

THE BATTALION

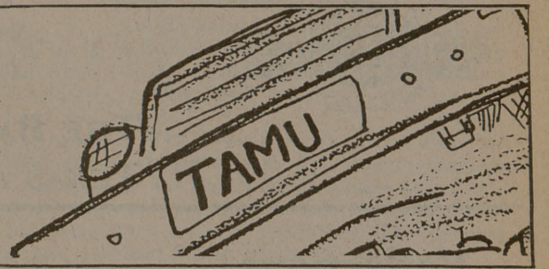
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Travelers unite

"My daddy," she said, dripping, "always said that if it's raining anywhere in Texas, it's raining in College Station." In addition to rain, Aggies must suffer bad roads and a worse parking situation. See page 2.



Texas workers chief wants 10% wage hike

United Press International
AUSTIN — The executive director of the Texas Public Employees Association says state pay raises the past two years have not kept pace with inflation and is urging a 10.2 percent wage increase.

Director Jess Irwin, representing 160,000 state employees, Tuesday told the House Appropriations Committee that state workers need far more than the 5.1 percent annual pay raise legislative budget writers have proposed for the next two years. The employees association's request would cost taxpayers \$450 million.

Irwin said state workers' purchasing power declined 6.1 percent during the past two years despite salary increases totaling 6.8 percent.

"This present (fiscal) year, salaries were raised by 9.25 percent, but we are already above 9 percent inflation and the cost of living is still spiraling," Irwin said.

Pay improvements recommended by the agency heads and state employees' lobbyist include \$325 million for a 10.2 percent in-

crease in spite of President Carter's request to hold raises to 7 percent, across-the-board salary increase for government workers, \$5 million for career incentive pay of up to \$100 for longevity, \$33 million for merit raises, \$35 million for better insurance benefits, \$5.2 million for accrued sick leave pay and \$43 million for higher contributions to pension funds.

"The Legislative Budget Board recommendations do not meet the erosion of our salaries by inflation," Irwin said.

Administrators from the departments of public safety, human resources, corrections, mental health and mental retardation, parks and wildlife, highways, and the Texas Employment Commission and State Board of Control joined Irwin in urging higher pay raises for state workers.

Officials of the Texas Education Agency — in contrast — suggested a 6.8 percent a year raise. TEA spokesmen said they scaled down their request in response to President Carter's request for a 7 percent limit on wage increases.

DPS Director Col. Wilson E. Speir said

administrators drew up their pay proposals before Carter issued his inflation-fighting request for limiting wage and price increases to a maximum of 7 percent.

"The federal employees have been getting raises every two years. They get cost of living increases. But all state employees get is what the Legislature puts in the appropriations bill every two years," Speir said.

"To appropriate billions of dollars to carry out services for the citizens of the state and not provide salaries to create a work force that is dedicated, experienced and effective would result in an even bigger waste of the state's resources," Irwin said.

Jerry Chapman, executive director of the state's welfare agency, said the Human Resources Department staff is "anxious" about possible staff reductions in light of cutbacks two years ago and Gov. Bill Clements' calls for elimination of 25,000 state jobs.

Irwin cautioned lawmakers against "hasty or ill-conceived approaches to attain elimination of positions that are redundant, overlapping or deadwood."



Grain rig accident blocks University Drive

College Station firemen Tuesday hosed grain and fuel off of University Drive, top, that was spilled when a truck exiting from the East Bypass about 8:30 a.m. lost its brakes and flipped. The truck, owned by Wendland Farm Products Inc., was carrying 24 tons

of feed from Temple to Wellborn and Navasota. Driver Otis Record, bottom, was unhurt. Another truck was dispatched from Temple to take on the cargo so that wreckers could right the damaged rig.

Battalion photos by Scott Pendleton

Ticket scalpers on top of Boston 'massacre'

By PEGGY MCCULLEN
Battalion Reporter

If you think scalping ended with cowboys and Indians, you'd better take a look around campus for signs saying "Boston concert tickets for sale."

"The 6,000 tickets which went on sale at 8 a.m. (Monday, Jan. 22) were sold out by 3:30 that afternoon," said Debbie Murray, who's been selling tickets at the MSC Box Office for two years.

"People started standing in line at 2 p.m. on Friday afternoon and stood in line all weekend."

"By Monday morning, the line went all the way up to the third floor of Rudder," she said.

The 600 reserved seat tickets sold for \$8 and the general admission tickets numbering 6,000 sold for \$6.

Now the only way to get tickets is second hand. And scalpers are making a killing.

"I sold two tickets last Tuesday for \$20 apiece," said one male student who prefers to remain unidentified.

John R. McDonald, University Police Chief, said it is not illegal to scalp buyers until the legislature passes a law prohibiting it.

However, soliciting on campus without a permit is illegal and persons caught in the act could be in trouble, he said.

Joe Bierman, Commons Dining Facility manager, ran an advertisement in last Monday's Battalion Classified seeking two tickets for the concert. By 2 p.m. of the same afternoon, he had received a call.

"The guy wanted \$30 for a \$6 ticket and I told him what to do with it," Bierman said.

A second caller told Bierman that he already had a great offer to buy his tickets. "I told him he'd better take that first offer because I wasn't interested," he said.

One "scalpee" who paid \$20 each for second-row seats said, "Well, think of it this way. I made a pretty good investment. How many people see Boston from the second row?"

One group of students at the University has found a very good way to make "mad" money, one student reports.

By purchasing season tickets, any student has the option to buy concert tickets a week before they go on sale to the general public.

This particular group, said a student who purchased tickets from them, controls a large section of seats on the first through fourth rows. They are selling the reserved seat tickets to Boston for \$20 each, he said, which is \$8 above the Town Hall price.

Boston will appear in College Station on Sunday in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Ambulance service won't renew contract with Bryan

By SCOTT PENDLETON
Battalion Staff

Mid-Tex Ambulance Service will not seek to renew its permit with the City of Bryan. Bill Thornal, the owner of Mid-Tex, formed city officials and Mid-Tex employees — but not the public — of his intentions at the end of January. Mid-Tex's present permit expires March 31.

"The expense for the local emergency transfer service has been great for the last year and there doesn't seem that there will be any let up," Thornal told employees in a letter posted on the wall of the ambulance office.

A Mid-Tex employee, Doris Williams, said the Battalion that Thornal had become discouraged by the cost of carrying incidents and the city's attitude toward his problems.

"The city really doesn't want to help me," Williams said Tuesday. "They're always picking on him."

But Williams conceded that "I'm very partial to him."

Though Mid-Tex will cease its emergency service in Bryan, it won't cease all ambulance activities.

"Race contracts are still in the making for the year of 1979 so we will still have some ambulance service," the letter said.

"It is undecided at this time about out-of-town (long distance) transfers but possibly we will make them for the City of Bryan," the letter said. A transfer is movement of a patient from one hospital to another by ambulance under non-emergency conditions. Mid-Tex has been handling all the transfer calls in the county.

Thornal said Mid-Tex may stop emergency service before March 31. Under the Bryan ambulance ordinance, the ambulance service couldn't operate in the city beyond that date.

Bryan firefighters are not sure whether

or not they will be expected to take up emergency service. They say they have not yet received any special training to prepare for the task and that no such training programs have been started.

New firefighters are trained to be Emergency Care Attendants (ECAs) as part of their usual training course, which would qualify them to serve as ambulance attendants under Texas law.

Ambulance service for the city is expected to be discussed at the Bryan city council meeting next Monday.

Thornal's decision to cease providing Bryan's ambulance service is only the latest development in a situation that has troubled Bryan and the county since October 1973. That month three local funeral homes, which had provided the county's service, announced they would cease operations Jan. 1, 1974.

County and city officials hired Ed Sherill to provide county-wide ambulance service because he was the only bidder among five who didn't ask for a subsidy in addition to the fees collected from clients.

In 1977, Thornal, a former Bryan policeman, applied for and received a Bryan ambulance permit, which was granted because of the numerous complaints about Sherill's service.

When Sherill ceased operations, College Station began operating two ambulances it received from him. The operated ambulance service, which uses firemen as attendants, costs College Station \$90,000 annually, City Manager North Bardell estimated.

College Station has been very satisfied with its ambulance service and would like to continue to operate it as it is, Bardell said.

Thornal has had difficulty making ends meet in Bryan, culminating in charges last summer by former employees that Mid-Tex was not operating up to acceptable standards. The employees conceded that no private ambulance company could provide adequate service in Bryan without a subsidy from the city. The Bryan city council last fall granted Thornal a \$2,000 a month subsidy as a temporary measure, and began negotiations with College Station and Brazos County officials for a jointly operated county-wide service.

Clayton proposes primaries in April

United Press International

AUSTIN — Texas could save about one-third on the cost of staging a presidential primary in 1980 by holding the primary in April on the same date as city and school board elections, Speaker Bill Clayton said Tuesday.

Clayton initially had joined Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby in favoring legislation separating the presidential primary from the state primary elections, and scheduling the primary in March and the state primaries in July and August.

But Gov. Bill Clements said last week he will veto any bill that changes the date of the state primaries from May and June to later in the summer.

"If we're going to have a presidential primary and if we're going to move the dates of the regular primary back and there is a threat of a veto, we probably ought to split them and have two separate bills," Clayton said.

He said the idea of having the presidential primary in April rather than March came from former Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes, who Clayton said was in town on business.

The speaker also told reporters he sees little chance of achieving the \$1 billion tax reduction Clements is demanding this session. Clements said he would veto a spending bill the size of the \$20.8 billion budget drafted by the Legislative Budget Board, which amounts to a 22 percent increase over current spending levels.

To achieve the \$1 billion tax reduction, the LBB budget would have to be trimmed by almost \$900 million.

Warnings on liquor containers?

United Press International

AUSTIN — It might not do any good and it's not even the most important bill on the subject, but an East Texas legislator wants some sort of warning label on some liquor containers.

Rep. Ben Z. Grant, D-Marshall, is sponsoring a bill that requires distilled spirits sold in an original container to contain the message: "Warning. The consumption of alcoholic beverages may be hazardous to your health."

The labeling law would not affect beer or wine and would apply only to the original container in which hard liquor is sold. The distillers and bottlers would pay for such labeling.

"I'm not trying to bring back Prohibition," Grant emphasized. "Rather than prohibit, I think we should try to educate."

Grant admitted it is impossible to evaluate how effective warning labels are in deterring possible abusers. The liquor warning label has been compared to the label printed on cigarette packages and advertisements. Cigarette smoking has actually increased since the warning label law was enacted.

"I don't think you can evaluate that sort of thing," said Grant, who smokes both a pipe and cigarettes. "It's hard to show what affects someone's decision to do or not do something."

The fifth-term representative has unsuccessfully proposed similar legislation before, and he was not confident about success this time.



Battalion photo by Jeanne Graham

Brooks Herring, left, newly elected MSC Council president, is congratulated by Ray Daniels, current president. Herring, now chairman of Town Hall, will take office April 7 as the 30th MSC Council president.

Herring elected president of 30th MSC Council

By JAMES HAMILTON
Battalion Reporter

Brooks Herring was chosen as the new Memorial Student Center Council president in a closed executive session of the MSC Council Tuesday night.

The council deliberated for about 90 minutes before choosing Herring over two other candidates, Teresa Beshara and Rebecca Taulman.

Herring, a junior chemical engineering major from Victoria, will officially take over as Texas A&M's 30th MSC Council President in early April. Herring succeeds Ray Daniels, who has served as president for the past year.

"There's a lot of good people to work with up here," Herring said, "and I'm looking forward to a good year."

Herring, who is currently the chairman of the MSC Town Hall Committee, is already planning some changes for the MSC Council.

"We've got a challenge ahead of us to educate everybody on just exactly what the MSC Council does," he said. "I don't know how many people really understand about the various committees and the activities that they provide."

In addition to public relations, Herring said he hopes to make other improvements as well.

"I'm not going to be a good presi-

dent if I don't improve over this year's operation," he said. "In any operation, there's room for improvement, and I'm confident that I've got a good base to work with."

Daniels said that Herring's primary duty will be to motivate and direct the officers and chairmen of the MSC Council and Directorate.

"I put a great deal of time into the job, and I imagine that Brooks will," Daniels said. "Most MSC Council presidents do. They virtually live up here."

Herring's job as president will include attending staff meetings, making phone calls to set up appointments and gather information, writing council policy and sending it to the committees.

"A lot of the job is sitting down and talking to people, finding out what's going on and getting their input," Daniels said.

Herring and the two other candidates were interviewed Thursday by an 11-member nominating committee, which made its recommendation to the MSC Council Tuesday night. The council took twice as long to decide on a candidate as it did last year.

"The other candidates were very well qualified and that's why it was hard to pick one."