

Weather

Continued partly cloudy and mild Wednesday and Thursday. NE winds 7-12 mph. High today 76; low tonight 61; high tomorrow 82. No rain.

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Inflation doubles cost Street assessments

By STEVE GRAY
City Editor

The recent doubling of assessments for streets paved under the city's petition paving program is the result of skyrocketing construction costs.

In late March the College Station City Council amended the ordinance which sets assessment rates for streets paved at the request of residents by means of a petition. Under the old ordinance adjacent property owners were assessed \$4 per linear foot for a 28-foot wide

street with curbs.

Now it will cost residents \$8 per linear foot if they wish to have their neighborhood streets repaved. City Manager North Bardell says the city had no choice but to increase those assessments.

"The costs of petroleum products used in the paving materials have just gone out of sight and we had to make the adjustment in order to keep the costs evenly distributed," he said.

Under the paving program, which began in 1957, property owners on both sides of the street to

be paved are assessed for construction costs with the city paying for any required intersections and drainage facilities. Theoretically, the program distributes the costs evenly, in thirds, among the landowners and the city.

But this has not always been the case. Bardell said the last project to be paved under the old assessment rate of \$4 per linear foot was a 476-foot stretch of Thomas Street between Hereford and Dexter Drives. The cost distribution on that project was anything but equal, he said.

"It turned out that the total cost per linear foot on Thomas Street was \$24," Bardell said. "That meant the city had to pay \$16 for its share of the costs."

The paving program ordinance specifies that 51 per cent of property owners on a given street must petition the city before it will hire a private contractor to do the work. The city paid more than \$7,600 on the Thomas Street project, about two-thirds of the \$11,424 total cost.

The Thomas Street petition was the only one received by the city in 1974. Repaving of the street started in January but Bardell said the contractor has fallen behind schedule because of bad weather and availability of materials.

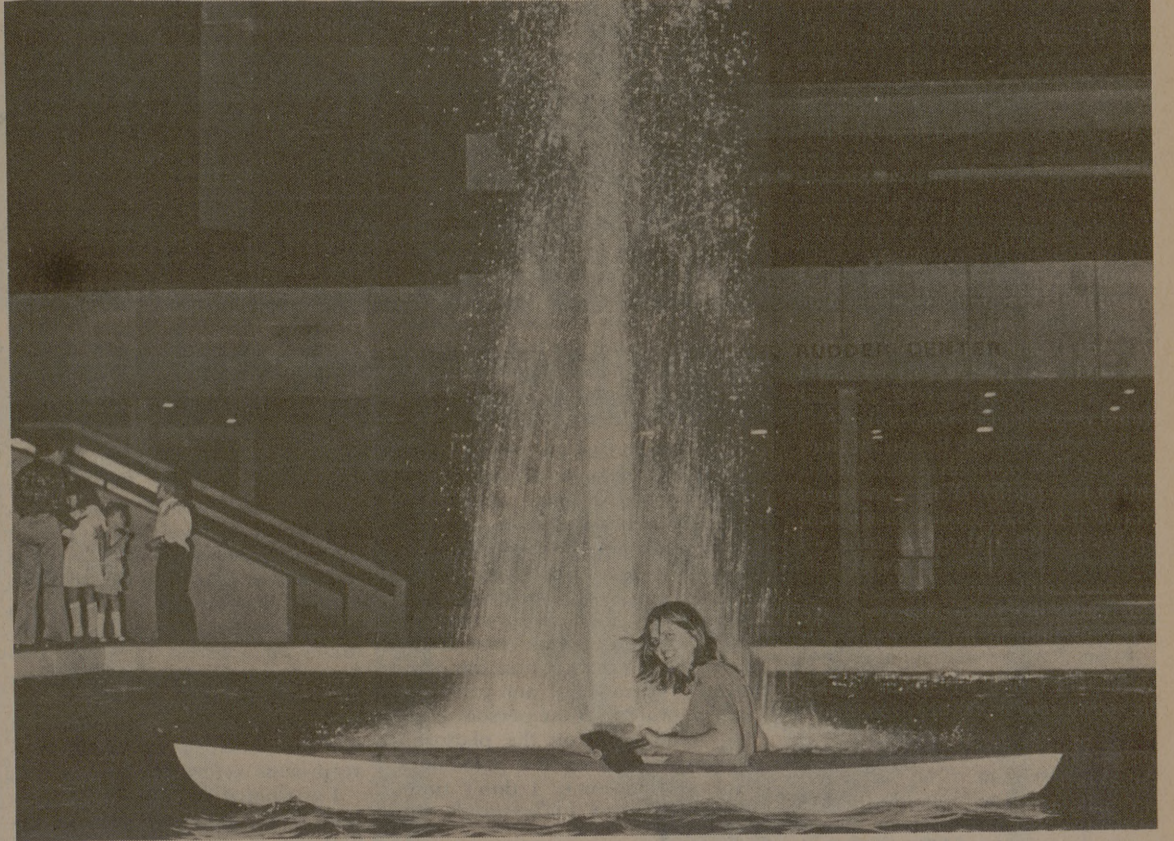
No petitions have been submitted yet this year, he said.

Bardell said the city has paved about 84 streets or sections of streets with about \$1.6 million since the program's inception.

"Actually, the program is aimed at improving existing streets in residential areas rather than constructing new ones," Bardell said. "We've had good success with the program."

He said residents along streets that need repaving have responded favorably to the program. Lee Street was the first to be paved under the program in 1959.

"I would prefer to call it a participation paving program because the residents are actively taking a part in the improvement of their neighborhoods," Bardell said.



Willma Norton, President of the TAMU Kayak Team, demonstrated her style for the 1976 Summer Olympics Monday evening in the Rudder Center Fountain.
Photo by Balzak

Council talks bids, contracts, meetings

A proposed utilities contract adjustment with the city of Bryan will be discussed at a special meeting of the College Station City Council Thursday at 7 p.m. at the city hall.

Bids on switching materials for Shady Lane substation improvements will also be considered by the council. The Shady Lane substation is a power relay station owned by Bryan. College Station ties into the substation to get its electricity to the residents in the east part of town.

The council will also consider bids on a tractor for the city's parks and recreation department.

Helicopter operations at St. Joseph Hospital will also be discussed. The helipad at St. Joseph currently is an open field located beside the hospital and marked with orange balls suspended above ground.

The possibility of holding two regular council meetings per month will also be discussed.

Senate approves SG appointments

Last Wednesday's Student Government (SG) Senate meeting was highlighted by discussion on the downfall of SG Radio and a resolution giving the Executive Committee power over the summer vacation.

The Senate also elected a Speaker and approved University Committee, Senate positions and SG Judicial Board members recommended by SG President Jeff Dunn.

The resolution requires the president to get approval of two-thirds of the Executive Committee before enacting any policy or legislation in the summer. The bill also requires a report of all actions taken during the summer. The report will be received by the Senate at an early fall meeting.

An amendment to the resolution setting a \$300 limit on expenditures connected with summer decisions was voted down by the body. The unamended resolution was accepted by the Senate.

Three Executive Committee members expressed their concern over the recent failure of the radio station to obtain time of KORA-FM. This leaves the station to continue its previous arrangement with Midwest Cable. The station is presently using the cable system to carry its signals.

The position of Speaker of the Senate was filled by the election of Fred McClure, College of Agriculture senator. McClure was opposed by graduate College of Science senator Joe Marcello. Marcello was elected as Marcell Pro Tem, later in the meeting.

Marty Clayton, last year's Speaker, was accepted by acclamation to the position of Parliamentarian.

In presenting his recommendations, Dunn said they had been made on a "discriminatory basis." "I gave non-senators the best chance," he said.

Karla Mouritsen was nominated for the position of Director of Public Relations. Graduate senator Payne Harrison asked Mouritsen if her position on The Battalion would constitute a conflict of interest. She replied that it wouldn't and the Senate approved her nomination.

The Senate also approved the recommendation of graduate student Wesley Harris to the position of Judicial Board chairman. Harris is currently serving on the board.

The following recommendations were approved by the body. All the recommendations will have to be approved by the president of the University.

Sbisa undergoes transformation

By MIKE KIMMEY
Staff Writer

Sbisa Hall is undergoing the transformation from pauper to prince.

Director of Food Services Fred Dollar says the renovation that began at Sbisa during the spring break has been in the planning stages for eight years.

Phase I, consisting of the annex and a portion of the main dining hall, is currently a hard hat area. When completed the renovated area will boast a new fast foods line. The area will contain modern equipment to cook pizzas and other "fast foods."

"Even Shakey's has only three or four pizza machines as sophisticated as ours. A representative from the company said our pizzas were 'first rate,'" said Dollar.

Chicken, hamburgers, french fries and other fast foods favored by many students will now be cooked and served with comparable industry methods. Seconds on chicken are soon to be worked into the menu.

Phase I will be dominated by a modern decor, the most prominent feature being a dropped ceiling made of sound absorbent material that will furnish indirect lighting.

The architect, Emmett Trant, will serve as the interior designer. Planned for the dining hall are large red rugs to be placed between the windows on the west side of the hall.

Phase II will bring significant changes in the appearance of the mainhall of Sbisa. Until its completion students will eat in the completed Phase I area.

"We have asked the architects to

think about making the two phases into two different worlds," commented Dollar. He expressed a desire for student input stating the design could be colonial or whatever the students and architects decide.

The Menu Board, the student input to the department, is a group of fifteen students—five per dining hall. The board meets once a month as a joint committee and another meeting is held for the individual hall committees.

These students are responsible for changing the menus, recipes and

rearranging the dining halls.

Five or six "Full cafeteria lines" are planned for the serving scenario. Dollar said that like Krueger-Dunn's, the serving lines can be abandoned and cleaned as business slows. This would cut labor costs, he said.

Each cafeteria line will have five hot plates with a shared bread area where entrees and vegetables are served. The students must then patronize two, twenty-foot, refrigerated, desert-salad bars. When asked about possible traffic jams at the re-

arranging bars, Dollar said he did not foresee any problems.

Beverages will line both a wall in the Phase I area and in Phase II.

The dishwashing and food preparing processes will be separated.

The reduced kitchen will have a new 24-foot charbroiler grill that will be located where students can watch their steaks, pork chops, or sausages cook while waiting in line. There are fryers for fish and french fries located in the kitchen that are more efficient and strategically placed.

Dishwashing will be done at a dish pantry that will stand just in front of what is now Sbisa's central entrance. There will be twelve slots all around this pantry. Students will set their trays on a conveyor belt which spirals around the structure. Waiters and waitresses stationed inside will clean the dirty utensils.

The pantry will also decoratively fit in Sbisa's new environment. Hanging, spherical lights are currently planned to surround the pantry near the ceiling.

Upon completion of Phase II, the entrances that now open into the Annex will be used for emergency exits only.

There will be two one-way entrances on Sbisa's south side. These entrances will have an increased number of turnstiles, each manned with improved stamping machines. These entrances will be composed of a small waiting room that will enable a limited number of students to come in out of the rain. These rooms will be blocked off similar to the way attractions are at Six Flags, Disneyland, or Astroworld.

A handicapped ramp is now being built on one of the entrances.

The center doorway will become a one-way exit. It will be next to the dish washing area, making it handy for students to bus their trays as they leave.

One of the main selling points of Sbisa renovation is it will "decrease the cost per unit of food served," Dollar said. In a study Dollar personally made, he found that labor would cost \$40,000 a year to bus all students' trays.

"So far this year we have spent around \$20,000 bussing trays students left behind," said Dollar.

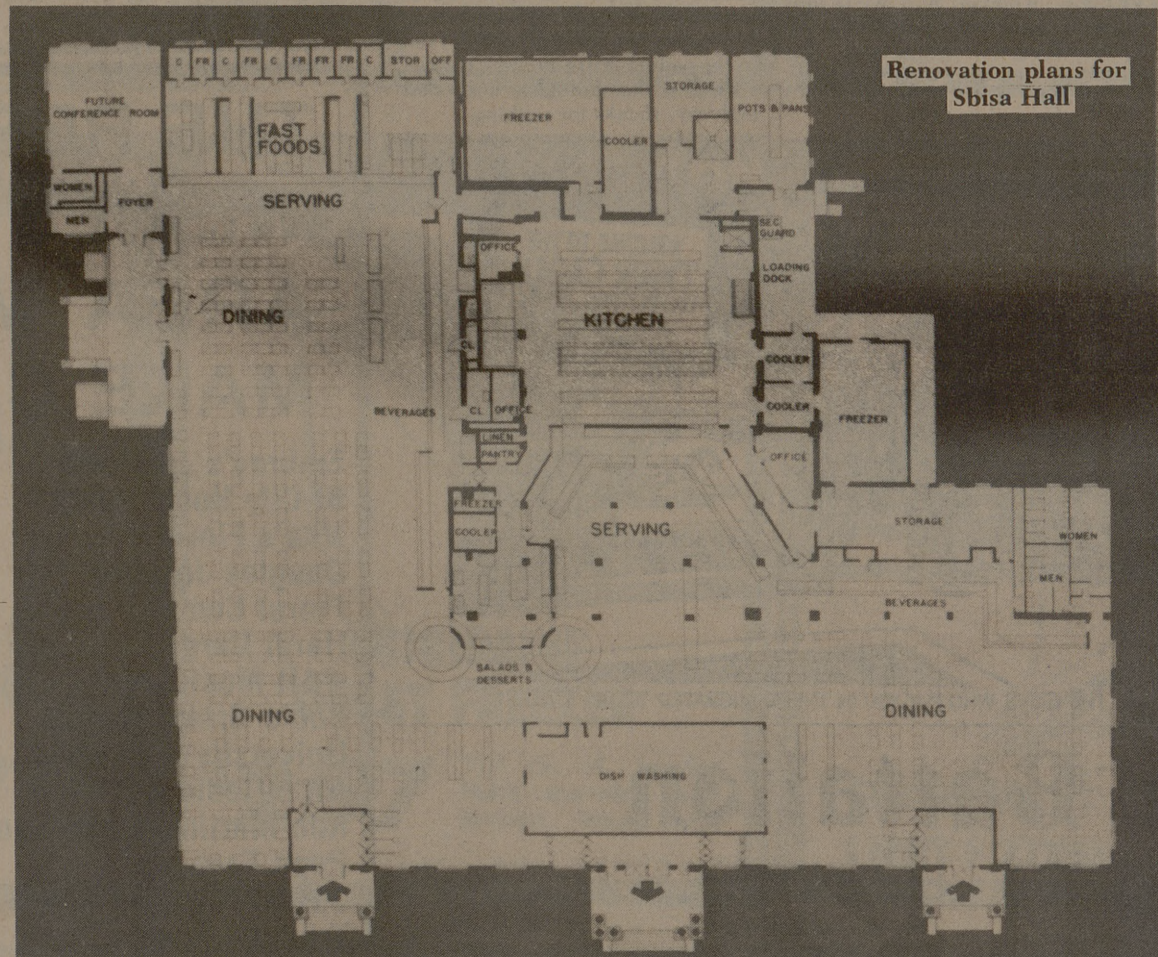
The separation of dishwashing to cooking activities will increase Sbisa's efficiency; therefore decrease labor costs, he explained. We have found through experience at Commons, said Dollar, that a conveyor belted washing area near the exit induces more people to bus their trays. He added that having cooking facilities separated from the kitchen enables entrees to be cooked on the spot. This cuts down on prepared food that is wasted and labor to precook the entrees.

As long as long range projects go, Dollar did not know how Peniston would be used after Phase II was completed. He said that outside landscaping all "depends on what the students want and how much money we have."

Sbisa renovations will not expand seating capacity which is now approximately 1400, but are to better serve the approximate 4000 students that eat there daily, Dollar said.

The new Sbisa renovation is a thoroughly student coordinated project, said Dollar. The Menu Board voted unanimously in 71, 72, and 73 to go ahead with plans for renovating Sbisa. Right now the Student Menu Board which is representing the students is constantly reviewing and changing plans with the architect, added Dollar.

"It's selfishness on our part. We are not happy unless the students are happy," said the director. "Our ultimate goal for this project is to have the finest dining hall in the U.S."



A&M researchers seek solution to structure cave-in problem

Last year 39 persons died in ditch cave-ins in Texas, and in California 83 died between 1963 and 1974. From 1968 through 1973, 677 disabling work injuries resulted from excavation cave-ins. Cave-ins are the single biggest killer in construction and yet many could be prevented.

A team of researchers from Texas A&M University has been funded by the Associated General Contractors of America to find better ways to predict where cave-ins could occur so they can specify when and where supports will be required.

"We need to determine the safe limits for unsupported excavations, and analyze the need, location, and load requirements for supports once these safe limits are exceeded," explained project head Dr. L. J. Thompson. "Fatalities have occurred in ditches as shallow as 2½ feet and the majority in excavations less than 20 feet deep. So there is the whole spectrum of ditches, trenches and excavations where fatalities

have occurred and where study is needed.

"Ditch collapse fatalities are a national disgrace, because there are text book ways to predict unsafe conditions and structural methods to prevent collapse," Thompson said. "When a ditch wall fails, the engineering profession has either ignored its responsibility."

"Ditch collapse is not only a technical, legal and moral problem, it is also an economics problem," he continued. "As a contractor lowers his number of accidents, he lowers his workman compensation insurance premiums which are a significant part of his overhead."

"The law puts the government into the engineering business by prescribing one solution for an infinite number of ditching problems," said the other project member Ron Tannenbaum. "The engineering profession should resent this! The ultimate solution to this problem at first glance seems to be

this: contractors should refuse to bid on work where the engineer has not specified where and how the ditch will be supported. This will require that the engineer do more investigation and analysis. Then the responsibility will be placed where it belongs; legally, morally and technically.

"What we have found so far is that engineers and architects have traditionally pushed the responsibility for ditch collapse on the contractor by specifying that the contractor should support the ditch if it were needed, when it is only the engineer who could predict whether or not the support was necessary," he observed.

"Our aims in the study are to educate the engineer to his responsibility, educate the contractor of the consequences of not using engineering expertise, and, finally, educate the government and get it out of the practice of engineering," Thompson stressed.

\$13,000 in prizes given top 3 Ags

Steve Eberhard, Antonio Pelletier and Curt Marsh received A&M's top student awards Saturday.

Eberhard and Pelletier received Brown Foundation-Earl Rudder Memorial Awards at Commencement. Each included \$5,000.

Marsh was named for the \$3,000 Doherty Award to the outstanding graduating senior of the Corps of Cadets. It was presented at TAMU's commissioning program.

The Brown Foundation Awards honor A&M seniors who exemplify qualities and traits of the late Gen. Earl Rudder. A World War II hero, statesman and educator, Rudder for 11 years was president of the Texas A&M University System. He died in 1970.

The Doherty award was endowed in 1971 by W. T. Doherty of Houston in memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Doherty. He indicated it should go to a graduating senior who earned a reserve officer commission, believes in God, loves his family, has strong feelings of patriotism for the U.S. and Texas and

possesses a strong Aggie spirit and love for Texas A&M.

Marsh majored in marketing and was operations officer on the Corps staff this year. The 3.4 grade point average student was commissioned in the U.S. Marine Corps. A member of the Texas Aggie Band until this year, he earned numerous military honors and was a Student Government and Student Senate leader. Marsh was in the top five percent of Marine Corps training last summer, qualified for airborne service the same summer and began preparation toward becoming a military pilot through the Flight Instruction Program.

Eberhard completed his TAMU undergraduate career as Student Government president. A 3.94 GPR student in math, he plans to continue studies toward a degree in law. Named a TAMU President's Scholar and White House Presidential Scholar while still in New Braunfels High, Eberhard devoted much of his time to student programs and activities while maintaining top scholastic marks. From his

corps unit to the Student Y Association, Memorial Student Center, College of Science and SC, the many-times honored cadet is known and respected by other students. He was Corps staff scholastic officer this year and was commissioned in the U.S. Army.

A mechanical engineering major and also a Distinguished Student, Pelletier commanded the Second Wing. He was commissioned in the U.S. Air Force. Like Eberhard a member of the Ross Volunteers, Pelletier participated in Student Y and MSC activities and served on the Student Senate. Winner as a sophomore of the Daughters of Founders and Patriots of America Award, the 3.25 GPR student was chosen by Dallas Power and Light as a project engineer last summer.

Weekly Batts

Beginning with today's issue, the Battalion will only publish one issue per week until the beginning of the fall semester.