

Farmers to rally again

United Press International

The Colorado sky was overcast and the temperature so cold farmers and ranchers could see their breath as they abandoned fields and boarded flag and placard-strewn tractors and trucks in Springfield early Thursday for a 250-mile trip to Denver.

It was one of many scenes occurring across the country as farmers prepared to march on state capitols to demand a fair price for their crops. Unless they are promised a break-even price, they say they will stage a nationwide strike beginning Dec. 14.

"I was so excited, I couldn't count straight," said Phyllis Keenan, 34, who operates a grain and cattle farm with her husband in the southeastern Colorado community of Two Buttes.

When you see these tractors before daylight with their flashing lights and American flags, it does something for you," she said. "It was just beautiful. It was a mite frosty, but most have heaters in their tractors and are dressed warmly."

The idea of a nationwide farm strike was originated in Springfield by a group of farmers calling themselves American Agriculture. They now claim support in 50 states and say more than one million farmers will take part.

In Kansas, 38 vehicles, most of them tractors, left Great Bend shortly before snow began falling. They plan to reach Topeka by Saturday when demonstrations will be held at state capitols and in Washington, D.C., by farmers demanding more money.

The vehicles carried signs which said: "No Dough, No Sow," and "If I Had to Quit Farming, I'll Be After Your Job."

In Louisiana, tractors, pickup trucks and other farm equipment were on the roads to Baton Rouge for that state's demonstration.

"I work for a farmer and if he goes broke, so do I," said Joey

Jenkins of Frogmore, La. "I don't own a farm, but I'm a farmer right now."

Randy Marble of Tremonton, Utah, predicted there would be up to 400 tractors at a demonstration in Salt Lake City Saturday.

Laurie Schroder, a leader of the American Agriculture movement in Springfield, said farmers were de-

manding 100 percent of parity — enough money to cover the cost of raising their products as well as the cost of living and a reasonable profit.

She said the U.S. Agriculture Department set parity on wheat at \$5.02 per bushel. Wheat has been selling for about \$2.26 per bushel in Colorado this week.

Southwood Valley parks approved

With the councilman who most opposed the move absent from the meeting, the College Station City Council approved a park plan for the Southwood Valley subdivision Thursday.

Councilman Jim Gardner argued against the plan proposed by developer Bill Fitch in Wednesday's meeting. He opposed Fitch's plan for several small parks throughout the subdivision, suggesting that one large park would suffice.

But Gardner missed last night's meeting, as did Councilman Jim Dozier.

Councilman Lane Stephenson summed the opinion of the rest of the council.

"We talked this thing to death

yesterday," Stephenson said, "and I move approval."

The plan was approved unanimously by the attending councilmen, without discussion.

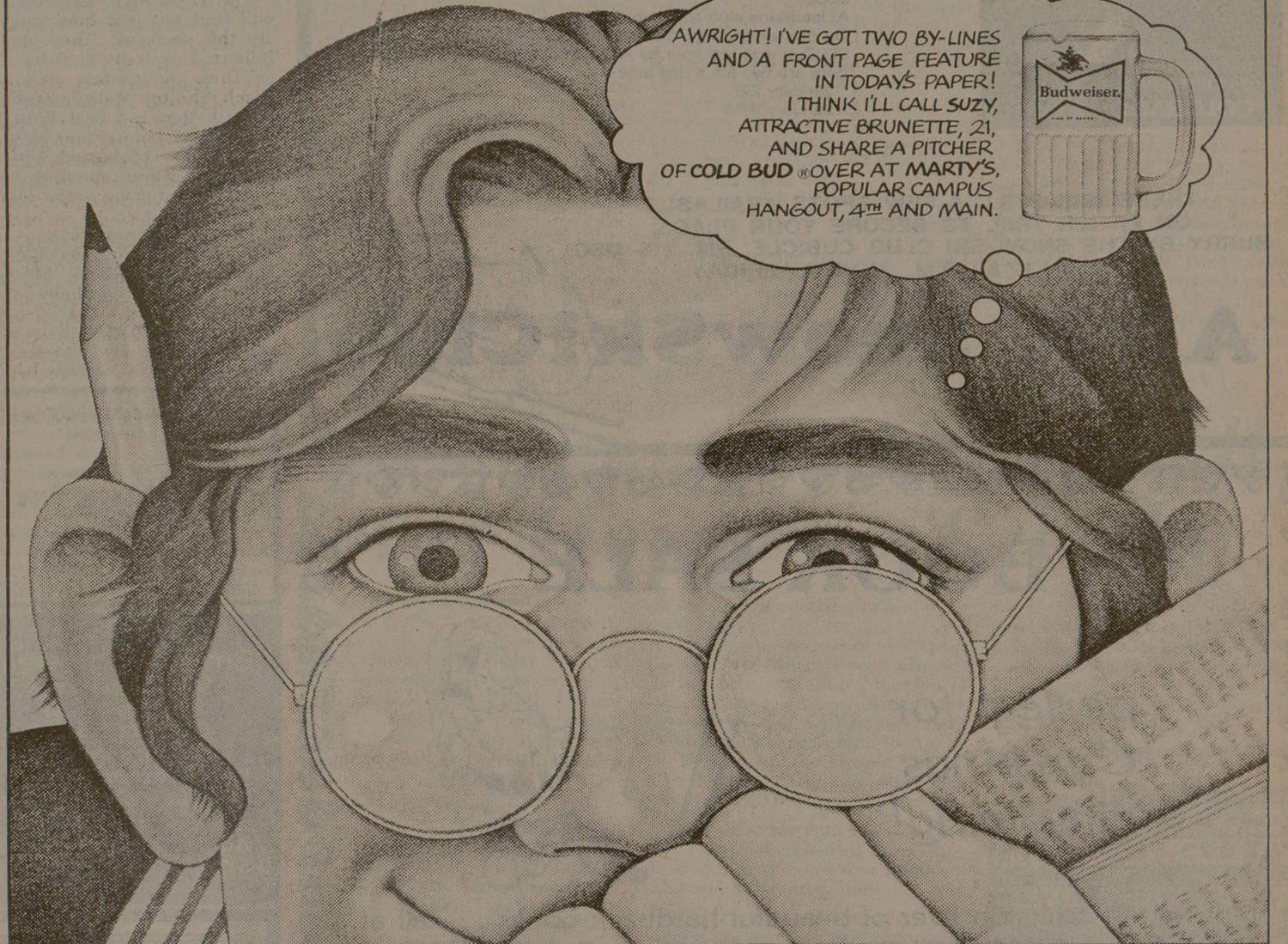
Fitch's plan calls for several parks ranging from four to 11 acres in size to be scattered throughout Southwood Valley.

His plan received the backing by Lou Hodges, chairman of the council's parks and recreation committee.

In other action, the council rezoned a 0.775 acre tract in the Rain Tree Addition from an agricultural district to a family residential.

The council also approved a preliminary plat resubdividing part of Deerfield Estates on North Jones Road.

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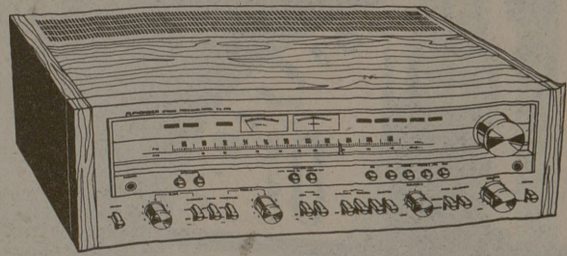
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