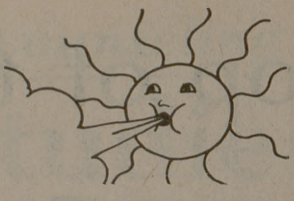


Inside today:

Solar chills? They're coming from the mechanical engineering department. Page 6. Aggies will have 14,600 more chances of getting a seat in Kyle Field. News analysis, page 2. Football: On the brink of the most important road tip. Page 8.



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Bryan Hospital opposes Carter's containment act

By STEVE MAYER

The Bryan Hospital is now mailing something besides bills to its discharged patients.

The hospital is distributing letters explaining their objections to President Carter's proposed Hospital Cost Containment Act of 1977 (H.R. 6575).

But St. Joseph Hospital, also located in Bryan, has not taken action concerning the act.

The act would permit the nation's 6,000 general-care hospitals (Bryan and St. Joseph included) to raise their total revenues nine per cent next year — slightly higher than the rate of inflation.

Any service cost exceeding the nine per cent increase would be operating at a deficit.

Sister Norbertine, administrator for St. Joseph Hospital, says they won't take ac-

tion until the many health cost control bills have gone through debate in Congress.

"There are so many reactions — we would rather wait and not confuse the issue," she says.

"Everyone says something has to be done about rising health costs, and we (Bryan Hospital) agree," Frederick Bailey, administrator says. "But this act doesn't control costs."

Bailey explains that many expenses on the hospital budget, such as taxes, utilities, drugs, and malpractice insurance, are uncontrollable.

Both administrators agree that if expenses increase under a nine per cent cap, then it would be difficult for the hospitals to provide a high quality of care for their patients.

Because of Medicare and other government aid to hospitals, Bailey feels the gov-

ernment should have a voice in how its money is spent, but believes there is a better alternative to controlling costs.

A bill proposed by Senator Herman Talmadge (D-Ga.) would reimburse hospitals for routine Medicare and Medicaid service based on average costs for a particular procedure.

Bailey favors this bill and explains that institutions exceeding the mean could keep a portion of their savings; those that do worse would have no choice but to economize.

"It would reward hospitals that are cost-conscious," Bailey says. "Allowing nine per cent revenue increases to all hospitals doesn't distinguish between inefficient and ineffective hospitals and those which are already cost-effective."

Sister Norbertine says she is against too much government regulation, and is not

satisfied with present cost bills in Congress.

Proponents of the cost containment act argue that there are three major cost factors which could be eliminated without cutting the quality of medical care.

They say an oversupply of beds and rooms is costly to build and maintain; that patients are provided services that don't yield any real medical benefits; and that in order to attract physicians and patients, hospitals compete with luxury — class capital expenditures.

Bryan Hospital has 65 beds and 72 per cent occupancy. St. Joseph has 148 beds and 60 per cent occupancy.

Both administrators say their hospitals provide only those services to the patient only when ordered by a physician.

Comptroller position claimed to be illegal; injunction issued

By GLENN WHITLEY

Battalion Staff

A temporary injunction restraining the newly-appointed Student Senate comptroller from signing checks for Student Government at Texas A&M University was issued Thursday.

At the request of Lynn Gibson, president of the Memorial Student Center, and Jeff Gregson, comptroller Stuart Kingsbery must "desist in the action of engaging in financial business (i.e. check signing) until a hearing can be held to obtain a permanent injunction."

Kingsbery was appointed by Robert Harvey, student body president, to the position of comptroller created and approved by the Senate Sept. 22.

"It is my opinion that the position of comptroller contradicts the constitution that the student body approved, and I don't believe the Student Senate has the authority to do what they did," Gibson said. "It's not right for him (Kingsbery) to act until it's decided if it's constitutional or not."

"Originally what the comptroller was supposed to do was to give reports to the executive and legislative branches and also to be a check on money handling," Gregson said. He is a former vice president for finance.

He said that allowing the comptroller the power to sign checks would require a constitutional change in the duties of the vice president for finance as prescribed. He added that students voted for the present vice president for finance on the assumption that he would be in charge of the Student Government's funds.

"They changed the duties in midstream without giving the students an opportunity to vote on it," Gregson said.

"As far as I'm concerned, they're just

playing games," Kingsbery said. "We need to straighten up the records and this is hindering the process."

He said the office of the comptroller was implemented before the constitutionality could be decided on because of the "urgency of the situation. If we hadn't started it right then, we wouldn't have had any records to look back on three months from now."

"I'd like to keep the wheels in motion right now. We hope the injunction is overturned," Kingsbery said.

Checks paid out of Student Government funds must have a dual signature. Harvey and the comptroller must sign each check. As a result of the injunction, the proce-

dures will probably require Mike Springer, the current vice president for finance, to sign with Harvey, Kingsbery said.

Harvey said the comptroller's signature on each Student Government check was to help maintain accurate records of where money was spent, but the signature has no other importance.

"Student Government books are in terrible shape," he said.

Texas A&M system auditors reviewed the books for the Student Government's refrigerator rental service and reported the records were very inaccurate and haphazard, Harvey said. The auditors suggested ways to improve the handling of the books and most of the suggestions

were incorporated into the plan for the comptroller's office.

"It's just going to set me back," Harvey said of the temporary injunction.

Harvey said he believes the position of comptroller is constitutional. As he interprets it, the legislative branch decides how much money is to be spent on what. The executive branch makes no decisions about the use of the money, it just provides the bookkeeping.

"There's an inherent advantage in having an appointed comptroller instead of an elected one because of special training," Harvey said. Kingsbery is a senior accounting major.

The constitutionality must be decided by the judicial board, but the date of that hearing is unknown at this time. The hearing for the permanent injunction will be held Oct. 10, Harvey said.

If the office is ruled unconstitutional, there will probably be an attempt to amend the constitution by a vote of the student body. The vote could be completed during the fall semester, but the office probably would not be active until the beginning of January even if it passed.

Library's curriculum collection 'disappears'

By TERESA HUDDLESTON

Some faculty and students at Texas A&M are concerned about their library. There have been rumors since spring that the library is destroying books and replacing them with microfilms.

Although library director Dr. Irene Hoadley has been quoted in a recent Battalion article and subsequent editorial as saying "not one book had been removed," she said in a Wednesday interview that about 1,600 items have been taken from the shelves.

Dr. James Rollins, associate professor of educational curriculum and instruction, said last week that he returned to campus this fall to find the curriculum collection

that he has used for years missing.

The collection contained copies of all state-adopted material, of other exemplary text materials, and of all the publications of the major curriculum reform groups used by Rollins' department.

In addition, Rollins said he requested that the library buy, in the field of mathematics, some National Council of Teachers of Mathematics publications. He has kept the publications up to date since he has been at Texas A&M.

The library had classified the publications as "curriculum material" and had put them in the curriculum collection. Rollins said he did not believe the publications belonged in the collection.

"I didn't protest it because I assumed the curriculum collection was a permanent collection," he said. Rollins added that collection materials were accessible to students.

But the collection has disappeared, according to Rollins.

"They're not there now," he said. "They're gone."

Rollins said the library personnel "weeded the collection of all materials except the current state-adopted materials." A Social Science librarian, he said, told him she had received an intra-office memo instructing her to remove everything from the collection but the current texts.

"I don't know how they got rid of them," Rollins said. "But they are not on the shelf and they are not in the card catalog."

"I am saddened by the whole thing." The only way that much of what was removed can be replaced would be to hope that we could find it in a second-hand store.

A librarian told Rollins that if he would give her a list of the things that were really important to him she would give them high priority on her requests when the library received funds to buy new books. He has not given her a list yet because most of the curriculum collection is out of print.

When asked to comment on the situation, Hoadley said, "Things were getting tight in the curriculum collection and the person in charge of the area decided to remove those books no longer on the state-adopted lists."

"The project was turned over to one of the staff members," she said, "and there was either a miscommunication between the individual and her supervisor or the individual got overly ambitious."

"So not only were superseded and duplicate state-adopted textbooks pulled from the collection," Hoadley said, "but also a number of other things."

She said some of the things Rollins thought were not in the collection are in the collection or exist at some other place in the library. Some other materials have been reclassified and put in the regular part of the collection, she said.



Battalion photo by Dick Wells

She's hanging in there

Sara Kemker, a freshman from Bellaire, begins her descent at the Rappelling Clinic held this week at the Fireman Training Center. Faculty from the military science department supervised the training for both cadets and civilian students.

Profs design floral set ups for inaugural

By ELLIE LAPORTE

Say it with flowers. In a sense, the horticulture departments of Texas A&M University is doing just that as the department makes its contribution to the celebration on President Jarvis E. Miller's inauguration on Oct. 4 by designing and constructing floral arrangements.

James L. Johnson, a horticultural sciences professor and former florist, is collaborating on the design of the arrangements with Professor Robert Rucker, who is representing the department of horticultural sciences on the Inauguration Committee.

The arrangements will be featured at the reception for the new presidents Oct. 3 and at the luncheon served on inauguration day.

"Since we have a fairly new area of floral design and flower shop management courses, this opens the door for students to participate," Johnson said. "And I think our University officials seem to stress that participation of students in university activities is a great way for the students to get a little experience and have a little extra excitement put into their classes."

Students in Johnson's advanced floral design class will be designing and constructing the floral arrangements for use at the inaugural luncheon on Oct. 4. A group of two to three students will plan and design each arrangement to represent a particular college of area of the University, Johnson said.

In addition, each of the honored guests will be greeted with a pot of fresh chrysanthemums decorated and delivered by student members of the Floriculture Club. Guests will also receive corsages and boutonnieres constructed by the students.

Monday evening, at the president's reception, three floral arrangements, designed and constructed by Rucker, Johnson and Johnson's students, will be featured. Each of these arrangements will represent different areas of agricultural and horticultural research being conducted by the University, Johnson said.

One arrangement will feature fruits and flowers. "Possibly, we will be making use of contrived fruits," said Johnson. "In other words, we will put a fruit within a fruit and carve it to look like a flower, so that we can give an interpretation of the possible combinations of plants that can be achieved through hybridizing and genetics."

A second arrangement will dramatize cheese and grape research under way at Texas A&M. The highlight of the arrangement will be a 100-year-old gnarled grape stump, which the department received from a family in Fairfield, Texas.

"This grape stump put its roots down in Fairfield, Texas, just about the same time that A&M put its roots down here in Brazos County," Johnson said. "That plant has watched Aggies come and go, and it was growing on land that has been owned by an old Texas family since before the Civil War."

The arrangement will include fresh grapes and several different kinds of cheese that have been developed at A&M, as well as a number of Texas grasses and field crops, such as cotton and sorghum, that are all grown on University land, Johnson said.

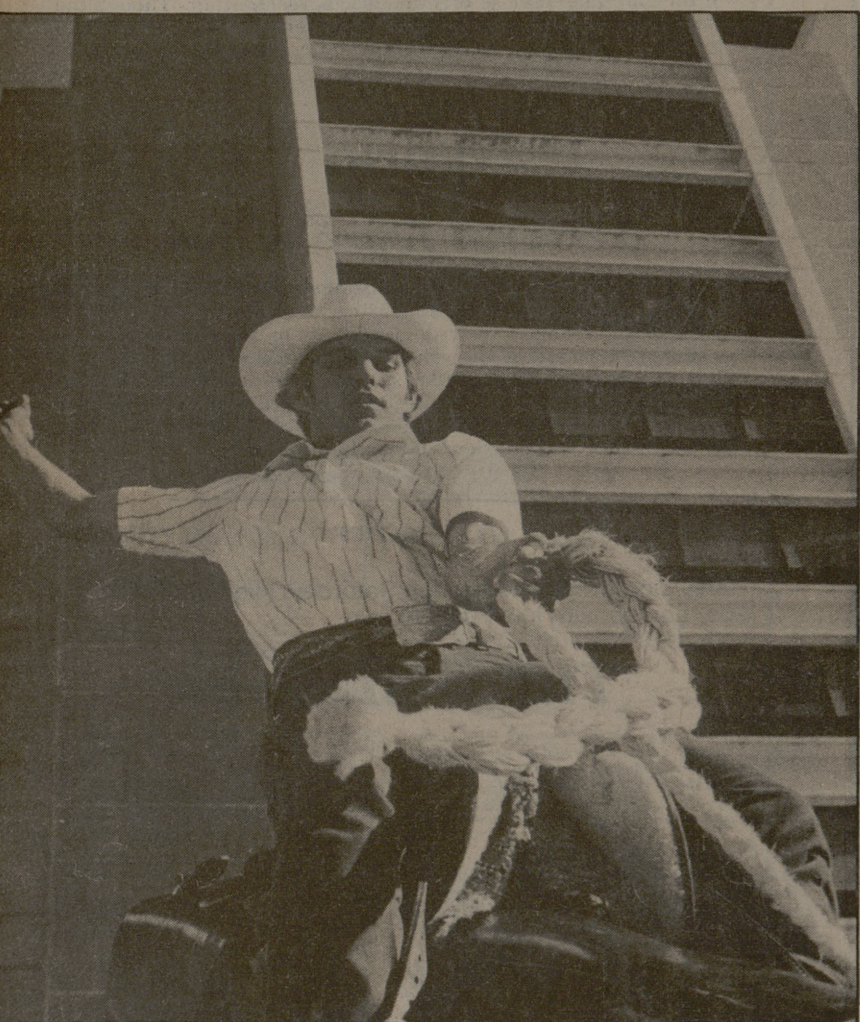
The horticulture department not only "says it with flowers" but also with fruits, field crops, grasses, grapes and even grape stumps all used, in floral arrangements for President Miller's inauguration, to represent agricultural research being conducted by the University.

The third arrangement will feature exotic flowers flown in from different parts of the world, including Hawaii and Africa. "These plants and flowers will be representing new, exotic and floral materials that are being introduced into the American markets now, many of which will undoubtedly be grown in Texas as horticultural crops in the near future," Johnson said.

"I felt very honored to be able to work on a project like this, and very excited, particularly from the standpoint of being able to work with students and to have them participate."

"Part of anybody fulfilling their dream in their major, or with any goal in life, is to have a little inspiration — I think that's necessary; and it's exciting times, like inaugurations and other events that come along, that provide a little bit of inspiration to keep out batteries charged up."

Johnson majored in floriculture and graduated from Michigan State University in 1959. He was a florist for 14 years before joining the A&M staff two years ago.



Battalion photo by Dick Wells

Rudder's Wrangler

Joe Dutton, a junior from Junction, takes a wild ride in front of the Rudder Tower Thursday to promote the TAMU Rodeo club's rodeo scheduled for Friday through Sunday. Tickets are \$2 at the MSC and \$2.25 at the gate.