

The Battalion

Vol. 70 No. 84
14 Pages

Wednesday, March 2, 1977
College Station, Texas

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

Biggest impact would hit labs

Teaching assistants may lose jobs if bill passes in House

By BO GRIFFIN

Dr. G. W. Kunze, dean of Texas A&M University's Graduate College, said yesterday that some teaching assistants would lose their jobs if a bill presently before the Texas House of Representatives passes.

"If the bill in its present form passes, the College of Science here would be hurt the most because of the greater number of teaching assistants in those departments," Kunze said.

Section 1(b) of proposed House Bill 833 states that in a public institution the number of teaching assistants employed in a department cannot exceed the number of full-time faculty members in the same department.

In the chemistry department alone, there are 109 teaching assistants and 53 full-time faculty members.

"This portion of the proposed bill would cause a devastating effect on the efficiency of instruction in chemistry laboratory courses," Dr. Fred Sicilio, chief administrator for undergraduate chemistry at A&M said yesterday.

"The degree of devastation depends on the interpretation of the bill," he said. "There is simply not sufficient faculty to teach our laboratory courses and meet the constraints of this clause."

Section 1(a) of the proposed bill would determine whether A&M could employ a teaching assistant to conduct a class alone. The assistant would only be allowed to teach if he had served as a co-teacher with a full-time faculty member for at least one semester in a course in the same area that the assistant will be employed to teach.

"This clause of the bill would probably not affect instruction in our department, since we only use teaching assistants in laboratory courses," Sicilio said.

The last clause of the bill says teaching assistants are not to teach more than 25 per cent of the class hours taught by a full-time faculty member at the same level.

"Chemistry has several hundred lab sections each semester and teaching assistants serve a very vital function in these lab courses," Sicilio said. "The effect of this clause would be devastating to this department because teaching assistants do not have the capability to teach without supervision."

Sicilio said he believes that teaching only by theory or demonstration is ineffective in teaching any experimental science.

"It all depends on how the legislature interprets the bill," Kunze said. "The bill, in its present form, is written so loosely that it could be interpreted in any number of ways."

Mobile home owners petition

Bryan utility rate opposed

By LADONNA YOUNG

Timberlake Mobile Home Park residents in Bryan have filed a grievance petition against Bryan Utilities.

The petition, sent in care of Bryan City Manager Lou Odle, cited residents' complaints that they are paying commercial rates instead of residential rates for their electricity.

The petition is signed by 63 park residents who are paying the commercial rates. Part of the park is supplied with individual meters and charged residential rates.

In 1975 Bryan Utilities began switching the mobile homes from a master meter system to an individual system. Only part

of the park was redone when work stopped a month later.

Odle yesterday said there was a communication problem between the park owners and Bryan Utilities.

The park is responsible for providing the pedestals and wiring necessary for the conversion, Odle said. He said 15 of the pedestals for the individual meters are ready, but the park hasn't filed a work order yet.

"What I've got to do is get our operating people and their operating people together and see, really, who is waiting on whom," Odle said.

Park owner Robert Holmes was out of town and unavailable for comment. Terri Rafter, a park employee, said the park has

been waiting to hear from Bryan Utilities.

Residents on the master meter are being billed through the park office. Rather said the office reads the individual meters connected to the park meter and then totals each bill.

Because the office receives a bill based on commercial rates, the residents pay the same rate.

Odle said the medium commercial and industrial rate charged to the park is 6.07 cents for the first 80 kilowatt-hours. The rate then decreases as more hours are used.

Residents on the individual meters are billed by Bryan Utilities and pay residential rates. The first 80 kilowatt-hours for residents is 4.85 cents per hour.

John Hogue, senior biomedical science student, drew up the petition with the help of Chris Kling, A&M student legal counsel.

Kling said he advised Hogue on the contents of the petition and who to send it to. Kling also recommended that the petition include a deadline for action.

"If Bryan Utilities requires that the work be completed before we can be charged residentially, then we feel this work can and should be completed by April 1, 1977, or we will take whatever action we feel appropriate," the petition reads.

Kling said the deadline was provided to give the two conflicting parties an incentive to work things out.

The possibility of residents simply paying residential rates after April 1 is the only action Kling said was discussed.

This action would mean a loss to the park owners. They receive one bill from the utility company, and then collect separately from the residents. If the residents pay only residential rates, the park may have to make up the difference.

Odle said the city wasn't charging the petitioners commercial rates as stated in the petition. Bryan Utilities charges Timberlake commercial rates, and what the park owners charge the residents is the owners' decision, he said.

A&M laundry may stop service; outside alternatives considered

A study of survey results may leave Texas A&M University without its own laundry service, according to Management Services Director Ed Davis.

"It is very likely that we will discontinue the laundry service as a University operated business. It is also very likely that we will provide an alternative," Davis said recently.

The alternatives being considered include contracting with an outside laundry to provide service at the present facility. Another possibility would be to contract a laundry to do the work off campus and deliver to distribution points on campus.

A third alternative would be to provide washers and dryers near each dorm on campus.

There was not a cash loss last year, but depreciation of laundry machinery amounted to \$13,000, he said.

Davis said his initial impression from

the survey results is that a higher percentage of Corps members use the service than civilians. He said the difference may be caused by the delay in getting clean clothes or maybe an unpleasant experience with the laundry, such as losing clothing.

Survey results showed that 45 per cent of Corps members currently on the service would be willing to pay \$40 to \$50 for the same service next year, while 35 per cent would pay \$50 to \$60.

Only about five per cent of the civilians completing the survey said they would pay more than \$40 for the service next year.

The decision to be reached later this semester by Management Services will affect approximately 65 laundry employees and 2,715 students currently on the plan. Last semester, 3,420 students used the laundry service.

— Rene Ogletree



Battalion photo by Cyndy Fulghum

Fake rabbit

Joann Wright, public relations chairman for Great Issues Committee ran around campus yesterday advertising Mel Blanc, the cartoon voice behind Bugs Bunny and other cartoon characters. (See story, page 8.)

House-Senate panel hears testimony

Witnesses oppose Texas death penalty

United Press International

AUSTIN — The Texas death penalty law sends "black people, brown people, and white niggers" to the electric chair, while wealthy whites go free or receive lesser punishment for murder, a former legislator said yesterday.

Maury Maverick Jr. of San Antonio, recalling his days in the legislature 25 years ago and his civil liberties campaigns since he left the House, told a joint hearing of House and Senate committees he opposes the death penalty no matter how it is administered.

"Black people, brown people and white niggers, that's who is on death row today. That's who is waiting to be killed down on death row," Maverick said in arm-waving testimony. "I'm not for putting bank presidents in the electric chair. I'm not for putting anyone in the electric chair."

Maverick was among the first in a long line of witnesses testifying for legislation repealing the state's death penalty law. Committee members listened impassively to the often emotional testimony, seldom questioning the witnesses. Spectators, searched before they entered the crowded House chamber, wore black armbands and buttons reading, "Thou Shalt Not Kill."

An Alabama farm couple whose son is on death row for the murder of a highway patrolman tearfully pleaded for repeal of the death penalty.

"If we were wealthy people, I know he wouldn't be there," said Mrs. Billy Hughes of Fairhope, Ala. "But we are

very poor people. We are unable to do anything except appeal to you to abolish this inhumane thing that has happened to people like us.

"If you want to see people suffering, look at us and look at our two other children who have never done a thing in this world."

Mrs. Hughes said her son had undergone three years of psychiatric treatment for paranoid schizophrenia before leaving Alabama to come to Texas. She said he had been in Texas less than 24 hours when he was arrested for killing a patrolman.

The bill repealing the death penalty statute and another requiring a unanimous

opinion of the Court of Criminal Appeals before an execution could be carried out were referred to subcommittee for further study. Most lawmakers predict the proposal to repeal the death penalty has little chance for passage.

The House did not meet yesterday because of the death penalty hearings, but senators approved 28-3 a proposed constitutional amendment expanding membership on the court of criminal appeals from five to nine members.

Sen. A. R. Schwartz, D-Calveston, blocked Senate action on a bill raising the maximum weight limit for concrete trucks. Schwartz talked for 30 minutes against the bill, and said he would filibuster again today to prevent its passage.

Candidates need majority in Consolidated election

The A&M Consolidated Independent School District will operate on a majority vote requirement for this year's April 2 school board election, instead of on the plurality requirement used in earlier elections.

The change, which affects only the voters in the College Station school district, requires a runoff election when no school board candidate receives a majority vote on the first ballot.

Before, the candidate receiving the largest number of votes in an election won even if he received less than 50 percent of votes cast. Now the winning candidate must receive 51 per cent of the total vote.

Fred A. Hopson, A&M Consolidated superintendent, received a letter recently from U.S. Asst. Atty. Gen. J. Stanley Pottinger saying that the attorney general does

not object to the change from a plurality to a majority vote.

However, Pottinger said in the letter that even though the attorney general does not object to the change now, future judicial action may prohibit the change.

The justice department can revoke its approval at any time if it finds reason, Hopson said.

"By changing to a majority vote procedure we can now have runoff elections, bringing it down to two candidates," he said.

Citizens have appeared before the Board of Education in previous years requesting a new voting system.

Changes within College Station's election procedures prompted the school board to take the action, Hopson said. — Cathy Brewer

Spouses may get event cards

By MARK PENNY

The Graduate Student Council (GSC) has submitted a proposal to Student Government for the creation of spouse activity cards.

Spouses of Texas A&M University students usually are required to pay nonstudent prices to attend University functions.

The Student Services Committee is investigating the feasibility of such a card.

Part of the purpose of the proposal is to provide access to University facilities to spouses of Texas A&M students, alleviating a potential economic hardship to those families on a limited budget.

Troie Ann Pruett, vice president of student services, said that if the student can go to the event for free and the spouse can't, more than likely they will not go.

Jay McMillen, secretary for the GSC, said the card would allow spouses to attend MSC activities, check out books from the library, write checks on campus and attend sporting events when space is available. "This has nothing to do with football," McMillen said.

The proposal states, the card does not include privileges to football tickets or any right to preempt the normal date ticket purchase procedure.

McMillen said the GSC has discussed such a proposal every year since the council was created.

"As far as I can tell, this is the first time it has gone to the Student Senate," McMillen said.

In the past, most of the proposals included receiving football tickets at student rates, he said.

The proposal states that a check-off for a spouse activity card would be included on the fee schedule card used in registration. Payment would be at a rate determined by the current student service fee and subject to the approval of the administration. The proposal calls for normal payment of fees to be made after registration.

Pruett said one idea being discussed is to charge the same as a regular activity card, minus the proportion that goes toward the football program.

McMillen said the maximum price the GSC felt should be paid would be the equivalent of a student activity card.

"The activity card will mainly be a convenience, not a savings," McMillen said.

The proposal states that no economic effect should be experienced by various University departments since any revenue loss from ticket sales would be made up in revenue from activity card sales and from increased participation.

Pruett said the student services committee will bring its version of the proposal before the Student Senate on March 9.

"I think that it would be a good service for married students," Pruett said.

A spouse who wants to go to an event that the student doesn't want to go to has to pay nonstudent prices, Pruett explained.

The GSC proposal states that the card will provide potential accommodation for diverse individual tastes by allowing either spouse to attend functions without obligating the other to attend or to be inconvenienced.



Battalion photo by Cindy Salter

Sully gets rubdown

While others were out washing their cars and otherwise enjoying the sunny weather last Friday, residents of Moses Hall chose to put the shine to Lawrence Sullivan Ross. Plenty of old rags, Brasso and rubbing went into the project. One student said Sully needed a rubdown every so often and someone entering the campus from Westgate should be able to see him shining.

Weather

Cloudy, mild and windy today with cloudiness decreasing tomorrow. Winds are southerly at 15 m.p.h. gusting to 25 m.p.h. and becoming northwesterly tomorrow. High today in the upper 60s. Low tonight in the upper 50s. High tomorrow in the low 70s. Precipitation probability 20 per cent today and tonight. No precipitation in sight for tomorrow.