

Weather

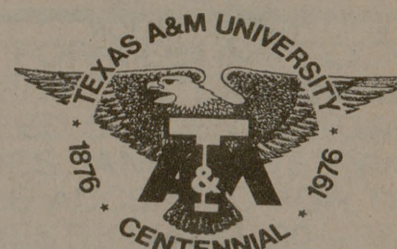
Partly cloudy and mild today with temperature in the high 70s. Low tonight 64, high tomorrow 77.
Saturday will have a 50 per cent chance of rain from dawn until 2 p.m.
Sunday will be partly cloudy and mild with a 10-20 per cent chance of rain.

The Battalion

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Friday, April 16, 1976



Spring gas in a 'bug'

This auto stuffing contest (these guys crowded in 19) near Rudder Fountain was one of several events held during "Gas Week." The MSC Re-

creation Committee's events were to "get everyone outside the buildings and themselves," said chairman Doug Branch.

Barcelona increase 'mistake,' firm says

By JIM CRAWLEY

An announced \$180 per month rent increase has been reduced by the owners of the Barcelona apartments. A spokesman for the owner said the original increase was "a mistake."

The \$180 increase was publicly disclosed at last Thursday's College Station City Council meeting by newly-elected Councilman Lane Stephenson. The rate was raised from the present \$280 per month for a two-bedroom-two-bath apartment to \$460 for the same apartment.

The revised rent increase calls for the rent on a two-bedroom-two-bath apartment to be \$350 per month.

Charles Kaufmann, of the Max Kaplan firm which owns Barcelona, said the increase was necessary because taxes and utilities have increased at a faster pace than the apartments' rent.

Another employee of the Kaplan firm, Enid Meyer, said the change in the amount of the increase was due to a re-evaluation of the rate structure.

"We feel we have a new approach," Meyer said. She explained that, under the revised rent increase, each student would sign a separate lease. If a roommate moved, the student wouldn't be responsible for the unpaid rent of the roommate. "We're not afraid to admit a mistake," Meyer added.

Kaufmann said the apartments had incurred a loss of \$122,000 last year because of the high taxes and utilities. He said the costs are the same year-round, while the apartments are nearly empty during the summer months.

Saying the increase was "purely economic in nature," Kaufmann compared the 12-month apartment market in Houston with the eight and a half month market in College Station.

"You have to attempt to nearly approach the rent price of the 12-month market because of the low summer market in College Station," said Kaufmann.

The Kaplan employees said the occupancy rate of the Barcelona complex fluctuated from 85 to 90 per cent during the school year to only 20 per cent in the summer.

In an attempt to cut utility costs, several local apartments are contemplating the installation of electric meters for each apartment, as opposed to a master meter for the entire complex. Under the individual meter system, each tenant pays for his utilities.

Kaufmann said Barcelona will not be changed to an individual meter system because the per apartment cost of installing a meter is approximately \$200.

Disagreeing with the idea that apartment owners are trying to make a lot of money in the tight housing market, Kaufmann said, "If we fill up Barcelona this August, with the new rates we'll hold our own for the first time. I don't think anyone is trying to gouge the students."

The Barcelona Apartments are located at 700 Dominick Dr. in College Station. The complex has 250 units.

Last run-off election to be set

By LeANN ROBY

This year's Student Government election are not over yet, according to Susan Price, Student Government Election Commission chairman. Run-off elections were held yesterday for races not decided in the Student Government general election last week. Class of 1979 treasurer is still undecided. Price said the Election Commission the Judicial Board will decide later this week when the run-off will be held.

In the race for graduate senator, College of Business, Charlie Snyder won by 5 votes. In last week's general election, no one ran for this position but a run-off was held yesterday between Snyder and rival Hal Richards, both write-ins.

up 190 votes, and Mark Hryhorchuk got 73 votes, making another run-off election for this position necessary.

The new vice-president of finance is Scott Gregson, elected by 116 votes. Gregson picked up 679 votes to opponent Hal Brunson's 563 votes.

In the race for graduate senator, College of Business, Charlie Snyder won by 5 votes. In last week's general election, no one ran for this position but a run-off was held yesterday between Snyder and rival Hal Richards, both write-ins.

Class of '77 vice-president is Susan Fontaine, who collected 139 votes and won the race by 21 votes. Competitor Mark Smith gained 118 votes. Susan Colgan beat opponent Scott Turner by seven votes to become the new treasurer. Colgan collected 122 votes to Turner's 115.

Class of '78 vice-president is Richard Tocquigny who was elected by only 8 votes. He collected 230 votes to opponent Mark Mohr's 222 votes. The new secretary-treasurer is Gail Hawley who gained 307 votes to beat competitor Mark Sicilio by 166 votes.

Class of '79 president is Ronald Lastovica who picked up 211 votes over opponent Brad Wakeman's 184.

Results on the referendum on football ticket distribution systems in last week's general election are: the random allocation system—2,485 votes; the first come, first serve system—2,294.

This is the largest voter turnout in A&M history for a run-off election, according to Price. She said approximately 1300 students voted which is double the amount for past elections.

imits underspent

Yell leaders outspend others

By DAVID WHITE

In addition to time expenditure, Fred McClure spent \$60 to win the office of student body president. This is less than most leader candidates spent on their campaigns. All candidates for yell leader spent over \$100, except John Barnes and Bill Whitelock who spent \$15 and \$20 respectively. There were 19 candidates for the positions.

McClure's opponents, Duane Thompson and Richard Maulsby Scruggs, spent \$70 and \$25 respectively.

There was no real relation to the winners and the amount of money spent by the candidates, said Susan Price, student election commissioner. However, most candidates took advantage of the increased limit for campaign spending, she said.

The student senate amended the rules governing elections. It raised campaign

spending allowances from \$15 to \$50 for senators and class officers and from \$35 to \$100 for executive positions.

The senate raised the limit because they felt that it couldn't cover the rising costs of materials, especially plywood for signs.

About 10 candidates had approached the limit, Price said, and none had gone over. The increase in the budget allowance did not affect any of the candidates' decision to run, but some voiced disapproval of the increase.

Robbie Tucker, senior yell leader-elect, said he spend \$92 on his campaign. He was against the budget increase.

"It's getting to the point where you have to pay a lot to be elected. I liked it better at \$35," he said.

Pee Wee Sellars, who was defeated in his campaign for senior yell leader, spent \$40. "I would have liked to have spent more but I couldn't afford it," he said.

The other winning yell leaders' expenditures were: Frank Shannon, \$97.36; Joe D. Mickler, \$66; Tim Macmanus, \$85, and Joe Reagan, \$87.

In the race for vice-president of student services, Troie Pruitt was re-elected over Gregg Ball, who spent no money for his campaign, concentrating instead on making himself known by word-of-mouth. Pruitt re-used signs she made last year so her campaign costs came to an estimated \$14.

In the race for vice-president of finance, the winner, Scott Gregson, spent \$90 in the election and \$20 of the allotted \$25 for the run-off. His opponent, Hal Brunson, spent \$90 in the election and \$16 in the run-off.

The unopposed vice-presidential candidates all spent some money on their campaigns, except Jerri Ward, who was re-elected vice-president for external affairs.

Twelve men drown when oil rig topples

Associated Press

CORPUS CHRISTI—Twelve men who tumbled into a saucer-like survival capsule before an oil drilling platform sank in the wind-whipped Gulf of Mexico were found dead in the capsized capsule early today, the Coast Guard said.

Two Navy scuba divers, battling 15-foot seas, made their way to a hatch beneath the overturned capsule and sighted an undetermined number of bodies in the flooded interior of the capsule, the Coast Guard spokesman reported.

The divers made the grim discovery as several tugs and larger craft, including the Navy's aircraft carrier Lexington, stood by for a night of futile rescue efforts. Several helicopters hovered overhead.

The Coast Guard had initially said there were 14 men trapped in the capsule but revised the count downward by two after a check with survivors who had abandoned the drilling platform Ocean Express mi-

nutes before it capsized 40 miles east of Corpus Christi. The big rig went down about 9:30 p.m. Thursday.

The heavy seas and winds topping 50 miles per hour stalled attempts to reach the trapped men for hours, bouncing the capsule around like a top in the raging sea. Lines fixed to the device broke as attempts were made to right the capsule, which was floating with its entranceway facing into the sea.

Rescue authorities said 17 men left the platform in one survival capsule, bobbed about for a time in the water and were hoisted aboard one of the tugs which hustled alongside.

They reported there were 19 aboard a second capsule and seven escaped before it flipped over, trapping the others inside. Tugs took the seven aboard, all apparently bruised but not injured seriously.

It was more than six hours afterward be-

(See "Rent," Page 4.)

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In today's column, David Broder analyzes Jimmy Carter's campaign technique. **Page 2.**

Lloyd Bentsen and Phil Gramm, both campaigning for the Democratic Senate nomination, attacked each other in their campaigns yesterday. **Page 2.**

Presidential hopeful Henry Jackson gives his views on big government. **Page 2.**

Your guide to weekend entertainment and calendar of events. **Page 3.**

News from around the world. **Roundup, Page 6.**

Bill Schwennson has been named head drum major of the Aggie Band. **Page 6.**

A&M has signed two all-state basketball players. **Page 8.**

We were wrong

An advertisement printed in yesterday's Battalion incorrectly said that Julian Bond was to have spoken at noon today. Lynn Gibson, chairman of Political Forum, reports that the speech was cancelled more than a week ago, but because of a mixup, the ad was not cancelled.

Burning off gas

Twenty-four students sat for up to two hours and fifteen minutes yesterday eating jalapeno peppers as fast as possible. The Jalapeno Eating Contest, held near Rudder Fountain, was part of Gas Week. When the last pepper had been eaten, Terry Bleck was declared the winner after eating 62 peppers. Mark MacDonald downed 58 to finish second. In these photos, contestants await the starter's signal (left), Chuck Hinton samples one of the jalapenos (center) and Laurie Jahn (right) expresses her opinion of the whole affair.



Staff photo by Kevin Venner



Photo Courtesy of Cathy Ruedinger



Staff photo by Kevin Venner