

Weather

Partly cloudy and mild Tuesday and Wednesday. High today 60°; low tonight 35°; high tomorrow 64°. Notheasterly winds 3-5 mph.

The Battalion

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A&M Consol charged for sex discrimination

By ROSE MARY TRAVERSO
Staff Writer

Violation of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 was charged in a suit filed by the U. S. Secretary of Labor against A&M Consolidated School District in the U. S. District Court in Houston on Nov. 27.

The district allegedly violated provisions of the Act, which involve sex discrimination regarding salaries of faculty members since September 1971.

"Male employees during the years in question did work under a contract that paid them \$300 more than

their female counterparts," said Fred Hopson, school superintendent, during a press conference last week. "However this contract required many hours of extra work and duty for those employees."

These duties involve "crowd control," ticket taking and ticket selling at athletic events and other extracurricular functions sponsored by the district.

"Female teachers don't handle a fist-fight in a crowd too well," Hopson said.

The contract also required daily policing of playgrounds, parking lots and other outside areas where

students gather before school, at noon and after school.

Male teachers were also assigned to specific after-school functions in the absence of the principal.

However since September 1973, all teachers are paid on an equal basis according to years experience and perform equal and comparable extra duties, said Hopson.

When teachers of both sexes are present at the games, the men are still expected to handle any trouble, said Charles Hensarling, school board chairman.

"It's costing the board a lot more money to do the same job," Hensarling said.

The suit is seeking payment with six per cent interest to more than 100 female teachers for the period of time named in the complaint. "This could run in excess of \$60,000," Hopson said.

If the case is lost, the money will come out of the instructional program and a five or six cent per \$100 valuation tax increase will be necessary, Hopson said.

According to Jack Woods, the district's legal counsel, the suit is an extension of cases against non-professional employees across the nation. The act does not apply to professional employees, such as teachers, as interpreted in a similar suit, Maryland vs. Wertz, he said.

No faculty complaints of discrimination had reached the board before it received a recommendation from a representative of the federal Wage and Hour Bureau to change salary policies, Hensarling said.

The district will try to find the identity of the complainant who as yet has not been named, Woods said.

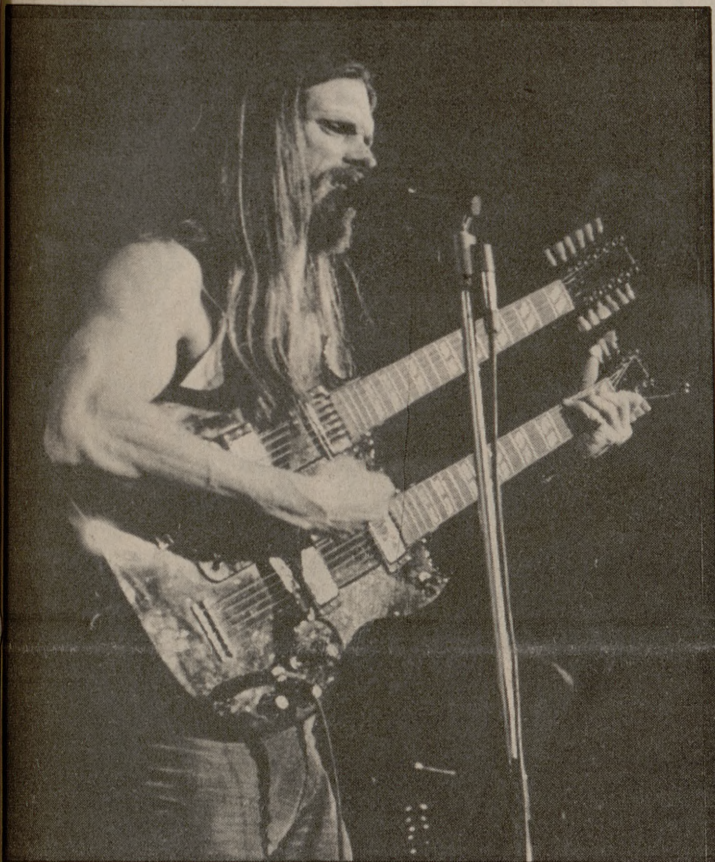


Keeping warm

Photo by Chris Svatek

Two Aggies watch as the time ticks off for the football team Friday. It

always seems colder when your team is behind.



Shawn Phillips

Photo by Steve Krauss

Bonfire was followed by the sounds of Shawn Phillips in G. Rollie White Coliseum last Tuesday night. Phillips was presented as a Town Hall Special Attraction.

Gray appointed to bank board

University National Bank appointed Corps Commander Rickey A. Gray last week to the bank's board of directors.

Gray replaced John Chappelle as an advisory director on the board. Chappelle resigned as Corps Commander Oct. 24. Gray will receive \$125 from the bank for attending each monthly board meeting.

Two other students, Steve Eberhard, student body president, and Greg Magruder, Residence Hall Association (RHA) president, are also serving on the board and will receive the same compensation.

According to Magruder, the three students are only advisors and do not have voting privileges as do other board members.

Some schools eliminate dessert

Consol to increase lunch prices

By ROSE MARY TRAVERSO
Staff Writer

A rise in lunch prices in the A&M Consolidated School District is expected for the coming term, said Olie C. Grauke, the district's assis-

tant superintendent of finance, Tuesday.

Currently the lunch price is 50 cents at the elementary school in the district and 55 cents at the middle and high schools. The size of the possible price hike cannot be determined until the district's exact deficit is known, Grauke said.

The high price of food items, especially sugar, has forced Texas school districts to reduce or eliminate desserts from the school menus and many have either raised lunch prices or are facing such a possibility.

In Amarillo, where lunch prices range from 50 to 70 cents, the district has started experimenting with artificial sweeteners.

Desserts have been eliminated in the Dallas Independent District, one of the largest in the state. Fif-

teen districts in the San Antonio area said they have been forced to reduce sugar consumption and some are considering eliminating desserts.

In Fort Worth, sugar has been stockpiled by the district, said Wade Danowsky, director of cafeterias.

"If we had not done that, we would have been in real trouble," he said. The district cut desserts in high schools years ago.

The Waco School District, which has operated on a deficit for a long time, increased the price of lunches to 55 cents and to 65 for high school pupils.

Similar raises were found in Odessa, Corsicana, Denton, Austin and others.

"Our approach to the problem is that we are not going to cut out or

alter our service," Grauke said. "Our approach will be to raise our price."

The district's operations have resulted in a loss of "something around \$1,000" since September, although the figures are not exact, due to mistakes in the computerized bookkeeping system, Grauke said.

"We're kind of treading water right now since the report doesn't tell us anything because of errors," Grauke said.

He said the district has had problems adjusting to the computer system, which was introduced in August, but will overcome these dif-

iculties as employees become more familiar with it.

"We know that we're not a whole bunch in the hole but we're not going to have to take steps at mid-term," Grauke said.

"Other districts raised their prices this summer, but we decided to increase ours only when we saw we had to, rather than do it prematurely," he said.

The menus will continue to offer variety to encourage students to be responsive to different kinds of foods, Grauke said. "As educators, we need to educate them along the lines of proper nutrition," he said.

Monthly food bills up again with huge boost from sugar

Sugar price boosts of more than 50 per cent in a month pushed up the family grocery bill in November, an Associated Press marketbasket survey shows. But there were signs that the sugar spiral may be easing as three of the nation's major refiners announced wholesale price cuts.

The reductions announced Monday were the first wholesale cuts in

The recent problems with the increase in sugar prices is not anticipated to cause any problems in food service operations in the near future, said Ed Davis, affirmative action officer, in a special release to The Battalion.

Davis, in his statement, said the reason for A&M's lack of problems is that the department buys its sugar in bulk, thus reducing costs and bypassing the recent increases in sugar prices. Another reason was the student menu boards' campaign to stop food waste.

Fred Dollar, director of food services, was originally asked by a Batt reporter if the recent sugar price inflation was affecting TAMU.

Dollar has refused to answer any questions about Food Services and has referred all questions to Davis.

Dollar said The Battalion has misquoted him too many times.

Davis, who was unable to be interviewed, produced a special release for The Battalion.

Davis, in his release, also cited the computerized student identification system in the dining halls has also aided in stopping unnecessary food and sugar consumption.

more than a year. The action came amid new government hearings into soaring profits for refiners whose

earnings have been boosted by the growing worldwide demand for the sweetener.

Amstar Corp., the nation's largest cane sugar refiner, Sucrest Corp. and CPC International's industrial sugar division said they were lowering wholesale prices of fine granulated sugar—the kind you buy in the grocery store—to \$66.75 per 100 pounds. Amstar and Sucrest cut \$5.20 from the price of 100 pounds of sugar at the wholesale level; CPC reduced its price by \$5.10 per hundredweight.

Amstar said the cut will bring the wholesale price of a five-pound bag of sugar to about \$3.47. That's actually higher than the price in most supermarkets because the sugar on the shelves was processed several months ago and the retailers haven't caught up with more recent wholesale boosts.

It will take a while for Monday's reductions to reach the retail level and, in between, consumers will face the higher price tags prompted by earlier increases.

Supermarkets have urged customers not to buy sugar and some stores are limiting purchases. Many people are already boycotting sugar.

The latest check showed sugar increased in every city except Dallas, where the specified five-pound sack was unavailable at the supermarket.

Because of sugar, the total marketbasket bill also jumped sharply in every city except Dallas, rising an average of 6 per cent in November. If sugar was removed from total, however, the average increase was only 0.7 per cent and the bill in six of the 12 cities declined.

A comparison of current prices with those at the start of the year showed the marketbasket bill up an

average of 20%, with sugar contributing a disproportionately large share of the increase.

Most authorities say food prices over-all will rise in the beginning of next year.



After the parade . . .

Photo by Jack Holm

The only time Texas trailed the Aggies Friday was when the cleanup crew followed the parade before the game. The Aggies lost the game 32-3.

These Texas students' spirits were not dampened by the task they were given.