

The Battalion

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Professors accused of slowing business development of city

By DAVE TEWES
Battalion Staff

College professors on the College Station City Council have retarded business development and discouraged area landowners with their land zoning policy, a real estate businessman said Friday.

"They don't have any idea of what is going on," L.J. Kirkpatrick, a retired real estate company owner, said. "They are running people out of College Station that would make it a city."

After four months, the City Council has not given Kirkpatrick a decision on the zoning he requested for his land in southeast College Station.

Kirkpatrick requested a change from single-family residential (allows six units per acre) to medium-density apartments (allows 30 units per acre).

His request has been delayed because the City Council is not sure it would be compatible with the neighborhood, City Planner Al Mayo said Saturday. A less dense apartment zoning would probably fit better with the area, he added.

Richard Smith, owner and developer of

the Brentwood Housing addition being built near Kirkpatrick's land, agrees that the request would not be feasible, Mayo said.

"Richard Smith would rather the city not allow a lot of apartments next to his single-family housing," Mayo said. "It would make them less saleable."

L.J. Kirkpatrick's son, Lewis Kirkpatrick, said last weekend that he is displeased with the City Council's reasons for the zoning delay.

"Most of the people on the City Council are college professors that dream a lot," Lewis Kirkpatrick, owner of Kirkpatrick Real Estate Co., said. "They have a Utopia visualized. A Utopia does not exist except in one's mind."

The city government is always a convenient group to blame, City Councilman Gary Halter said Saturday.

"Why didn't Mr. (L.J.) Kirkpatrick pick up a petition and run against me?" Halter asked. "Then we would have had somebody that wasn't Utopian and a college professor, if he could have beat me."

The fact that most of the City Council-

men are college professors is a reflection of the city's make-up, College Station Mayor Lorence L. Bravenc said yesterday. Professors and their families are an overwhelming part of the population of the city, he added.

Bravenc said the City Council welcomes business development in College Station. The city's zoning policy is used to protect the people's interest, not to limit business, he said.

"I think the way we have acted with respect to his (L.J. Kirkpatrick's) land is to protect the property values of the surrounding property. There is nothing Utopian about that," Bravenc said.

Other City Councilmen interviewed agree with Bravenc, saying their intentions were not to impede business interests.

Frank Kahan, a member of the Bryan planning and zoning committee, owns land near Kirkpatrick's as do three other people. They want to build apartments.

Kahan said he was granted the proper zoning to build apartments about three months ago. He said the College Station

planning and zoning committee told him last week that the land will probably be rezoned again to a lower density rating.

"It is impossible to do anything in College Station," Kahan said. "If they (City Council) keep it up, I'll just get out of College Station."

Bravenc said Kahan is getting nothing less than he requested from the City Council.

"Kahan represented to the City Council that his density would not be greater than 13 units per acre," Bravenc said. "The proposal is to classify his land as medium-density apartments."

Medium-density apartment zoning would permit the development Kahan originally proposed, Bravenc said.



Nuts about the weather

This squirrel seemed to be enjoying yesterday's sunshine atop a wall near the Reed-McDonald Building on the Texas A&M University campus and did not appear too disturbed that a student wanted to take a picture of its furry little body.

Battalion photo by Molly McMillan

College of medicine a reality

The Texas A&M University College of medicine is now a reality, with the classes to start this fall under a concept that will enable students to earn M.D. degrees in a shorter period of time and more economically.

Formal college of medicine designation was approved yesterday by the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System.

A&M's medical program has been formed over the past five years in association with Baylor College of Medicine, Scott and White Memorial Hospital and the Veterans Administration.

The VA has awarded A&M grants total-

ing more than \$17 million under provisions of the Veterans Administration Medical School Assistance and Health

Manpower Training Act of 1972. The act, based on a bill co-authored by Rep. Olin E. (Tiger) Teague of College Station, is designed to help relieve the shortage of physicians and allied health personnel generally and particularly within the VA system.

Coordinating Board officials had previously designated A&M as the state institution authorized to seek VA support and subsequently approved the university's proposal to offer the M.D. degree.

Provisional accreditation for the A&M

program was awarded in November by the American Medical Association/Association of American Medical Colleges Liaison Committee on Medical Education.

A&M Dean of Medicine James A. Knight said the provisional accreditation includes authority to enroll 32 students in the first class. If the program develops in the desired manner, full accreditation could be expected shortly before the first class' graduation.

In essence, the A&M program allows students to complete their M.D. requirements two years sooner than under traditional medical programs because they start their medical training while still an undergraduate, Knight said.

College Station to seek permanent service

Cities find ambulance service replacement

Bryan and College Station city officials have found replacement ambulance service for Brazos County after Sherrill Ambulance Service suddenly terminated operations Sunday morning.

Tom Brymer, Bryan assistant city man-

ager, said yesterday the Bryan City Council Monday gave permission to Bill Thornal, owner of Mid-Tex Ambulance Service, to operate ambulances in Bryan and the northern part of Brazos County. Thornal began operating yesterday.

The College Station Fire Department has been providing ambulance service for both cities since Sunday morning.

The fire department will continue to provide service for College Station and southern Brazos County until the College

Station City Council decides on Thursday night whether to turn the ambulances over to a private company or let the fire department operate them.

Bill Schaer, a member of the fire department, is trained as an emergency medical technician (EMT) and will head the ambulance operation.

"We've had no problems so far," he said. "The men have been really eager about the operation. They're really taking pride in it."

Schaer said the department might add personnel in order to cope with the extra work load.

The department has three EMTs, he said and at least one EMT will go with each ambulance.

Schaer said he hopes to soon start training classes that will enable all firemen to be classified as EMTs. An EMT has to have 80 hours of classroom and 40 hours of hospital emergency duty prior to testing.

Ambulance service costs \$40 for a call in College Station and southern Brazos County, with no charge if the ambulance isn't needed, Schaer said.

Thornal said the base charge for an ambulance call inside Bryan is \$30, plus a minimum of \$5 for bandages and oxygen. More is charged for calls outside Bryan.

Thornal said he has been making transfer calls with his three ambulances. He said he employs eight EMTs.

The transition came after Ed Sherrill, owner of Sherrill Ambulance Co., told Bryan and College Station city managers March 1 that he did not plan to renew his insurance, thus going out of business.

Originally, Sherrill said he would stop service March 8. However, at 7 a.m. Sunday, he parked the two ambulances in front of the police station.



Helicopters land on Duncan intramural field

A two-day orientation began yesterday for freshmen Army cadets. Three choppers are being used to acquaint the corpsmen with Army aviation. A Cobra Gunship (AHIG), a Medical Evac-

uation troop carrier (UH1H) and a Scout Ship (OH58) are the types being used to fly the cadets over the Bryan-College Station area.

Battalion photo by Steve Reis

West campus provides needed parking spaces

By ANN RICHMOND

Students looking for a place to park on campus might try the parking lots on the west side across Wellborn Road.

Howard Perry, assistant vice president of student services, said on the average, between 300 and 350 parking spaces are vacant in these lots each day. Looking at data collected in February, Perry said some days as many as 450 spaces were vacant.

Parking on the A&M campus "is in pretty good shape overall, but we don't have the spaces at the most desirable place," Perry said. Students will park closer to campus and risk getting a ticket rather than park further away where spaces are available.

Presently, there are a total of 10,272 parking spaces on campus for staff, faculty, students and University employees, said Police Chief O.L. Luther of the University Police. A total of 17,635 vehicles are registered for campus parking. These figures alone are not an accurate reflection of the relationship between the parking demand and available parking spaces, said Luther.

Of the 17,635 vehicles registered, 7,619 are for day students. Luther estimated only half of these vehicles would be on campus at any given time. In addition, some permit hol-

ders are night permits only, and a large number of individuals have duplicate permits.

A student, faculty, or staff member may have two or more vehicles registered but will have only one vehicle on campus at a given time.

Luther said the large number of day students has brought the most pressure to relieve limited parking on campus.

To bring further relief, the University is adding an additional 1000 parking spaces by extending the existing parking lots on the west side of campus, said Perry.

Money for the construction and maintenance of parking facilities on the A&M campus comes from vehicle registration fees and parking tickets, Perry said.

Texas A&M has \$520,000 in its reserve account from the registration fees and parking tickets left over from previous years. This money plus the \$670,000 the University expects to receive from the fees and tickets from September to August is expected to pay for the construction costs, Perry said.

Next year there will be no money for any new construction of parking facilities, Perry said. The reserves from previous years will have been spent. Future construction will have to wait until enough money is accumulated from vehicle registration fees and parking tickets.

OCSA... Off-Campus Student Association recognized

By KIM TYSON

An organization to unify and represent the 20,000 off-campus students at Texas A&M University is now a reality.

The Off-Campus Students Association (OCSA) was approved Wednesday by the Student Organizations Board.

The association announced that filing for eight executive offices opens March 22. The election will be conducted when the Student Government, yell leader, Residence Hall Association (RHA) and class officers elections are held April 6 and 7.

The association will serve close to 20,000 off-campus students at A&M as a counterpart to the Residence Hall Association that serves students in dorms on campus, said Karen Switzer, OCSA sponsor and student development coordinator at A&M.

Switzer said that all part-time and full-time students residing off campus will automatically become members of the student organization.

Under its constitution, the association will provide services to off-campus students in four areas. It will serve as the general representative body for off-campus students to A&M and the community and act as an intermediary agent. It will also educate off-campus students concerning their rights and responsibilities, such as in contracts or leases, and will offer programmed activities comparable to those currently provided in dorms on campus.

The organization will be composed of an executive branch and a legislative branch.

The executive branch will consist mainly of a president; executive vice president; four lower vice presidents in charge of programming, university relations, tenant relations and information; a secretary and a treasurer. The executive branch will be elected during the spring elections.

The legislative branch will have elected representatives from zones, said Joseph

Flores, co-chairman of the association's constitution committee. These zones are geographically arranged divisions of the city with representation according to student population within the zone, similar to the House representation in Congress, Flores said. The legislative branch will be elected when the freshman class elections are held in the fall.

Switzer said there is a difference between the OCSA and Hassle-Free, which now serves off-campus students as an information service.

"Hassle-Free is not a governing system," Switzer said. She said that Hassle-Free representatives are volunteers from various apartment units.

"It is no way binds together students," Switzer said. "Its purpose is to be a two-way liaison service."

Switzer added that Hassle-Free will not be dissolved because of the new organization, but will work within it.

Cheryl Pence, co-chairman with Flores, said that the large number of students involved would also help the organization.

"There are problems off campus and people know that. When there are that many people and that many problems, they've got to have people to turn to," Pence explained.

Pence and Flores said that the organization will have to overcome many problems for it to succeed.

"It's going to be a question of not only going out there and proving it's (OSCA) here, but that it can do something to help them," Flores explained.

Fred McClure, student body president, expressed other concerns.

"I can see a very definite need and use for an off-campus organization as far as a direct link to administration is concerned," McClure said. McClure added that Student Government assisted the OCSA by surveying other schools with various types

of off-campus organizations for them to study.

The Student Government Election Commission has also added three new election voting areas near shuttle bus stops to strengthen off-campus voting, Pence said.

"I feel there are so many people off-campus you've got to have a way to reach them," David George, president of RHA, said. He said he hopes the two organizations will be able to work together.

Pence said that much of the success of the OCSA hinges on the executive leaders that are chosen this spring.

"A lot of it depends on the quality of these people," Flores said.

"The constitution is written loosely enough so that the first executive board will not feel restricted," Pence added. The constitution was written by a 15 member committee and ratified last Thursday.

"We don't know if the OCSA is feasible right now. We know a lot of the areas in

which the students are concerned, but exactly what this organization can do to try to remedy them is something we don't know. I just think with this many people concerned it's worth a try," Flores said.

"Off-campus students are important enough that they ought to have an organization of their own," he added.

Weather

Partly cloudy today, tonight and tomorrow, turning mostly cloudy toward the late night and early morning. Temperatures continue to be mild. High today in the mid-70s. Low tonight in the mid-50s. High tomorrow in the upper 70s. Precipitation probability 20 per cent tomorrow.