

The Battalion

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Bravenec outlines solution for airport

Four solutions to the capital improvements problem facing Easterwood Airport were the subject of a letter sent to the University's vice president for business affairs by College Station Mayor Lorence Bravenec.

Bravenec sent the letter dated Nov. 4 to Howard Vestal, detailing solutions that the College Station City Council finds acceptable.

The letter proposed that Brazos County take a more active role and meet its responsibility to provide a community airport. "The responsibility for maintaining Easterwood lies with all of the community, especially Brazos County," said Bravenec.

The council discussed the proposed improvements as part of the agenda of Thursday night's meeting. Members expressed concern that the University cannot meet the cost of the improvements.

"Costs have overwhelmed the University. We would be kidding ourselves if we think that A&M has the funds to provide for these improvements from their discretionary funds," Bravenec said.

On the local government level, the letter proposed the establishment of an airport district with members appointed by Bryan, College Station, Brazos County and Texas A&M.

Third on the list was creating a College Station Airport District with the authority to level a "head tax" on commercial passengers. Citizens of College Station would be assured of paying only their fair share with a head tax system, Bravenec said.

The last solution proposed a joint College Station-Texas A&M University Airport and Utility District. The plan would allow for administration of the airport and

supply of water and sewage services to the two groups.

The proposed district would purchase all wells and transmission lines owned by the University, with the provision of responsibility of providing all services and future improvements on the system. The council estimates that revenues generated by this district would exceed operating costs and repair costs of both the airport and water system.

But the council took different action Thursday night, delaying the action on the improvements until an Inter-Governmental Coordinating Committee can meet to discuss the situation. Bravenec said he wanted to discuss fair distribution of the cost of the improvements among the area groups that use the airport.

Council passed the mayor's request unanimously, authorizing City Manager North Bardell to set up a meeting date.

City Council tables rezoning for resident

By MARK POWER

Extensive debate did not prevent the College Station City Council from denying a property owner the rezoning necessary to establish a business on her small tract of land Thursday night.

An application from Marjorie Eimann, owner of a disputed 1.6-acre tract of land directly opposite the Ponderosa Motel south of College Station, asked council to rezone her land to match commercial zoning of nearby real estate.

"That property is suitable for a commercial enterprise, not a residence," said Ed Uvacek, a local property owner urging council to approve the application. The property, zoned as residential, lies adjacent to the east bypass and is bordered by holdings owned by Uvacek.

"I intend to petition council soon with commercial plans of my own," said Uvacek. "I would hope the city lets her rezone."

City Planner Al Mayo disagreed with the zoning request, advising the city to deny the application because of location problems.

"The site is too small and could not handle access problems near that intersection of highways," Mayo said. He referred to the intersection of Highway 6 and the east bypass near the property location.

"A 75,000 sq. foot site cannot handle the on-site circulation with such limited access," said Mayo. The property owner wants to establish a western retail store and plant nursery on the site.

Councilman Jim Dozier accused the city of selective spot zoning, suggesting that having the surrounding area classified as commercial while the Eimann property was residential might be interpreted as prejudicial and discriminatory.

To avoid the problem, Councilman Larry Ringer motioned to table any action on the application until the property owners of the area could meet to discuss all future plans for nearby real estate. The council passed on the compromise unanimously.

In other items, council approved the purchase of five new patrol units, at a total cost of \$27,940. Halsell Motor Co. was the low bidder, providing Dodge Monaco unit

equipped for high speed pursuit with a 400 cubic inch engine.

Council approved the bid from Jordan and Woods to perform construction on the Municipal Building Annex, new fire station and parking area at a cost to taxpayers of \$596,920. Construction will take an estimated 270 calendar days.

The city also acquired 1,000 feet of electrical cable and other electrical systems materials from Techline Corp. for \$16,545.

Before adjourning, the council discussed the motorcycle helmet law, concluding on the basis of research by the city attorney that College Station could not enforce a separate ordinance requiring motorcyclists to wear helmets within the city limits.

Center offers many types of activities

By MARIANITA PADDOCK

*Oh Lincoln High we love you true
We love the purple and gold too
To you we will always be true
Oh Lincoln High how we love you.*

Four white, brick buildings stand alone. A brown wooden sign inscribed with the words "Lincoln Center" links the community's past with the present.

Behind the sign, a cracked concrete sidewalk leads to the entrance of a gymnasium. Inside sits a full trophy case, and across the room, two rows of brown bleachers face a large basketball court.

The College Station Parks and Recreation Department uses Lincoln Center as a recreational center. Located on Eleanor Street, it caters mainly to the Negro community that surrounds it.

But, what is now a recreation hall for the black community, once segregated a school for College Station blacks from the 1920s until 1966.

Lucile Young, a 1962 Lincoln graduate, said she doesn't remember having a new book. They used books from A&M Consolidated. They had a cafeteria, but the food was cooked at A&M Consolidated and then delivered to Lincoln.

Lincoln was the only school for blacks until it burned in January 1966, destroying the wood frame buildings, leaving the four remaining brick buildings.

Taylor Riedel, school superintendent in 1966, said the fire was caused by a heater malfunction. Col-

lege Station Fire Department records show the cause of the fire has never been determined.

Although the events are still unclear in her mind, Florence Caldwell recalls the night of the fire.

It was cold and drizzling, Caldwell said. The fire occurred about the time the adult education classes were in progress. By the time the Fire Department arrived, the wood frame buildings were gone. The fire did more than destroy the buildings. It forced desegregation of College Station public schools.

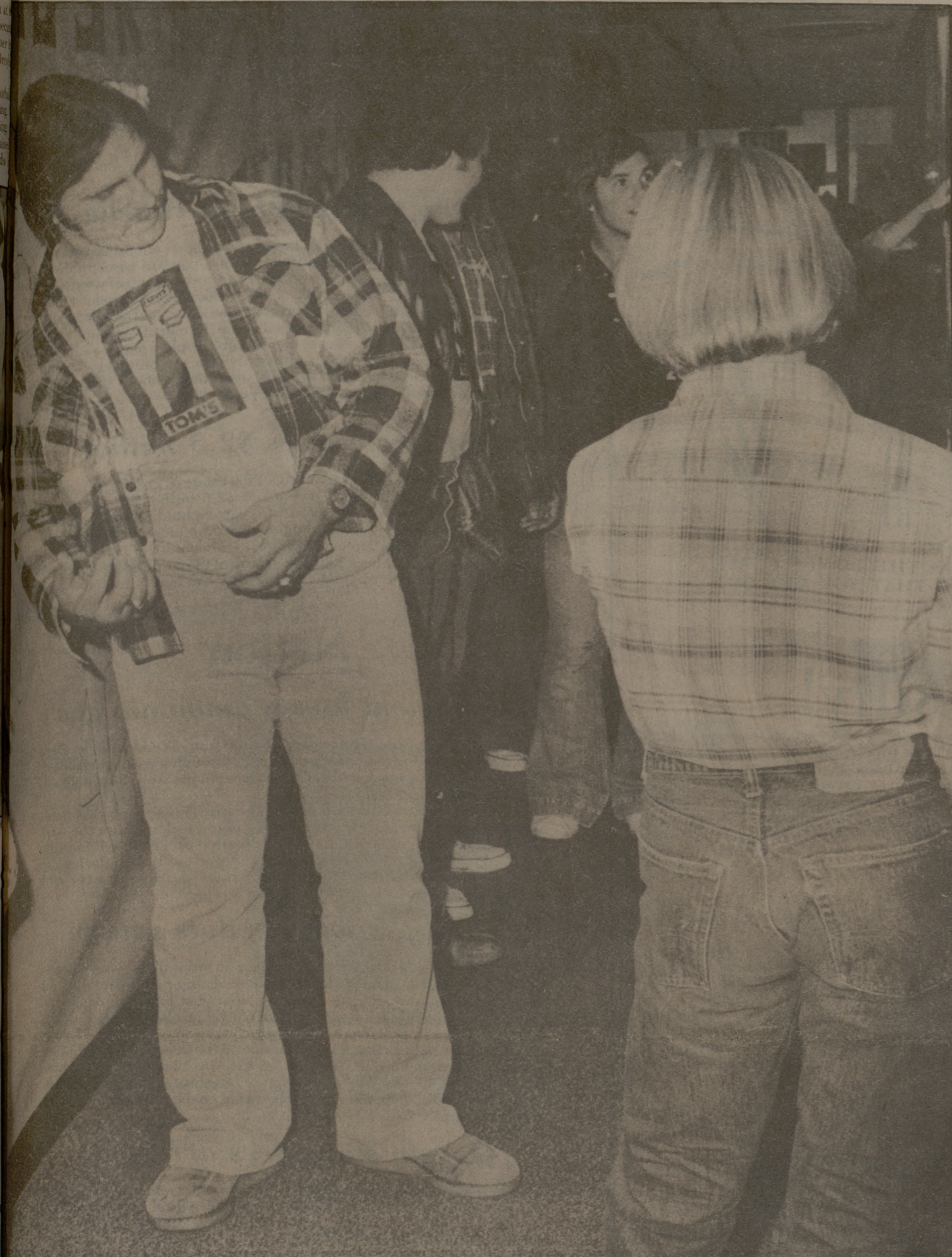
Integration of the school district on a one grade per year system had already started, said Riedel, but the fire helped speed the system along.

Because there was not enough room at A&M Consolidated to accommodate all of the students, only the first and second grades were moved to A&M Consolidated. The third through twelfth grades were partially combined and remained at Lincoln to finish the school year.

Lincoln was known for its outstanding athletes in football, basketball and track. Lucile Young, who played basketball, said there was much school spirit. J.R. Deiley, Lincoln's coach from 1946 until 1965, never recalls a losing season.

A community organization called the Community Knights petitioned the school board to use the gym and remaining buildings as a recreation center.

The trophies remain as a reminder of the community's past—a memorial for those who loved Lincoln.



Battalion photo by Angelo Russo

Looking good, girls

Texas A&M center Mark Dennard gives an appraising eye to a spirit poster Thursday night in a Mosher Hall dorm poster contest. Senior foot-

ball players were asked to judge the halls for spirit for the upcoming Arkansas football game Saturday.

Dam would provide recreation

BY GARY WELCH

Editor's note: This is the third in a series of three articles re-examining the Millican Dam controversy. In this article, the benefits of the proposed reservoir are assessed.

The proposed Millican dam and reservoir would provide flood relief to area residents. But the water recreation areas it would provide might serve the area even better.

A report issued recently by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department said that recreational needs for the Bryan-College Station area will more than double by the year 2000. Many of these people will depend on area lakes to provide the facilities.

The local Environmental Action Council (EAC) is concerned that water level fluctuations in the reservoir would make the lake useless. But Col. Walter Wells, general manager and treasurer of the Brazos River Authority (BRA), said recently the reservoir would be safe for such uses. "Millican will have a normal maximum

level," Wells said. "Our efforts will be to keep it at that level as much as we can."

"When we have a flood," he said, "any empty spaces in the reservoir would be filled and then water would be let out of the reservoir with consideration to downstream conditions. Of course, during a drought the water level can be expected to go down."

However, Wells said, in most years there will be neither drought nor flooding. The water level should be fairly constant. The Brazos River watershed encompasses an area about the size of the state of Kentucky.

Last year a Texas House of Representatives subcommittee concluded Texas was "sadly lacking" in recreational facilities for its residents.

Since 1968 pleasure boating alone has increased by about 300 percent. Millican Lake would be closer to Bryan-College Station than Somerville. Less gasoline would be used to the lake and more people in this area would have access to water

recreation.

The EAC has officially recognized the recreational benefits the reservoir would provide. However, the EAC maintains that other claimed benefits are not valid.

Wells does not agree. "The flood control aspects are a very important aspect of the project," he said. "Millican is one element of the U.S. Corps of Engineers basin-wide flood control plan that was authorized by Congress. Until Millican is built the basin-wide system will not be complete."

Flood control is expected to benefit about 53,000 acres in the Navasota flood plain downstream of the dam. Since the flood plain is not used extensively for agriculture, most of the farmland protected will be in Brazoria County.

Wells said flooding at the Millican Dam site and on the lower Brazos River will continue to be a problem if the dam is not built.

"There have been times when water covered the entire area between the lower Navasota River and the Brazos River," Wells said.

The BRA estimated that a repeat of the 1913 flood, the largest recorded for the

lower Brazos basin, would cause over \$74 million in damages.

Flood control benefits will necessitate water level fluctuations, but Jim Herbert of the Corps of Engineers said that should have little effect on recreation and tourism.

"Any flood control dam has a high fluctuation potential," he said, "but that didn't stop 36 million people from using Texas lakes last year."

Millican reservoir could also be used to supply water to Bryan and College Station, but groundwater is sufficient to fill all municipal needs in this area for now. Reservoir water could also be used to supply Houston and help alleviate the severe land subsidence problem caused by extracting too much ground water in that area.

"The BRA will control the use of the water supply," Wells said. The lake water would be used to meet water needs in the lake area and downstream, he said.

In the past College Station has supported the dam for the future water supply it would supply.

"The cities of Bryan and College Station do not anticipate any water needs in (See EAC, page 6)

Center reschedules executive meeting

Suppose they gave a Brazos Valley Development Council executive meeting and nobody came.

Well, half of the executive committee came to the meeting Thursday, but that was not enough to establish a quorum, so no action could be taken on any issues on the agenda.

"This is the first time we haven't had a quorum since I can remember," said Glenn Cook, BVDC's executive director.

One of two conditions must be met to establish a quorum. Either nine of the 16 committee members must be present, or there must be at least one representative from Brazos, Leon, Madison and Grimes counties.

Neither condition was met because only eight members showed up, none of them from Madison County.

"There is no quorum present," said Brazos County Judge and BVDC board chairman William Vance. "We will reschedule the meeting for next week."

Cook said there are only a few important issues on the agenda that the BVDC needs to consider right away.

"As far as I know some of it could wait until the Dec. 8 meeting," he said.

He said he has never been to a BVDC meeting where a quorum did not attend. "We will make a determined effort to get people here from four counties," he said.

Women's drill team ready for meets

By MARGIE KOVAR

Twenty-three cadets assemble in a parking lot near the Military Sciences building dressed in maroon t-shirts, army-green fatigue pants and black combat boots. They ready for an hour of precision marching.

"Drill team, attention!" orders the commanding officer.

Immediately, the members of the Texas A&M University Women Drill Team snap to attention and begin one of their three team practices for the week. Last year their efforts resulted in their receiving the Texas State Championship in the unarmed division.

There are two divisions of drill teams,

armed and unarmed, said Thelma Roman, team executive officer and guidon (flag) bearer.

"The armed drill teams use weapons that are being used or have been used by the United States armed forces, such as M-16 rifles or sabers," Roman said.

"We use two and a half-pound rifles that are specifically for drilling."

In competition, the women wear light-weight dark green skirts, known as "mid-nights, culotte skirts, low quarter shoes, black berets, white pistol belts and white ascots.

This year's competition includes meets in San Antonio, Austin, College Station and the Mardi Gras in New Orleans.

"If the Texas A&M football team goes to the Cotton Bowl, then we'll march with the rest of Company W-1 before the game," said Susan Graesser, the commanding officer. If another team goes, the drill team will march in the Cotton Bowl parade.

Last year the women won first place in the Houston meet, first in San Antonio, second in Austin and first in College Station.

Teams are judged primarily on precision marching.

Judging is done on a point system and teams can lose points for dropping weapons while drilling.

More than half of the team has prior

drill team experience, most of it in high school.

The team, whose commanding officer is a junior, has no senior members and eventually membership will exclude juniors and seniors.

"That is just in the planning stage," Graesser said. "Juniors and seniors are needed in positions in the outfits, so eventually the bulk of the command will be given to sophomores," Graesser said.

In order to join the drill team, each member must be in the Corps of Cadet. They must have and maintain a 2.0 grade point ratio.

"Besides that, all they have to do is be interested," Graesser said.