

# The Battalion

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## Election system sought

By STEVE GRAY

Contributing Editor

They keep the at-large system of voting. Let's convert back to the old ward system that we had a few years ago.

Let's not really care. Let's have a combination of the two.

These comments by College Station city councilmen reflect the variety of opinions concerning the method of electing city officials.

In the past eight years College Station has elected members of the city council through an at-large system. The at-large, means that elected officials represent voters throughout the city.

Under the "ward" system, council members represent only those persons who live in their specific neighborhood (ward). In the ward system the mayor is elected at-large.

In a special city election in 1968, voters elected the old ward system in effect since 1952 when the city received its charter from the state. During those 16 years the city was divided into three wards, each represented by two council members.

In the late 1960s city fathers decided to change the ward system when they elected two councilmen for the North Gate ward.

They were elected by only a handful of voters.

The city is now considering letting the voters decide how they want to elect future councilmen. The city's charter revision commission has recommended to the city council that a referendum concerning the

election system be placed on the April 3 ballot, the date of the city and school board elections. Voters will be able to choose from the following three options:

● Do you wish to retain the present at-large system of voting? Yes or no.

If a voter should vote 'no' on the first option, he or she will be directed to choose one of the following:

● Do you wish to elect councilmen through a system of six designated wards, with each councilman representing a single ward?

● Do you wish to elect councilmen through a combination ward and at-large system, with three councilmen being elected at-large and three elected from wards?

City officials say voters must either vote for the present at-large system or choose from either of the last two proposals, thus eliminating the need of conducting a special run-off election between three separate proposals. At least 51 per cent of the voters must approve either proposal before it could become effective next Jan. 1.

Should voters opt for the combination ward and at-large system of election, Places 1, 3 and 5, now held by Councilmen Gary Halter, Bob Bell and Larry Bravenec, respectively, would be elected from wards beginning in April 1977. Places 2, 4 and 6 now held by Homer Adams, James Gardner and James Dozier, respectively, would be elected at-large as in the past four elections.

Councilmen Bravenec, Dozier and Bell have said they want to retain the present at-large system because it already provides adequate representation for voters.

Two other councilmen, Halter and Gardner, say they believe a combination ward and at-large system would better serve the interests of voters.

"I'd like to see more representation for the students, but they could do it (get elected) the way the system is set up now if they wanted to," Gardner said. "In fact that is one of the concerns of those who favor the ward system because it would eliminate the possibility of a so-called 'student take-over' of the city council."

Councilman Homer Adams is the lone advocate of the city's original ward system. He contends that it would insure equal representation, yet prevent any one special interest group or minority, such as students, from filling a majority of the council positions.

"I don't want a dormitory student, an 18- or 19-year-old or even my own (children) deciding what bonds are going to be passed and what taxes I'm going to pay in the future," Adams said.

"That's just the way I feel. I don't think they've got any business here (on the council) when they're here for a limited period of time."

"I don't even think they (students) ought to be permitted to vote on bond issues. Anyone that is not a property owner doesn't have any business voting on bond issues."

## Facts on survey

## Longer drinking hours requested

Student Government last night unanimously approved a bill that would extend club hours in College Station to stay open 12 a.m. on weekends.

The recommendation will be presented to the College Station City Council for a decision.

Under the existing city ordinance, clubs, and hotel lounges must close at midnight Sunday through Friday, and at 1 a.m. on Saturday.

The SC action was the result of a survey conducted last semester by the Student-Relations Sub-Committee.

The survey asked for students' opinions

regarding an extension of club hours on weekends and weeknights.

Eighty-seven per cent of the 1,209 responses supported the proposal to extend weekend hours to 2 a.m.

On the question of weeknight hours, 56 per cent of the respondents supported a 2 a.m. curfew. Fifteen per cent desired a change to 1 a.m., while 29 per cent were content with the midnight closing hour.

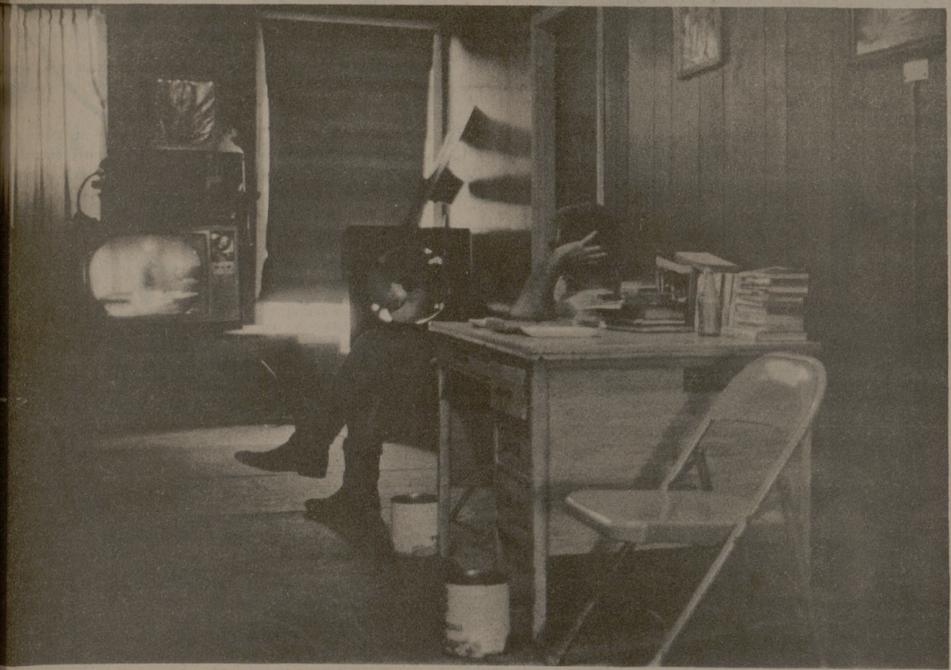
Eighteen letters asking for support of the results were sent out early this semester to the various night-life locations in College Station. So far, only two have responded,

one eager to participate, the other reluctant.

One controversial point concerns the additional hours the College Station Police would have to work should the two-hour Friday extension and one-hour Saturday extension be approved.

Police Chief Marvin Byrd estimates it would cost the city an additional \$3,000 to \$4,000 a year. Recommendations concerning weeknight club hours will not be made until the council has acted on the present proposal, members of the sub-committee said.

— Denise Edmonds



The Twin City Mission television room.

Douglas Winship

## Twin City Mission

## Guiding the unemployed and alone

"I know I'm no damned good, and I never will be," said Andy Anderson as he slumped back in his chair and lit another cigarette. "I don't intend on trying to be."

Anderson has been a resident of Bryan's Twin City Mission for the past seven months, and like most of the other men at the Mission, he is an alcoholic.

Anderson, 52, was born in Tennessee, where during his youth, he "drank a lot of whiskey, chased a lot of women" and attended college for one year.

He came to Bryan in 1961 as a machinist and has held a variety of jobs, ranging from tile-making to driving a beer truck.

When asked why he came to the Mission, Anderson said he wanted to. "You hear about places like this, you find them. You don't get an invitation."

Located at 500 N. Main St. in Bryan, the Mission provides clothing, lodging and various other services for needy persons in the Brazos County area.

Its main emphasis, however, is the rehabilitation of alcoholics through a detoxification program, says the Executive Director, the Rev. Warren Barnes.

He said the majority of the alcoholics at the Mission come on their own. Some are referred through churches and various welfare organizations.

Presently there are about 45 men working at the Mission. Barnes said this number drops off drastically during warmer months.

The residents repair furniture and clothing for resale in the Mission store and also work with the recycling program.

Operating funds come almost exclusively from contributions and sales of clothing, furniture and recyclable materials which the workers collect throughout the Bryan-College Station area.

The residents are expected to attend non-denominational church services twice weekly, Barnes said. They also are encour-

aged to stay on the wagon while at the Mission.

"We are working with people that are not capable of accepting a responsibility," said Barnes. "When they start drinking again they forfeit all of the privileges that the Mission has to offer."

"The Mission has helped me physically and spiritually," Anderson said. "They feed you good and give you a good bed to sleep in. I know that a lot of times if it hadn't been for the Mission I would have been sleeping under a bridge or a tree."

Anderson says he has no regrets for anything he ever did. "If I had my life to live over again I'd go right back through it just like I did. I wouldn't change a thing."

When asked what his plans were for the future, Anderson replied, "I don't try to make plans from one day to the next because it's not worth it. I may be dead tomorrow so what do I want to plan for?"

— Preston Jones

"Gad, what an ugly baby"

## That's no baby; it's a chimp

By DAVID ROOP

Three and a half-year-old Lilly climbs trees, drinks coffee, and enjoys an occasional puff on a cigarette. Lilly likes almost everybody and is quick to give you a kiss if you'll let her. Lilly is a chimpanzee.

She isn't like most chimpanzees, however, because for the majority of her life she has played, eaten and lived with human beings. Lilly is owned by Alyse Moore, a graduate student at Texas A&M working on her Ph.D. in anthropology. For two and a half years, since Lilly was captured in Kenya, Moore, Ron Rogers and Rudy Vavra have raised her almost as they would any child. She is one of few chimps to be taught to communicate with humans while constantly interacting with them in a "family" environment.

Vavra described living with Lilly as "just like living with a kid."

As Vavra talked, Lilly sat next to him, giving him a kiss now and then and searching through his pockets.

"Lilly is just a baby now," Vavra said, "but she is maturing a lot faster than a chimpanzee in the wild." Chimpanzees are mature at the age of 10 and they can live to be 60. In the wild, Lilly would still be clinging to her mother, but with humans for constant companions she has learned to do some remarkable things.

Lilly is being taught sign language and knows over 40 signs, with which she can communicate specific desires to people. She also understands 300 spoken words, Vavra said. At this point Lilly was still rummaging through Vavra's pockets, but she stopped when he told her to.

The chimp now weighs 43 pounds and is about three feet tall. She will eventually weigh nearly 100 pounds. Her fur is black, and she has brown eyes centered on a face which is every bit as expressive as a human's. Vavra, Moore and Rogers have learned to interpret her gestures, expressions, and especially her vocalizations. In chimpanzee "talk" Lilly can express a desire for food, fear, aggression and excitement, and caution.

Lilly made the hand sign meaning food, and Vavra moved the discussion into the kitchen where he sat her down at her own chair and gave her a banana. She always eats with her human companions, and often eats what they do, although her diet mainly consists of fruits and vegetables.

She is a very intelligent animal and learns to do things quickly by imitation, Vavra said. She is toilet trained, and that includes using toilet paper



Valerie Lyng

Hi there!

Lilly, a three-and-a-half year old female chimpanzee, is owned by Alyse Moore, an A&M grad student in anthropology. Lilly is being raised much as a human child would be and is being taught sign language.

and flushing. And, she has a pet cat which she plays with.

"Sometimes you have to remember that she is a chimp, and not a person," he said.

Lilly sat down with us at the kitchen table and drank a mug of coffee. Vavra gave her more when she gestured the hand signal meaning "drink."

The project with Lilly is long term, that is, more is learned about her the longer she lives with people. Vavra, Moore and Rogers are all very personally involved and hope to be able to study and teach Lilly until she reaches maturity.

One problem arises, however. The longer Lilly is with Vavra and his companions the harder it would be for her to adjust and indeed, survive, if she ever had to be separated from them. Female chimpanzees often die when taken from people they have become attached to, Vavra said.

Right now, though, they have no intention of abandoning their study of Lilly. Moore is in the process of setting up a non-profit foundation she will call the "Lilly Foundation for Cross-Species Communication." This would enable them to receive grants and raise the money necessary to buy equipment and study Lilly in depth.

## Presidential star fades

## Bentsen contends no longer

Associated Press  
AUSTIN — Texas' political "star" — Democratic Sen. Lloyd Bentsen — has fallen from the presidential galaxy.

Bentsen celebrated his 55th birthday today and maintains he's happy to be in Texas and not "tramping the snows of New Hampshire."

Bentsen withdrew Tuesday as a national contender for the presidency, a job he has openly coveted for the last few years. "I don't believe in those people who are coy," Bentsen once said.

He told a news conference at the state capitol Tuesday that after studying his poor showings in the Mississippi and Oklahoma caucuses, "I do not think it would be either useful or productive to continue campaigning across the nation."

He said, however, his name will be on the presidential primary ballot in Texas May 1.

He also said he would concentrate on his

re-election campaign, which includes a Democratic primary race against a former Texas A&M economics professor, Phil Gramm, and "pulling together a united delegation from Texas to the Democratic convention in New York City."

If he wins the primary, as expected, Bentsen would probably face Rep. Alan Steelman, R-Tex., in the November general election.

His withdrawal from the presidential race leaves eight active democratic candidates, and he declined to endorse any of them.

Asked why his presidential campaign had not generated any more support, Bentsen said that "part of it is the polarization in this country . . . caucuses have a tendency to attract activists."

Can a "moderate" — such as Bentsen describes himself — win the Democratic nomination? he was asked.

"Pretty tough," Bentsen replied, "and

that's too bad." Bentsen stressed that "Mr. Uncommitted" had done well in the Mississippi and Oklahoma contests, and he added, "People just haven't made up their minds."

If that is so, isn't it "premature" for Bentsen to withdraw? he was asked.

"Oh, cut it out," he replied. Later, however, Bentsen said, "Whoever you believe will be that strength today at the Democratic convention won't be. One month is a lifetime in politics."

Bentsen said he would vote for Gov. Dolph Briscoe to be the chairman of the 30-member Texas delegation to the convention.

It was Briscoe who touted Bentsen as a "new star on the horizon" when Bentsen announced for president Feb. 17, 1975.

Reflecting on his year-long campaign, Bentsen said, "There has to be a better way, but I'm not sure I know what it is."

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THE FORECAST for Wednesday and Thursday is continued mostly cloudy and mild. High today, 79; low tonight, 57; high Thursday, 75.

## Senate approves service fee budget

The Student Senate last night approved 1976-77 Student Service Fee allocation recommendations for 12 of 14 organizations. The total student service fee budget was set at \$1,031,125.

Changes made by the Senate in the requests of two organizations included an additional \$1,125 to Student Programs for the purchase of filing cabinets. Also, in approving a \$55,000 Town Hall request, the Senate added an amendment setting aside

\$5,000 of that for OPAS to be placed in a separate account.

The Senate held its first reading of the revised constitution of the Student Body. Debate on the new constitution will begin at the next meeting of the Student Senate, Wednesday, Feb. 25 at 7:30 p.m.

The Senate also passed a bill recommending that the College Station City Council extend the drinking hours on Friday and Saturday nights to 2 a.m.

— David Roop