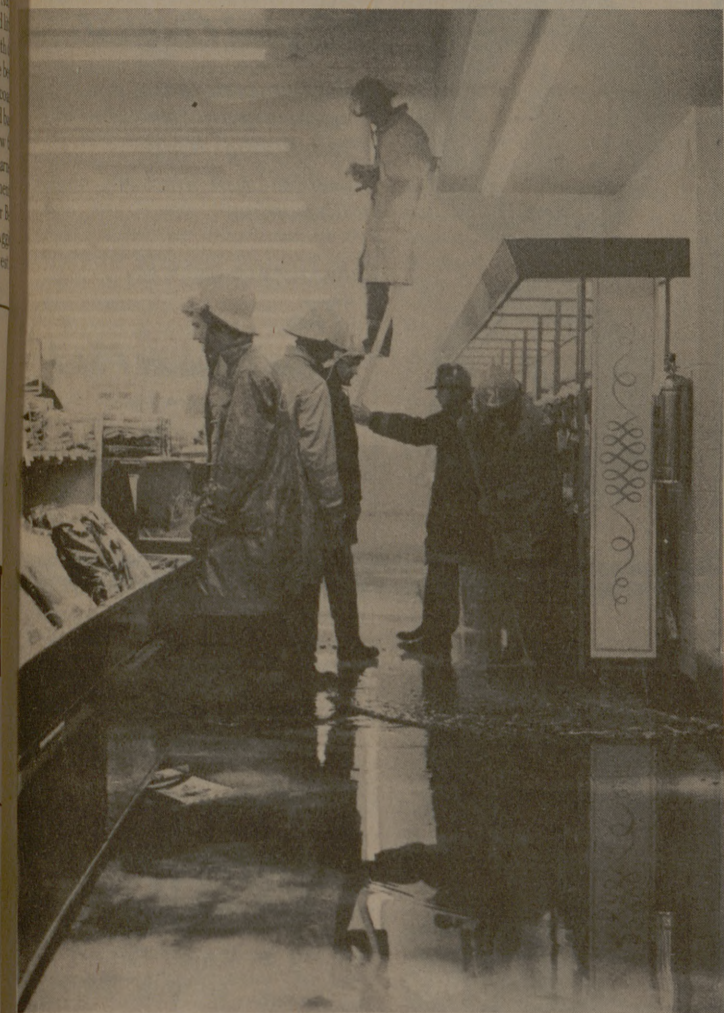
maintained.

A TWQB geologist told the hearing arsenic poisoning in Finfeather has caused blindness in turtles and the accumulation of the metal in the skin of fish. He said a high wind or rain storm would stir the water and result in increased levels down stream. Finfeather flows through Municipal Lake into Carters Creek and then to the Navasota River. The Navasota is the site of the proposed Millican Dam. The arsenic is seen by the geologist as a problem in the

use of water from Millican for drinking.

Penwalt is the manufacturer of a defoliant used in the harvest of cotton. Campbell said the cotton industry contributes \$135 million to the state's economy yearly.

Cornelius Van Bavel, head of the Brazos Valley environmental Action Council, said people cannot tolerate pollution of our rivers and lakes. He said this is a problem "we cannot ignore, no matter who is responsible."



FIREMEN CLEAN UP, after a fire at K-Mart in College Station was extinguished about 11:45 p.m. Tuesday by the store's sprinkler system. Fire Marshall Harry L. Davis said the fire started in a rack of clothing and could have spread rapidly if it hadn't been for the sprinkler system. No one was injured in the fire. (Photo by Steve Bales)

## Bicentennial plans given local boost

The Bryan-College Station community is one of only two areas of 100,000 plus population to have no plans for the U.S. Bicentennial celebration in 1976. At a meeting Tuesday night a citizen's group took action to remedy this situation. The group, chaired by County Judge Bill Vance, appointed a temporary steering committee.

The committee, chosen largely by Vance, was instructed to appoint a permanent body to head Brazos

County efforts. The permanent committee is to be composed of representatives of local civic organizations, news media, public officials, clergymen and Chambers of Commerce.

The new Brazos County Exposition Center was mentioned as a possible structure to be designated as part of the celebration.

The temporary steering committee will meet Thursday night at 7:30 in the Brazos County Court Room.

## Graduate students question required retirement service

By DENNIS BALTUSKONIS

Recently, A&M was named as one of the top 20 Universities in total research output in the nation. This is indeed quite an achievement and much of the credit rests with the graduate students. In the past, perhaps too little coverage of the Graduate Student Council's activities have been published and for this reason "The Battalion" will report regularly on the council's projects — Ed.

One major concern of the Graduate Student Council (GSC), is the relationship that the majority of graduate students and many other employees have with Teachers Retirement System (TRS). "50 percent time" employees are required to belong to the TRS. Full time employees have the choice of an "optional retirement program" which sets up a retirement program for those who plan to use TRS in the future.

However, to most graduate students, the TRS is viewed as merely another agency which collects 6% of his or her fixed income each month (about 21.00 from a 350.00/mo. check) and in addition charges him 5.00 a year to be the mandatory

member that he is.

However, in all of these cases the money put into TRS is not lost. Once an employee leaves this or any state supported institution, he receives all of his contributions plus two and one half percent interest per annum on the savings. While this form of involuntary savings may be a blessing to habitual spenders, one cannot deny that the same money would earn nearly triple the interest in any of the local banks in the area.

The TRS applies to many individuals who do not desire the program and who short of their own death or disability will receive no direct benefit at least as long as inflation proceeds at a rate higher than the interest rate paid by TRS.

Graduate students were not always mandatory members of TRS. In fact, it was not until 1968 that this came about as a result of some of these students wanting to have their time spent as graduate students count towards "creditable service" in the TRS program. Thereafter all graduate students were made a part of TRS.

It is at this point where the GSC enters in an effort to change the TRS

system. Although, on the surface it would seem a simple enough task, the system is not easily altered. A recent bill to amend the TRS supported by the GSC, would have given faculty or staff the right to withdraw completely from the TRS if so desired. This measure, however was never introduced. So where does the GSC go from here?

Any change in the system will have to be brought about through the state legislature and this calls for an organized effort on GSC's part. This is what Joe Marcello, secretary of the GSC has in mind. "The GSC is attempting to form a sort of 'Congress' of all the Graduate Student Councils in Texas who are affected by TRS and who desire a similar change in the program. The formation of a congress of this sort will allow us to present a more united front on this particular issue and for that matter on anything else which comes up in the future."

Again TRS as a program is not the issue here. What is of importance is that many of the people who continually come under its influence do not plan to use TRS as a retirement plan and are more interested in the short term management of their money.



WITH "NO MOTHER to Guide Her," Rose Day (Mary Castle) falls prey to the villain John Livingstone (Donald Burton Powell) as the hero Ralph Carleton (David Cambell) hams it up for the Stage Center crowd. "No Mother" plays Thursday, Friday and Saturday at 8 p.m. (Photo by Will van Overbeek)

## The wall. . . What do Northgate merchants think of the proposed partition?

By KATHY YOUNG

Eleven of the 14 North Gate merchants polled by "The Battalion" are against the construction of a wall around the campus.

The University Drive perimeter development, alias "the wall" and the North Mall area will be open for bids on August 21.

"Hopefully the contracts will be awarded at the September meeting of the Board of Directors", according to Gen. A. R. Luedecke, executive vice president. Actual construction of the wall on the Northgate side of campus will begin between 15 and 30 days after the contract is awarded.

Included in the overall landscape plan, the wall is described as a combination iron fence and low masonry wall spaced with shrubs, Luedecke said. The wall-like structure will run from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Building to the Post Office along University Drive. It will range from seven feet to four feet in height and will separate the university from the North Gate business area.

Martha Camp, owner of the University Book Store, voiced opposition to the wall feeling the money could be put to better use. "The money should be spent to build dorms as one-fourth of our freshmen don't have dorms to live in. To spend money on the wall is a sin, if it could be used elsewhere."

Other merchants such as Greg Stiles, owner of Heroes, said they did not understand why they were building the wall. "I think it is horrible. It is a direct slight against the Northgate merchants."

Trying to separate the university from community was cited by the owners of Hobby World and the Texas Aggie Bookstore. Bob Masterson of Hobby World said, "It is an artificial means to divide the campus from the town."

Another common complaint of the wall cited by businessmen was that the wall would be an obstacle to students. Bob Barker of Barker Photography felt that "it would be difficult to cut across to get to classes."

Bill Campbell of A&M Waldrop

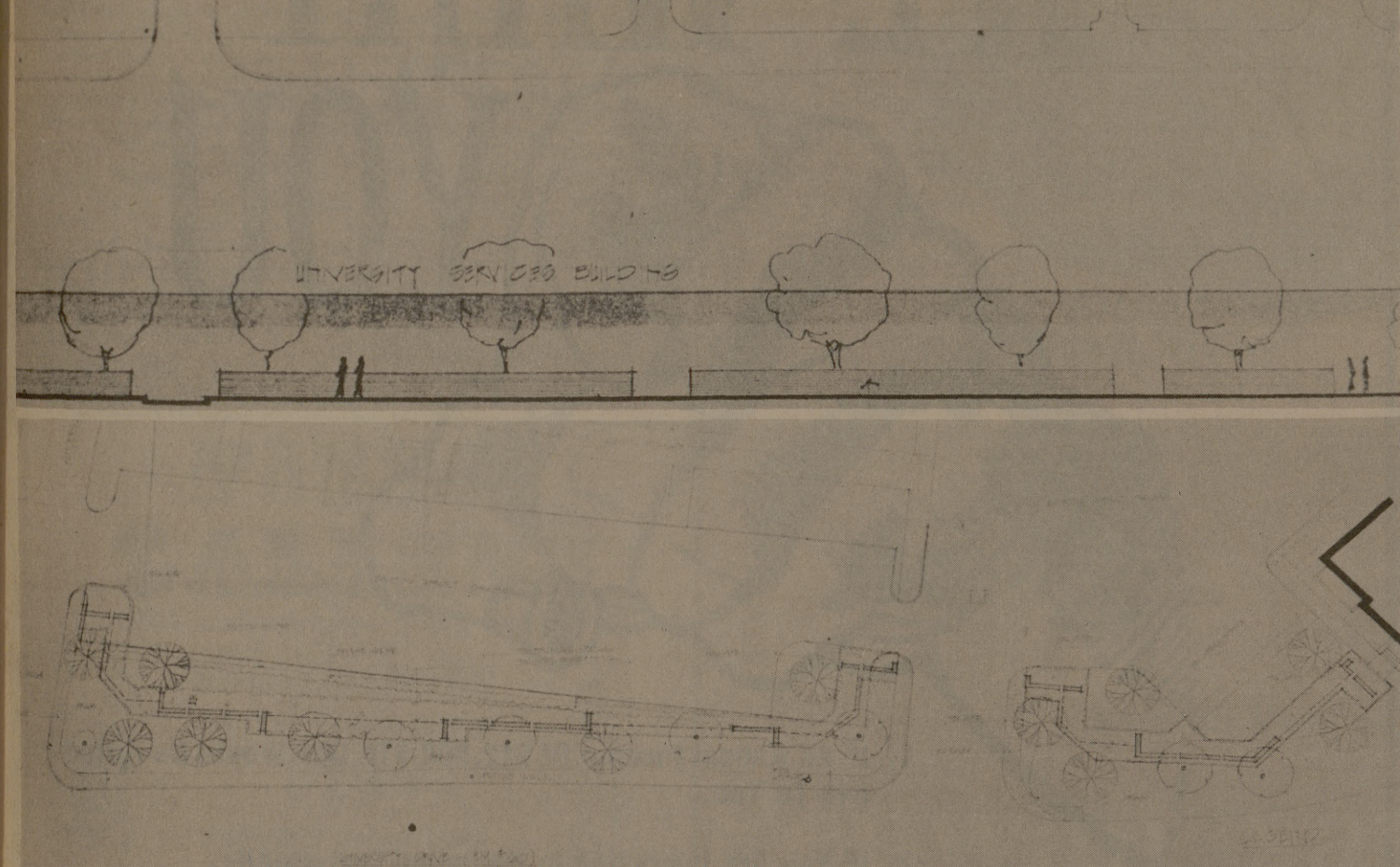
and Co. said, "I don't like the thought of having to climb over the wall to get here."

Others thought that the very idea of a wall would add an institutional look to the campus rather than the open look it now has. Scott Samuelson, owner of Kesami Sandwich shop, stated, "It seems like the people behind the wall could find better things to do with the money than to build a prison-type enclosure." The owner of Henricci's felt that the students wouldn't like "to be caged in".

Jack Price of Andre's Bicycle Shop was opposed to the wall because he thought it was "ridiculous".

J.E. Robbins, owner of Charlie's Grocery, couldn't see the beauty of the wall while Charles Stipe of National Farm and Life and Jessie Medina of Aggie Land Barber shop were unaware of the wall and had no opinion.

J.E. Loupat, although initially unaware of the wall, opposed it because he feared it would make Northgate inconvenient for students to get to.



ARCHITECT'S PLANS of the University Drive Perimeter Development show an aerial view of the wall from the USDA Building to the street which runs in front of the post office and a side view of the wall in front of the university services building.

## Cities differ on makeup of planning committee

By TIM SAITO

A difference in views between Bryan and College Station over a common planning committee that will handle \$16,000 in federal funds, is holding up the finishing touches of a transportation planning proposal due September 1.

The planning committee, to be titled Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), will draw up and submit a Unified Work Program (UWP) for approval, and administer the funds received by it.

The UWP, which describes transportation and related planning activities, such as air and waterways, will enable the community to receive approximately \$16,000 in federal funds.

"We had received a letter from the Governor's Office to designate an agency who could best handle the responsibilities as MPO" said North Bardell, College Station city manager. "The government office (Briscoe) sent us an outline for the procedure of choosing an MPO. The Brazos Valley Development Council (BVDC) came closest to it's standards."

Councilman Don Dale added, "It was requested by the Governor's Office that we pick an agency, such as the BVDC. They're set up for this more so than any one of the three entities of government. The county court felt this way also, as we understand it."

Partiality by planners toward

Bryan's planning efforts caused a little discomfort for some College Station councilmen. "We didn't like it (program proposals) because it was overly-weighted to Bryan's side," said councilman James Dozier, on a side road traversing along the county park. He added, "When we appointed the BVDC, we assumed that Bryan would do the same." Councilman James Gardner said, "I'm not too happy with the planning set-up as I understand it now. We're having some trouble with priorities with Bryan. Too much of it is going their way."

Meanwhile, Bryan has chosen as MPO, the Steering Committee, the first of numerous groups to review and approve the work program

(UWP). Balanced representation through the MPO was one of the reasons for the selection. Hubert Nelson Bryan Director of Planning, pointed out that the Steering Committee provided representation

### Sorry!

"The Battalion" erroneously reported that Department of Public Safety officers were drinking beer at their field headquarters for the Willie Nelson picnic. Sgt. Allen of the DPS said coffee and ookes were the beverages of the camp and "The Battalion" has verified that claim through other sources. We regret our error.

from the B-CS area city managers, Odle and Bardell, county court Judge Vance, and Texas Highway Engineer Hanover.

"Actually, we're one community. The whole community has to plan together. Geographically, they may be separate, but community-wise they're the same. The university is part of the community and they should have a say on what goes on," said Nelson.

It was pointed out that the Steering Committee could cut down on between-group complications. "I think it was the feeling of the council that this (the Steering Committee) might be better. The money would go straight through the committee rather than an agency like the

BVDC because the Steering Committee could disperse the money directly," said Barton. "We also felt it would be a duplication and complication of matters because they would have to come back from wherever they started. It would avoid going the route all over again. The planning departments would make it a lot easier," said Bryan city manager Robert Odle. Mayor J. A. Skrivaneck of Bryan also said that the Steering Committee would not only cut down on "red tape" but serve as a "more direct route of action."

Whether or not they are chosen as MPO, Executive Director Glenn Cook explained that the BVDC will try to help all it can. "All we've done as the executive committee of the

Brazos Valley Development Council, is accept a general designation (procedural outline) from the Governor's office that we serve as MPO. It also states that we would follow the dictates of the Steering committee. We are willing to serve as MPO. We're willing to help work with Bryan and College Station whether we're MPO or not. No hard feelings," said Cook. "We carry out the decision that city and government dictates. We're not going to dictate the planning," said BVDC Regional Planner Steve Kerbow.

The Texas Highway Department, taking a neutral stand, left matters of MPO selection completely up to B-CS and the county court. "Well as (See PLANNERS, page 2)