

# College Station street crew patches more than chuckholes

By SUSIE TURNER  
Bumpy bumpy bumpy WHOMP rattle-rattle. The latest disco hit? No, it's your car or bike hitting a chuck hole in the streets of College Station.

At last count, College Station has 57 miles of street. More than 93 percent are paved. Those 87 miles are divided into 295 streets and seven state highways. This network of pavement (except for the on-campus streets and the state highways) is maintained by a nine-man crew and a foreman under the direction of George Ford, Director of Public Works at College Station.

Ford describes the way the street department works as "catch as catch can." Part of the problem, he says, is that quite often the street crew is doing something other than what it was hired to do. For example, when the regular garbage collectors for the city don't show up for work, the street crew has to help collect trash. Getting trash picked up is a more pressing problem than making a street smoother so trash gets priority over chuckholes, Ford said.

When the crew does get to repair streets, it uses a method called patching. This means filling up chuckholes or large cracks. It takes about three days to patch a street once a complaint is made.

The crew works with two types of patches: hot and cold. Hot patches are stronger, more permanent and can be used over larger areas. The main problem is that hot patches can only be used as long as they stay hot — around 300 degrees Fahrenheit. If the mixture cools, it hardens and is no good.

A cold patch is simply a gravel-type mineral and oil mixture that is compacted into the hole or crack. It is temporary and the first rain could wash it away. It is used because it is easy to store and can be used in the winter when hot patches are impractical. Also, it is easier to use in emergencies until the crew can get around to making a hot patch.

Patches only treat the symptoms, they don't cure the real problem. The ideal situation would be to have the streets in such a good condition that patching wouldn't be necessary, Ford said.

"We would like to enter into preventative maintenance," Ford added. "Patching is penny-wise and pound-fool. We want to do the whole street."

Resurfacing is a preventative maintenance measure. To resurface a street, the crew smooths out the road with hot mix patches. They then put down an oily-type tack coat to seal out water. Next, the road is

covered with a seal coat. This takes care of the immediate problem and helps prevent future problems.

"The important factor is to seal the cracks," Ford said. "If you get the moisture out, you've got the problem whipped."

Plans to resurface streets are made by the College Station City

Council in the early spring. But funds don't become available until after July of that year, Ford said. Since resurfacing should be done in the late spring or early summer, plans have to be postponed an entire year.

"As the money becomes available, we'll follow up," Ford said.

## Campus activities

**Thursday**  
Southwest Philosophical Society Conference, 2 p.m., 7th floor Rudder  
Traffic Appeals, 3:30 p.m., 216 MSC  
Cap & Gown, 6 p.m., 140 MSC  
Crafts-Macrame B, 7 p.m., 141 MSC  
Free U-Algebra, 7 p.m., 404 Rudder  
Water Ski Club, 7 p.m., 601 Rudder  
Outdoor Recreation, winter camping, 7 p.m., 504 Rudder

Richardson Hometown Club, 7:15 p.m., 203 Zachry  
Latin American Student Association, 7:30 p.m., 201 MSC

Arts Committee, 7:30 p.m., 206 MSC  
TAMU Sailing Team, 7:30 p.m., 410 Rudder  
Rice Percussion Concert, 8 p.m., Rudder Theater  
Cepheid Variable, "Seven Faces of Dr. Lao", 8 p.m. and 10:30 p.m., 701 Rudder

**Friday**  
Aerobic Club, 12 noon, 604 AB  
Iranian Student Association, 7:30 p.m., 504 Rudder  
Chess Committee, registration for tournament, 7:30 p.m., 139 MSC  
Julian Bream, OPAS, 8 p.m., Rudder Auditorium  
Aggie Cinema, "Clint Eastwood Festival", 8 p.m., Rudder Theater

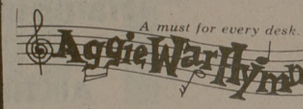
**Saturday**  
Professional Exams for Engineers, 7 a.m., 201 MSC

Chess Committee Tournament, 8 a.m., 140 MSC  
Brazos County Humane Society, Pet Adoption Day, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Hensel Park pavilion area  
Muslim Student Association, 1 p.m., 410 Rudder  
MSC Arts Committee, "Sorrow & The Pity", 2 p.m., Rudder Theater  
Men's Soccer Team, University of Texas, 2 p.m., intramural complex across Wellborn Road  
Sea Service Ball, 8 p.m., 224 and 225 MSC  
Aggie Cinema, "Clint Eastwood Festival", 8 p.m., Rudder Theater

**Sunday**  
College of Business Administration, six-day management seminar at Texas A&M  
Chess Committee Tournament, 9 a.m., 140 MSC  
Muslim Student Association, 1 p.m., 510 Rudder  
Aggie Cinema, "Kelley's Heroes", 2 p.m., Rudder Theater  
Alpha Lambda Delta, initiation, 2 p.m., 201 MSC  
Student Government, 4 p.m., 216 MSC  
Young Life, 7 p.m., 301 MSC

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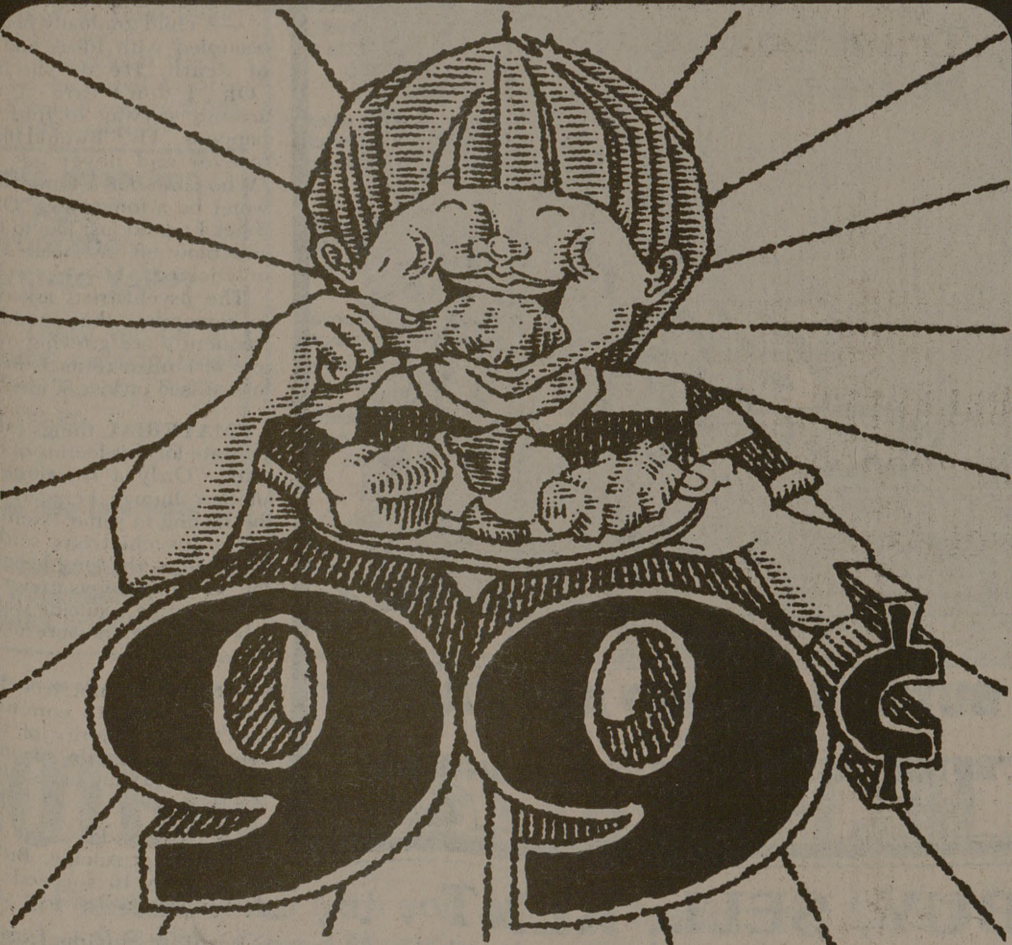
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