

Courses in creative writing, Texas history, the American novel, human aging, the psychology of alcohol abuse, and European people and customs will be offered by Learner's Marketplace, a liberal arts program offered by Texas A&M University.

Enrollment periods will be held 6-9 p.m. Friday, Jan. 7 and 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 8 at Manor East Mall.

Sign-up ends Jan. 14. Enrollment may also be completed at the College of Liberal Arts in the Harrington Education Center on the A&M campus, or by mail.

A \$30 fee is charged per class and no formal admission to A&M is required to take the courses.

Dr. John M. "Jack" Knox, head of the Department of Dermatology for Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, has been elected president of Texas A&M University's 70,000-member Association of Former Students for 1977.

Local

The College Station Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing Thursday, 7 p.m. at City Hall, to determine how \$275,000 in federal Community Development funds should be spent. City Planner Al Mayo said that past funds in 1975 and 1976 were used primarily for street and water drainage improvements.

A public hearing on aging programs will be hosted by the Area Agency on Aging of the Brazos Valley Development Council and the "Years for Profit" nutrition program Thursday, Jan. 6 at 1:30 p.m. in the Medallion Room of the Bryan Utilities Building, 300 S. Washington, Bryan.

Title III and Title VII aging plans for 1977-78 will be reviewed to plan a more efficient coordination of services available to the elderly.

Texas

Gov. Dolph Briscoe has approved three criminal justice grants for the Brazos County area.

A total of \$48,182 was awarded for preliminary jail planning, a College Station juvenile diversion unit in the College Station Police Department, and to continue expanded probation services for both juvenile and adult offenders.

Mexican authorities yesterday marched Juan Pena Rocha to the center of Gateway International Bridge and turned him over to McAllen police to answer a murder charge.

Rocha was arraigned before McAllen Municipal Judge Halbert Steele on a charge he shot Tito Molina to death outside a lounge two years ago. The suspect apparently had been living in Mexico since the shooting.

Pearl Brewing Co. of San Antonio has increased the price it pays for recyclable used beverage cans by two cents a pound.

The increase to 17 cents a pound went into effect yesterday. Pearl officials said more than 10 million pounds of cans were collected by the company during 1976 and the firm paid out \$1.5 million in the recycling program.

In Houston, a federal mediator has scheduled a meeting Wednesday between representatives of striking bus drivers and the Houston Transit System.

E.D. Kincaid said he was "not overly optimistic" the two sides would agree to end the six-week-old walkout by members of the Transport Workers Union.

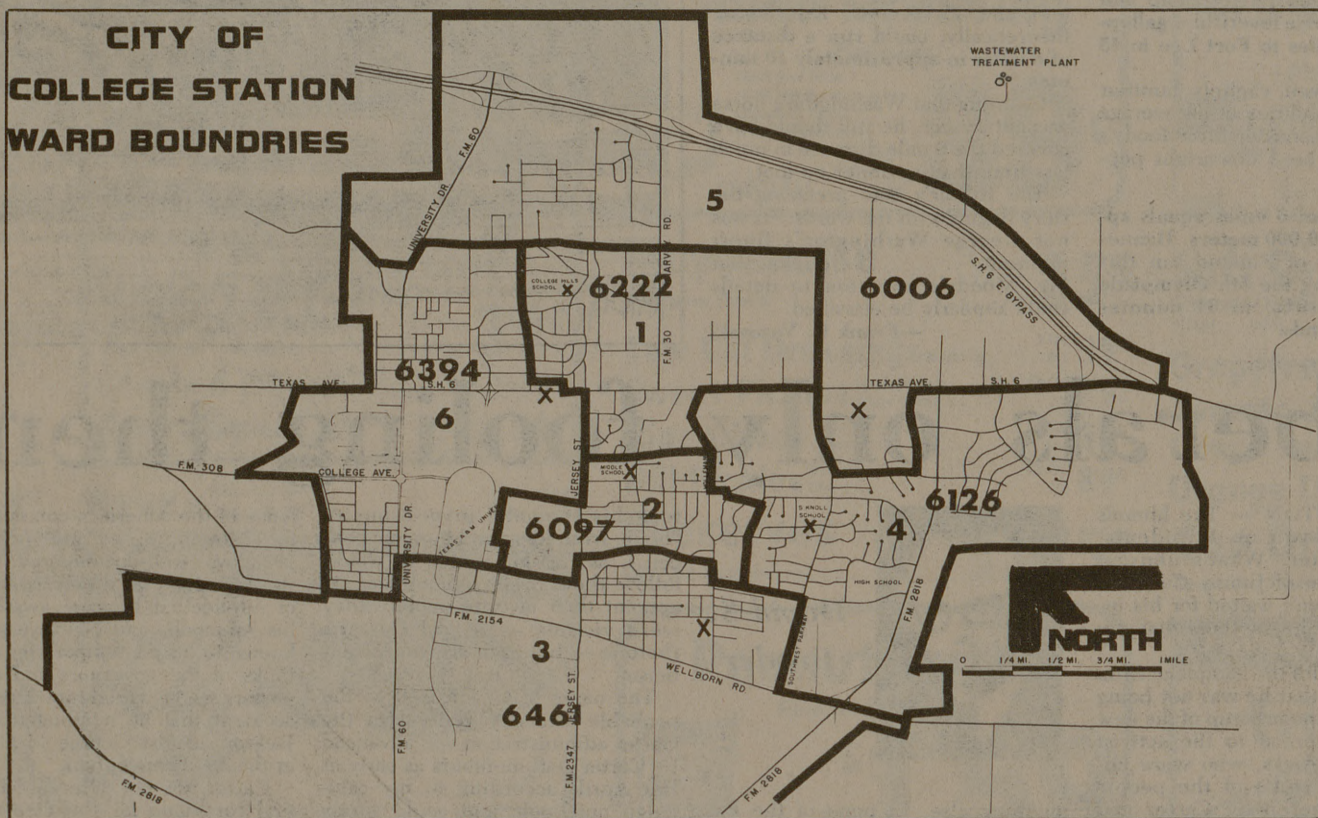
The strikers are seeking more than the two-year, 8 per cent pay raise transit managers offered when the old contract expired. The two sides had not met since Dec. 17.

Officials at Snyder yesterday said there was no danger to municipal water supplies from about 150 barrels of oil which spilled into a tributary of the Colorado River.

The accident was caused by a tanker truck that overturned Monday night west of town. Authorities said crews were mopping up the oil yesterday in a section of the river that has a small flow.

weather

Increasing cloudiness and mild today with a slight chance of light rain. Considerable cloudiness and cooler tonight and Thursday with a chance of rain or drizzle. Light and variable winds today becoming north to northeast 8-18 m.p.h. this afternoon. High today near 60. Low tonight mid 30s. High Thursday upper 40s. Precipitation probability 20 per cent today, 30 per cent tonight and 40 per cent tomorrow.



This is a map of the new polling sites for the College Station ward system. They are College Hills Elementary School (Ward 1), A&M Consolidated Middle School (Ward 2), Lincoln Center (Ward 3),

South Knoll Elementary School (Ward 4), Bee Creek Park (Ward 5) and the College Station Fire Station (Ward 6). (See related story.)

Polling sites set for city elections

By RUSTY CAWLEY
Battalion Staff Writer

Polling sites for the new College Station ward system were designated during a meeting of city council last Wednesday.

The ward system adopted in November divides the city into six wards. A councilman will be elected from each ward with the mayor elected at-large.

Presently, councilman are elected on a place system with six places. Under the new plan, Ward 1 will elect a councilman to Place 1, Ward 2 to place 2, etc. Each place is to be filled by residents of the corresponding ward.

Places 1, 3 and 5 on the city council will be up for election this April. Under the ward system, odd-numbered wards choose their councilmen during odd years, even-numbered wards during even years.

The mayor is also elected in the even years.

College Hills Elementary School was chosen as the voting site for Ward 1. Lincoln Center on the corner of Holleman and Elenor was designated as Ward 3 polling

spot. Bee Creek Park will be the polling center for Ward 5.

Councilman Gary Halter presently holds the place 1 seat, Larry Ringer now holds Place 3 and Anne Hazen is the Place 5 councilman. All three are eligible for reelection since they live in the wards they now represent.

As for the even-numbered wards which elect their councilmen in 1978, A&M Consolidated Middle School was chosen for Ward 2, South Knoll Elementary for Ward 4 and the College Station Fire Station for Ward 6.

No polling centers were placed on the Texas A&M University campus. The campus is divided into three districts by the ward plan, two of which will elect councilmen in April.

The city council has often expressed the opinion that it is easier for students to make their way to an off-campus voting center than for other residents to get to an on-campus polling site.

Absentee voting will be held in the office of the City Secretary in City Hall.

College board chairman says state schools overbuilding

United Press International

AUSTIN — State College Coordinating Board Chairman Harry Provence said yesterday Texas officials must slow the boom in erecting new college buildings or the state may find it has more college buildings than it can afford to maintain.

Provence said Texas senior universities and medical units have building debts in excess of \$1.3 billion, with payments on the debts of more than \$103 million annually. He said his concern about "overbuilding" is not limited to construction costs.

"Unless we put some brakes on the college building boom, we can well end up with more buildings than we can afford to

maintain," Provence said. "Maintenance costs are up. Utility costs are climbing so rapidly that they have sparked heated controversy and regulatory legislation."

He said budget requests for utility costs at state universities for the next two years are double present spending, totaling about \$167 million.

"Our college enrollments are peaking and will start to decline. At the same time, our state tax revenues and oil and gas incomes are growing at rapid rates. We have the dedicated resources to provide adequately for buildings at our colleges and universities. We must use them wisely and share

them equitably," Provence said.

Provence, a member of the Joint Advisory Committee on Government Operations, recommended all state senior colleges share in one of the two constitutional funds.

At present, 22 colleges share in the funds, while seven universities, four medical schools and the state's public technical institute are excluded.

He also recommended approval of a constitutional amendment allowing revenue from the constitutional funds to be used for repair and remodeling as well as for new college construction.

Rate board to recheck Bell rates

United Press International

AUSTIN — The Texas Public Utility Commission has been asked to determine if Southwestern Bell Telephone Co., has set higher rates than those approved under a recent commission order.

John F. Bell Jr., PUC legal counsel, filed the motion charging the utility with setting rates higher than those approved by the PUC last month. The commission will consider the motion at its meeting Monday.

The PUC last month rejected Southwestern Bell's request for a \$298.3 million rate increase, instead approving a \$57.8 million rate increase, designed to lower base rates for many customers.

Bell said the telephone company may not understand the intent of the PUC order.

"There are a couple of areas we feel as though what they have filed is in violation of the commission order," Bell said.

"There are some areas where they did not reduce charges as they said they would."

Monday's hearing originally was called to hear the telephone company's request for a rehearing on the rate increase proposal.

"It could be that Bell didn't understand the intent of the order," Bell said. "I wouldn't go so far as to say there was any

bad faith on Bell's part."

Bell said he does not know how much more the tariffs would increase Southwestern Bell's revenue, but there would be some increase.

In his motion, Bell asked the commission to require the telephone company to more fully explain and develop its tariff proposals so the commission staff can compare it with Southwestern Bell's original rate request.

He also asked the commission to force Southwestern Bell to comply with the rate increases the PUC approved in December and to refund to its customers any money collected from rates that are inconsistent with the PUC order.

Court says executions may be televised; media to exercise right at own discretion

United Press International

DALLAS — A television station which won a court order upholding its right to film Texas executions now has to decide whether it wants to broadcast the electrocutions.

KERA-TV station manager Ed Pfister said yesterday the station will determine whether to carry such broadcasts on the basis of its "obligation and responsibility" to the public.

The suit about the right to film executions was filed by KERA newsman Tony Garrett.

The order, issued Monday by U.S. District Judge William M. Taylor Jr., rejected arguments from the Texas Department of Corrections to ban reporters from the execution chamber and said the media must be allowed to report and film the

executions. Billy Porterfield, executive director of KERA's newsdesk, said the decision probably would be made by the station's board of directors.

"If it were I, I would film it and televise it," Porterfield said.

Taylor's order adding television coverage followed a previous TDC policy of allowing wire service reporters from United Press International and Associated Press to represent the print media.

Taylor said a radio reporter would be the fourth media representative attending the execution.

"I think the people have the right to know and should actually see what is going on. I think it might make a difference in what they think about the death penalty," Taylor said.

Garrett said the issue was philosophical and said he had no personal desire to film an execution.

"I don't care if I do it or somebody else does it or if it's done at all so long as the right exists," Garrett said.

University puts fall housing applications in moratorium

Texas A&M University has placed a moratorium on applications for on-campus housing next fall because the number of applications already exceeds available space except in the Corps of Cadets.

Corps applications are the only fall semester applications which will be processed, announced the Housing Office.

Applications for future semesters are available at the Housing Office, room 101 of the YMCA Building. A new telephone number has been assigned the office, 845-4744.

Officials are also advising persons searching for off-campus housing to wait until April or later since many of the apartment complexes have indicated they will not lease until August.

A hopeful note was sounded because early indications are that new construction in Bryan-College Station will provide ample off-campus housing, say the Texas A&M spokesmen.

The Student Development Coordinator Office will issue an off-campus housing manual in February with updated information on topics such as leasing, finding roommates, transportation and cost.

Texas prison head expected courts to allow filming

United Press International

HUNTSVILLE — The director of the Texas prison system says he has no complaint with a judge's ruling allowing the news media to be present at executions.

Texas Department of Corrections Director W.J. Estelle Jr. said yesterday his prohibition of the press was based on a recently passed state law. He said he expected the challenge which resulted in the law being declared unconstitutional.

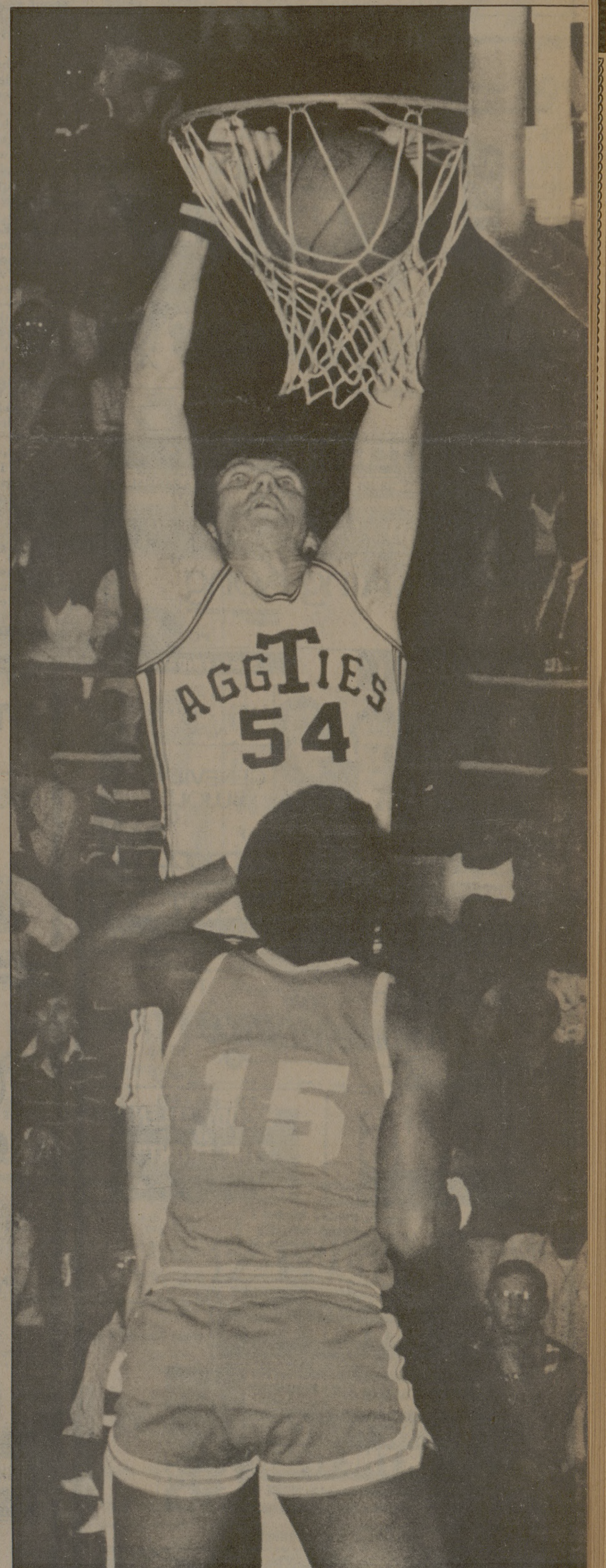
"I fully anticipated there would be a testing of that decision," Estelle said. "I did not anticipate an execution where there would be absolutely no representatives of the press or electronic media."

Although he said he was not surprised by the ruling, he said he did not expect U.S. District Judge William Taylor to go as far as

he did in overturning the law. He said he expected the media would be granted access to death row inmates and would be allowed to be present at executions, but did not expect Taylor would allow the executions to be filmed.

"We have had a concern about First Amendment rights and the public's right to know," Estelle said. "Very honestly, we did not anticipate the mechanical or photographic recording of an actual execution, but other than that I have no problem."

Estelle said he did not believe Taylor's order established a lasting precedent nor did he think any execution carried out in the absence of news media representatives was "secret." State law requires as many as 24 specified witnesses at any execution.



Aggies begin SWC play with win

Wally Swanson scores two points during Texas A&M's victory against the University of Texas basketball team last night in G. Rollie White Coliseum. (see story page 5)

Battalion photo by Kevin Verner