

THE BATTALION

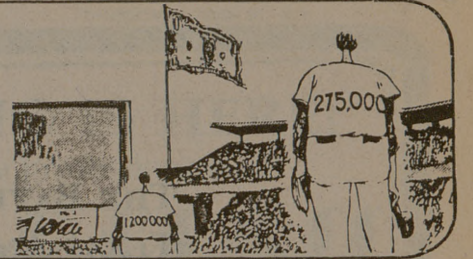
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Candidates speak at county meeting

By MICHELLE BURROWES

All eight candidates for the 6th District Congressional seat spoke at a Brazos County A&M Club meeting last night. The candidates are running for the seat to be vacated by Congressman Olin Teague.

Each candidate gave a five-minute statement, followed by a question and answer period.

"Alcohol and drug abuse have done more to decrease the productivity of our workers more than any other factor," said Carl Krohn, a republican from Bryan. He said he will work to put restrictions on advertisements of alcohol as well as motion pictures and television programming depicting alcohol and drug abuse.

"Direct and indirect taxes are breaking the back of the working man, while the lazy man sits back," said Bill Powers of Dallas. He cited other major problems as: the erosion of the dollar, the Soviet Union's military overpowering of the United States, and the farmer's plight.

Ron Godbey, who served in the Air Force, was a teacher and a meteorologist, and is now a lawyer. He said that his broad background qualifies him to serve the 6th District well. Godbey said that major problems are the regulation of the budget and the oil and gas industry.

"I will vote against every funding bill brought to the House," Wes Mowery said. "The time has come to bring sanity to spending."

Kay Jones, a homemaker and businesswoman from Fort Worth, said she takes the "common sense approach" to spending. "We must watch every expenditure," she said. Jones stressed that she is not obligated to any special interest group.

Chet Edwards, who worked for Rep. Teague in Washington, said his first hand experience with the federal government qualified him for the job.

"I pledge experience, an open mind, and effectiveness," Edwards said.

"It's time we gained control of runaway spending, and put the government on a strict budget, like the rest of us," said Phill Gramm, and economist on leave from Texas A&M University. He said he has an in-depth knowledge of energy, agriculture, and economy.

"If we gave as much time to farmers as we are to giving away the Panama Canal, the problem would solve itself," Don McNeil, and Alvarado businessman, said. During the question-and-answer period

that followed, candidates were asked how they felt about the minimum wage. Krohn and Godbey said they approved of the minimum wage. Powers, McNeil, and Jones said they approved, but that an increase in the minimum wage increases inflation. Mowery and Gramm said they opposed the minimum wage laws.

Godbey, Mowery, Gramm and McNeil said they were opposed to the National Health Insurance Plan. Powers and Edwards said that protection is needed for some cases, like cancer and heart disease, but added that it should be done in the private sector.

Krohn said he would like to see the government support people if the medical bills were over 10 percent of their salary. Jones said she supports national health insurance, but added that she would have to look at each bill individually.

The importation of beef is opposed by Godbey and McNeil. Gramm and Powers said they favor a sliding scale of quotas and tariffs. Krohn said he favors a tariff, while

Jones and Edwards said they would favor some restraints. Mowery, who has been a cattleman, said that American ranchers raise superior beef, and restraints are not necessary.

All the candidates supported federal funding in education except Mowery and Edwards, who said more funding should come from the state.

The regulation of natural gas and the maintaining of the present Social Security system are favored by all of the candidates.

All the candidates favored the Humphrey-Hawkins bill, except Jones who said "We reward people for not working now. We need to get people working."

Inflation was cited by McNeil, Godby, Mowery, Jones and Gramm as the main problem causing disunity in the country. Krohn said the main problem was drug abuse, while Powers said a strong defense and economy were the main problems. Edwards said the attitude that Washington should solve all the country's problems is harmful to the country.

Media, politics common bedfellows

By JUDY DUNN

A new type of political candidate is emerging in the United States.

"An increasing number of members of Congress have backgrounds in media," said James Dyer, a political science professor at Texas A&M University.

Dyer is researching 1974 and 1976 primary and general elections for the U.S. House of Representatives. He has found that 17 members of the House of Representatives were involved in radio, television, or newspaper careers shortly before running for office.

"Suggesting that this is a fairly new phenomena is the fact that 12 of the 17 were first elected in 1970 or later," he said.

Candidates with media backgrounds have better chances of winning elections as political parties weaken and ballots get longer, he said. The voters' party identifications weaken, and as a result, they vote for the candidate whose name looks more familiar.

"Candidates with media careers have a mechanism that produces name recognition greater than that of almost any other candidate prior to beginning the campaign," Dyer said.

Television personalities seem to do especially well in these types of races, he said.

"We let the weathermen or newscasters into our homes every night, and as a result, we feel we know the television personalities on a personal basis," Dyer said.

The future depends on what happens to the political parties, he said. If the parties get stronger, then voters' party identifications get stronger and they will vote for their party's candidate.

"However, unless something changes dramatically, political parties are likely to continue to weaken," Dyer said.

As this occurs, more and more television personalities will be elected, and the result is a less responsible Congress, Dyer said.



Battalion photo by Sheila Crocker

Class of 19??

Brad and Alicia Evans, children of Mr. and Mrs. Steven J. Evans of 1114 Westover in College Station, seem a little anxious to be students at Texas

A&M. Brad and Alicia, whose father is a member of the Texas A&M staff, wait outside Harrington Education Center, obviously eager to attend class.

Prosecution introduces statement

Coleman claims self defense

By TERESA HUDDLESTON

A statement signed by Walter Joe Coleman says Lawrence Baugh was killed while Coleman was defending himself against a homosexual advance from Baugh. The confession was introduced as prosecution's evidence Wednesday in the Coleman murder trial.

Detective Bobby Yeager of the College Station Police Department read the statement before the jury as he said it was told to him by Coleman on Jan. 14, 1977.

Coleman, 19, is charged in the Jan. 12, 1977 shooting death of Baugh, a former lecturer at Texas A&M University. Coleman has entered a plea of not guilty.

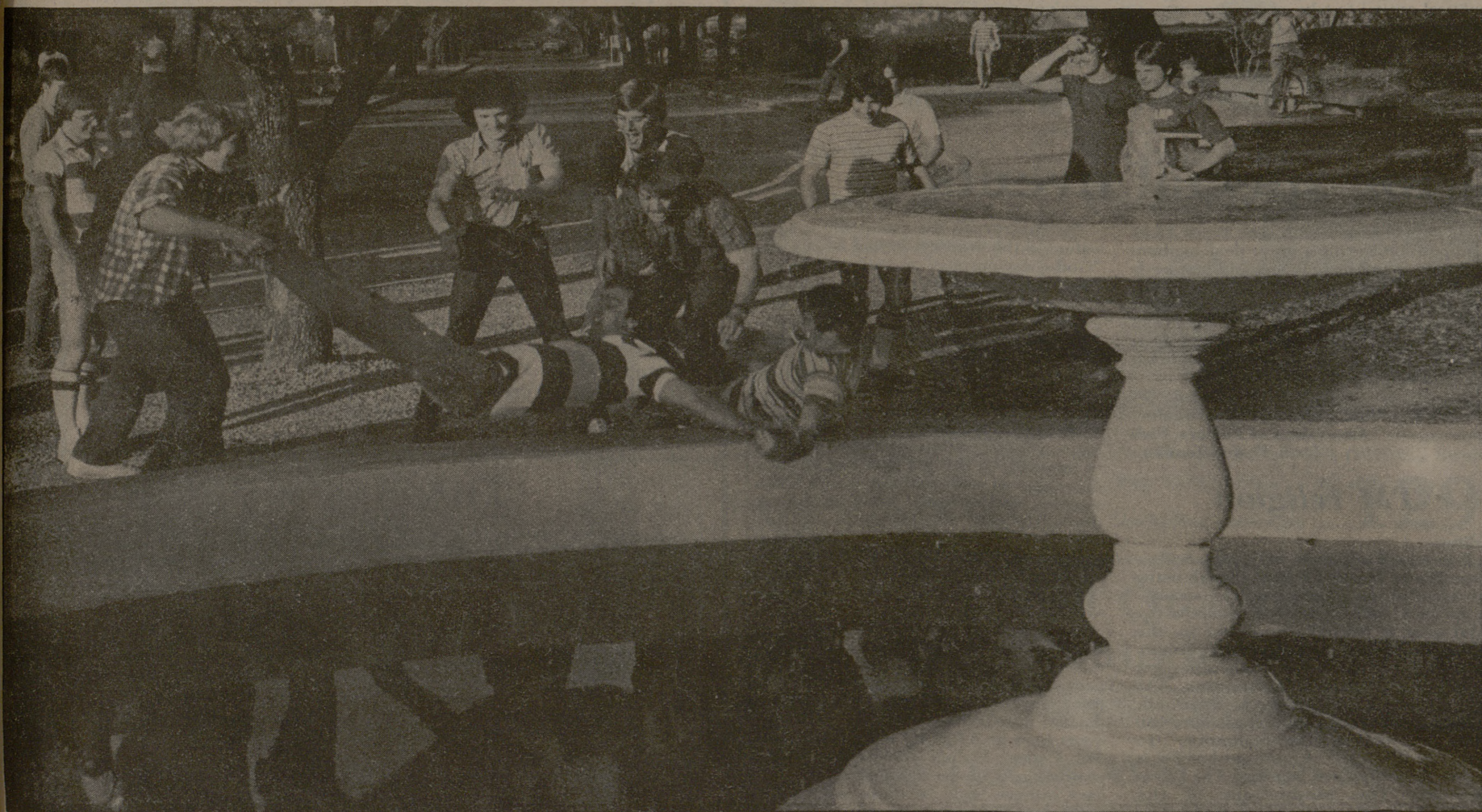
Yeager said his first contact with Coleman was when he served him a warrant for his arrest at 1 a.m. Jan. 14. He said Coleman first told him "Richard" had killed Baugh. But Yeager said that later that night Coleman confessed to the murder.

Yeager said Coleman took police to where the body had been thrown. He said they went out to the Navasota River and Coleman pointed out the area where the

Detective Ronnie Miller of the College Station Police Department appeared before the jury Wednesday. On Jan. 13, 1977 Miller was a detective with the Bryan Police Department. Miller said that on that day he was directed to the 1300 block of Beck Street where he found Baugh's car. He said it was in a vacant lot and difficult to see because there was considerable undergrowth.

If found guilty, Coleman could receive a minimum of five years and a maximum of 99 years, or life. He is represented by Fred Davis and Kent Caperton.

District Attorney Roland Searcy and Assistant District Attorney Larry Catlin are representing the state. Testimony will continue Thursday with Judge John M. Barron Sr. presiding.



Battalion photo by David Keahey

Tis the season to be quaded

Sophomore Gary Mehrtenes, an agricultural education major receives an unexpected swim from his friends. With spring weather

finally here, more than likely a few more Ags will be visiting the 'Fish Pond.'

Thirteen student positions vacant

By PAIGE BEASLEY

Battalion Staff

Filing for Texas A&M University elected student offices ended Tuesday, leaving 17 candidates unopposed and 13 positions vacant. The student elections will be held April 5 and 6, with run-off elections to be held April 13.

About 229 students filed for the more than 80 positions. This is an increase over last year's election, which attracted about 185 candidates, said Mike Barry, election commissioner.

Election results, he said, with the exception of write-in positions, will be available by 12 midnight April 6. Write-in votes will be tabulated the following day.

Barry said voting machines will be placed at the Commons, Sbsa, Memorial Student Center, the Guard Room, Soil and Crops Sciences Building, and Zachry. More machines are available and will be placed at the shuttle bus stops if student volunteers are found to manage them.

The off-campus undergraduate senator position attracted the most attention, drawing 34 candidates. Also popular are the yell leader positions. Five of 18 candidates will be chosen.

Tree House fire damages offices, party room

By ANDREA VALLS

A fire at Tree House Apartment complex, 205 Jersey, caused considerable damage to the manager's and assistant manager's office Wednesday morning.

College Station Fire Department dispatched three units and 27 workers at 1:55 a.m. to extinguish the fire, which was under control in approximately 20 minutes.

Fire Chief Douglas Landua said the party room, where the offices are located, suffered only smoke and water damage. The offices suffered major damage to the siding, roof, rafters and ceiling.

The fire was ignited by flames from a barbecue pit, said Landua. Verda Shelby, manager of the apartments, said the barbecue pit was left smoldering overnight because the complex was planning a resident barbecue party for Wednesday.

No injuries were reported and a damage estimate has not been assessed, Shelby said.

Uncontested offices include the vice president of external affairs, the Class of '81 secretary-treasurer and social secretary, and various college representatives. Most write-in votes will be for the individual college representatives.

Backgammon championship tonight

By JANA THIEME

The first backgammon tournament at Texas A&M University will end tonight as three people have made their way into the championship round.

The tournament, which started Tuesday afternoon, paired up 50 contestants who paid a 50-cent entry fee, for participating in the first round.

The matches were all single elimination matches, and were won on a five-point system.

The scoring in Backgammon goes like this. The first player to get all of his men safely home wins the game. If the loser has not taken at least one man home and does not have a man left on the winner's inboard, he loses a "single" game. If he has not taken a single man home, he loses double, a gammon. If, in addition, he has a man left on his opponent's side or on the bar separating the halves, he loses triple, a backgammon.

For scoring in the tournament, the contestant accumulates one point for a win, two points for a gammon, and three points for a backgammon.

Cindy Corti, Chairman of the Backgammon Committee, said that a major portion of the funds received would go toward publicizing backgammon and the remainder to the Recreation Committee, which sponsored the tournament.

"We are going to try and have the backgammon tournament once a semester," she added.

Prizes in the tournament will be a velvet backgammon set for first place, a pair of Steve Martin tickets for second place and tickets to the Dallas Symphony Orchestra for third place.

The finalists in A&M's tournament are Dan Thomson, Tim Starker and Amy Anstutz. The three will begin playing tonight at the Memorial Student Center for the championship.