

# THE BATTALION

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## Access road called inaccessible

A tenant of the Varsity 1 apartments complained to the College Station City Council Thursday night that the only road leading into the

complex is in such bad shape it is unsafe. But the city says it isn't sure whether or not it owns the road. See page 6.

## Carter pessimistic on arrival in Egypt

**United Press International**  
CAIRO — President Carter arrived Thursday in Cairo to a tumultuous welcome and began what he called "crucial" talks with Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. But a high U.S. official traveling on Air Force One said Carter was "not particularly optimistic" about achieving an Israeli-Egyptian peace treaty.

"We have been so close so often," the official said and Carter "realized it was much easier for things to go wrong than to go right."

Indications of the difficulties Carter may face in his talks with Sadat and Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin surfaced almost immediately. Sadat said in an opening statement that "we are determined to enable our Palestinian brothers to realize their national rights and regain their freedom" — emphasizing the differences with Israel on that problem.

Egyptian Prime Minister Mustafa Khalil told reporters shortly before Carter arrived that Egypt had prepared counterproposals. He also made it clear Egypt would permit no American air bases in the

Israeli-occupied Sinai as suggested by Israel.

Almost at the same time Begin was returning to Israel from his Washington talks with Carter. He told reporters in Tel Aviv that if Carter brings "unacceptable counterproposals" from Egypt "we shall not accept them." But he did say he felt chances for a treaty were more promising.

Hundreds of thousands of Egyptians lined the flag-decked streets from the airport to greet Carter and Sadat who stood in an open limousine smiling and waving. Carter occasionally blew kisses to the crowds which hailed both presidents as champions of peace.

Hundreds of doves of peace were released at the airport when Carter arrived. Women threw flowers in the path of the procession as it moved past huge pictures of Sadat and Carter and some fainted from the excitement. One group of young men held up a Pepsi-Cola banner in what might have been a gesture of U.S.-Egyptian friendship.

The crowd — perhaps a million — appeared to be slightly smaller than the

crowds that greeted President Richard Nixon in 1974 when he became the first American president to visit Egypt after restoration of U.S.-Egyptian relations, but the welcome appeared fully as warm. White House officials said they were pleased with the turnout and noted that Thursday was a holiday and many Egyptians had left the city.

The holiday also marked the 16th anniversary of Syria's Ba'ath party seizing power, and Syrian President Hafez Assad used the occasion in Damascus to condemn any treaty arranged between Israel and Egypt as "not worth the paper it is written on." The Palestinians and even the relatively moderate Saudi Arabians expressed skepticism at the Carter mission.

Carter and Sadat began their talks at 11:30 a.m. EST at Al-Tahra Palace.

Secretary of State Cyrus Vance and Khalil, Sadat's chief negotiator, held a preliminary round of talks an hour earlier to discuss the new American ideas for breaking the deadlock in the peace negotiations, ideas Carter put forth last Sunday in talks with the Israelis.

## Texas bill would put student among regents

By KEITH TAYLOR  
Battalion Staff

A bill before a subcommittee in the Texas House of Representatives could place a student on the University of Texas Board of Regents, and the president of the Texas Student Association would like to see a similar bill that would apply to all state universities.

Joe Beall, vice president for external affairs here and president of TSA, said the bill, introduced by Rep. Mary Jane Bode of Austin, is a model for further legislation to place students on the board of regents of other universities.

TSA is an organization with representatives of student governments from across the state. It represents 14 universities, including all schools in the University of

Texas System, except the University of Texas. UT voted to abolish its student government last fall.

Lena Guerrero, legislative assistant on higher education to Bode, said the bill was introduced to give students a voice in their educational systems.

The Bode bill is in a subcommittee of the Higher Education committee.

Guerrero quoted Bode as saying it is time to realize that students are people, too, and they need full representation in all areas of their education.

Beall said TSA voted last fall to support bills of this type.

Rep. Bill Presnal of Bryan said he has not introduced a similar bill for the Texas A&M University System because he feels it would take away from the power of the student government.

"The student regent would be the liaison to the board rather than the student government president. I believe such a bill will circumvent the democratic process of the student government," Presnal said.

He said the bill would place a student appointed by the governor on the board rather than a student elected by the student body.

"It is a bad concept — not thoroughly thought out. The board does not work with the students; its main duty is allocation of funds for facilities and the budget of the school," he said.

Beall said the Bode bill would set up a student-elected council. The council would then nominate three members to the governor for consideration to be appointed to the board.

The Bode bill is a trial proposition to get reaction from the legislature and if the results are favorable, TSA will push for further legislation, Beall said.

A similar bill is being drafted for Texas Tech University, but it has not been put before the legislature yet, he said.

Texas A&M will probably be included in a more general bill that will apply to all state universities, Beall said.



Battalion photo by Robin Linn

### 'Look Out Below!'

Terri Cole has been jumping with the Sport Parachute Club here for over 100 jumps. Cole, a junior pre-nursing major, completed another jump Wednesday on the Drill Field.

## Improving tracks also being considered

## Group to study relocation of railroad

By LYLE LOVETT  
Battalion Staff

There must be something magic about a railroad; it has ridden many a hobo to freedom and inspired countless songwriters.

But the railroad doesn't seem so magic when traffic is stacked up at a crossing or when a train carrying dangerous cargo details.

The railroad came to Bryan in 1867 when the Houston and Texas Central extended its tracks from Millican. Most local track is now owned by Southern Pacific. The rest is owned by Missouri Pacific.

Both companies' trains use the tracks.

Since a derailment in Brazos County about 18 months ago, Texas A&M University and the cities of Bryan and College Station have sought to make the railroad less of a problem.

Last summer the Texas Transportation Institute conducted a preliminary advisory requested by Jarvis Miller, president of Texas A&M. It focused on the feasibility of moving the tracks that divide the Texas A&M campus.

"It wasn't a study," said C. Sadler Bridges, division head for TTI's economics and planning division. "It just basically

outlined what some of the alternatives might be."

TTI alternatives ranged in estimated costs from \$23 to \$44 million. But Bridges said the figures were "very ballpark."

A detailed study of the relocation question is planned by the Bryan-College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization, made up of representatives from both cities, the county and Texas A&M. A \$95,000 grant of federal funds will be administered by the state Railroad Commission to finance the study, due to begin soon.

MPO representative D.D. Williamson

said the study would compare the cost of improving the present railroad, complete with grade separations at major intersections, to moving the tracks.

"The study won't be done in just one step," Williamson said. It will be done in several and presented to the MPO and to the public for approval after each step is completed.

Williamson said the first step will be to study improving the existing rail. The next will be to study alternative routes. From those, one route will be picked and studied further. Williamson said the public will have the chance to voice opinions at MPO steering committee meetings.

After the study, which Williamson said should take from three to four months, the MPO will have concrete proposals to take to Washington in seeking improvement funding.

Bridges said the best chance to acquire funding to move the tracks would be to use the rerouted portion as a demonstration or test site for government railroad maintenance experiments.

"Now there is a federal test facility in Pueblo, Colo.," he said, "but it is entirely a test facility and nothing else. This would be a test facility on an operating railroad — a halfway house with respect to the Pueblo facility. The next step would be to implement changes in railroads in general."

For such a facility to be constructed, Bridges said a proposal would have to be written into a congressional bill and passed.

Williamson said accomplishing that would take "clout from local politicians" in Washington and added that such a plan would be the most desirable way to re-route the tracks.

## Texas high school students here for engineering seminar

By PHYLLIS PONDER  
Battalion Reporter

Nearly 2,800 science-minded high school students will be here today to participate in the annual Texas State Junior Engineering Technical Society Conference.

The conference is sponsored by the Texas Advisory Committee for JETS in cooperation with the College of Engineering of Texas A&M University. This has become an annual event at Texas A&M for all Texas high school students interested in a science-related profession, especially engineering.

Most of the students are JETS members of their high school. JETS is a high school organization which offers students added opportunities to learn about engineering through highly qualified speakers in the engineering field. The event takes place at Texas A&M every year because it is the pride of the Texas JETS Coordinating Office.

From 9 a.m. until noon the students will be offered competitive tests in slide rule,

pocket calculator, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology and engineering graphics. The slide rule and pocket calculator tests examines the students' ability to use these instruments. Texas JETS members who preregistered will be granted free admission to the tests. Non-members of JETS will be charged \$5 for the testing. Students may take as many tests as they can schedule. The tests are made up by professors in each of these departments at Texas A&M.

While the students are not being tested they can view exhibits being displayed in the Exhibit Hall area of Rudder Center. The exhibits will include calculators, model airplanes, model cars, wind tunnels and other objects that show the impact that engineering has had on mankind. At every exhibit a student sees, he will sign his name. From the names at the exhibits, one will be drawn to receive the door prize, a programmable calculator from Texas Instruments, donated by Loupot's Book Store. Each department in the college of engineering such as aerospace en-

gineering, bioengineering, civil engineering, ocean engineering, or nuclear engineering, sets up exhibits in Rudder that are unique in that field.

In the general assembly at 3 p.m., awards will be presented. There will be 43 scholarships given, 38 from Texas A&M and 5 from other schools. The Texas A&M scholarship begins at \$500 for the student's freshman year. There will also be awards given to winners of the Technical Paper Contest, The Engineering Design Contest, the winners of each competitive test, the best Chapter Team and the largest Texas JETS Chapter.

Every year Texas A&M sends two newsletters to most of the Texas high schools informing them about the conference. The students usually preregister with Texas A&M by sending in their names early in the year. The students stay one night and usually come by bus. However, this year some students from El Paso are flying to Houston and renting a car to drive to College Station for the conference.

## Batt announces break schedule

Wednesday's edition of the Battalion will be the only issue during spring break. The Battalion will resume normal publication schedule Monday, March 19.

## February's inflation rate shows upward spiral

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Americans were hit with another dose of dismal inflation news Thursday when the government reported wholesale prices surged 1 percent in February. Food and gasoline led the way.

When coupled with January's 1.3 percent rise, the discouraging February performance will almost certainly place renewed pressure on the White House to take additional anti-inflation actions to supplement its voluntary wage-price guidelines.

The latest inflation barometer from the Labor Department also offered no hope that the upward price spiral will ease any time soon.

Crude goods prices — those products just starting to work their way through the supply pipeline — soared by 3.3 percent in February for the largest monthly gain since May 1975, the Labor Department reported.

Once gain, food was the major reason for the large advance in wholesale prices. Foods ready for sale to retailers rose 1.6 percent, just slightly below the 1.8 percent January rise. It was the fifth time in the last six months that food has climbed by at least 1 percent.

On the energy front, gasoline prices went up by 2.2 percent in February, less than January's 3.2 percent rise but still a discouraging signal that consumers will be paying even more at their local filling stations in the months ahead.

Prices for beef and veal jumped 4.7 percent, which was small when compared with a 12.2 percent surge in vegetable prices and a 9.2 percent increase in the wholesale cost of fresh fruits. Fish also contributed by jumped 7.2 percent, the department said.

Part of the steep food price gains were attributed to bad winter weather in some sections of the country.

Wednesday, administration inflation fighters said food prices will continue to soar through March and consumers will face sharp increases in energy costs at least until the end of June.

The Council on Wage and Price Stability said farm prices have climbed at a 40 percent annual rate in the November-January period.

"Preliminary data for February indicate continued large increases," it said, particularly for meat, fruits and vegetables and dairy products.

Furthermore, it said, such temporary factors as bad weather cannot account for all of the recent upward swing in food prices. "The curve in prices of beef and dairy products cannot be viewed as temporary and are therefore of greater concern."

Overall, the council said in a periodic report, this implies "the rapid rise in retail food prices will extend through March."

"All forms of energy jumped sharply in January," the council said, and the stiff increases "can be expected to continue during the first half of 1979" and taper off in the later half.

On a more optimistic note, the council said last year's 11.6 percent increase in housing costs "should be much more moderate" this year because "mortgage rates have leveled off and the explosion of homepurchase prices seems to have abated somewhat."