

## Building halted by gas line move

By TAMMY LONG

Lone Star Gas Co. has temporarily halted construction of the A&M Consolidated vocational center to re-route a gas line that is too close to the building site.

Trustee Bruce Robeck said Tuesday that the combination of recent rains and moving the gas line may put construction behind schedule a few days. The gas company has begun work, so construction should resume "within a few days," he added.

Peggy Crittenden, public information officer for A&M Consolidated School District, said the vocational center, located on Nueces Street, should be completed by May, 1979.

The \$2.8 million contract for the vocational center and A&M Middle School fifth and sixth grade classroom building was let to B-F-W Construction of Temple on Dec. 20, 1977, said Rodney LeBoeuf, principal of A&M Consolidated High School.

Crittenden said the revenue for the construction had been raised by a \$6.4 million bond issue in April, 1976.

The two-story vocational center will house facilities for vocational agriculture, homemaking, industrial arts, distributive education, drafting, business trades, carpentry, business education, photography, journalism, printing and vocational office education, LeBoeuf said. The center will also include an expansion of the high school's library.

Joe Wiese, counselor at A&M Consolidated, said overcrowding is a problem confronting the high school. "The demand for vocational education is there, but we just don't have room," he said. Wiese said present vocational facilities will be made into classrooms when the vocational courses are moved to the new center. LeBoeuf estimated that the vocational center will accommodate 250 students.

"Enrollment in vocational courses has received a tremendous push in the last few years," LeBoeuf said. Wiese said he believes the increase has resulted from a more competitive job market and an increasing demand for labor.

## Parachute Club jumps into action

You're standing at the door and someone yells behind you, "Watch that first step! It's a big one!" That step is 2,500 feet and there's no turning back.

Skydiving is rapidly being recognized as a national sport and Texas A&M University is not to be left out.

The Texas A&M Sport Parachute Club was organized one year ago as the Brazos Sport Parachute Club.

On Tuesday, Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, gave the club approval to become a school-affiliated organization.

The club is open to anyone — student or non-student. Perry Dillon, club president, urges anyone interested in becoming a member to attend the meetings. There are 15 active members now, he said.

The club meets twice a month and travels to Gatesville, 120 miles north of College Station, every weekend to practice jumping.

What's it like to jump out of a plane?

"It's wild," said Dillon. "You jump out and it's a complete transition

from noise to tranquil silence. It's fantastic."

Francis Kirk, a member who has been with the club from its beginning said he's not afraid when it's his turn to jump.

"I know I'm in control of myself when I step off the strut," Kirk said. "I know how I'll react when I'm out there."

Dillon said the club works in close association with the American Parachute Club in Gatesville. The jump school and all jumps take place in Gatesville. Dillon said the possibility of getting the drop zone moved closer to College Station is being checked on.

Beginning skydivers must attend a seven-hour classroom session before making their first jump.

"You can go through jump school and take your first jump on the same day," Dillon said.

The jump school and first jump cost about \$55. The price for subsequent jumps depends on what kind of fall it is, what type of

parachute is used, whether or not the jumper packs his own parachute and how high the jump is made from. The price ranges from \$6 to \$10.

Equipment is available for rental in Gatesville, although some club members own their own.

Club members have the opportunity to participate in skydiving accuracy meets held around the country, Dillon said. An accuracy consists of the skydiver jumping from at least 2,500 feet and landing on a six-inch target on the ground. Some members have already participated in competition and have won awards.

Dillon said he feels being a recognized organization will be a great asset to the club. Members will be able to use campus facilities for meetings and guest speakers. Dillon said the club might get funding from Texas A&M by the beginning of the fall semester.

The University waived responsibility for any accidents associated with the club, Dillon said. Jumpers are responsible for their own safety.



## Prof studies salt with sonar

By TERESA ROACH

Dr. Robert R. Unterberger is researching techniques to "see" through rocks. He has a \$260,800 grant awarded to him by the National Science Foundation.

"We develop these techniques to 'see' through rock by sending in sonar sound waves to determine what changes in rock might occur ahead of mining," said Unterberger, a professor of geophysics at Texas A&M University. "Thus, miners are warned of possible hazards to their operations such as aquifers, faults, or changes in rock type."

Sonar techniques could save lives and property because miners pres-

ently mine ahead by blasting into unknown rock, Unterberger said.

"Presently we're doing our research in the mines owned by Morton Salt Co. in Grand Saline, Texas," he said. "We're studying the salt pillars. We look for anything that isn't salt."

"Certain salt mines have moisture. Electromagnetic waves, which are most commonly used in mining, don't work well in wet salt, so the sonar sound waves are used. The sonar waves are very useful in wet salt. They can already reach 1,200 feet away and we wish to extend this."

The government is interested in

the sonar research because this technique could be used for tunneling processes for subways, highways, and railroads, he said.

The government bought Weeks

Island, a salt dome in Louisiana, from Morton Salt Co. for \$40 million to store 69 million barrels of crude oil, he said. The oil doesn't leak from the salt mine.

"Presently our research is limited to the salt mines," Unterberger said. "We hope to extend our research to other rocks. We're starting the easy way and extending the research from salt to homogeneous rock."

## Studies expert to speak on women's programs

Dr. Nanette Bruckner, associate professor of psychology at the University of Houston-Clear Lake City and a member of the steering committee of the National Women's Studies Association, will discuss women's studies and programs at the university level at 8 p.m. Tuesday in Memorial Student Center 205. The program is open to the public.

Author of several articles on women's studies, Bruckner is head of women's studies at the Clear Lake City campus and has consulted on programs nationwide. She will discuss strategies and give a prognosis for the future.

There are nearly 300 women's studies programs on college and university campuses in the United States, said Bruckner. The growth rate of these programs in the last 18 months was 50 percent.

Women's studies can be found in the District of Columbia and in 41 states. Although Texas A&M does not have a women's studies program, three women's studies courses are offered.

Bruckner is sponsored by Phi Delta Gamma, professional women's honorary society at Texas A&M.

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