

The Battalion

Vol. 71 No. 70
10 Pages

Friday, December 9, 1977
College Station, Texas

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

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Code amendment keys on fire safety

By RUSTY CAWLEY
Battalion City Editor

The big business vs. small business, both big government, plus some fire and insurance issues were discussed during Thursday night's meeting of the College Station City Council. Representatives of the Bryan-College Station Home Builders Association attended the meeting and questioned some of the amendments proposed by various departments. Two amendments particularly upset representatives. One would deny building permits for property without working fire hydrants and paved roads. The other would require sprinkler systems in all buildings larger than 15,000

sq. feet. The first amendment concerns the ability of the College Station Fire Department to extinguish fires in subdivisions under construction. It would require that fire hydrants in the subdivision be in working order before the city issues a building permit. It also would require streets accessible to fire trucks and other equipment in any weather. Clyde Brothers, representing the builders association, argued that the amendment would place unnecessary restrictions on building in the city. He said he could recall only one construction site fire in recent years. But Councilman Gary Halter disagreed. "The purpose of fire prevention is to

stop the fire before it happens," Halter said. "Just because there hasn't been a rash of construction fires in the past doesn't mean there won't be." Brothers insisted this was the problem of the builder and not the city. "If it goes up, he's the one losing, not the city," Brothers said. But the councilmen said the city will pay through higher insurance rates. "What we're concerned with is that you're gambling with dollars other than your own," said Mayor Lorence Bravenec. Then the discussion turned to requiring sprinkler systems. Fire Marshal Harry Davis recommended the change. The present code allows buildings 75 ft. or more from the curb to go without

sprinkler systems, no matter what type of building or what size they are. "We don't feel this should matter," Davis told the council. "We still have to fight the fire. We still have to pay the higher insurance rates. To effectively fight a fire, the fireman must enter the building," Davis said. "This business of standing on the street holding a hose and lobbing water into a burning building went out with high button shoes.

"Some of the city's fire protection should be passed on to the builders." But Brothers claimed the cost will be passed from the builders to the small businessman. "You're going to put an extra burden on the small businessman," Brothers said. "And you're going to run up costs for consumers. I'm not talking about the K-Marts or the Sears and Roebucks. I'm talking

about the little guy. He's the one you're going to kill." While Brothers and the councilmen argued economics, City Manager North Bardell submitted another view. "We seem to be ignoring the human life factor," Bardell said. "The sprinkler system should be used simply because it is safer." The council decided it would need a special work session to hash out the problem.

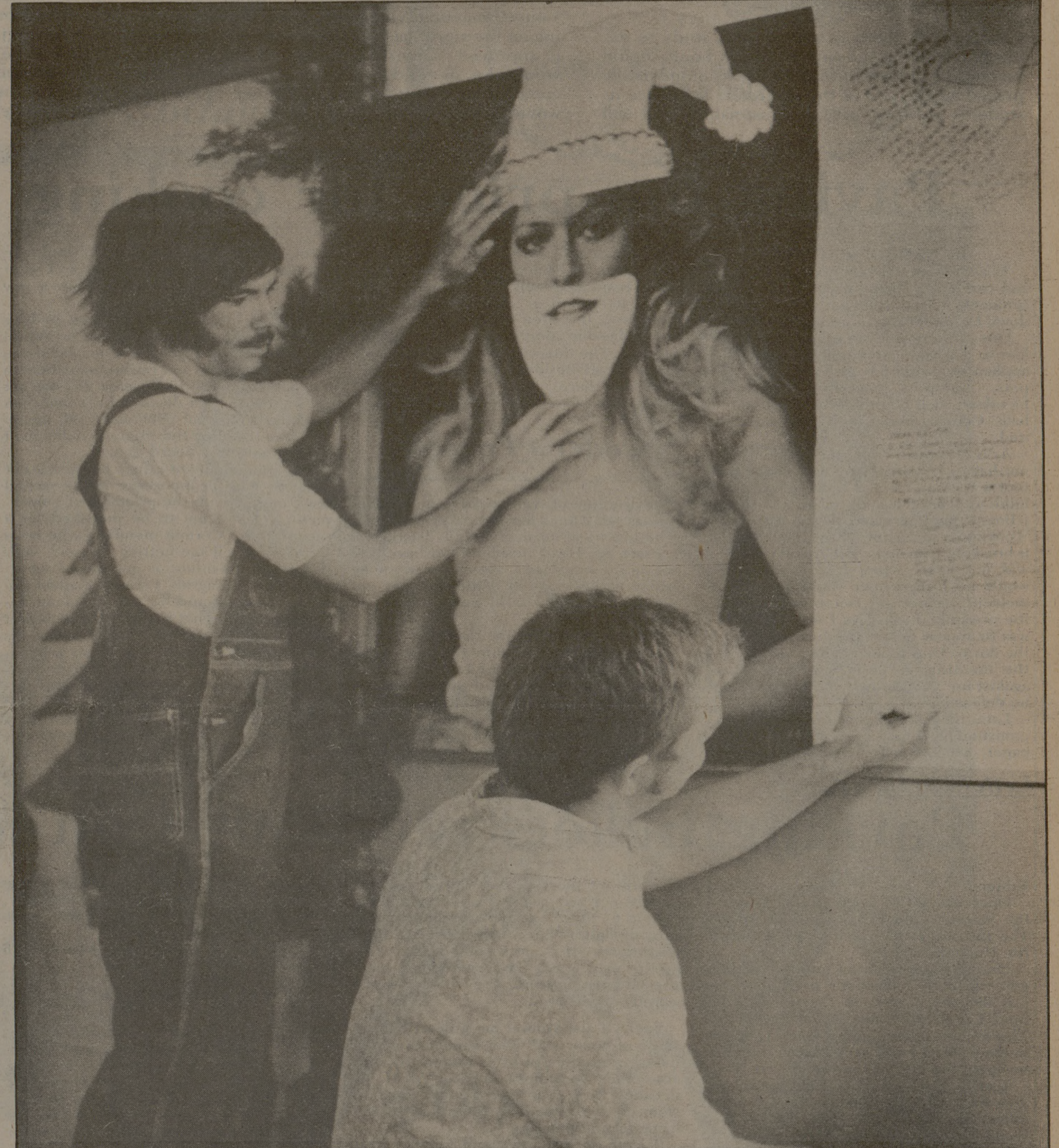
Chemical engineers have few Ph.D.'s

By LINDA NORMAN

There is a definite shortage of Ph.D.'s in chemical engineering, says Dr. Ken R. Hall of the chemical engineering department at Texas A&M University. Only 308 chemical engineers in the United States received doctorate degrees in 1976. The demand for them is great in industry and the academic field. Dr. Charles D. Holland, head of the chemical engineering department. The Texas A&M department is feeling the effects of this shortage because of industry's demand for doctorate degree holders in chemical engineering. "We have to compete with industry all the time," Holland says. And Hall says major companies like Shell and Exxon do not hire doctorate holders in chemical engineering, they cannot find them. "Our organization does share the belief that there is a shortage of Ph.D.'s in chemical engineering," says a spokesman for Exxon. "Any time there is a shortage, prospective employers are competing recently, the A&M department lost a faculty member because a company offered him a 25 percent increase in salary. Both Holland and Dr. Richard E. Thomas, associate dean of the college of engineering, say they feel A&M can

compete with industry in starting salaries for doctorate degree holders. "On up the corporate ladder, the salaries won't compare. As long as they stay fairly close, you can be competitive," Holland says. When the salaries become too different, people who want to teach may choose industry because they don't want to accept a lower standard of living. Why is there a shortage? One reason, says Hall, is that industry is offering bachelor's degree holders a starting salary of \$1,550 a month. "It is fair to say that the demand for bachelor degree students right now is affecting the number of students going into graduate study," says J. M. Southerland, associate director of the placement office at Texas A&M. "They are more attracted by money than graduate study, and I think that's regrettable," says Thomas. He says he expects many of them to become unhappy in a few years because they will not advance to high positions held by engineers with graduate degrees. "We're reaping the consequences of what happened four or five years ago," Holland says. Trends will differ in the demand for doctorate degree holders. In

1970 and 1971, there was a stronger demand for chemical engineers with a bachelor's degree. But in 1974 and 1975, the Ph.D. demand returned. Enrollment in the chemical engineering department at A&M has increased more than anywhere else because enrollment in chemical engineering has increased across the country says Holland. Plus, A&M's overall enrollment has increased. There are now 830 students in chemical engineering at A&M. Only three or four years ago there were less than 300. Three teaching positions in the chemical engineering department are held this year by visiting professors. Holland says these positions, plus two or three others, will have to be filled next year. The department is hiring for some permanent positions, and then getting visiting professors to fill in until enrollment begins to level out, Holland says. But according to Thomas, chemical engineering is a special case. In engineering as a whole, there is no shortage of applicants for teaching positions. Classes are now being scheduled at noon and throughout the afternoon because of the increase in students, and the sections are always filled, Holland says. "We've already gone as far as we can go in increasing the size of classes," he says. The maximum size of classes in chemical engineering, 30, is now determined by the number of seats available. The increase is making courses easier to get, because the department is offering courses more often than before. "We offer every course at least two or three times a year," says Holland. "So far, we're not looking at night classes." Will some of the bachelor degree holders in industry come back and go to graduate school? This is desirable, but seldom happens, Thomas says. Once someone starts climbing the corporate ladder, it's difficult to quit and go back to school. There is some indication that better students are going to graduate school to get a master's degree, Hall says. "We can only hope a certain percentage will go on and get a Ph.D."



Dear Santa Fawcett-Majors

Moore Hall residents John D. Smith and Spencer Shawhan make last minute pleas for better grades to their patron "Santa." Smith and

Shawhan join other residents of the second floor Moore in inter-dorm competition for the "Best Decorated Hall." The prize was a keg of beer.

Buses will not run during summer term

By PEGGY EMERSON

Texas A&M University's shuttle bus service will not operate this summer because of financial losses incurred during last summer's trial run. Last summer was just a trial, and it was very, very costly. We lost approximately \$16,800," said Col. E. C. Oates, shuttle bus committee chairman at A&M. "Not running buses will probably inconvenience some people. But if you can't afford it, you can't afford it." A&M has used shuttle bus services from Transportation Enterprises since 1972. Last year was the first time the buses were used for summer school. A shuttle bus committee appointed by Oates estimated that approximately 2,500 students would use the bus service each session if it was offered. "We had about 10,000 students enrolled the first summer session and about 9,000 the second session," said Donald D. Carter, associate registrar. Five hundred sixty-seven shuttle bus passes were sold the first session and 262 the second session. Passes were sold for \$5 each session and student service fees subsidized the bus service. From these

figures, it is estimated that about \$3,402 was made off pass sales the first semester. Costs to run the buses that session were approximately \$7,850. "The bus service would have been discontinued after the first session, except some students moved where they did because the buses were running," said Oates. "Five buses ran every 30 minutes the first session. The second session we cut back to three buses running once an hour." "If students find out ahead of time that the buses won't run this summer, maybe they will make arrangements for transportation or move closer to the university," Oates said. "I estimate that we will have 10,000 to 11,000 students for the first summer session in 1979 and 9,000 to 10,000 for the second session," said Carter. "These are strictly guesses based on past experiences." "There will be problems with people not getting to park as close as they would like this summer but there won't be a problem with adequate spaces," said Col. Tom Parsons, director of campus traffic and security.

Academic Council approves calendar

By GLENNA WHITLEY
Battalion Staff

The academic calendar for 1978-79 was approved Thursday by the Texas A&M University Academic Council, but semester-end due dates for final grades were deleted and will be decided later by administrators.

The calendar suggested a Saturday 5 p.m. deadline for the fall semester, while the spring semester deadline is Monday, 10 a.m., after finals. These are also the current deadlines. A motion was made that the fall deadline parallel the spring deadline, giving professors more time to grade final exams.

Bill Lacy, Texas A&M Registrar, said the Saturday deadline was needed because of the large amount of paperwork necessary to receive, process and mail grades to students before the Christmas holidays. One reason given for processing grades before the Christmas holidays (thus requiring the early deadline) was that students on academic probation could know their grade status in time to make preparations to attend another school, if necessary. Solutions suggested included scheduling exams so that large classes with

non-objective tests could take exams early in the week. Another was changing the computer program used to process the grades to allow for staggered inputting. At present, all grades must be received before any are processed. The Council also changed the registration date of the first summer session to Monday, June 4 instead of Tuesday. Class now will begin on Tuesday. Students will only have a week between the last summer session and fall 1979. The term ends Aug. 17 and classes start a week later.

Russians expanded more during Vietnam, chief says

United Press International

DALLAS — While the United States was involved in the Vietnam war the Soviet Union made great strides in increasing its military power, says the Army Chief of Staff.

Consequently, Gen. Bernard W. Rogers said Thursday, arms limitations talks with the Russians have taken a greater importance because of their increased war-making capabilities.

Rogers said the Soviet Union expanded their military power "severalfold" while the U.S. was involved in Vietnam, making significant and steady additions in nuclear, sea and air power.

"And they have enlarged their ground forces by 30 divisions to about 170 total," Rogers told the Dallas chapter of the As-

sociation of the U.S. Army. "This 30-division increase is more than the total number of divisions in our total army, both active and guard."

Rogers said the United States' major strategy is to make conventional military forces more important in an effort to avoid a nuclear confrontation. He said the Army would continue to stress readiness for an extended war.

Rogers said the United States will continue arms reductions talks with the Soviets while strengthening its conventional war capabilities.

The Soviet Union also is an economic threat to the United States in the world market, Rogers said.



A change of spirits

Traffic slows behind an old church transported south on Finfeather Road Thursday. The church is being moved to College Station

and will be converted into a beer garden.

Battalion photo by Jana Hazlett