

THE BATTALION

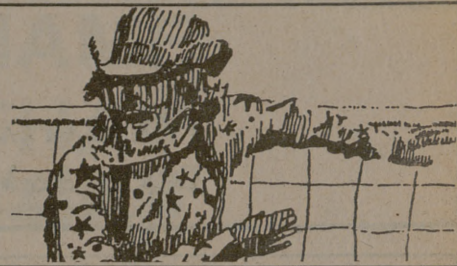
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Batt to run tabloid

The Agriculturist, a tabloid published by agricultural communication students, will appear in Monday's edition of The Battalion. It will focus on events in The College of Agriculture, students and research areas.



Kaleidoscope of rhythm

Battalion photo by Jeanne Graham

The Texas A&M University Dance Arts Society presented "Kaleidoscope" Thursday in Rudder Theater. The presentation included a variety of expressive dances, from jazz numbers to "Le Freak."

Students concerned

Where can we stash the nuclear trash?

By PATTI SHOQUIST
Battalion Reporter

Concerned Texas A&M University students raised questions about the harmful effects of radioactive wastes after watching a 1977 NBC documentary on the subject Thursday night.

The film, "DANGER: Radioactive Wastes," was presented by Beta Beta Beta, a biology honor society. Charlene Seibel, a 1975 graduate of Texas A&M, spoke on the opposition to the nuclear wastes controversy. She became involved in the issue when she researched it for the League of Women Voters in Amherst, NH.

Nuclear wastes are created when fuel used in a nuclear plant's operations is removed from the reactor. Those wastes include Strontium-90 which causes bone cancer, Iodine-129, which affects the thyroid, and Plutonium-239, another proven carcinogen.

Saying that no long-term storage or disposal system for radioactive wastes has been found, one scientist in the film commented, "We are creating a nuclear waste monster with no cage in which to keep it."

The current system of containing low-level nuclear wastes involves placing them in steel containers, then burying them in shallow sand-filled trenches.

Higher-level wastes are found in the core of nuclear reactors themselves, where rods within the reactor must be changed annually. Most of the rods are contained at the plant sites, since government and industry cannot find a different place to dispose of them.

Since the potential danger to life and the environment is immeasurable, the federal government has given industry until 1985 to find a safe storage system for the rods. However, the film revealed that

industry has set a "more realistic" deadline for 1991.

In the documentary, some scientists argued that there is no permanent safe container for fuel rods. A government spokesman agreed that perfect containment of nuclear wastes is neither a reality nor a goal.

The film said the question facing industry and government remains, "How can the growth of nuclear power plants be justified if no one knows what the consequences will be?"

The documentary said most citizens are unconcerned over the issue because they can't sense the presence of radiation.

However, "the move for safety in the nuclear power industry may have to come from concerned citizens," said Seibel.

Asked by one student if the public can trust the government to handle the problem, she said, "For 30 years the government has been telling us that low-level radiation is harmless and nuclear power is safe, and now we don't know what to believe."

"Look what's happening in the West," Seibel said. "For years it has been a dumping ground, and now all kinds of things are going wrong."

She urged students to take an active stand against nuclear growth until safer methods of operation of plants and disposal of wastes are found.

Currently there are 65-70 nuclear power plants in operation in the United States, and the government estimates that it would require 500 plants in order to be independent of foreign energy sources.

There are five nuclear power plants under construction in Texas, and two sites in the state are being considered for nuclear wastes depositories.

Despite this growth, Seibel said that

advances are being made to monitor the development of nuclear plants. Senator George McGovern (D-S.D.) has proposed a bill that would give states the final veto power in determining whether or not to accept nuclear development.

Parking: no more lots just for women

By STANTON RAY
Battalion Reporter

The administration at Texas A&M University has approved recommendations made by the University Traffic Panel and Thomas Parsons, director of security and traffic, for changes in the parking system at Texas A&M.

Dr. John Koldus, vice president of student services said the changes will serve a two-fold purpose: better use of parking space and better protection for female students.

One of the major changes will be the elimination of gray-sticker parking areas for females only. Instead, red parking stickers will be issued to all students with 60 or more semester hours credit who drive on campus, and the gray sticker areas will become red sticker areas for male and female students.

Koldus said that doing this will create no obvious female-only areas, decreasing assault target areas. Also, it will allow male students to park in spaces that otherwise might be left vacant by female students.

Female-only lots are located near women's dormitories. They were established to make the distance women had to walk between their cars and dorms shorter, lessening the chances of assault.

The lots that will be affected are Parking Area 24, behind the Commons; PA 30, in the Northgate area; and PA 49, behind Cain Hall. PA 49 will be redesignated as part of PA 30.

Day students with 60 or more hours will also benefit from the changes as more spaces on campus streets and in campus lots will be open to them. The west campus spaces on the street that are now reserved for staff will be opened to day students with blue parking stickers.

The blue stickers will allow for parking on the side of the street away from the buildings. PA 40, between Lewis and Jersey Streets, will be open to blue as well as red permits.

Families stranded in Houston flooding

United Press International

HOUSTON — A night-long downpour dropped more than 7 inches of rain in a three-hour period, virtually crippling police, fire department and ambulance service and stranding Houstonians city-wide late Thursday.

The southwest side of town received 5.75 inches as of 8 p.m., and more rain increased that to 7 inches. Volunteers in boats were needed to evacuate moviegoers from a theater and 10 families were stranded in their homes, waiting until rescue boats could reach them.

The Fire Department requested citizens not to call except in life-and-death situations. Almost all downtown streets

were so severely flooded that emergency vehicles were virtually useless and people were being evacuated by boat.

Freeways were turned into parking lots by motorists unable to exit through high water. Water was reported coming into homes in an inner-city neighborhood and power was knocked out on the northside.

"We're just having a helluva time of it here," said Civil Defense spokesman John Caswell. "We've got about eight boats working in the city and are using three underwater vehicles that are equipped with waterproof engines.

"There's reports of water in the lower level of an apartment project and we've got water over the tops of cars.

"This is the worst flood situation we've had in some time."

About 50 Houston Independent School District employees were stranded in the administration building by the heavy rains and the basement was flooded, as was the basement of St. Luke's Hospital.

HISD Superintendent Billy Reagan said many schools suffered major damage.

In addition to the flooding, there also were reports of tornadoes damaging homes and a shopping center.

Conroe, four miles north of Houston, also was threatened. Civil Defense authorities in Montgomery County hoped their rain-saturated area would receive no significant rainfall late Thursday. Floodwaters accumulated during two stormy days pushed down the San Jacinto River, filling Lake Houston to a record level and setting up reaction flooding for the weekend.

City and rural residents alike also had to worry about the presence of hundreds of snakes displaced from the surrounding piney woods and river bottoms.

"You're mighty right, there is a bushel load of snakes out there," said Civil Defense Director Bert Bratcher who coordinated the evacuation of an estimated 1,000 Montgomery County residents. "We had one snake bite reported in Conroe.

Most of those sought shelter at homes of friends and relatives but about 350 of the homeless spent the night at schools, churches and VFW halls designated as shelters by the Red Cross. About 150 school children were forced to sleep at schools inaccessible to buses.

Only minor injuries were directly related to the flooding although about seven flood victims suffered heart attacks.

Guerillas defy orders to upset Rhodesia voting

United Press International

SALISBURY, Rhodesia — Guerrillas ordered to smash Rhodesia's week-long elections are defying their leaders and urging people to vote in the nation's first balloting for a black-majority government, a black Rhodesian leader says.

The Rev. Ndabaningi Sithole, head of one of the four parties running in the election, said Wednesday that "by and large guerrillas are assisting the election process" because the insurgents are "sick and tired of the war."

One villager told a reporter guerrillas even offered to remove their land mines from a road so that nobody would be hurt on the way to the polls.

By mid-afternoon Wednesday on the second day of voting, which ends Saturday, election officials said 38 percent of the 2.8 million eligible voters had cast ballots.

The officials said there were still areas where people were refusing to vote, either out of opposition to the process or because they had been intimidated.

But hold-out areas were diminishing in number each day, the officials said. They said two villages sent runners asking the army to send troops with a mobile polling booth so they could vote.

Black and white Rhodesians are being asked to pick 72 black members for a 100-seat Parliament. The other 28 seats were reserved for the whites.

Guerrillas of the Patriotic Front alliance making isolated attacks have been quickly dealt with by 100,000 army troops and reservists mobilized under the martial law ordered by Prime Minister Ian Smith.

Students take part in A&M decisions

"Boy, the parking situation is really lousy. I wouldn't drive, but you can't depend on the shuttle buses. I could make some suggestions to improve things, but the administration doesn't listen to the students."

Those are common comments on the Texas A&M University campus, except students do have a chance to make suggestions, and the administration will listen.

There are 67 committees at Texas A&M that decide how services to the students should be run. From the shuttle bus service to food services, these committees make the decisions that affect all students, and on at least half of them students can be voting members, said Dr. Carolyn Adair, director of student affairs.

The committees are made up of faculty, staff and students, and all receive an equal vote, Adair said.

A student can go by the Student Ac-

tivities Office, Room 221 of the Memorial Student Center, and apply for a committee position beginning Monday until May 2, Adair said.

Requirements include a 2.0 grade point ratio and good standing in the University. Adair said there can be from one to five students on a committee, depending on its size.

The applications will be sent to the student body president, who will appoint a committee to decide who will fill the positions, Adair said. If a large number of applications are received, the committee may conduct interviews with the applicants, she said.

Interested students can find out which committees have open positions and get information on the committees by going by the Student Affairs Office.

New committee members will take office Sept. 1.

Jack Williams to speak at Moody convocation

Moody College in Galveston, a marine and maritime branch of Texas A&M University, will conduct its annual convocation for graduating students on May 4 in the college's new \$2.4 million classroom and laboratory building. The event will be the first public showing of the 29,205-square-foot facility.

Dr. Jack K. Williams, former chancellor of The Texas A&M University System, will give the convocation address. Ceremonies begin at 9 a.m.

William Clayton, Moody College president, reports more than 105 May, August and December graduates are expected to attend the convocation address, the presentation of awards and the licensing of graduates of the Texas Maritime Academy, a part of Moody College.

The next day, 56 of the graduating students will receive diplomas during commencement ceremonies at Texas A&M University.



You won't be seeing parking stickers like this on bumpers next year. Parking lots will no longer be designated as female only, and the stickers will once again be displayed in car windows. Battalion photo by Clay Cockrill