

# The Battalion

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## Top of the News

### Campus

**THIRTY-FIVE** veterinarians will attend a management methods seminar beginning tomorrow and continuing through Saturday at Texas A&M University. The conference focuses on improving beef cattle reproductive performance. Part of a nationwide program of continuing education for veterinarians and their assistants, the beef cattle presentation is the fourth and final workshop for January.

**TEXAS A&M** students who expect to graduate this spring should apply for the degree by Feb. 11. Graduate and undergraduate students must make degree application in order to receive the diploma May 7. Application is the student's responsibility. Degree application is made in the Richard Coke Building. An \$8 graduation fee is paid first in the Fiscal Office. Undergraduates present the fee receipt in Room 7. Graduate students apply at the Graduate College, Room 209.

**A FIVE-DAY** accounting principles workshop will be held beginning Jan. 26 for city managers, finance directors and "anyone with accounting and finance responsibilities in one of the state's smaller cities." The workshop is sponsored by the Texas A&M Center for Urban Programs. Classes will be conducted at the Rudder Tower complex by Dr. Larry G. Pointer, head of the A&M Accounting Department, and by Dr. George C. Fowler, lecturer for the College of Business Administration.

**TRANSFER STUDENT** orientation for Texas A&M University will be held at 7 tonight in Rudder Tower. All new transfer students are urged to attend the three-part program covering Aggie traditions, student life and campus organizations.

**OLD MASTERS** paintings from the Blaffer Collection at the University of Houston will be on public display in the Rudder Exhibit Hall tomorrow 4-6 p.m.

### Local

**TAX HELP** is available at the local office from 9 to 11:15 a.m. and from noon until 2:30 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays for persons who need assistance. The office is located at 219 North Main in Bryan. The IRS also provides help over the telephone for taxpayers. Toll-free telephone numbers for IRS offices are listed in your tax package. The numbers are also listed in the telephone directory. Look under "U.S. Government" in the white pages and find "Federal Tax Information."

### Texas

**HEART TRANSPLANT** surgeons at Stanford University saved the life of a 15-year-old San Antonio boy in 1974 by giving him a second transplanted heart to replace the first that his body was rejecting. The boy survived and is doing well in high school. He is the first survivor of six Stanford patients to undergo a second heart transplant.

**STATE AGENCIES** requesting big spending increases may find their reception among House members is less than warm. Speaker Bill Clayton yesterday warned the chairmen of 28 committees to carefully examine during the budget hearings the services provided by agencies and to fund only those worthwhile.

**HEROIN SMUGGLERS** could be sentenced to death under one provision of an anticrime package introduced yesterday by Sen. Walter Mendgen, R-Houston. The package includes laws to permit wiretapping, denial of bail to repeat felons, admission of oral confessions, using search warrants for evidence and giving the state the right of appeal. The proposal specifically would forbid total nudity, toplessness, bottomlessness, simulated sex acts, other named activities in places where alcoholic beverages are served.

**A LEGISLATOR** opposed to capital punishment wants to watch an execution to be able to use the experience in his next debate against the death penalty. Rep. Craig Washington, D-Houston, said he received permission from Texas prison warden W. J. Estelle Jr. to witness the execution of Jerry Lane Jurek.

### weather

Fair and cold today. High in the mid-40s. Winds light from the south at 5 m.p.h. Continued fair and mild tomorrow. Low tonight mid-20s. High tomorrow low 50s. No precipitation expected.



Battalion photo by Mike Willy

### Bye Bye Birdie

The maimed birds around campus are dying. The bird in the foreground died yesterday and was one of about 25,000 birds that were shot during the holidays to rid the campus of the health hazard and unsightliness of their droppings. Ironically, the student in the background is reading a list of Aggies that have also died recently and were honored last night during a Silver Taps ceremony.

## Texas A&M engineers tap deep lignite resources

College Station and Bryan sit on a mound of energy that is the energy equivalent to half of the world's known oil reserves.

Petroleum engineers at Texas A&M University are trying to tap some 100 billion tons of deep basin lignite resources tucked away some 200 to 5,000 feet below the surface.

This experiment, to convert lignite to gas while still in the ground, is being carried out by a team headed by Dr. James Jennings. The team believes they can cut costs and reduce ecological damage if low-grade coal becomes widely used as an energy source.

The \$275,000 project is financed by A&M's Texas Engineering Experiment Station and a group of energy-related industries including Alcoa, General Crude Oil, Dow Chemical Company, Shell Oil Company, Phillips Petroleum Company and Sun Oil Company.

"Less than one-tenth of the lignite in the state is mineable; that is, at a depth of less than 200 feet," Dr. Jennings said. Previously, it was not economical to mine the deep basin coal but, with the gasification process, it is estimated that gas can be produced at a cost of \$1.50 to \$2 per billion BTUs.

"Since 1,000 cubic feet of natural gas produces 1 million BTUs and already sells

for \$2, the economics of the project looks favorable," he said.

"However, the fuel is lower quality than natural gas and would need special burners," he went on. "Probably, at least at first, it would be used for commercial uses such as heating boilers and generating electricity. In addition, larger pipes are needed for its transmission.

The mathematical modeling of the process and the laboratory work are underway as well as the measuring of the physical and chemical properties of lignite. The A&M group also is placing coal into reactors in the lab to determine amount of gas produced.

Wells are being drilled on A&M property west of the main campus. Tests will be conducted in a lignite seam which is five feet thick and located at a depth of 380 feet.

This seam is part of a field of lignite that stretches from Austin to Waco to Texarkana, south to Conroe and back to Austin. This area contains the energy equivalent to 275 billion barrels of oil worth about \$3 trillion at today's prices.

The process being studied begins by drilling two wells about 60 feet apart. Air is pumped into one of the wells and ignited. Resulting gases are taken out through the other well.

"A total of about 450 tons of coal should

be gasified during this phase of the experiment," he said. "This will produce a pear-shaped cavern in the lignite seam about 60 feet wide at which point the two wells become unproductive."

A third well is then drilled, becoming the air injection well while the previous injection well becomes the exhaust well. The initial hole is then capped. The process can be repeated until the seam has been worked out.

Environmental studies also are being conducted. While no problems are expected, additional wells will be drilled to make sure the process doesn't pollute ground water.

## Giant inaugural Gala begins at Kennedy Center

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — Brass bands, jazz bands, symphony orchestras, folk dancing, hootin' and hollerin' and four tons of fireworks are launching the Inauguration of Jimmy Carter as the 39th president of the United States.

Vice president-elect Walter Mondale also was honored by two receptions today, and the Mondales will join Carter this evening at the giant inaugural Gala at the Kennedy Center.

The gala features Chevy Chase satirizing Carter to his face, and entertainers ranging from Beverly Sills to Johnny Cash.

The price is \$25 a ticket for those invited, but will be broadcast to millions of Americans by CBS, which paid \$1 million for TV rights.

Carter, his wife Rosalynn, daughter Amy, three sons and mother "Miss Lillian" arrive late in the day. The family will stay at Blair House across the street from the White House.

Earlier in the day Carter's brother Billy was arriving with a plane load of 100

Plains, Ga. neighbors and kinfolk. Still earlier Atlanta society arrives on a chartered train. The Carter relatives have taken over the top floor of a Washington hotel.

Meanwhile, Mondale today laid aside the homework on his forthcoming trip

abroad to devote full attention to preinaugural festivities.

Mondale has spent the past two days getting ready for next week's visit with leaders in Europe and Japan, Jimmy Carter's first gesture of assurance to traditional U.S. allies.

### Ford considers amnesty issue

**United Press International**  
WASHINGTON — President Ford, in a final gesture of "compassion," may be prepared to grant relief to limited categories of Vietnam-era offenders but not blanket amnesty for all draft evaders and deserters, according to White House sources.

The sources gave no details and said Ford was expected to reveal his decision today — his last full day in office — after word was sent to Mrs. Jane Hart, widow of Sen. Philip A. Hart, D-Mich.

Mrs. Hart raised the amnesty issue Dec. 26, the day after her husband's death, by asking Ford to order across-the-board amnesty as a memorial to the senator. Ford

promised to reconsider it after opposing the dramatic move throughout his presidency.

Ford ruled out a general amnesty early this month, the sources said, but then studied "many options" for lesser steps.

The sources said Ford's response "will not be a flat turn-down" of Mrs. Hart's request.

But they also said his action was likely to affect a relatively small number of the estimated 80,000 young men who illegally resisted the draft during the war and then chose not to take advantage of Ford's 1974-75 clemency program.

### Property tax still rising

## Local taxes to near \$600,000

By Cherie Hedrick

The property tax problem faced by residents of College Station is not a unique one. Throughout the state, property taxes have increased.

During the last ten years property taxes have risen 100 per cent. In 1974, the total amount spent on property taxes was \$2 billion. By 1976, it had risen to \$2.8 billion.

In a meeting of concerned area taxpayers last night, Michael Moeller, executive director of Texans for Equitable Taxation, said school taxes in this district would go up to nearly \$600,000 next fall.

School taxes are going up for three reasons, Moeller said. One is bond indebtedness. Each time a bond is passed it incurs an ad valorem tax.

Another reason is enrichment. Enrichment is defined as those educational aides a school feels are necessary, but the state does not require, such as better athletic or library facilities.

The Foundation School Program also adds to the increase in taxes. This is a program run by the state. Local government has no say over the amount of money spent. If the local districts cannot come up with the amount of money needed, they face the possibility of losing their school system.

Tax payers presently have no unified

voice in government, according to Moeller. This is where he feels the organization he represents can help. Texans for Equitable Taxation will attempt to convince the Texas legislature that tax payers have paid as much money as they can, Moeller explained.

This organization will also try to get relief from ad valorem taxes. The most viable alternative to an ad valorem tax is the sales tax. Moeller said that one per cent of the present annual sales tax is \$490 million.

He said that substituting sales tax for ad valorem tax could be a possible solution to the burden many residents face now.

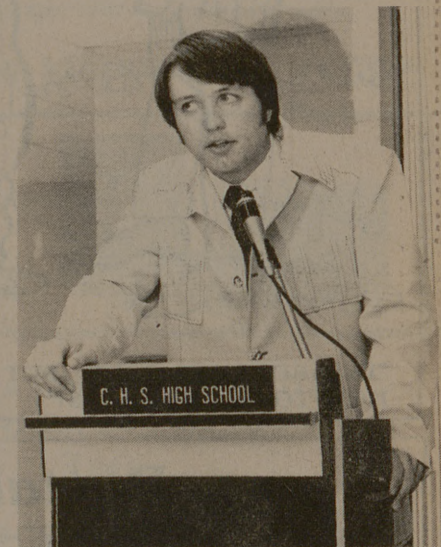
Another alternative might be a refinery tax. Every gallon of each product refined in Texas could have a one cent tax applied to it. This could bring in \$1 billion per year. No Texan would have to pay the marked-up price because it would only be levied on the out-of-state sales.

Prior to 1975, the state determined what amount of money the district had to raise based on the net income of the people in the district. Net income is no longer considered. This increase is especially hard on people living on fixed incomes, Moeller said.

In a test bill placed before the legislature

both houses passed a bill that would lower the tax.

To protect themselves, Texans need to have a bigger and better voice, Moeller said.



Michael Moeller



### Illegal parking plagues campus vicinity again

The car about to be towed away by Vernon Stubblefield (far left), owner of Stubblefield Wrecker Service, is one of many that have been moved from unauthorized zones since Texas A&M University students returned for the spring semester.

Wreckers tow from all areas around the campus, but Stubblefield said that the Skaggs-Albertsons parking lot probably has more cars towed from it than any other location.

The usual charge to the owner of the car towed is \$30, but Stubblefield said he often lets people go without paying, if they come back to their cars before the wrecker is hooked up.

"That is, if there are other cars in the area to be towed," Stubblefield said.

Owen McCrory, a junior architecture major, (left) arrived yesterday, just as Stubblefield was pulling his car away.

Stubblefield said that he charged McCrory \$15 because he had spent a considerable amount of time trying to get into the car to put the car into neutral, so he could tow the car without damaging the transmission.

So be prepared, if you happen to park in an illegal zone for "just a few minutes" and return to find that you are missing a car.

Battalion photos by Tracie Nordheim