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Reds, Giants open regular season

Cincinnati and San Francisco will play the first National League baseball game of the season at 1:30 p.m. today, but several familiar elements are expected to be missing: major league umpires, 41-year-old San Francisco first baseman Willie McCovey, former Red Pete Rose, and former Reds Man-

ager Sparky Anderson. The umpires are on strike, McCovey appears to have struck the end (he's finally been beaten out by 26-year-old Mike Ivie), Rose has struck gold in Philadelphia, and Anderson is striking out on a new career as a broadcaster. See page 15.

Student programs to get \$1.4 million

By DILLARD STONE
Battalion Staff

The finance committee's proposed allocation of 1979-80 student services fees tops the list of items to be considered at tonight's Texas A&M University student senate meeting.

Almost \$1.4 million will be earmarked for specific student programs, as the senate will recommend to University administrators how the fees should be allocated.

Next year's projected allocation is an 18.5 percent increase over last year's \$1.16 million and is dependent upon a student government proposal to raise the student service fee ceiling from \$20 to \$23.

Student service fees are currently assessed at the rate of \$1.67 per credit hour,

up to the \$20 maximum.

"The quality of the programs would suffer without the increase," Wayne Morrison, vice president for finance, said. "We felt the students wouldn't want that."

"When we cut everyone to the level where we felt they would be satisfied with the programming, we saw we needed a \$3 increase."

Most programs received increases, some to keep pace with inflation and wages, others to expand their programs

See a complete breakdown of the finance committee's recommended student service fee allocation on page 11.

allocation by 31.5 percent to \$44,500.

Morrison said Town Hall was one of the few programs that could be cut without significantly affecting its quality.

Programs receiving larger than average increases included MSC Programs, Shuttle Bus, and Student Government.

MSC Programs received only a nominal increase last year, so Morrison said, the committee decided to "greatly increase the quality of some of the programs," by budgeting for more staff personnel and equipment.

"The Shuttle Bus didn't ask for anything," Morrison said, but the contract for the buses jumped 50 percent, from \$10 to \$15 per hour. Part of the cost will be taken care of by increasing the cost of a shuttle bus pass from \$20 to \$30. The remainder will come from the student service fee.

Student government's budget was increased because it had been significantly underbudgeted this year, Morrison said.

All fee users who requested allocation increases had their proposed increases cut. Intramurals was the hardest hit; its 63.4 percent requested increase was cut to 8 percent.

The finance committee's proposed allocation, if approved by the senate, will pass on to University administrators in the form of recommendation. Generally, the University administration approves the senate's allocation of the student service fee.

Station's auction raises \$13,546

KAMU-TV's auction ended at 12:40 a.m. Wednesday after raising \$13,546 towards the operation of Texas A&M University's public broadcasting station.

The station reported that it received more than 3,500 calls during the three days the auction was broadcast.

About \$7,000 worth of merchandise and 70 pieces of art were donated to the auction, as well as several thousand dollars worth of supportive goods and services.

further. In general, most programs averaged about a 10 percent increase, hoped to be enough to stay even with inflation.

Morrison said inflation, supplies, wages and Battalion advertising were the main factors affecting rising costs of operation.

Two programs received decreases in their allocations from last year. The student publications department requested and received a \$6,000 cut in its allocation, from \$76,000 to \$70,000.

The Memorial Student Center's Town Hall committee had requested its allocation be maintained at the \$65,000 it had received this year. The finance committee's recommendation cuts the Town Hall

Situation improved in nuclear accident

United Press International

HARRISBURG, Pa. — Freed from the threat of a catastrophic hydrogen explosion, engineers today prepared a cautious shutdown of the crippled Three Mile Island nuclear furnace which should end the crisis that has disrupted thousands of lives.

"We have to heave a collective sigh of relief," said Gov. Dick Thornburgh. "Although civil defense authorities kept precautionary evacuation plans on a standby status, Thornburgh indicated he thought such a mass exodus would no longer be necessary."

"I'm glad we didn't have to test it out," the governor said in an interview.

Life in most towns around Three Mile Island gradually was returning to normal with some of the estimated 200,000 people who fled the area starting to trickle back home, despite continuing leaks of radiation.

The task engineers now face is to reduce temperatures in the reactor from 280 degrees Fahrenheit to below the 212-degree boiling point and to simultaneously lower reactor pressures without further damaging the reactor's fuel or causing new radiation leaks.

Some estimates of how long the process might take were up to two years, although there was no comment from the power company, which is required to do the job.

Harold Denton, heading the Nuclear

Regulatory Commission emergency team at the Susquehanna River plant site, said Tuesday he hoped to rapidly bring the nation's worst atomic power crisis to a conclusion. But he said no move would be made "before...we've taken every precaution against (radiation) leaks."

Thornburgh, smiling broadly, told reporters Tuesday night: "The news this evening is better. I think we all can hold to a reasonable opinion that the prospects for a catastrophic event have lessened."

Still, Thornburgh advised pregnant women and preschool children to stay out of the area within five miles of the plant and ordered schools in that radius to remain closed today.

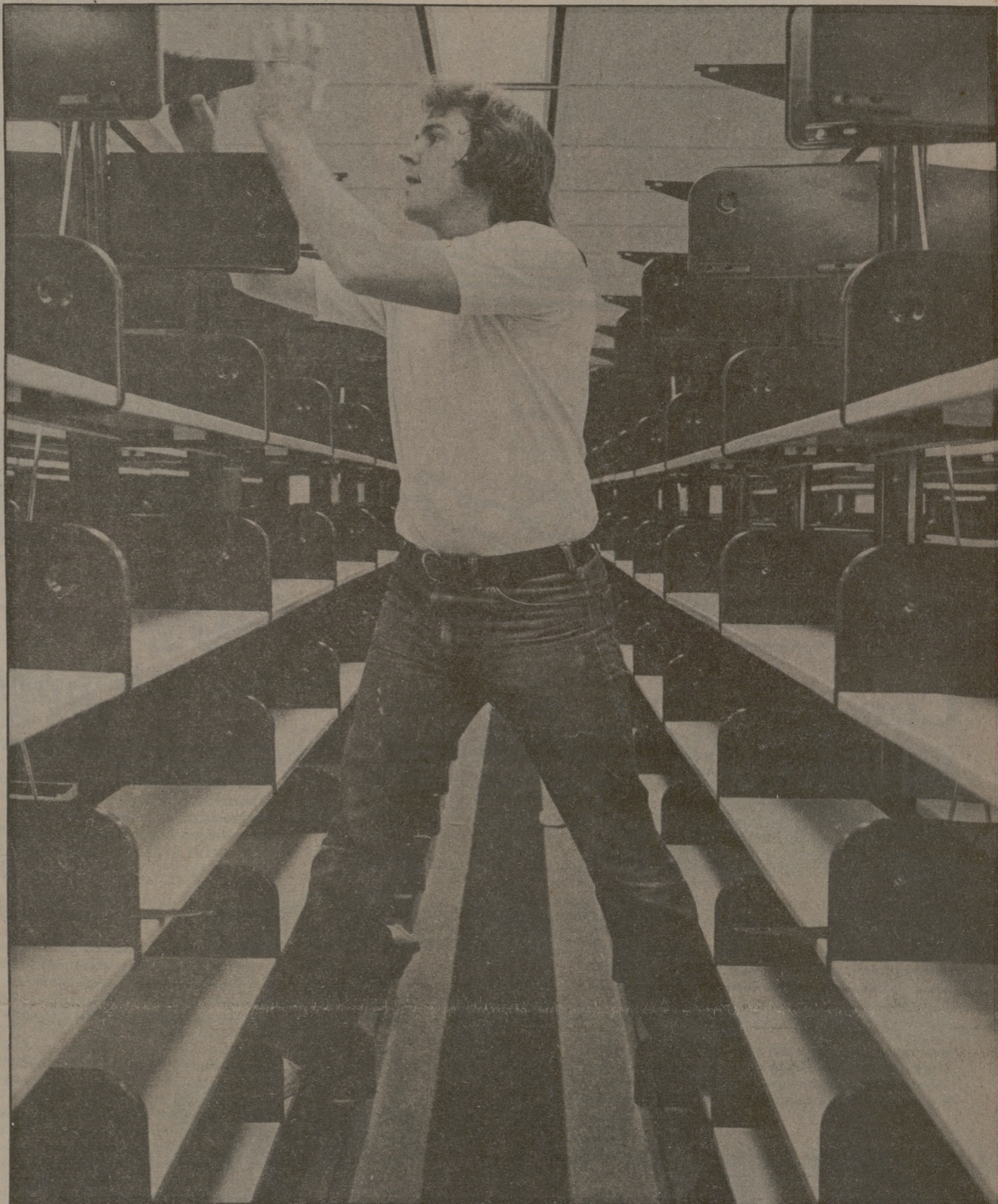
Denton reported Tuesday the hydrogen bubble which late last week filled the top of the reactor core had dissipated "as a result of our actions and a little bit of serendipity, a little bit of luck and a little bit of forethought." While the bubble was there, engineers had to delay cool-down operations and focus instead on avoiding a possibly catastrophic explosion.

Robert Bernaro of the NRC estimated it might cost \$40 million to clean up after the accident. Denton said it could take 25 days for radiation levels to decay enough to let workers enter the containment building around the reactor, and one or two years to return the reactor to operating condition.

American Nuclear Insurers in Farmington, Conn., reported it paid out \$127,000 in claims for emergency travel, housing and other costs for evacuees.

For those who fled and those who remained behind Sen. John Heinz, D-Pa., sent a plea to the Internal Revenue Service to stay, by 60 days, the scheduled April 15 deadline for income tax filing.

"The people in the Harrisburg area have endured great anxiety and hardship," Heinz said. "I believe an extension...would be a mark of the federal government's understanding and willingness to help in times of trouble."



Shelves, shelves and more shelves

A Texas A&M student worker installs bookshelves in the new 6-story wing of the University's Sterling C. Evans Library. Library officials have started

moving books into the new library space as fast as construction is completed.

Battalion photo by Robert Cook

CS electricity to see price drop

By KEVIN HIGGINBOTHAM
Battalion Reporter

With prices rising on nearly everything, College Station residents will be relieved to know they can expect a 2 percent decrease in their overall electricity bills.

The decrease is due to College Station completing the final stage of phasing out of Bryan Utilities in favor of Gulf States Utilities. This process took 18 months and

has involved an overall decrease of 10 percent in utility costs.

"A citizen can normally expect his bill to be 6 percent less per kilowatt (kwh) hour than last year," says College Station City Manager North Bardell, "provided that the Gulf States' fuel adjustment does not escalate."

Utility rates in Bryan will remain fairly stable, said Gailord White, Electrical Utilities director for Bryan.

"Over the long term, five to 10 years, let's say, our rates will probably increase less than the inflation rate," White said.

Bardell is quick to point out the complexities of determining energy costs, though. Sometimes, he said, looking back to where you've been sheds light on where you are and where you are going in the future.

College Station has purchased its utilities from the City of Bryan since 1940. In 1973, the year before the existing contract was to run out, Bryan offered College Station a new five-year agreement.

The new contract gave Bryan the right to adjust the price of utilities according to the cost it took to produce the power, but also said that Bryan would furnish College

Station with all the electrical energy it needed.

According to Bardell, the contract had three key points as far as College Station was concerned:

—The contract would last five years.

—It provided Bryan with an escalation clause.

—It did not bind College Station to supplying all of its utility needs from Bryan.

In the spring of 1975, Bryan asked for a rate increase. The difference was to equal Bryan's retail rate increase.

College Station objected because it bought utilities on a wholesale rather than retail basis and didn't feel an equal rate increase would be fair. Bryan was asked to supply a specific cost of production breakdown in order to justify the increase.

The breakdown showed that surplus money from Bryan's electrical revenues was used to help finance its schools and government expenses, Bardell said.

At that time, Bardell was told to seek other energy suppliers. Gulf States Utilities Company and Texas Power and Light Company were judged to be the two

most feasible suppliers.

Of the two, Gulf States was found to be the most economical to use, since it already had lines running near the city. The switch to Gulf States has cost College Station nearly \$6 million to change lines and construct a transformer necessary to adapt the energy for use in the city.

"The idea was to sell bonds for the money and then drop Bryan as we finished the facilities to phase in Gulf States," Bardell said.

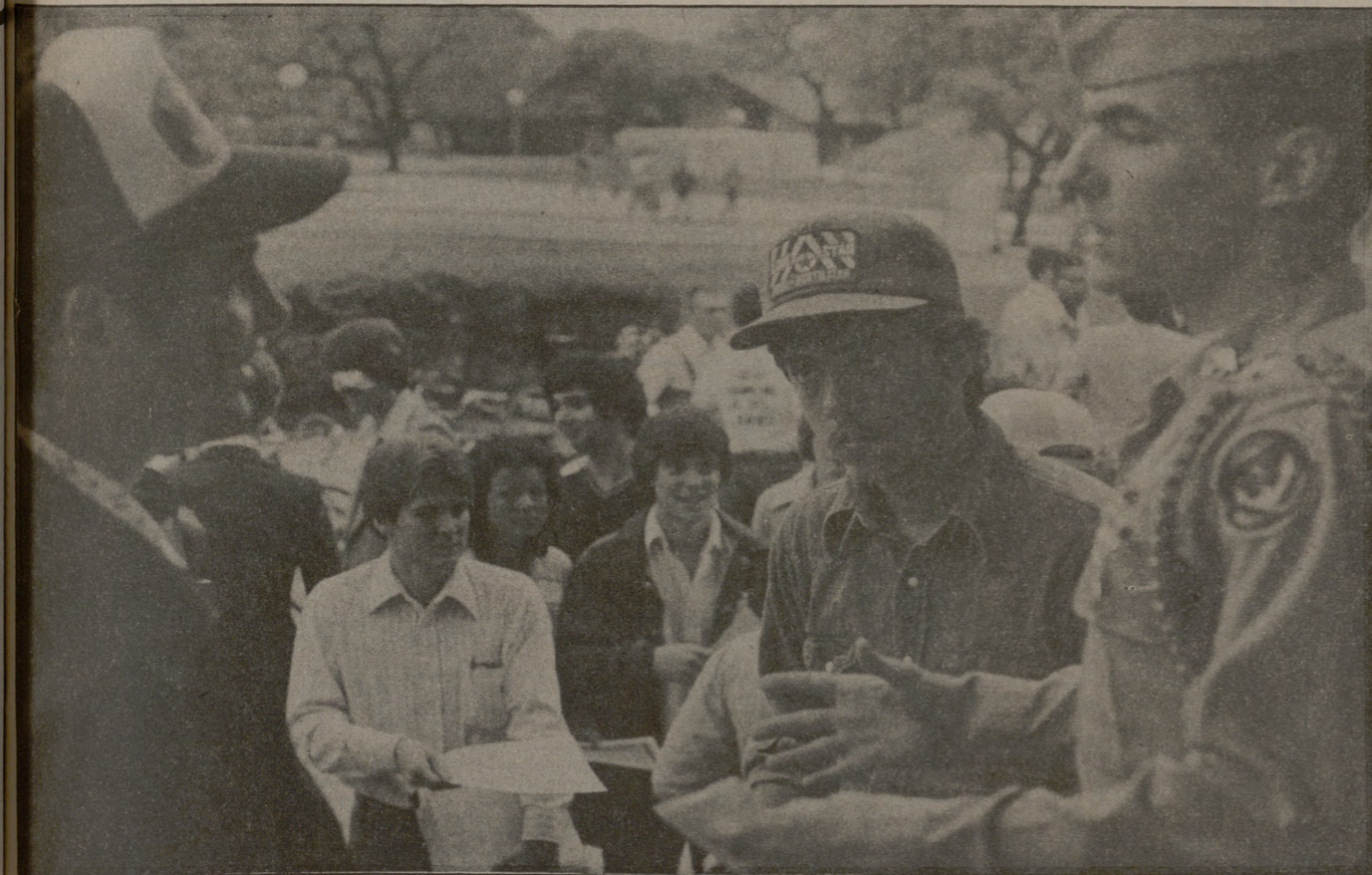
A 20-year contract was signed with Gulf States in July of 1976 after College Station residents held a bond election approving the switch.

Bryan's fuel costs are greater than those charged by Gulf States for several reasons, Bardell said.

—Bryan relies more on spot purchases, while Gulf States has long-term contracts.

—Bryan's fuel adjustment is much higher.

—Bryan buys its energy intrastate while Gulf States is an interstate company. This allows the company to purchase energy for one to one-and-a-half cents less per kwh than Bryan.



'But I just came for dinner!'

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

At least one Aggie, at center, seems slightly overwhelmed by the furor of student candidates campaigning for next week's elections on the steps of

Sbisa Dining Hall. The "Meet the Candidates" performance will be repeated tonight at the Commons Dining Area.

Student senate bills oppose night exams, baseball seats

By DILLARD STONE
Battalion Staff

Although student service fee allocations are the main items of business at tonight's Texas A&M University student senate meeting, several other items will come up in the 1978-79 senate's last meeting.

The next senate meeting will involve only next year's student government personnel.

Bills to be considered deal with:

—A recommendation that the Residence Hall Association explain to students that programmed dormitory fees are optional, not mandatory, as is stated in the University Housing Guide.

—A suggestion that the senate express its opposition to examinations given outside of regularly scheduled class time, particularly night exams. Exceptions would be made if 100 percent of the class agreed to the night exam, or if the vice president for academic affairs approved it. Copies of the measure would be sent to Dr. J.M. Prescott, vice president for academic affairs, and the Academic Council.

A recommendation that the final examination in all undergraduate courses count no more than 30 percent of the final grade.

—A request that President Jarvis Miller appoint the student government vice president for student services to the Five-Year

Planning Committee. The committee decides construction priorities for Texas A&M.

—A request to the Athletic Department to arrange for block seating at away football games which aren't sold out.

—A request for more and better seating for Texas A&M students at home baseball games.

—A request to the University Committee on Committees for the establishment of a University Committee to supervise all student body elections beginning in the fall of 1979. Currently, student government supervises its own elections and the other campus-wide elections as well.