

Dallas still to prove its voting plan

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Despite the city of Dallas' contention it is responsive to minority political concerns, the Justice Department charges the second largest city in Texas has yet to prove its controversial reapportionment plan does not dilute voting rights of blacks and Hispanics.

The department made the charge in a memorandum urging the U.S. District Court in Washington to turn down the city's motion for a summary judgment that the plan does not violate the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

The memorandum said: "Our view summary judgment is appropriate since the plaintiffs have failed to demonstrate that there is no genuine issue of material fact as to whether the proposed reapportionment plan does not have the purpose or effect of denying or abridging the right to vote on account of race, color or membership in a language minority group."

The case involved the city council's proposed reapportionment plan which three of 11 members would be elected at-large by a city-wide vote and eight members would be elected in eight individual districts. The government argued this proposal is covered by a section of the Voting Rights Act that requires advance approval either by the U.S. District Court in Washington or the Justice Department.

The city filed a motion for summary judgment Jan. 25, asking the court to give its approval on the basis of undisputed facts on record. The city said past discrimination does not now affect minority access to the political process because Dallas officials are responsive to minority concerns.

The Justice Department said the city failed to show there is no question of fact about the racial purpose effect of the plan. The government memorandum argued that the three at-large elections — for the mayor, mayor pro tem and deputy mayor pro tem — give the minorities less voting power than if all seats were filled by district-by-district voting.

The city's attorneys have argued the plan gives minorities more voting power than they ever had before, because the city previously elected all council members on an at-large basis.

For this reason, they argued, the three at-large elections are not covered by the Voting Rights Act because they were in effect prior to Nov. 1, 1972.

The government memorandum said Dallas, the second largest city in Texas and eighth largest in the United States, had a population of 444,401 in 1970, with blacks comprising 25 percent and Mexican-Americans 8 percent.

Under the city's plan, the memorandum said, blacks would have population majorities in only two districts — 87.3 percent in the eighth and 73.6 in the sixth.

The memorandum pointed out an alternative plan has been proposed that would give blacks majorities in the sixth, eighth and ninth districts, and another plan — calling for district voting for all 11 council seats — would give blacks majorities in the eighth, ninth, tenth and eleventh districts.

Now you know
United Press International
Martin Van Buren, William Henry Harrison and John Tyler all served as president of the United States in the same year, 1841.

what's up at A&M

Monday

MSC ARTS COMMITTEE: "That Obscure Object of Desire," a darkly humorous satire on love and desire, will be shown at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater. Admission is \$1. (R)

WELCH FOUNDATION LECTURE: Dr. David Shirley, former head of the chemistry department at the University of California at Berkeley, will deliver the 1978-79 Welch Foundation Lecture at 8 p.m. in Room 100 of Heldenfels Hall. His topic will be "Physical Chemistry with Synchrotron Radiation: Status and Prospects."

SIGMA IOTA EPSILON: Will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 145, MSC.

BETA ALPHA PSI: Dr. Ruzel will speak on "The CPA Exam" at 8 p.m. in Room 107, Rudder Tower. Members and pledges should attend.

ALPHA ZETA: The deadline for all Alpha Zeta Scholarship applications is 5 p.m. today. All applications should be returned to Room 212, Agriculture Building or Room 217, Soil and Crop Sciences Building. There will also be a meeting at 7 p.m. in Room 410, Rudder Tower.

CLASS OF '79 T-SHIRT SALE: Begins today.

OSA — OFF-CAMPUS STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: Will have a general meeting at 5:30 p.m. in the MSC Council Room.

PLANT SCIENCES SEMINAR: Gordon Woolam will speak on "Plant Diseases Associated With Protozoa" at 4 p.m. in Room 112, Plant Sciences Building.

Tuesday

TAMU SECTION OF AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY: Presents "The Public Drinking Water Controversy" at 5 p.m. in Room 113, Heldenfels.

TAMU SURF CLUB: The spring trip will be discussed at 7:30 p.m. in Rudder Tower.

PENTAGON AREA HOMETOWN CLUB: Will elect officers and coordinate rides and carpools for rides-home during spring break at 8 p.m. in Room 321, Physics Building.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS: Will meet at 7 p.m. in Room 121, Civil Engineering Building.

POLITICAL FORUM: Richard "Racehorse" Haynes will speak on "Criminal Justice" at 12:30 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

MECHANIZED AGRICULTURE CLUB: There will be a hot dog roast and domino tournament at 6:30 p.m. in the Power and Machinery Lab.

TAMU MARINE FELLOWS: Ed Goldberg will speak on "The Oceans as Waste Space" at 10 a.m. in Room 226, Sterling C. Evans Library.

CORPS SENIOR MEETING: Will be held at 8 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

FELLOWSHIP OF CHRISTIAN ATHLETES: Will meet at 8 p.m. in the Lettermans Lounge in G. Rollie White Coliseum. FCA welcomes all ex-high school athletes.

TAMU WHEELMEN: Will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 607, Rudder Tower.

AG ECO CLUB: Bob Jett of Lone Star Gas Co. will speak on "Wiley Wingnut's Energy Crisis" at 7:30 p.m. in Room 108, Harrington.

BIOCHEMISTRY — BIOPHYSICS SOCIETY: Will have a guest speaker at 7 p.m. in Room 230, MSC.

PLANT SCIENCES SEMINAR: John Haloin will speak on "Chemical Defense Systems in Cotton Seed and Their Possible Relationship to Green Cookies" at 4 p.m. in Room 112, Plant Sciences Building.

TENNIS TEAM: The women's team will play Stephen F. Austin at 2 p.m. in Nacogdoches.

Wednesday

T STAR INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS ASSOCIATION: Mark Frazier will speak on an international space launch facility at 8 p.m. in Room 206, MSC.

TAMU SPORT PARACHUTE CLUB: Will meet at 8 p.m. in Room 510, Rudder Tower.

MSC Craft Shop plans to rent bicycles to A&M students, faculty

By ERIN BECKERS
Battalion Reporter

Bicycles will soon be available for rental for students, faculty and staff at the Memorial Student Center Craft Shop, says Karen Zantow, assistant program coordinator.

Tentative plans call for renting on an hourly basis to "help facilitate communications across campus as well as recreation," Zantow said.

Plans to begin rental is April 9. Six three-speed bicycles, both girls' and boys' were purchased at the recent bicycle auction sponsored by the A&M Wheelman's Club.

Zantow said the Craft Shop workers will make any repair work needed, with help from the Wheelman's Club. "We don't have the expertise on our staff to fix them up," she said.

Cost of rental has not been determined. Zantow says she is writing letters to other universities that rent bicycles for their policies. "We will probably base our policies on these," she said.

The bikes will be locked and kept in the racks at the east entrance of the MSC. Renters will leave an ID card and deposit at the Craft Shop and will be responsible for locking the bicycle back up and returning the key.

Zantow said the group may buy some tandem bicycles, built for two

people, and rent them out.

The MSC Craft Shop also has bicycle repair tools available to students and a bicycle shop open 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. seven days a week.

The shop is located in the MSC near the Basement Coffeehouse. An

air compressor, bike stand and a wheel truing stand are available.

Other tools may be checked out during Craft Shop hours: 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday through Friday; 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; and 1 through 7 p.m. Sunday.

MAY - JUNE
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MSC Political Forum
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