

THE BATTALION

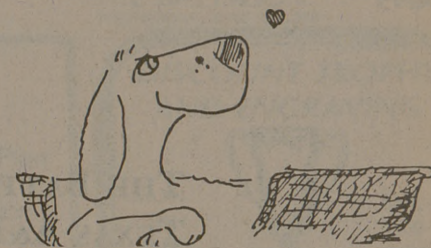
Vol. 71 No. 165
8 Pages

Wednesday, June 21, 1978
College Station, Texas

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

Inside Wednesday

- A tribute to the late Chief O. L. Luther - p. 2.
- School administrators say 'Three R's are dead' - p. 3.
- Arkansas leaving the SWC? - p. 7.



Governor may call tax special session

United Press International
AUSTIN — Gov. Dolph Briscoe is seriously considering calling a special session of the Legislature to consider tax relief and a ceiling on government spending, Speaker Bill Clayton said Tuesday.

Clayton, Rep. Jim Nugent, D-Kerrville, and several aides met with Briscoe for more than two hours Tuesday afternoon discussing proposals for consideration by lawmakers and possible dates for a special session.

Briscoe was slated to meet with Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby early today to discuss the matter.

The governor did not talk with reporters. His press secretary, Bob Bain, said, "He's always had an open mind on special sessions. He's made no decision at this time."

"I think he's taking it under very serious

consideration," Clayton said. "This is an issue he's weighing very carefully."

Clayton said he initiated Tuesday's meeting to present to the governor a proposal he has for imposing a ceiling on spending and taxation by state and local governments.

"The governor is weighing in his own mind tax relief for the people and limiting government spending," Clayton said. "I know he feels if some money could be provided in the form of tax relief it should be."

Clayton said he has been working on proposals for limiting government spending for nearly a decade and thinks the opportunities for adopting such a limit are better now than ever before.

"In the eight terms that I've served in the Legislature I know of no more opportune time than today," Clayton said. "We

have a surplus accumulating in the treasury. We have a hue and cry from the people that tax burdens are becoming unbearable."

In addition to a spending and tax ceiling, Clayton said he and the governor discussed proposals for repealing the sales tax on utility bills, abolishing the state property tax used to finance college building, and adopting a constitutional amendment to require a two-thirds vote of the Legislature to impose new taxes.

Clayton said he told the governor the House can be ready whenever he wants to call a special session, but indicated he would favor a mid-July date.

Secretary of State Stephen Oaks said any constitutional amendment would need to be passed by Aug. 18 to allow time for required publication before the Nov. 7 general election.

Council evaluates plan identifying flood plain

By MARK WILLIS
Battalion City Editor

The College Station City Council attempted to get a better understanding of the city's flood plain situation in a special meeting Tuesday night.

City Manager North B. Bardell and City Engineer Elroy Ash explained flood plain hydrology to the council. The general idea was to inform the members as to how a flood plain is determined, its effects, and how the present zoning practices of College Station relate.

It was hoped that with this knowledge the members might better understand any new zoning proposals brought before the council. The effectiveness of the presentation was questionable, as Mayor Larry Bravenec asked after the presentation, "What does all this have to do with city council action?"

Councilman James (Jim) Dozier went one step further in questioning the validity of the report as a whole, which is based on the United States Corps of Engineers hydrology studies of the area. Dozier, quoting Planning Commissioner Chris Mathis

from a newspaper he did not identify, read, "The Corps report was a farce."

Dozier then began questioning Planning and Zoning Commissioner Vergil Stover about several of his commission's recommendations concerning construction in the Bee Creek area.

This line of questioning prompted several other council members to point out that the issue had been discussed earlier. After some argument, Dozier concluded that, "I want to make sure we know who's wearing the black hat." Shortly thereafter Dozier left the meeting and did not return.

After comments by two members of the audience, who are professional engineers, the council decided to discuss the proposed budget for 1978-79. No action was taken on the flood plain issue.

The council then discussed the proposed budget with City Manager Bardell, clarifying some confusion in the listing of expenditures and revenues. A more detailed discussion and breakdown of the budget is slated for a later date.

Swine flu victims collect benefits

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Hundreds of Americans temporarily paralyzed by swine flu shots in 1976 need not prove government negligence to collect millions of dollars in damages, HEW Secretary Joseph Califano announced Tuesday.

Americans were not warned that they might get polio-like Guillain-Barre syn-

drome as a side effect of the flu shots, Califano said.

The government action was the first step toward settling \$775 million in claims against the government — \$365 million of that by persons who were temporarily struck down by Guillain-Barre. Twenty-three died from the syndrome.



Sparkling summer sun

Battalion photo by Pat O'Malley

The sun has been out all week making the days uncomfortably warm for Texas A&M students and residents of the area. Today is officially the first

day of summer, and continuing in its usual fashion the sun beams brightly through the limbs of the Texas A&M Century Tree.

Laser shows deemed threat to music fans

United Press International
WASHINGTON — A rock n' roll band has run afoul of the Food and Drug Administration with an unusual problem FDA officials say may be widespread in the music business.

The problem is the laser used for light shows during concerts. In this case, FDA radiation experts measured the lasers used by a band called the "Blue Oyster Cult" during a performance earlier this year in Atlanta. Officials told the band to clean up its act.

The FDA's Bureau of Radiological Health, which enforces laws dealing with radiation exposure, told the band what it would have to do to its laser system to prevent possible burn injuries to concertgoers.

"Many entertainment people are pretty far removed from food and drug laws and radiation hazards," a spokesman said Monday. "They don't really associate lasers with radiation, least of all with the FDA."

"But lasers do produce potentially hazardous light radiation. Like any other light there is a potential burn hazard," he added. "It's like holding a magnifying glass to the sunlight."

The agency said there have been no actual reports of injuries, although some accidents have been reported.

"We are aware of situations where there could be some (injury). Some of the rock groups have laser lights which flash over the heads of the audiences. If someone held up a hand, for instance, and the beam of light bounced off a watch crystal or something it could bounce into someone's eye," the spokesman said.

"It could damage the eye even before you had time to blink away from it, and the result could be a temporary blind spot in the eye. That's most likely the most serious thing that would happen."

In its letter to the "Blue Oyster Cult" the FDA asked the group to inform it what it would do to correct the situation.

The FDA said it has no plans to issue a regulation specifically for band-related laser shows because existing regulations, if properly enforced, should take care of the situation.

It said lasers used in works of art also must comply with the same regulations, as must those used in planetarium star shows.

In addition, eight states have regulations governing the use of lasers, including some which require a license for operators of the devices.

Completion of \$12 million library addition set for end of fall semester, director says

By FLAVIA KRONE

Battalion Campus Editor

The pile of brick, concrete and red steel girders stacking up beside the Sterling C. Evans Library may not look like much now. But the mass of stone and steel is well on its way to becoming a completed \$12 million library addition.

The new addition is scheduled for completion by the end of the 1978 fall semester, library director Irene Hoadley said. However, the library expansion project will not end with the completion of the new addition, she said.

"When the new addition is finished," Hoadley said, "everything in the old library will be moved into the new library so we can remodel the old building." She said the moving process should take about two weeks.

During that time the library will operate on a limited service basis. Many of the stacks will be closed although library staff members will be available to retrieve material on request, Hoadley said. Also, the reserve book room will be reduced to a reserve book desk.

"It is going to be crowded and inconvenient for many people," Hoadley said. "Students and faculty members will just have to understand." Hoadley stressed that limited library service would last only for the two-week moving period.

The remodeling of the old building is expected to take about six months. The entire expansion and renovation of the library will be completed by next summer, Hoadley said.

The new library will be more centralized and better organized, she added.

"Our goal is to get all the services on the first and second floors and the collections on the third through sixth floors," Hoadley said.

First floor services will include circulation, current periodicals, card catalogues, reference and reserve reading. The two reference desks currently operating in the library will be centralized into a single service. Also, the reserve reading room will be expanded from a 100 to 200 person capacity and will

have longer operating hours.

"The reserve reading room will have an outside door so we will be able to keep it open around the clock during exams," Hoadley said.

Maps, microtexts, documents, special collections and interlibrary services will occupy the second floor of the new library. The remote computing center, which currently is located on the second floor, will be moved to the basement of the building.

Science and engineering material will dominate the third floor, with humanities and social sciences occupying the upper floors.

The new library will be a more attractive, warmer, more pleasant place for students to use," Hoadley said. The renovated library will be completely carpeted.

The six-story, 500,000-square-foot addition also will provide space to increase the library's collections from 1.2 million volumes to 2 million volumes. The library collection size

currently ranks 85th when compared to 105 research libraries nationwide, Hoadley said. About 100,000 volumes are added to collections each year, ranking the library about 35th out of 105 in terms of growth.

However, the number of volumes is not as important as the quality of material and library services, Hoadley said.

Dr. J.M. Prescott, vice president for academic affairs, agreed with Hoadley.

"I regard the library as absolutely central to the academic community," Prescott said. "The library is something around which the University must be built. It's the quality of the collection and not the quantity that is important."

Prescott said that the quantity of library materials accumulated over the years presents a storage problem.

"The library grows infinitely but our facility cannot," Prescott said.

Some aisles in addition too close for wheelchairs

Handicapped students confined to wheelchairs will not be able to use some areas of the new library addition because many of the aisles will be too narrow to allow passage of a wheelchair.

The stacks in the new addition will be spaced 24 inches apart, said Irene Hoadley, director of the Sterling C. Evans Library. The standard wheelchair is 25 inches wide, according to Texas Senate Bill No. 111, which governs access by the handicapped to public buildings.

"The decision to go with a 24-inch aisle was made strictly on the basis of the need to house an additional 1 million volumes," Hoadley said. "The lights, the carpet patterns and the building columns are all lined up with a 24 inch aisle. To change it would mean redesigning the entire building," she said. The stacks in the old library are spaced 30 inches apart, and will not be moved, Hoad-

ley said.

Hoadley said that the library staff will retrieve any materials that handicapped persons can not reach on their own.

About 30 students on campus are confined to wheelchairs or some type of brace that would make negotiation of a 24-inch aisle difficult to impossible, said Ted Elliot, director of the Texas A&M office of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission.

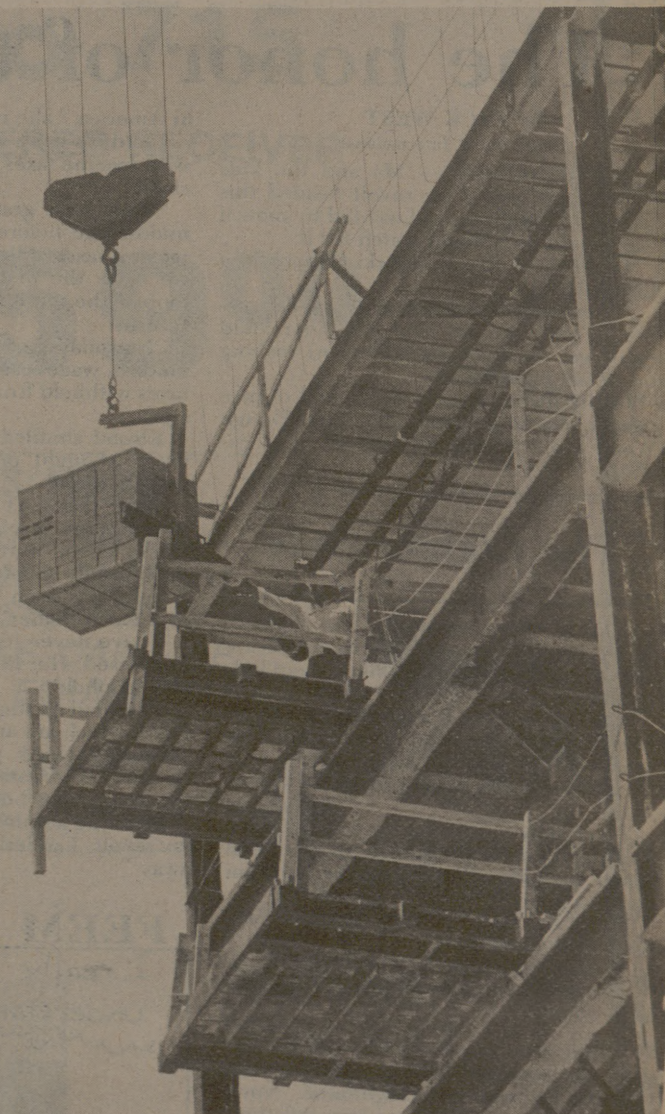
The aisle arrangement in the new library addition would not violate any of the federal or state laws governing access by the handicapped to public buildings, Randy Scott of the central office of the Texas Rehabilitation Commission in Austin said.

"There does not have to be direct access as long as there are provisions for retrieving material not accessible to the handicapped person," Scott said.

"There remains the question of what to do in the future when we run out of space."

Prescott said plans currently are underway to convert the old Bryan

Air Force Base in west Bryan into a remote storage area for library materials that are used infrequently. Materials in storage then could be retrieved on a request basis.



Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Construction crews working on the addition to the Sterling C. Evans Library use a crane to lower concrete tiles to the fifth floor of the building. The tiles will be used in constructing the outer wall of the addition. The new addition will be finished in December.