

The Battalion

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Now where did that water come from?

Students and Texas A&M employees survey the high waters at the Forestry Building yesterday, after a broken air conditioning unit caused a sudden "flood." Classes were suspended for the

afternoon while workers cleared out the water. In some parts of the building, water stood three inches deep.

Battalion photo by Ben Jackson

Laundry service head defends new system

By KARIN KNAPP
Battalion Staff

Student dissatisfaction with the laundry service prompted a meeting yesterday afternoon of the laundry committee, Fabric Care Service contractor Ron Vandiver and members of the Texas A&M University business affairs department.

"I've had crank calls and my employees have been cursed out by students on the laundry plan and I don't appreciate it," Vandiver said. "I feel like I'm in a roasting seat and I know I'm behind."

Fabric Care Service of Bryan won the laundry service contract last April and negotiated terms of the contract with the A&M business affairs department. The University laundry service sought bids because it could not afford to operate at the yearly losses of almost \$50,000 it had suffered, committee member Lt. Col. Donald J. Johnson said.

A typical laundry load was established, based on loads received by the University laundry and a laundry committee survey last spring. According to the Fabric Care Service contract, students are allowed three shirts, three pairs of pants, two sheets, one pillowcase and 20 miscellaneous items per load. Students complain that the \$53.50 cost per semester is too much to pay for the number of items.

"I was on the laundry plan until I saw what happened to it," senior Paul Wood

said. "We pay 80c for a pair of pants and three pairs a week just doesn't cut it."

Vandiver said he cannot accept more shirts and pants in place of miscellaneous items because they cost more to clean. Prices for non-student customers are as much as 15 per cent higher for finished shirts and pants, he added.

Eddie J. Davis, director of management services, said students will just have to adjust to the new system.

"A finished item costs quite a bit more in terms of labor than four or five pairs of socks," Davis said. "It'll just take some getting used to."

Vandiver said he does not know where to set the limits on exceptions to the plan because he cannot afford to lose money. Fabric Care Service bought almost \$65,000 worth of equipment and doubled its staff to 52 employees to accommodate the nearly 2,000 students on the plan, Vandiver said.

Students also complain about long waiting lines at the three pick-up sub-stations at the Dorm Services Building, the Old Hospital and the Commons. Vandiver said these problems should be solved in several weeks.

"Students just have to understand that we're going to be fouled up for another couple of weeks, and I apologize," Vandiver said.

Meanwhile, the 6,400 on-campus students not on the laundry plan are doing their laundry elsewhere. Some Commons-area dormitory residents have noticed longer-than-usual lines to use washing machines and dryers. They have also noticed non-Commons residents using facilities reserved only for commons area residents.

"It is an inconvenience for us in the dorm to wait while girls do their boyfriends' laundry," said Mosher resident Julie Jumper.

Silver Taps to honor eight students tonight

Silver Taps ceremonies are planned tonight for eight Texas A&M University students who died after adjournment of spring classes.

The ceremony will be conducted in front of the Academic Building at 10:30 p.m. It is requested that all lights be off on campus from 10:20 until 10:50 p.m.

Ceremonies will be in memory of Douglas Martin Burns, freshman from San Antonio; Howard Allen Fiebrich, freshman from Bastrop;

Ronald Joseph Goertz, freshman from Cedar Creek; Michael Grima, graduate student from Woodside, N.Y.; Howard Allen Johnston, sophomore from Houston; and Carl Wayne Lott, senior from Tyler all killed in traffic mishaps.

Richard Frank Miller, freshman from Conroe who died after a brief illness and Dr. Darrell Shefstad, veterinary clinical associate and graduate student from Wichita, Kan., who died of natural causes, will also be honored.

Student Government president wants money-saving programs

By ROBIN LINN
Battalion Staff

Changing Student Government's executive branch to provide more student services more efficiently is the goal of this year's student body president, Robert Harvey.

"Where students are most concerned is their pocketbook, so we want to provide programs in needed areas to save them money," Harvey said.

Harvey, a mechanical engineering senior and former Corps commander, will have his first fall meeting with the Student Senate tomorrow night.

One program Harvey plans to work on during the year is a food co-op. He noted that the University of Texas and Texas Tech have successful operating student food co-ops and plans are being made to study both operations.

Harvey noted that new issues had not surfaced yet this year, but old issues (Academic Council appeals and 2 a.m. drinking law) were bound to be continued this year.

One of Harvey's new ideas is the creation of three new executive positions to improve the executive branch of Student

Government: University Committees Coordinator and Comptroller.

The Committee Coordinator position was created to keep Harvey and the students informed of decisions and policy made by university committees that affect students directly.

Mandatory class attendance is one example of a university committee decision students were not informed about when they returned to classes last year, he said.

To allow "everyone to get into the act," the limit of 30 executive aides to Student Government has been removed.

"Essentially, it's wide open, we can use the help of anyone who walks in our door," Harvey said.

Another change in the executive branch was the creation of a Comptroller. It was created to handle Student Government's \$45,000 yearly budget.

Harvey noted that in the past, there was no specific requirement for the old position, Vice President of Finance.

The Comptroller will work with Dr. Pointer of the Accounting Department to set up an accounting system that will run Student Government "like a business," Harvey said.

"This could be a big thing for Student Government, we need it, and it will be useful," Harvey said.

"When I speak of student services, I mean things students are getting from the community that we could get for them at a much cheaper rate," Harvey said.

Harvey explained one student money-saver that will be expanded from last year is the Student Purchase Program. The program provided students with discounts at Bryan-College Station businesses.

"We need to think of ourselves as an association or group, and as a group, try to help the members," Harvey said.

When asked why he was opposed to using student service fees for the creation of a day care center Harvey said a distinction should be made between a service and a subsidy.

"Students Services should be available to all students even though not all students use them. A day care center would not be useful to all students," Harvey said.

Harvey says he believes that the president should remain distant from the legislative branch of Student Government.

"The Student Government president should be remote from legislation until it is passed," he said.



Robert Harvey

Gasoline storage unit still irks Bryan neighborhood residents

By FRANK K. VASOVSKI

The neighbors still complain of gasoline noise from nighttime traffic and excessive litter. But Broach Oil Co., Inc., a gasoline storage facility at 3720 S. College Street, Bryan still operates out of the area occupied for about 15 years.

When Bryan voters turned down a zoning law proposal, 18 years ago, the oil company built the facility at its present location. It is now surrounded by a densely populated residential area.

The installation includes two underground tanks with a total capacity of 100,000 gallons, said Kelly Broach, owner of the facility. Broach, a wholesale jobber for Amoco Oil Products, services 41 retail outlets. Petro Chemical Transportation, is his carrier.

Most of our operations take place during the normal business hours," Broach said. "There are instances, however, when the transfer of the gasoline must be accomplished late in the evening or during the night. This tends to make such operations more difficult to control."

"My installation is just as safe as any other plant of this type. Do you think that I would have my office next to the tanks if I had any doubts about my own safety?" Broach pointed out the compound is normally locked during the night and all valves and pipes are secured with individual padlocks.

In spite of these precautions, there have been at least three instances of gasoline spillage at the facility, the most serious having taken place on March 19 of this year.

Robert Blinka, a shift captain with Bryan Fire Department (BFD), recalls the incident. "Somebody unloading the truck left an overflow valve open," he said. "More than 300 gallons were spilled."

Lt. Marvin Jeske, Fire Station 2, BFD, recalls that three trips were made to the spillage area between the initial notification and the final mop-up at 7 a.m. the following day. Sand and aqueous film foam were used to control the spill. Jeske said a considerable stretch of North Ave., and some private property were affected by the spill.

"Our backyard was drenched with gasoline so that we had to replace our lawn," said Larry Whitlock, 203 W. North Ave. Whitlock's property is located approximately 120 yards from the spill source. "We were reimbursed for this loss but we still await the settlement of our claim for the damage to a large tree in our yard," he added.

Bryan's fire marshal, Raymond Janac, also recalls at least two other previous spills at the same facility.

Janac is responsible for periodic inspections of the plant to insure compliance with fire safety laws. He reports his findings to Hubert Nelson, director of planning, traffic and inspections, for Bryan.

Nelson confirmed the absence of a zoning code in Bryan. "While the facility is legally justified to operate in the area," Nelson said, "it's operations must not affect the safety of other inhabitants."

Nelson recalled that the construction of a concrete tank to accommodate a possible future spill was discussed after the March 19 incident. But he was unable to comment on the present status of that tank because the final decision on this subject rested with BFD.

The residences of Howard G. Paulsen, 3815 Ranger Drive, and Redge Crowder, at 3813 of the same street, are located along the west fence of the storage area. The Paulsens moved into their home long before the storage plant was built.

"We were at first somewhat uneasy

about the plant being our neighbor, but now our existence is so much affected by its presence that we cannot even use our backyard for recreation because of the gasoline fumes in the area," a spokesman for the Paulsen family declared.

In spite of Paulsens' repeated complaints about an "excessive noise during the night operations of the plant" and "vehicular traffic in the area during the night," such activities still continue.

"Had we known before the hardships we have to deal with now, we would never have moved into this area," said a spokesman for the Crowder family. Gasoline fumes seep into their home "even when doors and windows facing the storage facility are closed," the spokesman said.

Both families complained also about "a large amount of litter and rubbish in the storage area." They said the litter is not only conducive to rodents and other pests but also affects the value of their property in the eyes of the real estate agents and prospective buyers.

Because our property is located well below the level of the plant, our backyard becomes a "catch-it-all" for all impurities and precipitation flowing from it and converting our yard into a swamp," said the Crowder spokesman.

Broach dismisses his neighbors' complaints as unwarranted. While he is aware there is a bulk gasoline plant on Finfeather Road in Bryan, he is reluctant to cease his operation on Texas Avenue because of business considerations.

"It would take approximately \$55,000 to relocate this plant and I just don't have that kind of money," Broach said.

"I have taken all the necessary steps to insure the safety of my operations," he continued, "and I intend to comply with any additional safety requirements requested by an appropriate authority."



It's convenient, but . . .

The owner of this bicycle kept his vehicle safe yesterday by chaining it (illegally) to a campus light post.

Battalion photo by Dick Wells

CB rest stop aids Labor Day drivers

By MARVIN ISSAACKS
Battalion Staff

"You north and south bounders out on Highway 6 tonight stop and have a cup of coffee before you hit the road."

The call, heard yesterday by motorists monitoring channel 19 on their CB radios, was coming from the Bryan-College Station Jaycees' Annual Labor Day Rest Stop. More than 500 cars had stopped by Sunday night at the rest stop located six miles north of Bryan on Hwy. 6.

The rest stop, organized and manned by members of the Bryan-College Station Jaycees and REACT Chapters, was started 10 years ago as a public service by the Jaycees.

REACT is a volunteer organization of CB radio listeners who assist one another

in emergency situations. "This is a project to serve the community by allowing people to stop, rest and refresh themselves and allow them to prepare for the road ahead," said Jaycee Craig Lauderdale.

Coffee, punch, ice water and doughnuts were provided free. A crew of windshield washers was on hand to wash the windshields of those who stopped.

Emergencies and communications were taken care of by the Bryan-College Station REACT team. This was the first year REACT worked with the Jaycees on the project. REACT members monitored CB radios 24 hours a day, responding to calls from motorists with flat tires, empty fuel tanks, and broken motors.

"We chased cows off the highway one morning at two o'clock," said Roy Wiggins, a member of the REACT team.

The Jaycees and REACT members worked the rest stop in four hour shifts. Some work for several shifts. "We try to be of some assistance to the people. We don't mind giving up our weekends," said Jack Kees, a REACT team member.

Jaycee member Pat Shelbourne said there is really no way to measure how much good the Jaycees were doing in preventing accidents on the highways. However, the Jaycees feel preventing even one accident is worth the effort. "If we didn't think we were helping, we wouldn't be here," said Shelbourne.

Five mistaken as gangsters, killed in attack

United Press International

SAN FRANCISCO — The five persons slain in the Golden Dragon restaurant massacre were the innocent victims of an attack by three Chinatown youth gang members bent on avenging the July 4 "firecracker shootings," homicide inspectors have disclosed.

The ski-masked killers, who invaded the popular restaurant early Sunday, had intended to assassinate "Wah Ching" gang members who were there at the time, Homicide Lt. Daniel Murphy told reporters yesterday.

Murphy said the killers belonged to "Joe's Boys," also known as the "Joe Fong" gang. He said they used a shotgun, automatic weapon and pistol. They escaped in a car, possibly driven by a fourth gang member.

The attack was the result of several incidents of violence on Independence Day when the two groups fought to gain control of the illegal sale of fireworks. One youth died and three others were wounded in street violence in Chinatown that day.