

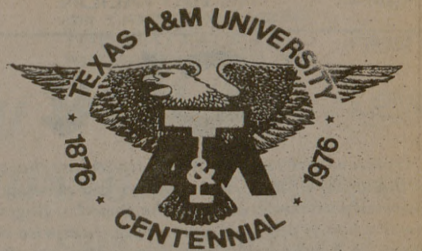
Continued cloudy and warm through tomorrow with highs in low 70s. Low tonight in low 70s. Precipitation probability 10 per cent today, 20 per cent tomorrow.

The Battalion

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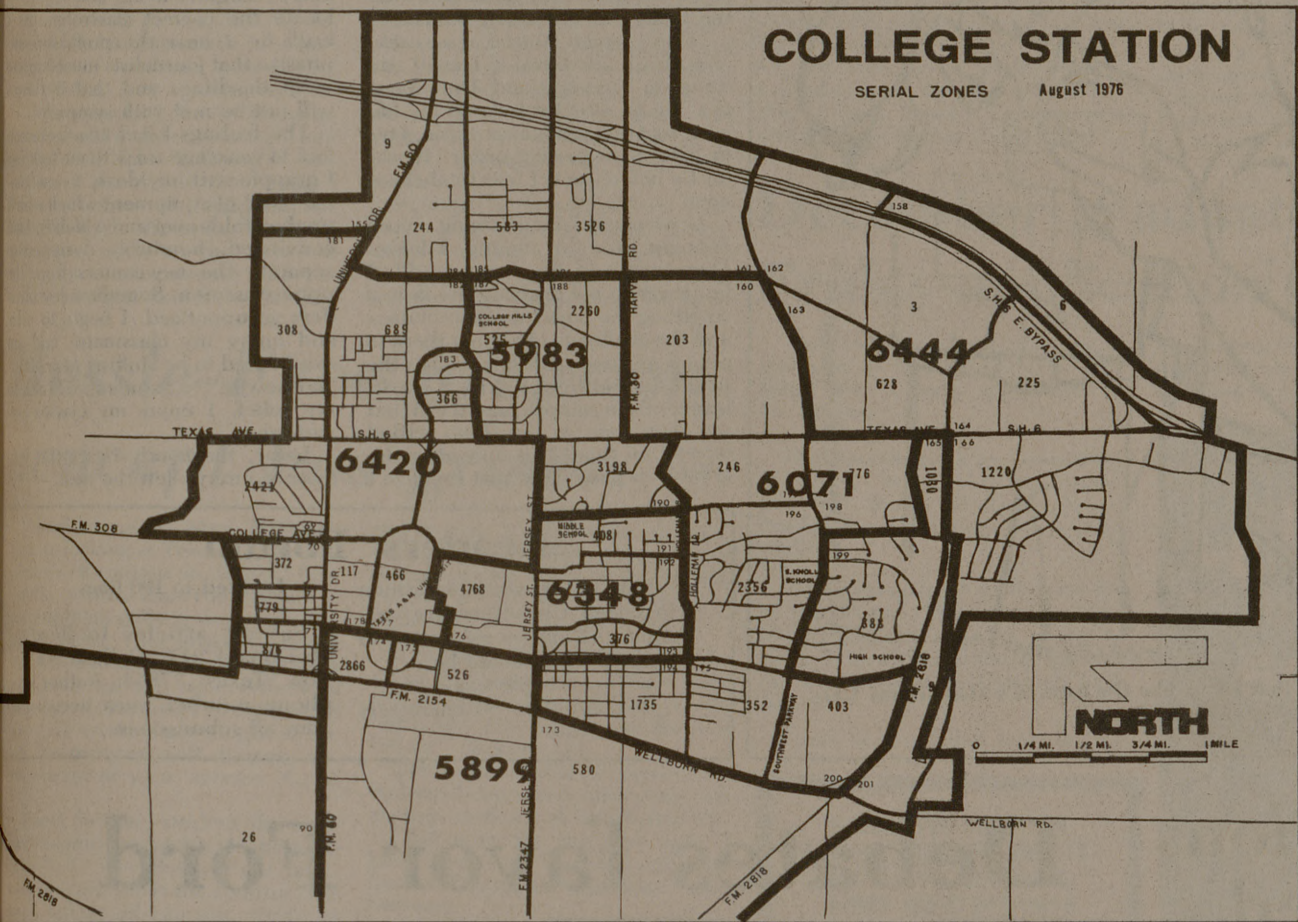
Tuesday, September 7, 1976
College Station, Texas

News Dept. 845-2611
Business Dept. 845-2611



COLLEGE STATION

SERIAL ZONES August 1976



The draft for a ward system for the City of College Station most favored by the city council shows a six-sector plan with the A&M campus

divided among three wards. The large numbers show the estimated population in each district.

Consternation is embarrassing

Ward issue 'frustrating'

By JAMIE AITKEN
Battalion City Editor

The four letter word that has taken College Station aback and left it frustrated for the past six months is "ward," and the consternation caused by the system it denotes has proven embarrassing to the city.

In the April 3 city council elections, the ballot included a city charter amendment asking voters to choose between an at-large system of electing councilmen and a ward system.

The system in use at the time of the election, the at-large system, allowed for the election of councilmen from the citizenry as a whole. The proposed ward system called for the division of the city into sectors, with one councilman to be elected from each sector.

The result of the election was the acceptance of the ward system by less than one percent of the vote. But the decision was questioned after much argument was given as to the clarity of the proposal on the ballot.

Following the closing of the polls, many voters claimed that they did not understand the wording on the ballot and voted for the ward system when they thought

News Analysis

they were voting against it. Relatively few complaints were heard from voters in favor of the ward system.

Within 30 days of the election, a 700-signature petition was filed asking the city council to take some action to invalidate the election. A straw vote held on June 29 indicated by a 2-1 margin that voters wished to retain the at-large system.

Meanwhile, College Station officials began the task of drawing up a ward system should a court case contesting the election fail. Troubles continued to plague the city, however, as officials discovered that any ward system they accepted would be in violation of either state or federal voting rights standards.

State law (Texas Election Code) states that ward lines cannot split judicial precincts or county commissioners precincts. Wards drawn up under federal law must have approximately equal numbers of voters within the sectors.

Present voting precincts contain unequal numbers of voters, and county com-

missioners indicated to College Station officials last month that the precinct lines would not be redrawn, since they had already submitted the present boundary lines to the federal government for approval.

College Station councilmen decided that federal guidelines took precedent over state requirements and drafted a ward system accordingly.

The proposed boundary system receiving the most favorable consideration by the College Station City Council consists of six wards, each ward containing approximately 6,100 persons. The Texas A&M campus is divided among three wards, as shown in the accompanying map.

The end result of the city's ward planning will nevertheless be determined in court. Proceedings are scheduled for Thursday in Judge W.C. Davis' 85th District Court in Bryan, whereupon the basic issue of the ward system of election of city councilmen will be decided.

College Station councilmen will not rule on a definite set of ward boundaries until the results are in from Thursday's litigation.

Indications are that another election will be called in November or next April if the April 3 election is ruled invalid.

Carter stumps; Ford works

Associated Press

With the presidential election two months away, Democratic presidential nominee Jimmy Carter stumped through the East for votes today while President Ford, emphasizing his incumbency, kept a high profile in the White House.

Carter told a college audience in New York that urban policy in the Nixon and Ford administrations has ruined city neighborhoods. He accused Republicans of giving only lip service to the people who live in those neighborhoods.

Carter began the second day of his fall campaign for the White House by telling Brooklyn College students: "Tight money, cutting paychecks and a stagnant housing industry are some of the saddest products of the Republicans' disastrous economic record."

The Democrat yesterday opened his battle with a sharp attack on Ford, labeling the latter-day Herbert Hoover and blaming the Republican party for a myriad of economic woes that Carter claims the Democrats will cure.

Ford stayed in the White House, bypassing the traditional Labor Day campaign start to take care of business, chide Congress for not completing work on a major tax-revision bill, give a television interview and prepare for his own campaign next week.

While Carter continues a five-day whirlwind opening tour that carries him today from New York to Connecticut to Philadelphia, Ford plans more distinctly presidential activities today, including ceremonies at which he will sign bills providing aid for child day-care center and for victims of the recent Teton Dam disaster in Idaho.

Ford let surrogates, including Sen. Bob Dole, the GOP vice presidential nominee, carry his banner and answer the criticisms Carter yesterday levied on the front steps of Franklin D. Roosevelt's "Little White House" in Warm Springs, Ga.

Dole crossed the paths with Carter later Monday at a stock car race in Darlington, S.C.

Carter's running mate, Sen. Walter F.

Mondale, spoke yesterday at labor rallies in Ohio and California. He charged in a Barberton, Ohio, address that Ford's economic policies have "betrayed" U.S. workers.

Dole released a financial statement showing that he and his wife paid \$28,000 in federal income taxes last year on combined income of nearly \$108,000. Their net worth was listed as more than \$736,000.

He again denied a report that a former Gulf Oil Corp. lobbyist gave a former Dole aide an illegal campaign contribution in 1973.

Independent presidential candidate Eugene McCarthy has denounced plans to include only the presidential candidates of the two major parties in forthcoming televised debates.

In other developments, primaries are being held today in Arizona, Florida, North Dakota and Connecticut.

Soviet plane inspected

Associated Press

TOKYO — Experts have looked over the Soviet MIG25 fighter plane flown to Japan by a defecting Soviet air force pilot, Japanese officials reported today, but they refused to say whether American intelligence officers were among them.

U.S. authorities refused to comment, referring all queries to Washington. But it was assumed that the Americans will get to thoroughly examine the plane before the Japanese government returns it to the Soviet Union.

The plane landed yesterday at a small

airfield in Hakodate, in northern Japan, and the pilot reportedly said he wanted asylum in the United States.

The pilot of the plane was identified as Lt. Viktor I. Belenko, 29.

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger said in Paris today that the United States "will probably grant asylum" to the pilot. "If we do not, you can assume I have been overruled," he said. Kissinger has been meeting with various European leaders on the brewing racial confrontation in southern Africa.

Benefits in bill

WASHINGTON — Ordinary taxpayers are winning more benefits than they are losing as a Senate-House panel puts together a compromise tax-revision bill.

The final score may be known late this week, when members of the conference committee expect to finish the bill and send it to the House and Senate for one last vote.

Most issues concerning individual taxpayers were settled during the first seven days of the conference. Chief among these is a \$15-billion-a-year taxcut extension through Dec. 31, 1977.

Provisions generally affecting only taxpayers who earn more than \$50,000 a year are the major points of contention remaining between the House and Senate conferees. There is some risk that if taxes on the rich are raised too sharply, the final bill could be in trouble in the Senate. But many tax shelters are left untouched, the measure could face rough going in the House.

Meanwhile, President Ford issued a

Arab League lets PLO be full member

Associated Press

CAIRO — The Arab League has voted unanimously to admit the Palestine Liberation Organization as a member. The decision Monday — upgrading the PLO from observer status to a seat as the 21st full member — may give the Palestinians a face-saving way out of their debate in Lebanon.

Observers believe it will probably encourage pragmatic moderates around PLO leader Yasir Arafat to cut their losses and begin planning for a role in an Arab-Israeli settlement.

statement yesterday calling on Congress to approve a tax bill that meets the needs of all Americans.

"Unfortunately, Congress has become ensnared in rewriting of detailed provisions of the tax code and has failed to recognize the broad interests of the country," Ford asserted.

Items the conference committee include are child care, sick pay, pensions, retirement credit and others.

Kissinger's diplomacy needed again; South African racial problem growing

By KENNETH J. FREED

Associated Press

Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger has been asked by Tanzanian President Julius Nyerere to begin a diplomatic shuttle in Africa, a senior American official on Kissinger's plane revealed today.

The official, who talked to reporters during a flight from Paris to Hamburg, West Germany, said the attempt to resolve the festering racial problem between blacks and whites in southern Africa probably will start no later than Monday.

The message reached Kissinger this morning in Paris as he was preparing to brief French President Valery Giscard d'Estaing on his three-day meeting in Zurich with South African Prime Minister John Vorster.

The message from Tanzania was on behalf of Nyerere only and did not speak for the four other black leaders who have just concluded a summit conference on the African situation in Dar es Salaam. How-

Martian soil sifting test may turn up clues to life

Associated Press

PASADENA, Calif. — Scientists say that if Viking 2 finds organic molecules when it sifts Martian soil they will be convinced that life exists on the red planet.

The Viking 1 space probe seems to have been telling about the discovery of life for the past few weeks, Dr. Gerald Soffen, Viking's chief scientist, said yesterday. But he said its experiments failed to produce any of the carbon-based, or organic, molecules that are found in every living thing on earth.

The lack of organics is "the single argument against biology (life)," Soffen said. "I would have said, 'That is life,' but that (organic) is holding me back." If Viking 2 comes up with organic molecules, "that would do it for us," he said.

Scientists at the Jet Propulsion Laboratory here thought they might find organic substances on Mars, but they were unprepared for the discovery of what apparently seems to be life-harboring soil that contains no organics. They have described

Viking 1's findings as " tantalizing, but inconclusive" and "bizarre chemistry."

If the smallest of organic compounds can be discovered by Viking 2 in the rocky plains of Utopia, the essentials for life will have been found.

Of course, Soffen said, there is always the possibility that Martian organisms are based on some other compound, and get along quite well without organics.

"We would be fools to say 'it can't be,'" Soffen said, "because we don't know everything. We're scientists stuck in the 20th Century, all we know is what goes on around us."

Viking 2 will be reaching for more soil Saturday. Its scooping arm has been tested and is not expected to experience any of the locking pin problems that twice jammed the arm of Viking 1.

It will begin an organic chemistry probe of the soil sample on Sept. 17, and scientists say that by Sept. 20 they may have an answer to whether or not life exists on Mars.

ever, the invitation is considered a positive development because Nyerere, although a moderate, has considerable influence with the more radical black leaders.

Kissinger told a news conference in Zurich that he and Vorster made enough progress on racial problems in Africa to warrant negotiations with black leaders.

"I believe the basis for further negotiations exists, but some work remains to be done," he said.

The secretary sent William Schaufele, his chief aide for African affairs, to Tanzania, where the five black African presidents most concerned with the situation in Africa are meeting, along with representatives of the black nationalist movements in Rhodesia and South-West Africa, called Namibia by the United Nations.

Kissinger expects the presidents to tell Schaufele they would welcome the secretary's arrival in Africa early next week to

begin shuttling back and forth between them and Vorster.

Senior American officials in Kissinger's party estimated that the first stage of the shuttle may last two to three weeks, but a report today from the meeting in Tanzania said up until this morning the presidents had not discussed Kissinger's proposed visit. Observers at the conference believe they are not giving high priority to U.S. participation in diplomatic efforts to achieve black rule in southern Africa, the report said.

Kissinger said he and Vorster made progress in their talks on both Rhodesia and Namibia. But apparently the secretary's first target will be independence negotiations for Namibia, the former League of Nations mandate South Africa controls in defiance of United Nations resolutions.

That issue involves "fewer parties and is at an earlier stage" of crisis than Rhodesia, Kissinger said, and "may lend itself to more rapid progress."

94th Congress completing work

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — With election day drawing closer, the 94th Congress is trying to complete work on remaining legislation and get home early for a full month of campaigning.

The priority items remaining on the agenda include extension of the federal revenue-sharing program, revisions of the tax laws, and approval of a defense spending bill.

Returning today from a Labor Day recess, the Senate was scheduled to resume debate on an antitrust bill. A final vote on the measure is set for tomorrow.

The House isn't due back until tomorrow, when it will take up revisions to the Clean Air Act.

A Senate-House conference committee is expected to complete action this week on tax law revisions. The committee's report should reach the House and Senate for action next week.

A key provision of the tax bill would extend \$15 billion in individual income tax cuts through next year.

The congressional leadership is aiming for adjournment by Oct. 2, a date that would give members of Congress a full month to campaign before the Nov. 2 election.

The overwhelmingly Democratic Congress and its record for the past two years have become a major issue in President Ford's campaign.

The Republican President has criticized Congress for spending too much on

domestic programs and not enough for defense. He has vetoed more than 50 bills during two years in the White House.

The defense appropriations bill coming up on the floor includes a provision designed to leave a final decision on the B1 bomber to whoever is in the White House next year.

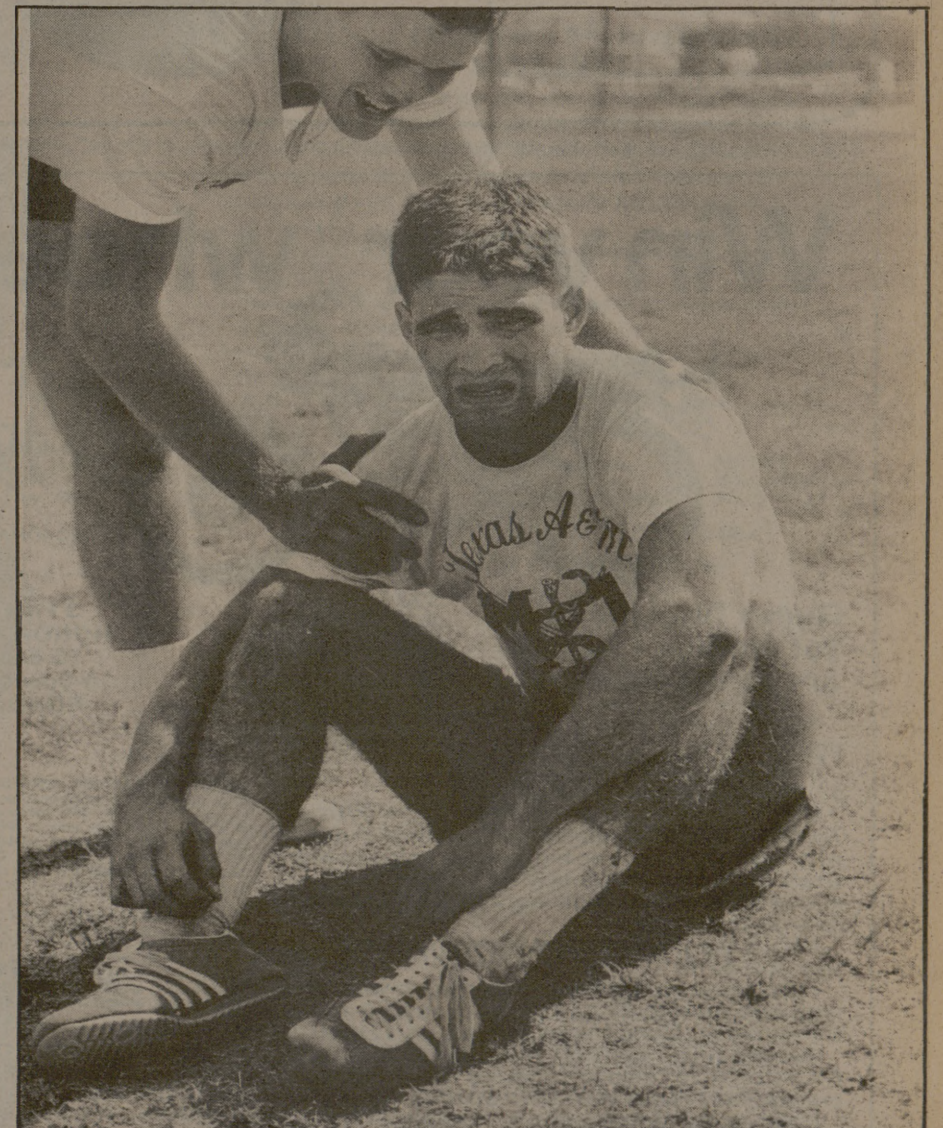
Ford supports going ahead immediately on the new bomber. But the defense money bill restricts the amount that can be spent each month between now and Feb. 1.

The Senate leadership had to overcome a brief filibuster before Senators could reach an agreement setting a time for a final vote on the antitrust bill. The measure is designed to strengthen enforcement of antitrust laws and would permit state attorneys general to sue for triple damages in federal courts on behalf of consumers.

After it completes action on the antitrust bill, the Senate is scheduled to take up a bill that would extend the federal revenue-sharing program until Oct. 1, 1982.

Under the bill approved by the Senate Finance Committee, \$6.9 billion would be distributed to localities during 1977. The total would increase by \$150 million each year thereafter, for a total, during the life of the program, of \$41.9 billion.

On June 10, the House passed a three-year extension of the program and continued funding at the current rate of \$6.65 billion a year.



Battalion photo by Carl Key

Fish Fatigue

The strenuous activities of Fish Day can sometimes get a good man down. Charlie Farrell encourages Jim Loggins (seated) after the third of four tug-of-war matches. Both are members of M-1 Medical Company.