

Weather

Partly cloudy Friday and Saturday with southerly winds 10-18 mph. High both days 87; low tonight 68.

The Battalion

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Vol. 68 No. 111

College Station, Texas

Friday, April 25, 1975



Bicycles Obstruct Wheelchair Paths

Jim Crawley, Battalion campus reporter, through the maze of bicycles at the Library tries to maneuver a borrowed wheelchair entrance ramp.

Photo by Jack Holm

Phone rates may go up

By JERRY NEEDHAM
Staff Writer

Bill Erwin, division manager of General Telephone, will present a rate increase request to the College Station City Council at its monthly meeting Monday night at 7.

The requested revenues will raise the rate of return on invested capital on telephone rates from 5.43 percent to 8.4 percent.

Both the Bryan and College Station City Councils must approve the requests before the rates become effective. Public hearings are expected to be held at a later date.

Also on the agenda is a public hearing on the Thomas Street paving assessments. The council will levy assessments for part of the cost of improving a portion of Thomas Street.

Thomas Street was the last to be paved in College Station under the old rate of \$4 per linear foot. The council recently passed an ordinance raising the assessed cost for each property owner on the street paving program to \$8 per linear foot.

A mayor pro-tem will also be elected. Fred Brison, who did not run for re-election, held the position. The mayor pro-tem acts as mayor at council meetings in case of

'Fish Pond' needs cash

The "Fish Pond" may not remain the saddest structure on campus should the Class of 1977 have its way.

Class of '77 members are currently planning a complete renovation of the memorial, and with the specifications for the work project already drawn up, they need only to acquire the necessary \$8,800.

Kelly DeWitt, Class of '77 President, hopes that construction can begin prior to May 15 to avoid increases in building costs. The fountain would then be completed by football season for use by the yell leaders.

To raise the needed funds, the class plans to collect contributions from class members during pre-registration, sponsor a Country-Western dance on April 25, and hold a class picnic on April 27 at Hensel Park.

the mayor's absence. Board and committee members will also be appointed by the council.

City Manager North Bardell will give his report to the council. It will include discussions on the paving of streets in the Carter's Grove subdivision, the Texas Highway Department's recommendation to raise the median on a portion of Jersey Street and bids on electrical equipment.

The council will consider five bids for lighting equipment for the proposed tennis courts next to Bee Creek Park.

A public hearing will be held on rezoning five lots in the Lakeview

Acres Subdivision on Miller's and Morgan Lanes from single family residential to commercial and industrial districts.

Two other rezoning ordinances will be considered by the council. One of the ordinances will rezone two lots located southwest of College Main between Louise and Church Avenue from a duplex residential district to a general commercial district. Another proposed ordinance would rezone the five lots in the Lakeview Acres Subdivision.

The council will also present a motion calling for a public hearing on rezoning a tract of land on the corner of Southland and FM 2154.

Trying his wheels

Handicapped for a while

By JIM CRAWLEY
Staff Writer

Whoosh! Another bicyclist speeds by as I diligently try my hand at navigating a wheelchair to the Library.

Along with dozens more, I wheeled across the campus yesterday as participants in TAMU's second annual Wheelchair Awareness Day.

As part of the special day, students could sign out wheelchairs and see what the campus is like to the handicapped. Students used the chairs as long as they wished or until they tired. It was usually a combination of both.

For me, the key to the day was to see how many buildings I could get into without "cheating." Cheating in this sense was not to use my feet, outside help to get out of the chair. All impossible for a real handicapped student.

Unfortunately, I had to break the rules a few times.

My first challenge was the Academic Building. This building has a ramp and even an elevator but little else. The ramp's most common use is a place to park bicycles during class. Then the elevator tried to attack my feet a couple of times during my several trips up and down. The

"several" trips were necessary because I couldn't turn the chair around inside the elevator. Now I know why you always back a chair into an elevator.

The next obstacle was the Old Biological Sciences Building. This elevator is very unusual, to say the least. The doors close from the top and bottom, instead of from the sides. Another wheelchair novice described the beast as "a giant set of jaws waiting to gobble you up." I tend to agree.

Next a friend and I set out to conquer the Reed McDonald Building, home of The Battalion. I had been told it was impossible.

After 45 minutes, a trip down the middle of Spence Street, strange looks from people in Lot 7 and a sense of victory we entered the office to the surprise of all, including ourselves.

We only cheated once, when a van didn't see us while we were trying to hop over a curb.

During a break I talked with others trying out their new wheels. The story about the student who got five friends to carry him up the steps of Sbsia for lunch, only to be stymied by the turnstile, brought a few laughs to a serious problem.

After the long-needed rest, I journeyed to the MSC and the first

Athletic user fee

Compromise made?

By JERRY GEARY
Campus Editor

The Athletic Department is willing to accept the Student Senate's recommended athletic user fee if a contingency fund is established to cover any financial losses to the department.

The agreement, which includes a \$10 season pass or \$3.50 for individual games without the pass, must still be approved by the Athletic Council and President Williams.

The Athletic Department had delayed its earlier plan of \$17.50 per season pass or \$7 for individual

games when the executive committee of the Student Senate threatened to boycott the user fee. Student leaders argued that the proposal had not passed through proper channels and had not received any student input.

Student Body President Jeff Dunn said the recent turnaround of events resulted from a meeting of Student Government leaders with President Williams Thursday afternoon.

At the meeting, Williams explained that he was led to believe the Senate Executive Committee had

approved the Athletic Department's \$17.50 user fee.

In reality, the Senate Executive Committee had never met to approve the measure.

Dunn said that last week Bob Shokes, student member of the Athletic Council, led him to believe that \$17.50 was a reasonable compromise with the Athletic Department.

"He (Shokes) felt \$17.50 was a justified, reasonable demand," said Dunn.

In his meetings with the Athletic Department, Dunn said, "We

didn't start arbitrating about the \$17.50 plan because we thought it was impossible to get it lowered."

Dunn further explained that student leaders were only questioning the \$7.00 individual ticket cost.

Dunn said the Athletic Department assumed, "Because we didn't say anything against it, (the \$17.50 plan) they thought we favored it."

He said Wednesday afternoon was the first time he was informed there was an alternative to the Athletic Department's \$17.50 plan.

In order to bring the fee back to \$10, Williams said he would take \$80,000 out of the athletic budget for improvements on Kyle Field and fund them through another source.

Later, Assistant Athletic Director of Business Affairs, Wally Groff explained to Dr. Williams that this \$80,000 was not included in the Athletic Department's budget and the situation reverted back to its original stalemated form.

The stalemate was broken when Groff increased projected revenue from football games anticipating a "very optimistic" season.

Still, Groff did not have enough money from estimated student fees of \$257,500 to cover the Athletic Department's revised, estimated 279,000 budget.

Dunn said he saw no sense in establishing a contingency fund to cover the \$22,000 deficit within the athletic budget since the football team in all probability would have a very successful season and would not need the money.

Dunn argued that the fund should be established outside the budget.

Groff agreed, saying Student Services Fees had a monetary reserve that "could help us out" if the Athletic Department suffered any financial losses.

A final decision on the controversy will be reached early next week.

Chairs meet barrier

Hassles becoming fewer

By JIM CRAWLEY
Staff Writer

During the past few years the TAMU campus has become less of a hassle to students using wheel chairs and crutches but the final solution is still far in the future.

The state of Texas currently has a law requiring all new or renovated public buildings to be accessible to the handicapped. This means wheel chair users, the blind and people using crutches must be able to enter the buildings.

"The university has been responsive to the needs of the wheel chair students," said Don Gardner, counselor for the Texas Rehabilitation Commission.

The main needs of the "chair students" are the elimination of architectural barriers around campus. Barriers include curbs, steps and stairs. Phones, water fountains and restrooms also provide problems unless properly designed with the handicapped in mind.

"The response from the administration is mostly positive toward the introduction of ramps on campus," said Gardner.

Wheel chair students have access to 24 campus buildings. Thirteen of these buildings have classroom space, with the other buildings mainly office, dorm and recreational areas. Many other buildings have elevators which make access by students using crutches possible.

Although most of the major buildings are called "accessible" by the administration, some of the wheel chair students still find it difficult to enter the accessible buildings.

An often quoted complaint from students is the use of wheel chair ramps at the Library and Academic Buildings as bicycle racks. Also the current construction programs have disrupted the entrances and sidewalks of several buildings.

The Battalion has discovered that construction crews have repeatedly placed obstacles at the Bolton Hall ramp during the past week. Yesterday was the second annual Wheelchair Awareness Day and during the day the Bolton ramp was fenced off.

Presently, older campus buildings are being renovated with the addition of ramps and elevators. Recent renovations including the construction of ramps were Bolton Hall, Fernier, Geosciences and Nagle Hall, according to Gen. A. R. Luedecke, executive vice president.

The Physics Building has been made partially accessible by the addition of a temporary wooden ramp. Luedecke termed this as "not satisfactory."

Once a student has entered an "accessible" building other problems also crop up. Too high water fountains are a common complaint. Old and small elevators also tend to make it harder for wheelchair students. Small restrooms without special equipment are also a recurrent source of trouble.

Luedecke said the Coke Building

is scheduled to receive a special wheel chair elevator on the outside so handicapped students may use the offices of the Fiscal Office and the Registrar. The Admissions Office is also located in the building.

The new additions to the Krueger-Dunn complex will be equipped to handle handicapped residents as the existing complex does.

The Battalion was told by Luedecke the Systems Administration Building was completely accessible to wheel chairs. A survey of the entrances indicated this was not the case. The two main entrances are fronted by a 12-15 foot high series of steps. The only other entrances are reached by two steps.

A small step for man, but a giant leap for a wheel chair.

"I don't think the handicapped students are the ones who complain the most, they're just happy they can go to school," said Gardner.

Young says . . .

Business' reputation low

By DAVID ROOP
Staff Writer

"The reputation of business today is as low as it has ever been," said Lewis Young, editor of Business Week Magazine, Thursday night.

Young gave his views on problems faced by American business for the Great Issues series on the American Economy.

This low reputation, Young said, was not difficult to predict, with America in the midst of the most severe depression since the 1930's. The stock market is 30 percent below that of 1973, and industrial production is 12 percent below the level of last fall, he said.

"The depression will end," Young said, "but will the bad reputation?"

The fundamental question in dealing with American business today, Young said, is "what kind of economic society will the United States have?"

Will the government make the decisions, or will the people? he asked. More and more large corporations are relying on government funds to help them out of financial difficulty, and, as Young said, "All of this adds up to unprecedented government intervention."

How did the United States get to this point? The main problem said Young is poor management of corporations. They simply cannot cope with the size and complexity which many businesses have attained.

"The enterprise has gotten so big, the management doesn't know how to run it," he said.

"There is a growing belief that the U.S. economy must change from a consumption-oriented to a savings-oriented economy," he said. Conservation calls for more durable products and while this might cause some markets to shrink, he felt it would create new repair markets.

As an example of an industry based on consumption, Young pointed to the automobile industry. Auto companies, he said, have gotten out of touch with public needs.

"The fact is that in the last five years, very few new innovations came out of American auto manufacturers. Real participation by auto management," he said, will be needed to produce the type of car Americans need.

Another problem Young spoke on is that of U.S. companies diversifying into other businesses.

"The idea of getting into a busi-

ness they know nothing about has almost a magnetic attraction to most American corporations." The idea that a company must diversify to survive must be re-examined, he said.

Failure to communicate with the public is also hurting many companies, Young said.

"A new atmosphere demands an emphasis on candor," he said.

Three factors have led to this new atmosphere. First, there is "a disenchantment with establishments in general." Also, the improved level of education, helped by wide-

spread television, has led to a greater public awareness.

"In an open society," Young stated, "a company's executive must consider the impact of their actions on the public."

"The corporation is under great strain," he said. It has lost its drive and focus, and the government, in turn, is trying to run and finance many of them.

"The real solution," Young said, "is making corporations more resilient, able to handle their own problems" by focusing more energy and attention on products.

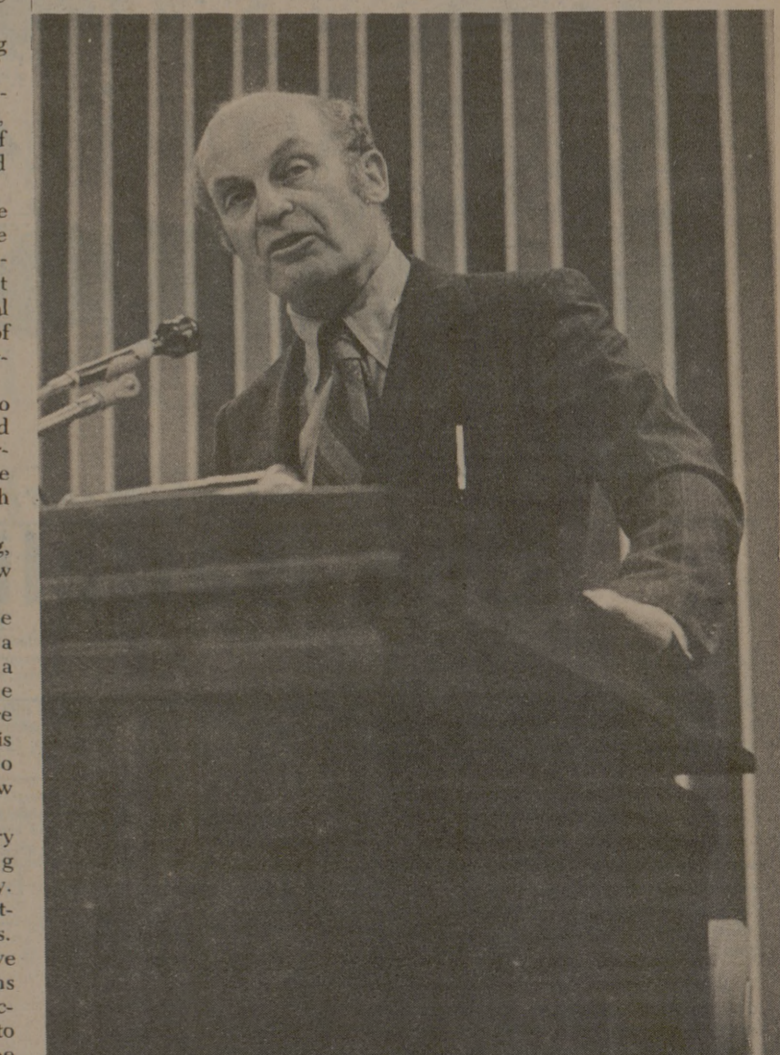


Photo by David McCarrall

Business Week Editor Speaks

Mr. Lewis Young, current editor of Business Week Magazine, presents his views on American industry.