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Will George be back?

Can George Woodard — once Texas A&M's premier football player — get his knee and body in shape for the season? Battalion sports editor David Boggan shares an insight on page 10.



Clements' plan includes wiretaps for drug traffic

By ESTHER CORTEZ
Battalion Reporter

Gov. Bill Clements said Thursday he advocates using wire-tapping to stop drug traffic from Mexico, which he called "the most pressing problem of law enforcement."

Clements spoke to the 21st Annual County Judges and Commissioners Conference at the College Station Ramada Inn.

Clements said he and other government officials are currently working on a plan that would put a stop to this problem. The plan, he said, includes the use of electronic surveillance equipment.

"Putting it bluntly, that's wire-tapping," Clements said.

The governor and Mexican President Jose Lopez Portillo recently discussed the drug trafficking problem.

Another situation that should be cor-

rected, he said, is that law enforcement officers are not adequately compensated for their work. Too many law officers are being lost to private business because of this, he said.

Clements also called for stronger laws on the handling of juvenile lawbreakers, bond making and speedy trials.

Turning to government, Clements stressed the importance of communication between state and local governments. He said that county, state and municipal governments often have differences.

"We must be sure that state government does not usurp the integrity and responsibilities of our local governments," he said.

"But," he added, "we in government must be Texans first, sticking together when there is a threat."

Federal government is the threat, Clements said.

"It is no longer content to play big brother, it now wants to play big daddy."

The governor said he feels that government at all levels must be accountable to the people. He added that voters deserve the right to call special referendum elections to either reject or accept tax increases approved at the local level.

Clements also discussed the possibility of establishing a single tax appraisal office in each county, saying that it would be more practical than the current system. He added that the office should be headed by an elected official, such as the county tax assessor-collector.

Clements concluded his speech saying that accountable, responsible government must be a reality and not just saved for use in "lofty speeches."



Texas A&M University's Ross Volunteers greeted Texas Gov. Bill Clements at Easterwood Airport Thursday. The governor was here to speak at the

21st Annual County Judges and Commissioners Conference.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

Religion courses attacked by dean; clergy defends

By JANE LYON
Battalion Reporter

Dr. David Maxwell, dean of Liberal Arts at Texas A&M University, says he will not grant credit to students who take Bible courses being taught by ministers of local churches.

Other administrators from Texas A&M colleges were not so definite, noting that sometimes they will grant credit.

The courses, advertised in The Battalion last month, are accredited by Abilene Christian College. They were advertised as being transferable to other universities.

The courses are conducted at the Texas A&M Church of Christ on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Maxwell said in a letter to The Battalion editor, which appeared Jan. 23, that these off-campus courses cannot receive credit unless prior permission has been granted by the student's academic dean.

He also said the courses were not equivalent to University courses in which "the professor is expected to pay allegiance to the canons of objectivity, neutrality, and pursuit of knowledge...rather than the sectarian views and values of a particular religious denomination and faith."

In an interview last week, Maxwell said, "As a group, these people who teach these off-campus Bible courses do not possess qualifications such that we consider them for appointment as professors at Texas A&M University."

He said he has checked the work involved in the courses taught and the credentials of the men teaching the courses.

Maxwell named several comparable courses offered at Texas A&M in the departments of English, philosophy and humanities.

Dr. Richard Stadelmann, assistant professor of philosophy and humanities, said he was not in a position to judge whether a minister might be qualified to teach Bible courses or not.

"Those of us who teach on campus are more subject to administrative review and advice," he said.

He added that religion courses are of a more emotional nature than other courses and therefore harder to maintain objectivity in.

The religion courses at Texas A&M had been reviewed by the Brazos County Ministerial Association that most ministers belong to or attend, he said.

Dan Warden, minister of the A&M Church of Christ and instructor of the Old Testament survey courses offered through ACU, received both his bachelor's and master's degrees in the New Testament from ACU. Bob Davidson, instructor of the New Testament survey courses, received his bachelor's degree in the New Testament at ACU and his master's in education at Texas A&M.

"Abilene Christian University could not afford to let their extension courses be taught by unqualified instructors," Warden said, "because it's a member in good standing of the Southern Association of Colleges and Universities and other equivalent educational organizations. We do not profess to be a denominational or sectarian group," Warden said.

"We're not reading in our own ideas. We're teaching straight from the Bible."

Warden said the extension courses had been offered for at least the last six years, if not more, before he came to Texas A&M.

Warden explained that to receive credit for the Bible courses, a student must take tests and finals in the courses, and com-

plete a research paper for the Old Testament survey courses.

"We leave it up to the student to go to the dean (for prior approval)," he said.

Warden added that many students took the courses for their own personal benefit and no one had yet complained to him of trouble in receiving credit at Texas A&M for the courses.

The Rev. W.C. Hall, campus minister for the United Methodist Church, said that campus ministers teach Bible courses for credit at all the colleges and universities in Texas — except Texas A&M and the University of Houston.

He said if the courses were offered through Texas A&M by local campus ministers, the University could be more responsible for content of the courses and credentials of the teachers.

Hall teaches two extension courses here, one in Old Testament studies and another in New Testament studies, through Lon Morris Junior College. These

(Please turn to page 6.)

councilmen object to appropriations 'game'

CS applies for \$306,000 from HUD

By ROY BRACC
Battalion Staff

The College Station City Council Thursday approved the draft of an application for a community development block grant worth \$306,000 to be sent to the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The vote was 5-2 in favor of the application, with Councilmen James Dozier and Roger Adams voting against it.

"My vote is mainly a vote against the whole concept of community development," Dozier said, adding that he was also against the methods used by HUD determining how money is appropriated.

"It's a game," said Councilman Gary Halter, referring to the procedure used by HUD to allocate funds.

Last year, HUD cut off \$300,000 from College Station because it said that the city had not provided any low-income housing assistance in previous years.

HUD, Adams said, was "blackmailing" the city by not providing funds unless the city meet strict minimum requirements for types of housing assistance.

More than \$160,000 of the grant will be used mainly for paving streets, street lighting and a water system in four predominantly black neighborhoods, said Jim Callaway, community development planner for the city.

These neighborhoods have already been approved to receive the funds, Callaway said, because of substandard housing and street conditions that existed in the areas for years.

In addition, Callaway added, another \$100,000 of the grant will be used for a Housing Assistance Program that will eventually include rent subsidies and housing improvements. Only low income families in these and four adjacent neighborhoods would be eligible for the program, according to the application.

The money allocated for the housing improvements is for owner-occupied housing only, Callaway explained.

The improvements mentioned in the application include upgrading the houses in the eight neighborhoods to meet city building codes.

Callaway explained that the upgrading is necessary because the houses were outside of the city limits and not subject to city requirements when they were built.

The remaining \$46,000 is allotted for planning, administration and contingency for the plan, Callaway said.

The application also outlined future goals such as construction of low-cost housing and rent subsidies for low-income residents. The city must achieve these in order to satisfy HUD requirements for any future grants.

The goals, Callaway said, include areas of subsidized housing for the elderly and handicapped residents as well as dwellings

for small and large families in the low income bracket.

The application also mentioned a three-year goal of 120 new housing units for eligible residents. The new housing units are being pushed by HUD, Callaway said.

The city, Callaway said, wants to provide housing assistance utilizing existing housing and keeping the construction at a minimum.

The new housing units and the funds for rent subsidies are mentioned in the application in order to receive HUD approval for the grant, Callaway said. The funding for these projects, which are themselves subject to HUD approval, will come from a combination of private and public funding.

CS council rejects contract proposing housing association

College Station city council members Thursday rejected a proposed housing association that would issue tax-free bonds to housing developers building low-income housing.

The council decided to alter the original terms of the contract so that the city would not be held liable in case of default by the owners of the housing units.

The housing association is proposed in a contract offered to the council by a consortium headed by Robert Kassel, a New York resident who wants to build 100 housing units in College Station.

The contract calls for the housing association to sponsor the bonds for the housing. In addition, Kassel and his group would own the projects and retain all profits from the project, said Jim Callaway, community development planner for the city.

The apartments would be offered at the market price, Callaway explained. Any renter paying more than 25 percent of income in rent would be eligible for a subsidy that would be financed by a bond from the department of Housing and

Urban Development (HUD). The units, although financed through a different system other than HUD grants, would aid the city in securing future HUD grants.

HUD cut College Station's 1978 community development grant of \$300,000 because it claimed the city had failed to provide low-income housing assistance for residents.

College Station lost its 1978 community development grant request of \$300,000 from HUD because it failed to provide low-income housing assistance in past years.

One of the reasons for the council's postponement was a reported change in HUD regulation of financing such projects.

City Attorney Neely Lewis told the council that the changes, although unknown at this time, might affect the status of the housing association if the contract establishing it were accepted as offered.

The new regulations could change the status of the city as a third party in the contract, Lewis said.

Another question among council members was whether the contract allowed the housing association to negotiate with other developers.

"I don't want to be tied to Mr. Kassel like he was my wife I couldn't divorce," Councilman Jim Dozier said.

Lewis said he thought this was allowed in the contract, but Mayor Lorence Bravenec and others requested that a clarifying clause be added to the contract.

Bravenec also asked that an "escape" clause be added stating that the city could dissolve the housing association if HUD placed the city or the association in an undesired financial position.

The council also wanted to insert a clause in the contract to allow the city to OK any transfer of ownership of projects financed by the housing association.

Councilman Gary Halter added a clause that would dissolve the association in five years if no projects are undertaken.

Another clause was suggested by Councilman Anne Hazen to restrict projects funded by the association to permanent residents of College Station.



Score!

A member of the Texas A&M Lacrosse Team (right) scores against his teammates during the team's practice Thursday afternoon. The team opens its South-

west Conference season Saturday against the Lone Star Lacrosse Club in Austin.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.