

The Battalion

Vol. 69 No. 29

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College Station, Texas

Tuesday, Oct. 21, 1975

Private firm offers service when funeral homes retreat

Ambulance service in Brazos County

A four-part series by Rod Speer, Alan Killingsworth and Steve Goble.

The cities of Bryan and College Station were desperately looking for someone to provide ambulance service to the area when the Bryan funeral homes discontinued the service in March of last year. The funeral homes were charging as much as \$25 for local runs but could not make ends meet. "Our collections reached a peak of about 75 per cent the last year we provided the service," according to Raymond Jones of Callaway-Jones Funeral Home. "Why go up on the fees if you're not going to collect anyway? We felt we had a better chance of collecting if we kept our fees low," he said. "We stayed in (the ambulance) business a couple of months longer than we wanted to," Charles Hillier, another funeral director, said. "We ran into wage and hour problems — the costs were eating our breakfast."

Ed Sherrill, whose father owns the ambulance service in Waco, offered to handle the Brazos area ambulance needs without governmental assistance.

Sherrill now runs the only ambulance in the county.

"I was stunned when they decided to go with a private firm," Jones said. "We all thought that they would take our cars and put one at each fire station and let the firemen run the calls. The idea scared them literally to death."

Although the cities' firemen are better trained to deal with accident victims than Sherrill's ambulance crew, College Station

City Manager North Bardell said the service is too expensive to be run by the city.

A fireman, Bardell said, cannot be on duty as both a fireman and an ambulance attendant. The increased cost to the cities for personnel only, he argued, would amount to about \$100,000 annually per ambulance/fire station.

When complaints concerning the service surfaced in the media, a graduate-student class at Texas A&M did a study of community feelings toward the ambulance service.

Among the concerns revealed by the study were: a slow response time, inadequate training of personnel, poor equipment, inadequate communications, lack of complete records, lack of an adequate recourse mechanism to deal with complaints and the lack of overall coordination in the emergency medical system.

Tomorrow: The validity of the complaints, Sherrill's response and the ambulance service's physical capabilities.

TOP OF THE NEWS

Campus

ALL SENIORS are eligible to compete for the revered title of Ugliest Senior. The all-male contest will be held at 12:30 p.m. Friday by the MSC Fountain. The winner will be judged on the basis of (1) a nauseating appearance, (2) a one-minute speech on the depth of the contestant's unsavoriness and (3) a generally lousy attitude. The winner will receive a T-shirt. Contestants need to register in Room 216 of the MSC.

For those less homely, a Pumpkin-carving contest is being sponsored Oct. 30. The owner-supplied pumpkins must stand without interior support and be able to be lit. Entries must be brought to Room 216B of the MSC between 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. on Oct. 30. They will be displayed Oct. 31 in the MSC. The winner will receive a home-made pumpkin pie.

APPLICATIONS for Free University Chairman will be taken through Oct. 30. Forms and interview schedules are available in the Student Programs office. Applicants must have a 2.4 GPR. Interested persons may call John Nelson at 845-1515.

HALLOWEEN CANDY for mentally-retarded children at the Austin State School is being bought through donations. Persons or groups interested in participating in this project should contact Mary Robinette at 845-1227 before 5 p.m.

THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION is looking for student-originated programs to finance. This course of study provides financing and \$90 a week salary to small (5-10) groups of students interested in developing ideas relevant to society and collecting data. The projects last for 10-12 weeks. Interested persons should call Gerard O'Donovan (845-4943) or James Wild (845-3131).

LOCAL STATE-REGISTERED emergency medical technicians will meet tonight in room 139 of the MSC at 8. Anyone unable to attend should call Gerry Creager, 845-2063, or Scott Mitchell, 845-1961.

THE SEVEN BEST student book collections could earn their owners \$100 cash prizes in the Third Annual Student Book Collectors Contest. The deadline is Oct. 31.

Members of the A&M Library staff will judge the 25-title collections and announce the winners on Nov. 14.

For further information contact librarians Charles Smith, Irene Hoadley, Tamara Frost, Bonnie Hughes or Evelyn King.

KENNY KIRK, AN A&M FOOTBALL player, reported to University Police that his car was stolen from the Cain Hall parking lot. It was later found wrecked and abandoned at Lake Somerville after apparently having been pushed over the spillway.

In other police news, a citizens band radio antenna was stolen from a car parked in lot 50, across Bizzel Street. Also, a wallet was reportedly pilfered from a window ledge outside the handball courts late Friday night.

"THE WOMEN," a satire of the "Fifth Avenue" women of every American town, will be shown Oct. 21, 22, 23, at 6:30 p.m. in the MSC Ballroom. A&M students and date tickets are \$4.50; general public, \$7.00. Reservations close 24 hours before performance. MSC Box Office, 845-2916.

A MANDATORY STUDENT GOVERNMENT candidates meeting will be held Wednesday at 5 p.m. in Room 105 in the Harrington Center. Candidates who attended Sunday's meeting need not attend. If neither meeting is attended the candidate's name will be removed from the ballot.

HOWARD PHILLIPS, National Director of the Conservative Caucus, will speak on "A Conservative View of Politics" Oct. 22 at 8 p.m. in Room 201 in the MSC. Admission is 25 cents for students, \$1 for non-students.

SUDAN ART, a group of actors who work out of Houston, will present "The Death of O. D. Walker" at 8 p.m. Wednesday in the Forum. Admission is free for students and 75 cents for the general public.

Texas

GOVERNOR DOLPH BRISCOE'S first public speech on the proposed constitution since he advised Texans to vote against it was in Rocksprings this morning. He told a Capital news conference last Tuesday that he though all eight propositions concerning the new constitutions should be defeated.

MARK WHITE, TEXAS SECRETARY OF STATE, said in Houston Monday that he was in the process of appointing a Voting Protection Task Force for the Nov. 4 Constitutional election.

"We want to be sure every registered voter in Texas is able to vote freely in this important election," he said.

A MAXIMUM SECURITY PRISONER and two jail trustees escaped from the Brown County Jail in Brownwood, Sunday after cutting through two steel bars and climbing down a rope made of blankets.

AN AMERICAN EXPERT AND A DUTCH SCIENTIST told delegates to an international conference on the future of man in Woodlands, Monday, that many nations face massive and continuing hunger unless there are changes in basic agricultural policies.

They said that without new and bold measures world food prices could double within 35 years and the numbers of starving people could quadruple.

GALVESTON COUNTY HEALTH DIRECTOR Dr. W. W. Kemmerer Jr. said in Texas City, Friday, that two cases of typhoid have been confirmed in nearby LaMarque along with one suspected case and two other cases are suspected in Texas City.

He said that the disease was contracted at a restaurant and there is no fear of the disease spreading.

FIVE NEW SUSPECTED CASES OF ST. LOUIS ENCEPHALITIS have been found in Houston, health officials said Friday.

The new cases bring to 41 the number of suspected victims of the mosquito-borne disease, including five who have died. There are 18 confirmed cases, including one death.

National

PRESIDENT FORD HAS curtailed his schedule because he is suffering from a sinus cold and a slight fever White House press secretary Ron Nessen said yesterday.

He said that Ford has been suffering from the sinus cold for about a week, although Ford first complained about it Oct. 9 after a news conference.

SENATOR BIRCH E. BAYH, D-Ind., announced his candidacy for the presidency today.

Bayh, 47, hopes to put together a coalition of backers from organized labor, women's groups, blacks and liberals based on his Senate record and a contention that he is both liberal and electable.

A CABINET AT PRESIDENT FORD'S CAMPAIGN headquarters — containing cash and financial records — was the target of an unsuccessful burglary attempt over the weekend, officials said Monday.

General counsel Robert Visser of the President Ford Committee discounted any resemblance to the Watergate break-in against the Democratic National Committee headquarters three years ago.

TWO MEN WERE INDICTED MONDAY on federal charges of plotting to assassinate President Ford in Sacramento by shooting him and bombing a sewer line.

On the day of the attempt, Sept. 5, the men were in jail in Santa Barbara, Calif., after being arrested by the Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Office on Aug. 26 on state theft charges.

THE UNITED STATES has agreed to sell the Soviet Union at least 30 million metric tons of wheat and corn over five years, U.S. officials said in Washington yesterday. The Soviets, meanwhile, promised to let this country purchase some of its oil.

KAREN ANN QUINLAN'S doctor testified Monday that the comatose young woman "reacts to light, sound and pain," and he would refuse to disconnect a respirator that has kept her breathing for the past six months.

Dr. Robert J. Morse was the first witness in a trial to decide whether Quinlan's parents can remove the respirator and allow their 21-year-old daughter to "die with dignity." The Quinlans have said there is no hope for recovery.

ALABAMA GOVERNOR GEORGE C. WALLACE said yesterday in Bonn that he is 95 per cent sure he will declare himself a U. S. presidential candidate.

Wallace arrived in West Berlin today for a two day visit.

World

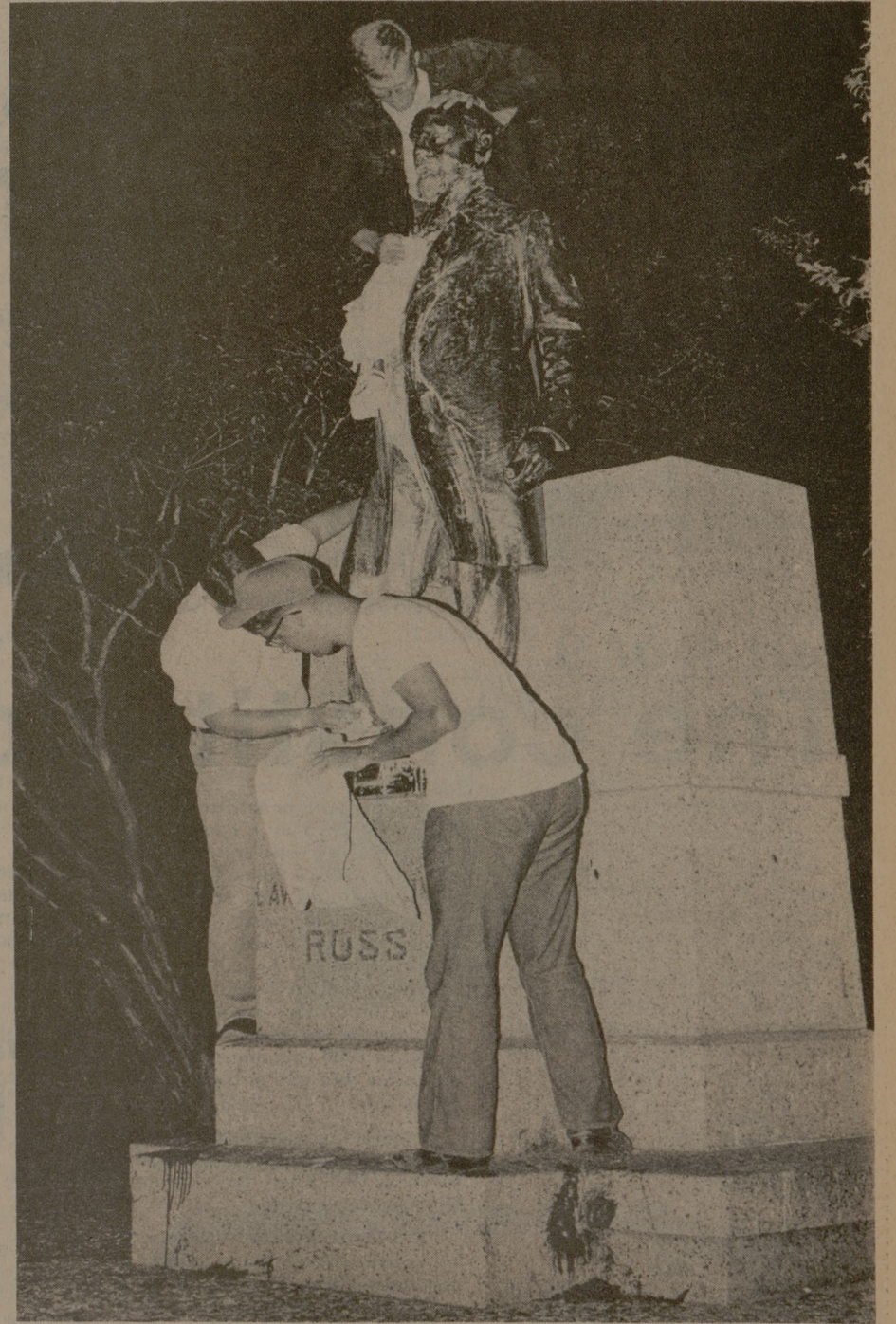
THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT has decided to expell Andrei Sakharov, the nuclear scientist and civil-rights fighter, the conservative newspaper Berlingske Tidende reported in Copenhagen yesterday.

A COMMUTER-PACKED SUBWAY TRAIN slammed into the rear of another train in Mexico City Monday, and Mayor Octavio Senties said at least 22 persons were killed.

The lead train had stopped when someone pulled an emergency cord because a man had been injured by the closing doors.

Weather

Increasing cloudiness and warmer Tuesday. High today and tomorrow 85; low tonight 63. Twenty percent chance of showers Wednesday.



Shades of Saturday's game. Last night, the Baylor Bears made their presence known on campus by covering Sully with green paint. Andy Pennington (right), Bob Pennington (top) and Rick Weaver tried to remove the still wet paint but some gasoline and a lot of scrubbing were needed to finish the job. The vandals were not caught. Photo by Alan Killingsworth

Consol changes amount of authorized bond issue

By PAULA GEYER
Battalion Staff Writer

The A&M Consolidated School Board Monday night voted to change the amount of the bond issue authorized by the board on Sept. 23 from \$5,506,000 to \$5,150,000.

The board, which also set the date of the bond election for Nov. 18, altered the amount because of a building plan change.

Board members Charles Hensarling, Bruce Robeck and Joseph Natowitz voted for the change in the amount.

School board President Nancy Donaldson and member Jon Botsford voted against it in support of the original proposal.

Board members Bill Lancaster and Lambert Wilkes abstained on the vote because of lack of information concerning use of the old Middle School building at 1300 Jersey St. for the school proposed in the bond issue.

The bond issue will, if passed by the

voters provide for an elementary school to be built on the site of the old Middle School.

The building plans for the bond issue also include four classrooms at College Hills Elementary School, a sixth grade classroom unit at the middle school and a new vocational building for the high school.

Also planned are physical education buildings for both elementary schools, site work at the middle school and additional food service facilities at the high school.

Remodeling or new construction of administrative facilities are also in the bond issue.

The board was divided on whether to tear down the old Middle School and rebuild it or whether to use the present building.

School Superintendent Fred A. Hopson said the cost of remodeling the building to meet the College Station building codes would cost as much as constructing a new building.

Natowitz figured the cost of renovating the building at \$1,900,000 while building a new school would cost \$1,800,000.

Wilkes said he saw no reason in not using the building as it now stands for classrooms.

If the bonds are passed by the voters the grade divisions of the present schools in the district will remain the same except for the addition of kindergarten at the elementary schools.

The elementary school to be built on the old Middle School site will include kindergarten through fifth grades.

In other business the board voted to order two new school buses for next year at a cost of \$12,918 each.

The two buses will have a seating capacity of 72 persons each.

One of the buses will replace an existing bus and the other will be used as a spare.

Currently the district has six buses in "medium" condition and five buses in fair shape, Hopson said.

Collision injures bicyclist



A 23-year-old Texas A&M University student suffered minor injuries Monday afternoon when the bicycle she was riding was struck by a car.

Robin Ann Couch was hit by a car driven by Bernard E. Forrester, 25, a KAMU-TV employe, police said.

She was treated and released from St. Joseph's Hospital.

According to College Station Police Officer Richard D. Gullette's report, Forrester was driving east on the inside lane of Jersey Street when his car jumped onto the median. The car clipped two trees at Jersey and Pershing Streets and then veered off down Pershing Street.

The report stated that Couch was headed west on the bicycle lane on Jersey Street, against the traffic, and was turning left onto Pershing Street when Forrester's car hit her.

She was knocked into the yard, and the car continued and flipped on its back in the yard, the report stated.

Forrester also suffered minor cuts. He was treated and released from St. Joseph's Hospital.