

The Battalion

Vol. 70 No. 98
8 Pages

Thursday, March 31, 1977
College Station, Texas

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

Texas highway bill halted again; Senator threatens to filibuster

AUSTIN — A \$458 million highway construction bill which emerged from a Senate committee after a six-week delay is stalled again, this time by a senator's threat to filibuster.

Sen. A.R. Schwartz, D-Galveston, angrily protested attempts to add \$100 million in emergency highway repair funds to the bill during Senate debate yesterday, and threatened to talk all night to prevent adoption.

"We had a compromise worked on that I thought we struck in iron," he said. "If somebody's going to cut a deal they're going to stick with it. You've seen the last time this Senate is going to be locked on this kind of deal."

Senators listened to Schwartz for more than an hour, then voted to delay further action on the highway bill until Monday.

The Senate canceled its session today to allow members to attend the funeral for the father of Sen. Don Adams, D-Jasper.

The House met today to finally approve bills giving counties limited ordinance making power and abolishing the requirement that voters sign ballot stubs.

The break from House sessions yesterday permitted the House Education Committee to complete work on a \$694 million school finance bill, which puts its heaviest emphasis on property tax relief for local school districts.

The bill freezes local property taxes next

year and mandates a \$73 million statewide reduction in the local taxes during fiscal 1979.

The highway bill, approved in a more costly version by the House six weeks ago, had been stalled in Senate committee until Lt. Gov. William P. Hobby drafted a compromise providing the \$425 million in the next two years rather than the \$674 million House bill.

When senators began debate on the proposal yesterday, Sen. Kent Hance, D-Lubbock, attempted to add \$100 million for emergency highway repairs.

Hance said the extra funding is needed to satisfy Gov. Dolph Briscoe and the House.

"This is still \$300 million cheaper than House Bill 3," Hance said.

"You can look at it as a \$300 million saving or a \$600 million boondoggle," Schwartz replied. "If highways are more important than teaching or hospitals, then let's build highways and not treat sick people. If highways are more important than education, then let's build highways and not teach children. Don't build minds, build roads."

Hobby said the governor demanded the additional \$100 million before he would agree to the compromise funding plan.

Senators passed more than a dozen minor bills during yesterday's day-long debate—the first time this year the Senate has had an afternoon session.

Units to march to Brazos

Corps to help charity program

By BARBARA FRICKE

In 1914 the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets made their last annual march to the Brazos river. This year's Corps staff pushed to revive the old tradition and at 8 a.m., Saturday Corps members will assemble on the Corps quad and begin their 14-mile trek to the Brazos and back.

The traditional marches were made on April 1, to prevent students from playing April Fool's Day pranks, Dr. Charles Hantz, university archivist, said.

Dan Kaspar, Corps Adjutant and chairman of the march committee, said that the

main difference between this year's march and the traditional ones is that today's corps members are taking pledges for each mile of their journey for the March of Dimes.

Forms were distributed among the corps members and the cadets are taking pledges from individuals, Kaspar explained. Pledges will be accepted until Saturday. Then the corps members will be given two weeks to collect and turn in the money from the pledges and any other donations.

Kaspar said since this is the first time

the Corps is marching for the March of Dimes, no goal has been set.

"But if every Corps member brings in from \$3 to \$10 that would be thousands of dollars," Kaspar said.

There will be about 1750 cadets participating in the march.

One Corps member has already taken pledges for \$200, Kaspar said. He added that they are not expecting that from everyone.

Even though the march is mandatory for all Corps members, except those in-

volved in other university activities, taking pledges for the March of Dimes is not required, Kaspar said. Steps have been taken to increase incentive for participating.

When the cadets reach their destination, the individual outfits will compete against one another in a tug-of-war, a three-legged race and a stretcher race (a relay in which a person is carried on a stretcher). Lunch will also be trucked out to the site from Duncan Dining Hall.

The results of the contests at the Brazos, the amount of money per person turned in by outfits, and the number of individuals per outfit to turn in March of Dimes pledge sheets will be used to judge the outfits for awards.

Awards will be given for the first, second and third places. The winning outfits will be awarded streamers for their company guidons on Parent's Day, April 17.

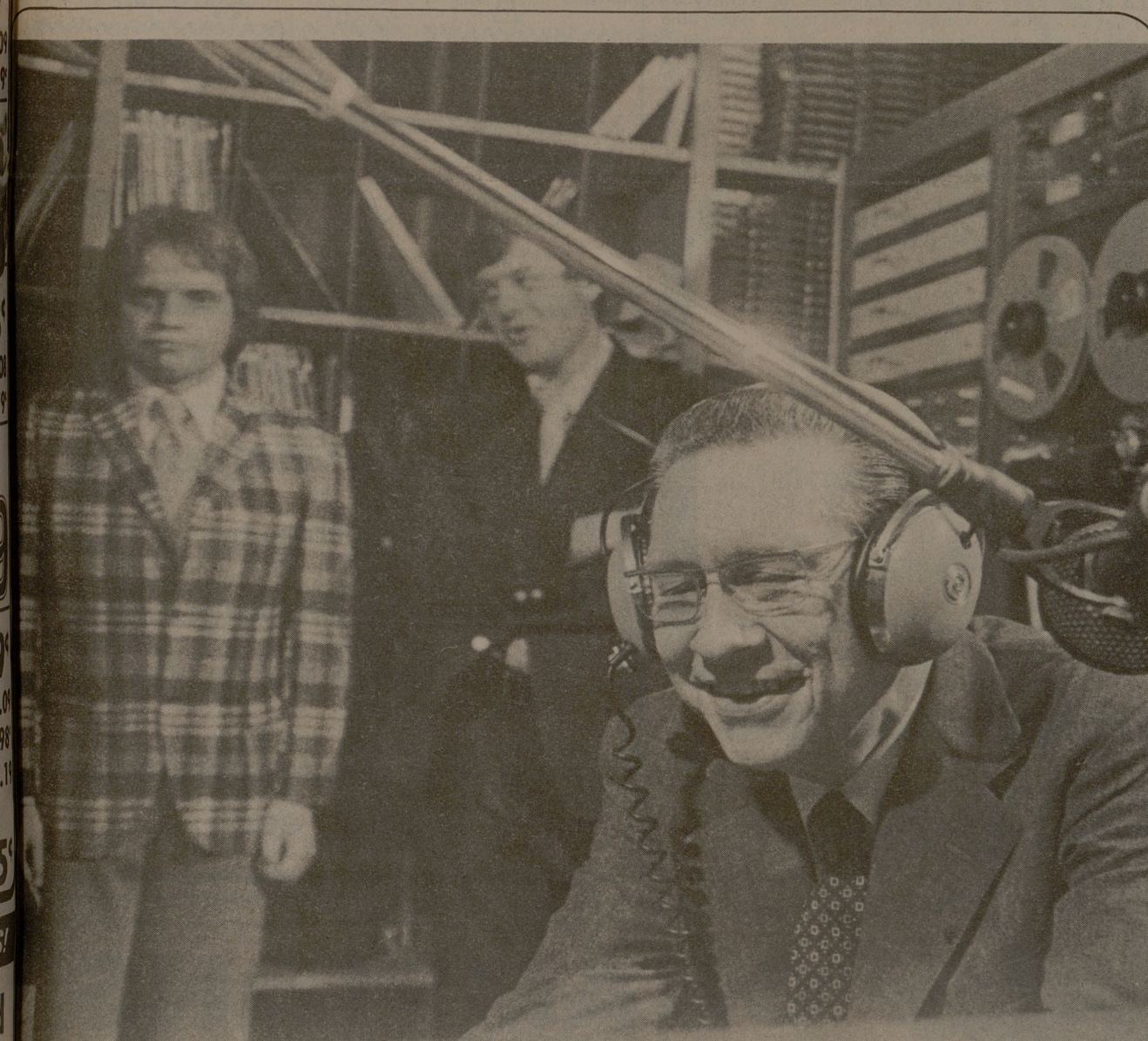
Also the March of Dimes will present a "Battered Boot" trophy to the commanding officer of the outfit that turns in the most money per person.



That's hitting below the belt

As part of the activities of Davis-Gary Week, the dorm conducted a pillow fight yesterday evening. The pillows used were actually laundry bags with clothes in them. George Juneman, a sophomore agronomy major, tried to avoid the swing of junior sociology major, Bud Bryant.

Battalion photo by Betsy Kelley



Not Wolfman Jack but Smiling Jack

Dr. Jack K. Williams, President of Texas A&M University, played the first musical selection to air on KAMU-FM during the station's initial broadcast yesterday. The Singing Cadets' version of "I Believe in Music" was the first song to play on the educational radio's assigned frequency of 90.3 megahertz. Dr. Williams cited the FM sta-

tion, which will operate from 6 a.m. until midnight daily, as another example of Texas A&M's endeavor to extend its resources to all the people it serves. Jon Copeland (left), a student announcer for KAMU-FM and Program Director Rod Zent are in the background.

Battalion photo by Kevin Venner

Dr. Williams first DJ on 90.3

A&M radio station goes on the air

President Jack K. Williams manned the control board of KAMU-FM yesterday to formally dedicate the station to its listening audience and to play the first musical selection to air on the station's initial broadcast day.

The University's new station, located in the same building as KAMU-TV, operates on a frequency of 90.3 megahertz. This number designates the position in which to tune your FM dial. It is a non-commercial educational station affiliated with National Public Radio which is the equivalent of educational television's Public Broadcasting Service.

KAMU's musical format will consist of easy listening vocal and instrumental selections, classical, semiclassical and jazz. The station will also broadcast local and national news and features national educational programs such as "All Things Considered..." which won the George Foster Peabody Broadcasting Award in 1973 for its innovative use of investigative reporting. Radio plays, comedy programs and a Spanish music program, "Cantos Del Barrio," will also air each week.

Prior to the first broadcast of KAMU-FM, KAMU-TV Station Manager Dr. Mel Chastain hosted a televised program in

which he interviewed Dr. Williams and Don Simons, station manager for the FM radio and assistant director of KAMU-TV.

Chastain said that President Williams initiated the idea for the radio station and Simons reviewed some of the activities performed during the past three years that were necessary for preparing the station for broadcasting. Although many helped to prepare the station, Chastain credited three KAMU employees for their efforts: Rod Zent, program director for TV and acting program director for FM; John Gray, chief engineer, and Wayne Pecena, broadcast engineer.

A&M's new theater arts degree 'foot in the door,' chairman says

By PHYLISS CARVER

The newly approved theater arts degree is definitely a big step for Texas A&M University, said Walt Meissner, who will be the first student to receive that degree at A&M.

Meissner, who will graduate in August, is the president of the Aggie Players. He said he has been waiting for the degree approval for five years, hoping it would happen in time for him to graduate with a theater arts degree.

Robert Wenck, chairman of the theater arts department, said he first submitted the proposal in 1968. The Board of Regents approved the plan Nov. 25, 1975. The Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System, approved the degree March 8, 1977.

"I expect it to draw any number of stu-

dents who didn't come here because they couldn't major in theater arts," Wenck said.

"It will also help us to retain those students who transfer from A&M because they want to major in theater arts."

Terri Jones, junior business management major, has been active with the Aggie Players. She has always wanted to go into theatrical management and will probably also get a degree in theater arts now, she said.

"We have had a program in theater arts for many years," Dr. John Calhoun, vice president for academic affairs, said.

"All that is changed now is that his degree reads theater arts instead of English," he added.

Meissner disagreed.

"You could have all the greatest people

in the world in the English department but the program won't be rated very high without a degree in theater arts available," he said.

The long delay in degree approval for A&M was caused by a strong effort to hold it back, to keep A&M the old agriculture and mechanical college that it was, Meissner said.

However, Calhoun said that the eight and one-half years wait was because the A&M administration does not do anything without considerable study and deliberation.

A&M also has a proposed degree in art pending before the coordinating board.

"The theater arts degree is a foot in the door," Wenck said. "All we need now are some degrees in music, dance..."

Thousands gather

Prayers said for jets' crash victims

United Press International

SANTA CRUZ DE TENERIFE, Spain — Four sprays of gladioluses and red-and-white roses were placed quietly in an 18th century chapel as thousands paid homage to the 577 people killed in the worst disaster in aviation history.

Survivors, family members and curious Canary Islands residents crowded into the Laguna cathedral yesterday to remember the dead and pray for the injured who walked away alive.

Mary Kay Waters, of San Francisco, was there.

Her mother died Sunday.

Her father died yesterday.

"It has not hit me yet," she said. "But it will in a couple of weeks."

There are still confusion over why a KLM jetliner took off on a foggy runway Sunday, crashing into a crowded Pan American jumbo jet.

Tape recorded fragments of purported radio messages between the airport control tower and the two Boeing 747s raised the possibility a misunderstood order may have prompted the KLM crew to begin its fatal take off.

The Spanish newspaper Diario published yesterday this purported sequence of radio messages:

KLM: KLM ready for takeoff.

Control to KLM: Maintain holding position.

Control to Pan Am: Have you left the runway?

Pan Am: No.

Control to Pan Am: Continue. Advise us when the runway is clear.

The KLM then began its take off.

Observers felt the Dutch crewmen could have mistaken the last instruction to the Pan Am jetliner as an order to them to take off. It was not known which of the ground controller's remarks to the two planes were prefaced by the planes' flight numbers. Tower operators sometimes omit specific flight identifications in such radio exchanges.

Tenerife's Catholic bishop, Msgr. Franco Cascon, an Anglican clergyman, a pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church, a German Evangelical minister and a local Jewish leader offered prayers for the peace of the dead and the recovery of the wounded. A number of the injured are in critical condition in U.S. hospitals.

Prayers drifted across the cathedral in Spanish, English, Dutch, German and Hebrew.

City council drops some taxes, collection would not be feasible

Last week, \$3800 in delinquent personal property taxes were deleted from the College Station tax rolls.

The City Council voted three to one, with one abstention, to remove the delinquent accounts from the tax rolls.

Dietrich Bengs, tax assessor-collector, said the accounts include personal property taxes on business inventories of businesses that are no longer in operation.

Also included in the delinquent accounts are personal property taxes assessed on mobile homes belonging to people who no longer live in the area, Bengs said.

He said it would be very difficult to track down the owners of the mobile homes. "Most of the people involved are former students. Once they finished school, they just seemed to disappear," Bengs said.

Most of the accounts involve such small amounts of money that it would be economically unfeasible to try and collect them, Bengs said.

He said some of the accounts date back as far as 1969.

Delinquent accounts totaling \$22,000 still remain on the 1976 tax rolls, Bengs said.

Weather

Mostly cloudy and mild today with a 10 per cent chance of rain. Winds will be northeasterly at 12 m.p.h. gusting to 18 m.p.h. The high today will be in the mid-70s. Tomorrow will be cloudy and mild with a low in the upper 50s and a high in the upper 70s. Precipitation probability will be 20 per cent. Winds will be east to northeasterly at about 12 m.p.h.