

The Battalion

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Professors, student vie for Place 3 on council

By STEVE GRAY
Battalion Contributing Editor

Two Texas A&M professors and an A&M student are vying for Place 3 on the College Station City Council.

On April 3 local voters will decide who will fill the position formerly held by Councilman Bob Bell, who is running against incumbent Jim Dozier in Place 6.

E. Murl Bailey, associate professor of veterinary physiology and pharmacology, said he wants to work towards obtaining a fair utility rate for College Station residents.

"I think the first thing we need to do is get this utilities situation squared away," he said. "I'd like to stay with Bryan if they can make us a reasonable offer. Otherwise, I think the city should get the best deal they can from another source, like Gulf States Utilities."

College Station is negotiating with the city of Bryan for the renewal of the utilities contract. The city has purchased water, electricity and some sewer service from Bryan for more than 10 years. Gulf States is an independent utilities firm serving several small cities in the Brazos Valley.

Bailey said he is concerned also about the local developers to dedicate enough land for the community.

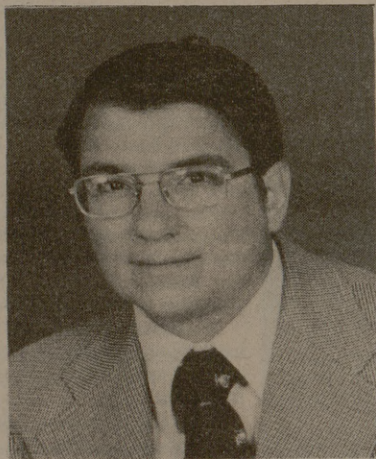
"I think we've had a problem of getting a little parkland dedicated by local developers here. I would like to see the city come to support and enforce its parkland dedication requirements."

Bailey received his doctor of veterinary medicine degree from A&M in 1964. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from Iowa State University in 1966 and 1968. He is president of the city's recreation council and has represented South Knoll Elementary School since 1973.

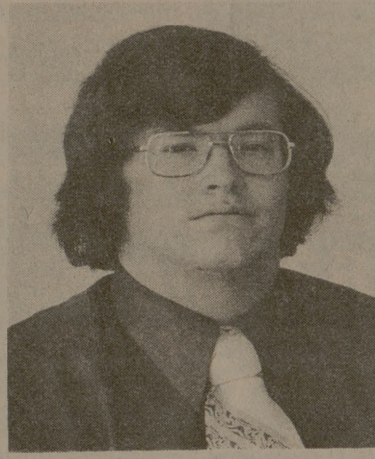
Bailey and his wife, Jean, have two children.



E. Murl Bailey



Larry J. Ringer



James W. Crawley

They reside at 1807 Sabine Court. Dr. Larry J. Ringer, 38, is an A&M statistics professor and research statistician with the Texas Transportation Institute. He is also a member of the College Station Recreation council and a member of the city's zoning board of adjustments.

"I'm interested in seeing the continued development of parks and recreational facilities in all areas of the city," he said. "In addition to the development of parks, I support and orderly development of our city and controls to keep it as active as possible."

"Along with all citizens of our community, I share a concern that we be given a fair deal in the rates we pay for utilities."

Ringer said he supports the continued development of bikepaths and sidewalks. "Along with the bikepaths we need an education program so that the bike riders

and the automobile drivers will know their responsibilities and each will be more aware of the other."

Ringer, a member of various university committees and local community groups, received his B.S. and M.S. degrees from Iowa State University. He was awarded his Ph.D. from A&M in 1966.

Ringer and his wife, Jean, and three children live at 702 Thomas.

James W. Crawley, 19, is an A&M sophomore journalism major who Monday said he feels that the city's top priority should be the implementation of its comprehensive development plan.

"I think we need a comprehensive development plan that will be followed and not one that is put aside on a shelf and ignored. We need it for orderly growth."

Crawley said he also is concerned about the present utility contract negotiations

being held between College Station and Bryan.

"I don't think it's right if we (College Station) have to buy utilities at a high rate from a city which may be depending on us for some of its operating expenses," he said. "If College Station continues its present growth rate they should generate its own utilities, if possible."

Crawley is a former election judge for Precinct 20 which includes the A&M campus. He is also a member of the University Traffic Panel and an active member of Students Concerned for the Handicapped.

He is from Dallas and lives in 443 Dunn Hall on the university campus.

Local gay group operates hot line

By DEBBIE KILLOUGH
Battalion Staff Writer

"Alternative", a local homosexual group, has opened a Gay Line for other homosexuals and their problems.

Two of the Gay Line workers sat with ease around a table in the main lobby of the MSC as they discussed the purpose of their organization and related personal experiences.

Sherrie (they asked that their last names be omitted), one of the organizers of the Gay Line said the service organization was started last September.

The Gay Line serves as a referral service for gays (they prefer to be called gays), who need legal, religious, medical or psychological help in coping with their personal problems. The Gay Line also gives information to straights, nonhomosexuals, about gays and their life style. The hotline number is 823-5918. The line is open 4 p.m. to 11 p.m., Sunday thru Thursday.

The Gay Line service receives an average of one call a night, most of which deal with religious problems.

Frank, average height and wearing a moustache, said a high percentage of the gays feel guilty because of their strict religious backgrounds.

The hotline workers refer gays with religious problems to a minister in Bryan who is an advocate of homosexuality.

Sherrie, almost 30, tall and slender and wearing no make-up said the hotline receives many obscene phone calls and prank calls.

"The prank callers are not very imaginative, and they do not do a very good job," Sherrie said.

The two workers laughed at this, and said they usually find the prank calls very funny.

Sherrie said many gays call because they need medical attention or tests for venereal disease. "We refer them to doctors who will not condemn or preach to them, but will just give them the medical attention they need," she said.

Another area that the Gay Line deals with is the extensive prejudice that gays are confronted with at A&M. Frank said he was putting up advertisements for the Gay Line last Tuesday night when it was confronted by three male A&M students.

The male students pulled a switchblade knife and told Frank they did not appreciate the gays ruining A&M's image. They later made Frank take down the advertisements he had put up.

There was no hostility or anger as Frank related the story, and he later said, "I know this type of reaction from the straight guys comes from a fear because they lack knowledge in the subject of homosexuality."

Sherrie said the workers for the Gay Line were stable in their life style which made it helpful in dealing with homosexuals and their problems.

Dr. Wade Birch, director of Personal Counseling services at A&M, and a psychologist, contacted at a later time, said homosexuality has been taken out of the American Psychiatric Association listing of mental disorders. However, homosexuality is still a crime under Texas law.

"We're not trying to freak anyone out with the Gay Line. All we want to do is get in touch with other gays to help them understand and accept themselves," Sherrie said.

Council to hear proposal for gas rate increase

A proposed increase in gas rates for College Station residents will be discussed at city council meeting Thursday.

The rate increase, which is being requested by Lone Star Gas Company, would primarily affect commercial rather than residential users.

The average monthly gas bill for area residents will increase by about 80 cents if the request is granted, said A. L. Bartley, manager of Lone Star Gas Co.

The proposal would amount to an eight percent increase in revenues, he said.

Lone Star Gas has asked for the same increase from the Bryan City Council.

College Station last granted Lone Star a rate increase in May 1972.

The present base rate of \$2.11 for the first one thousand cubic feet of gas per month will remain the same under Lone Star's proposed rate schedule.

"We feel that the small user should not bear the brunt of the increase," Bartley said.

For amounts over one thousand cubic feet, Lone Star's proposed schedule is \$1.3952. The present schedule for amounts more than one thousand cubic feet is a five-step progression.

"We're real fortunate in the Bryan-College Station area. We (Lone Star Gas) only have a deficit of eight per cent in 1975," Bartley said.

He said Dallas had a 33 per cent deficit in 1975.

Bartley said the Texas Railroad Commission, which regulates gas prices in the state, set the city gas rate (the price the gas company pays at the wellhead) at \$1.0399 on June 30, 1975.

Bartley gave the following figures for gas prices in Texas cities of a size comparable to Bryan-College Station. These prices are for

6,400 cubic feet of gas including gas cost adjustments:

Sherman	\$7.19
Texarkana	7.89
Bryan-College Station	9.13
Denton	13.00
Killeen	13.27
Temple	13.31
Texas City	16.65
McAllen	17.74
Victoria	18.29
Harlingen	18.63

Bartley said that under the company's proposed rates for Bryan-College Station the same rate would be \$11.72.

It is expected that the College Station city council will schedule a public hearing on the proposed rate increase.

Bartley said a request by Lone Star for a rate increase in Sherman has been turned down by its city council. Lone Star has filed an appeal with the Texas Railroad Commission. It will be heard next month, Bartley said.

—Jerry Needham



TRHA Convention

Delegates to the spring convention of the Texas Residence Hall Association take a moment to get acquainted before last night's session. The con-

ference, which includes delegates from colleges and universities throughout Texas, will continue through Sunday.

Staff photo by Jim Hendrickson

Battalion Editor Resigns

He isn't paid to pray

Religious director duties questioned

By SANFORD RUSSO
Contributing Editor

Texas A&M employs a religious director, paid by Student Services Fees, to direct the operation of three areas not funded by Student Services fees.

Hensel Park, a recreational facility, the All Faiths Chapel, a building donated as a religious facility, and the Student Y, part of the national YMCA program, are under his supervision.

Logan Weston, who is salaried at \$14,000 for the '76-'77 fiscal year, is an ordained minister. He said he doesn't practice his calling beyond marriage counseling, when couples come to reserve the Chapel for the marriage ceremony, or answering an occasional question on religion.

The religious director position is one that will probably be phased out, Dr. John Koldus, vice president of student services, said. Until that time, he said students will continue to fund the position and pay Weston for his personal commitment to the University.

Koldus said when he stepped into the vice presidency, many campus positions were already filled. He said he will allow people to serve in their designated jobs until they retire. At that time, he will reorganize and consolidate.

When retirement comes due for Weston, both the position and the type of person to fill its responsibilities will be under reconsideration, Koldus said.

Weston said he was hired 8 years ago during the time Earl Rudder was president. The only thing Rudder asked Weston in his employee interview was, "Can you cook steak?" to which Weston replied, "I'll try to learn."

At that time the major responsibility of the religious director was to direct the usage of the Y building. The building belonged to the national YMCA until 1971 when the lease ran out and the University bought the building.

Until that time the building was used for athletics, social and religious activity. When the University bought the building it was converted into office space. The building is now under the management of the Building Use Committee; it was previously under the Y secretary or religious director's control.

Now the Y is housed in the MSC 216 (the Student Programs Office.) The program is operated on funds from membership dues collected.

Another major responsibility of the religious director was the operation of the Hensel Park facility. The Y director organized activities,

scheduled use of the facilities and provided services as steak chef for groups requesting that service.

Weston said the demand for steak chef has decreased significantly in the last few years because of the price of meat.

Weston also had control of the actual use and policy of the park, but a Student Services committee has since taken over this duty. Weston said he had worked up a plan for the usage of the area, but the committee was established before he could implement it.

Parts of his plan have been accepted by the committee. Weston pushed for the renovation of the cabin at the Park. The cabin has been remodeled into a residence where three student maintenance workers for the park live. Weston did a good deal of the labor on the cabin himself.

He reserves the park for usage. He schedules the roads and picnic areas during football season as camping grounds. He also reserves the play areas, which were once lakes, for use so there is no doubt about who should be using them at any time.

The park at one time was going to be used for a bird sanctuary and/or an exotic plants reserve, said Weston. Now the area has many different varieties of plants that

the Hensel Park Committee is trying to preserve. Clearing of the area would be a mistake as far as Weston is concerned, but he has only an ex-officio voice on the park committee.

Weston also works as the reservationist for the All Faiths Chapel and oversees any maintenance done on the building. He checks the building three times a day because there is no one to occupy the two offices in the building.

Weston does minor repair on the Chapel himself because there are no funds to maintain it. He also supervises the use of the Chapel on weekends, which consists mostly of wedding ceremonies. He sometimes spends 40 hours a weekend working on rehearsals and the ceremonies. The combined time for the two events is three hours.

There is nothing illegal about having a religious director on the campus, said Dr. Norma Foreman, a member of the Texas University Coordinating Board staff.

As long as there is no conflict of church and state, the money can be spent by the University in any manner it sees fit, she said. There is no state-wide policy on the matter and as long as there is no teaching of sectarian doctrine, there is no conflict of interest, Foreman said.

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The Supreme Court ruled that federal district courts no longer must follow the 1965 Voting Rights Act concerning reapportionment plans. Page 3.

An Ohio businessman, kidnaped in Venezuela, has yet to be found after 11 days of silence from the kidnapers. Page 3.

Patty Hearst is described in court as the queen of the Symbionese Liberation Army. Page 6.

FBI surveillance operations have been aimed primarily at minorities and irate taxpayers. Page 6.

THE FORECAST for Tuesday and Wednesday is continued partly cloudy. Today's high 64; tonight's low 46; Wednesday's high 73.