

Tourney bout is fair play

Gary Hogg, associate professor of industrial engineering, was caught in varying degrees of perplexity as he played bridge yesterday in the Memorial Student Center. Oblivious to the photographer, Hogg, from

left, studies his opponents' cards. Looking at his own, he seems none too happy with any of his options. Sullenly, his thoughts sink into the play. Hogg was playing in a preliminary tournament, sponsored by the Bridge

Committee, for the ACU-I championship. The regional finals of the championship will be in February at North Texas State University in Denton. Battalion photos by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

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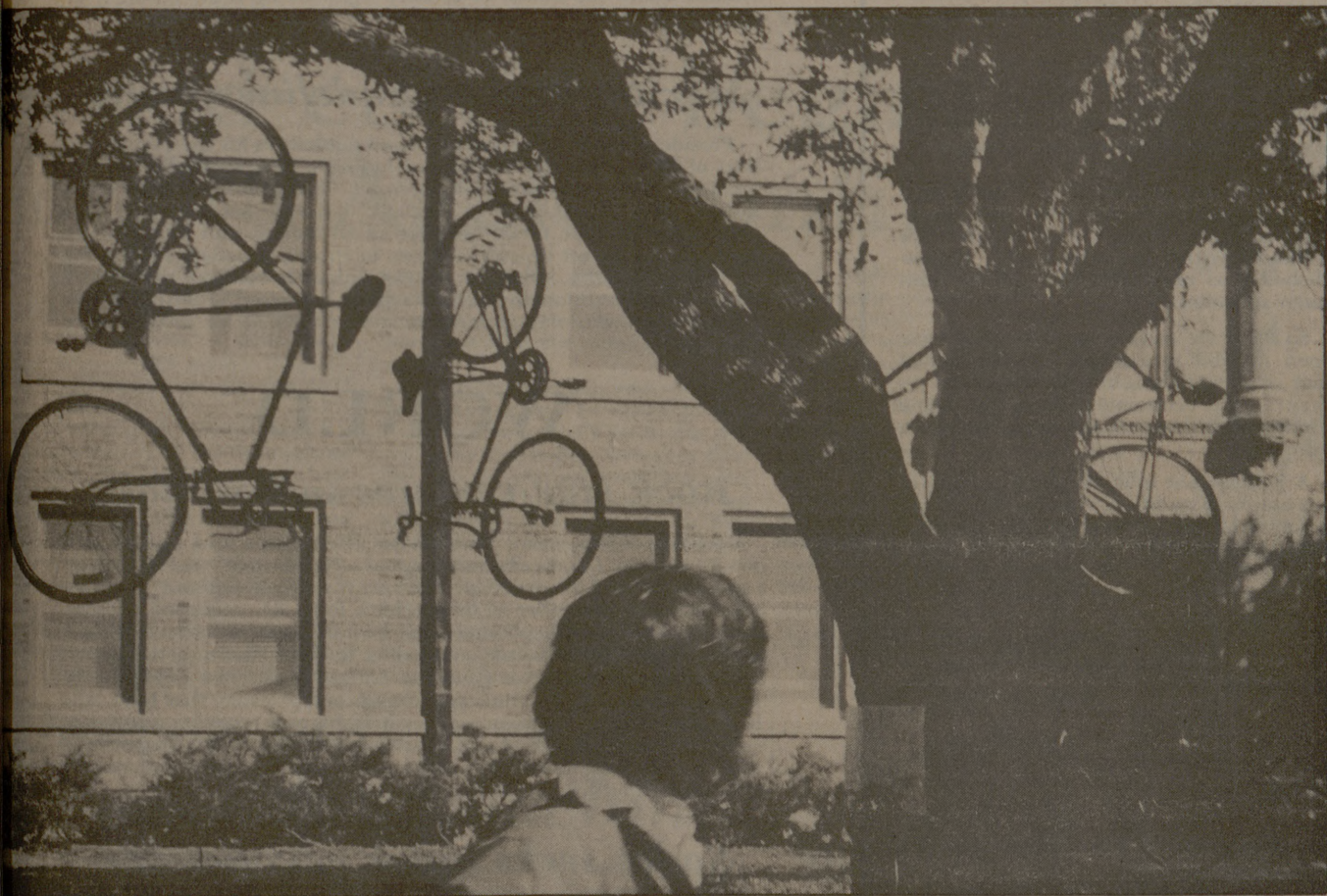
Arkansas lottery today at 5

The deadline for applying for the Texas A&M-Arkansas football game ticket lottery is 5 p.m. today.

Students have until that time to appear at G. Rollie White Coliseum and register in the lottery. Upon presenting his ticket book and identification card, the

student will receive a numbered token indicating whether or not he will be with a date. Drawing of tokens and issuing of the 377 student tickets will take place at 5 p.m.

Only 100 tokens for 200 tickets had been drawn as of 5 p.m. Wednesday.



Only 38 shopping days 'til Christmas

Residents of Hart Hall Ramp "C" are tree decorating early for the holidays. They prepared a tree with their own special ornaments — bicycles.

Battalion photo by Fawn Schul

B-CS to study funding of college student loans

By DOUGLAS ERCK Battalion Reporter

A statute in the Texas Educational Code may be the source of more student loan funds for Texas A&M University students. Article 53.47 of the code allows municipalities to create an authority to issue revenue bonds for raising money.

The statute was brought to the attention of the Bryan and College Station city managers and members of the Inter-governmental Coordinating Committee Monday by College Station city attorney Neeley Lewis. Lewis said that under the statute, the cities of Bryan and College Station could create an authority to issue

revenue bonds. Money from the bonds would be used to fund student loans under a federal loan program.

The program would work like this:

Any student eligible for a federally insured loan will go to a bank for that loan. If the bank will not lend him the money, which may happen because of the lower interest rate on federal loans, then the city could buy the note for the student and pay the higher bank interest rate with funds from the revenue bonds. The student could then receive the loan through the city's intervention and pay at the low federal interest rate.

North Bardell, College Station city

manager, said Monday's discussion of the program was only to see if either of the cities would be interested in the program.

"Our thought right now is that since the interest rate on bonds is up, it would not be feasible," he said, adding that the cities would not be able to pursue the action until there is a break in the bond market.

Bryan city attorney Charles Bluntzer said, "If we get favorable response from the city council, we will look into it further, but this is the first we have heard about it."

The statute comes from the higher education section of the Texas Educational Code and basically makes available additional student loan funds.

Republican victories bring 2-party politics to Texas

United Press International

AUSTIN — Republican Bill Clements' narrow victory over Democrat John Hill, coupled with the re-election of Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, shattered 100 years of Democratic domination of Texas politics and means Republicans in the future will have a better chance to win any elective office.

Clements, 61, a millionaire oil drilling contractor in his first campaign, shocked Hill by piling up sizable leads in the state's metropolitan areas and trimming Hill's margins in traditionally Democratic rural areas.

Tower followed a similar pattern in turning back challenger Rep. Bob Krueger, D-Texas.

Returns from all 254 counties, 215 complete, showed Clements with 1,161,135 votes to Hill's 1,142,654 and gave Tower 1,127,711 to 1,113,284 for Krueger.

Neither of the winners received as much as 50 percent of the votes, as Tower received 49.84 and Clements 49.98.

"My election marks a new day for Texas," Clements said. "We literally have turned a page in history and the political scene in Texas will never be the same."

Clements is the first Republican to be elected governor of Texas in 105 years and joined Tower in giving the GOP solid new strength in the state's top offices.

The two met for a handshaking celebration on the steps of the state Capitol after proclaiming victory Wednesday and attributed their victories to well organized and well financed campaigns.

The financing, in both instances, was unprecedented. With two weeks remaining in the race, Tower reported expenditures of \$3.5 million and Clements reported spending \$6.4 million.

Texas GOP chairman Ray Barnhart noted Republicans gained two Texas congressional seats, won three new seats in the Legislature, and captured several local offices.

"There's no question we will contest

more races in the future," Barnhart said. "I think the fact we won a statewide race shows the Democrats' stranglehold has been broken."

Secretary of State Steve Oaks concurred, saying an influx of residents from the Northeast had enhanced the Republican strength in Texas and increased the number of Texans who consider themselves independents. He said low voter turnouts in black areas of Houston and in Mexican-American precincts of San Antonio contributed to the defeat of Hill and Krueger, while there were record turnouts in traditionally Republican strongholds such as the Midland-Odessa area, southwest Houston and the Panhandle.

Hill conceded defeat shortly after noon Wednesday, but declined to place the blame on any portion of his campaign.

"We had a tremendous campaign, I wouldn't change a thing. It's just that the other side got more votes."

See related stories on pages 4-5.

A&M: lowest loan default rate

By CANDICE HILL Battalion Reporter

Aggies have their faults, but at least they pay their bills.

As of Oct. 31, Texas A&M University students had the lowest default rate — 3 percent — of any using the Hinson-Hazlewood College Student Loan Fund, one of the major long-term loans made to college students.

The default rate for several other universities looks like this: Prairie View A&M University, 50 percent; University of Houston, 24 percent; Southern Methodist University, 15 percent; University of Texas, 11 percent; and Baylor University, 10 percent.

Credit card canceled

Free spender stops spree

DALLAS — A Pakistani businessman who rolled through town dropping millions of dollars in the form of purchases and tips has either had second thoughts about all that money or he never had it in the first place.

The name on the checks and American Express card slips was that of F. Masood Khan, a Washington businessman who appeared to many to have infinite wealth.

Although in town only a short time Monday, Khan reportedly purchased a rack of expensive furs from the plush Neiman-Marcus department store. A short time later at an elite disco, he tipped a waitress with a \$1 million check and paid the winners of a dance contest \$500,000 each.

Late Wednesday, however, it was learned Khan had contacted the Union First National Bank in Washington and stopped payment on the checks. American Express indicated it had canceled his credit card.

"Texas A&M is doing better than any other school who is a major user of our program," said Mack Adams, head of Student Services Division of the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System.

The other major long-term loan is the Federally Insured Student Loan. The two loans are similar except that the federal loans are processed through a commercial lender, such as a bank or a credit union. The state of Texas is the lender for Hinson-Hazlewood loans, but the loan is still federally insured.

There are no statistics available from the federal government on default rates for the FISL. Alvin Bormann Jr., assistant director of Student Financial Aid at Texas

A&M, said he feels that the overall default rate is probably just as low as the Hinson-Hazlewood loan.

The maximum amount of a long-term loan is \$2,500 per year for undergraduates and graduate students and \$5,000 per year for those in medical or veterinary school.

After a student graduates, he is given a nine-month grace period for re-adjustment purposes, and then a 10-year repayment period begins. The minimum repayment per month is \$30, but this can increase if a great amount is owed.

There are two short-term loans available at Texas A&M. One of these is the Student Aid Fund, set up by the Association of Former Students. The other is the Texas A&M Class of 1926 Fund. The combined default rate of these loans is 1.4 percent. A maximum of \$750 is loaned and must be repaid within one year.

Bormann said he believes there are three reasons Texas A&M has a low default rate. One is that the office staff of the Financial Aid Department briefs the students about the loan program and makes sure they know what their responsibilities are when receiving the loans.

The attitude of the students also has a lot to do with the low default rate, he said. Bormann feels that most students have pride in this university, which has a direct effect on their payments.

"A person who feels good about his university will be more apt to take care of his responsibilities," he said.

Another factor which influences the low default rate, Bormann said, is the services provided by the Placement Office. Its programs help students after graduation, which helps pay the bills.

The number of long-term loans per student has decreased because of grant programs, such as the Basic Education Opportunity Grant and the Texas Public Education Grant.

The Financial Aid Department prefers to provide grants and employment, granting loans only if necessary. It tries to keep the loans to a minimum so the student will not have such an enormous debt after graduation, Bormann said.

Aggie jokes go to University of Texas

By MICHELLE SCUDDER Battalion Staff

The traditional jokes are still about Texas A&M University, but this year the joke could be on the Longhorns at the University of Texas.

Utmost magazine, a student publication at UT, is sponsoring an "Aggie joke contest" in honor of the annual football rivalry between the two schools.

All entries for the contest are due Saturday and the winners will be notified within two weeks. Aggies are eligible to enter the contest.

"We would encourage people at Texas A&M to send in their entries because they have more insight to Aggie life than we do," said Sandy Falls, editor of Utmost magazine.

According to the November issue of Utmost, "An integrated panel of Aggie joke connoisseurs (pro, con, and native Aggies) will examine all entries for laugh value, originality, and publishability (poor taste will go no farther than the judges' table)."

The top 10 entries will earn their authors one of a variety of prizes, all

available from Austin merchants. They weren't expecting to have College Station residents among their prize winners; in fact, they hadn't considered this problem, but Falls said that out-of-town winners can collect their prizes the weekend of the Dec. 2 game.

This rendering of a Texas A&M cadet is part of an advertisement for an Aggie Joke Contest. The contest — open to Aggies — is sponsored by Utmost magazine, a student publication at the University of Texas.

Prizes include a pair of jeans, dinners at Austin restaurants and cafes, a gift certificate from University Co-op, other merchandise and four subscriptions to Utmost magazine.

All entries must be typed or printed and include the name, address and telephone number of the entrant. Jokes should be mailed to Utmost Magazine, P.O. Box D, Austin, Texas 78712.

