

MICROFILM CENTER INC  
PO BOX 45436  
DALLAS, TX 75235

GALLONS

6

9

12

MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE PRICE

68.9  
OCTANE (87)

PRICE INCLUDING TAX



Battalion photo by Bill Wilson

The regular gas pump of Southside Gulf Station in College Station indicates a price of 69.9 cents

per gallon, while the maximum permissible price is displayed as 68.9 cents per gallon.

# Gas station overcharges, but it's not alone in U.S.

By RICHARD OLIVER  
Battalion Staff

Southside Gulf Station, located at 300 Jersey St., was charging 69.9 cents per gallon for regular gas as of Thursday morning.

However, the maximum ceiling price shown on the pump was 68.9 cents a gallon.

Federal law states gas stations must display a maximum price for their gas on a sticker on each pump. It is illegal to charge more than the maximum price shown. The stations can charge any price up to the ceiling price set by the federal government.

Charles Broach, owner of the station, said Tuesday, "The new ceiling prices came in, but I have just neglected to change the price on the pump."

The price stickers on Southside Gulf's pumps were taken off Thursday afternoon.

Bill Webb, media advisor for the U.S. Department of Energy, said many Texas gas stations are violating the law and could be faced with a \$2,500-a-day fine.

Webb said the main reason some stations don't keep up with the changes in

the federal ceiling price is "forgetfulness."

"Although it's not a very good reason," he said, "most stations claim they have neglected to change the sticker on their pumps when the ceiling price changes. They, too, however, are liable for penalty."

Webb said the changing gas prices are the blame for the wave of "forgetfulness" among gas station owners.

"Most stations can't keep up with the constantly fluctuating gas prices," he said. "The maximum ceiling price for gas has been increasing steadily, but some stations have not kept up with the change."

Webb said a letter would be sent to Southside Gulf Station immediately, and the owner would be given a chance to change the price.

"We first send a notice to our auditors, who then review the complaint and send a letter to the station," he said. "If after this first letter no action is taken by the owner, we will send some auditors to look at their books and determine if they have violated the law. If so, the station will be given a notice of probable viola-

tion." Webb said the U.S. Department of Energy has received several complaints from the Texas area, but not many are determined to be violations.

Texas has had several violations lately which have caused gasoline stations to raise their prices over the limit," he said. "One big violation hot spot was the Wichita Falls area. After the tornado there, we had several stations taking advantage of the situation and charging up to 23 cents a gallon above the federal ceiling price."

The leading violator in the state, said Webb, is San Antonio, which has had 23 audits since Feb. 15.

Webb said the main reason stations are usually not fined is they usually lower their prices after the first warning. "We're not out to put anybody in jail," he said. "If it appears that the mistake is totally honest on the part of the station owner, we'll let it go."

Webb said persons who find a station in violation of federal laws concerning gas prices should call the toll-free U.S. Department of Energy Hot Line at 1-800-424-9246.

# THE BATTALION

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Business Dept. 845-2611

## Only one Batt next week

Communications students, like all others, are stuck with their share of final exams. Because newspaper staffers need to study, too, Wednesday's Battalion will be the only one during finals week.

The Battalion will publish one edition each week, on Wednesday, until summer classes begin. During summer school, The Battalion will appear on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.

# Storms cause damage, few injuries in Texas

United Press International

Air raid sirens reminiscent of World War II bombing scenes wailed, the mayor of Dallas ordered the glassy futuristic City Hall evacuated and most of his city employees spent the afternoon in a bomb shelter taking an extra long lunch break.

Three waves of violent thunderstorms, none of which reached as far south as the Bryan-College Station area, struck north-central Texas Thursday. They were so thick they blocked out the sun and caused 10-inch-an-hour rain, hail and high winds. Today's weather is expected to stay cloudy and much cooler, throughout central Texas.

Downtown Dallas was nearly deserted Thursday as the sirens wailed and many businesses were left open — with no one inside — as employees fled into basements.

Despite extensive damage from tornadoes and flash floods, however, all reported injuries were minor.

One large tornado whipped through a four-mile area in DeSoto, just south of Dallas, at 2:20 p.m. Less than an hour later a smaller tornado hit almost precisely the same spot.

Police said the twisters damaged 40 residences, 12 businesses and two churches and the city's mayor said the total amount of damage was estimated to be \$1 million. He said he would seek federal aid today.

Jesse Collier, manager of a gas station almost destroyed, said he saw the vague outline of the funnel and stepped outside.

"It was a straight force, grey and black, swirling with debris," he said. "I ran back inside and threw myself on the floor. I looked outside and I saw one of my tires from the station going through the church across the street. I thought I was a goner."

The second one was more like driving rain, but when it hit I looked out the window and a Mustang parked in my lot was hovering above the ground."

Authorities said there would be hundreds of thousands of dollars damage in the Dallas suburb of Terrell, and in all locations of the sprawling Dallas-Forth Worth metropolitan area, from small twisters, floodwaters, golfball-sized hail and high winds.

More than a dozen tornadoes were sighted all over the north central area, including in Tarrant County west of Fort Worth. Others were sighted in Ellis County south of Dallas and near Weatherford, Cedar Hall, Stephenville, Terrell Lake, Palestine and Dekalb.

All did varying amounts of minor damage. Another tornado struck east of Terrell causing scattered damage to residences.

At Cedar Hill a tornado passed over a high school damaging the building but harming no one. In Fort Worth some stranded motorists were rescued by boat

as a helicopter whirred noisily overhead.

"Three or four dozen or maybe more" minor injuries were reported in Wilmer, southeast of Dallas, at the Wintergreen Mobile Home Park — which was flattened by twisters.

Two people were injured in Dallas when excessive water caused the collapse of a LeBaron Coffee Shop roof. Roofs also collapsed at several other Dallas and Fort Worth businesses, and monumental traffic jams occurred in flooded streets.

Particularly severe flash floods caused

the evacuation of 150 homes in low-lying areas of Cleburne, located about 30 miles south of Fort Worth, and in Grand Prairie and Arlington, two cities between Dallas and Fort Worth.

The three thunderstorm systems were generated over the flatlands west of Fort Worth by the collision of a Rocky Mountain cold front and warm, moist Gulf of Mexico air. Each drifted to the northeast toward Dallas-Fort Worth and the weather service said they rose to 45,000 feet high, turning day into night in Dallas.

# '79 grads to be record breakers

By CATHY KIRKHAM  
Battalion Reporter

Records are meant to be broken and the 1979 graduating class at Texas A&M University will break a few more.

A record 2,400 students will graduate this weekend, the admissions and records department said. However, the record is made and broken every year.

Gov. William P. Clements will address two out of the three commencement services this weekend.

He will speak to graduates from the colleges of architecture, engineering and science at 7:30 p.m. Friday, and to graduates from the colleges of business, education, geosciences, liberal arts and Moody College in Galveston at 9 a.m. Saturday.

Dr. Charles A. LeMaistre will address undergraduates from the colleges of agriculture and veterinary medicine and all advanced-degree candidates at ceremonies beginning 2 p.m. Friday.

"It's weird to come from one graduating ceremony in high school of about 200 and then go to a thing that has to be broken into three parts," said Bob Reed,

a graduating senior. "And you know, that isn't even including all my friends that graduated in December, or that will this summer."

All three ceremonies will take place in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The placement office also broke records this year. Ron Winn, assistant director of the placement office, said the final tally is not in yet, but an estimated 2,600 signed up for interviews this year.

"We don't know yet how many expected jobs from interviews yet, however," he said.

Area businesses have also benefitted from graduation.

"I've got a lot of time on my hands," Robin Smith, another graduating senior, said. "I've been packed up since I got out of my last class on Monday. I guess we will all go over and shoot some pool a few more times."

Dead week is the busiest time of the year for the Dixie Chicken, said Don Ganter, one of its owners. "Seniors swell the place up," he said.

He said 20 seniors opened the place up Wednesday, and the same ones closed it down.

# First gasohol station opens; more to come

United Press International

TOPEKA, Kan. — The first retail gasohol station has opened in Kansas and is offering 2,000 gallons of the fuel mix at 14.5 cents per gallon on a first-come, first-serve basis.

However, the price offered Thursday at the Workingman's Friend station on the west side of the capital city will last only until the 2,000 gallons have been pumped into vehicle gas tanks. The low price is part of a radio station promotion.

The station began pumping gasohol — a mixture of 90 percent unleaded gasoline and 10 percent grain alcohol — on a trial basis Wednesday night.

Ray Gaffney, vice president of Highway Oil Co. which owns the Workingman's Friend stations, said all Highway Oil outlets in Topeka and Kansas City will carry the fuel when details of supply and delivery are worked out.

"Within two weeks we should have something pretty good going," Gaffney said.

On Thursday, the first official day of its sale, KEWI radio agreed to subsidize a sale of 2,000 gallons of gasohol, with a 10-gallon limit per customer — at 14.5 cents per gallon. Gaffney said the normal price will be 18 cents per gallon — the same as unleaded gasoline.

"We're using the best available 100-proof denatured alcohol," he said. "Anything less and you end up ches-

ing your customers so we will use nothing but the best. It's super-expensive and does add to our cost significantly. But we will sell it for the same price as our unleaded fuel and replace our unleaded fuel with it. We're just happy to be the first company on the street with it."

Gaffney said any car with an internal combustion engine, regardless of age, can use the fuel, without carburetor modifications. He said the fuel has about three points higher octane than regular unleaded gasoline, is cleaner burning, gives off 30 percent less carbon monoxide and increases miles per gallon.

"This is one case where alcohol and gasoline do mix," he joked. "By the way, the corn that is used to make this gasohol is American corn, not Arabian corn or Iranian corn."

The official of the Topeka-based oil company said the company eventually plans to replace all its unleaded gasoline pumps with unleaded gasohol.

Gaffney said Highway Oil Co. operates stations in 28 states under the names Highway Oil, Workingman's Friend, Fairway Oil, Cook Oil and Hi-La Oil.

The enthusiastic Gaffney was at the station, away from records and could only list 26 of the states in which the firm does business.

"Oh, just say we operate in 26 states," he said, eager to return to discussion of gasohol.

# Outstanding faculty honored

By MARK HANCOCK  
Battalion Reporter

The faculty and administrative staff of Texas A&M University was honored Thursday at the annual Faculty Convocation and this year's outstanding members received Distinguished Service Awards.

Former Chancellor Jack K. Williams is to be honored in a special ceremony soon because of his many accomplishments at Texas A&M, said Haskell Monroe, associate vice president for academic affairs and dean of faculties.

President Jarvis E. Miller congratulated the entire faculty for a superior performance this year, but added that many problems need attention.

Miller said that a main problem facing the University is the legislative action occurring now that may hinder Texas A&M's growth.

"Under the guise of equity, the institutions are being pulled down. State

and federal funding processes are getting harder to work with and we will have lean appropriations this year," he said.

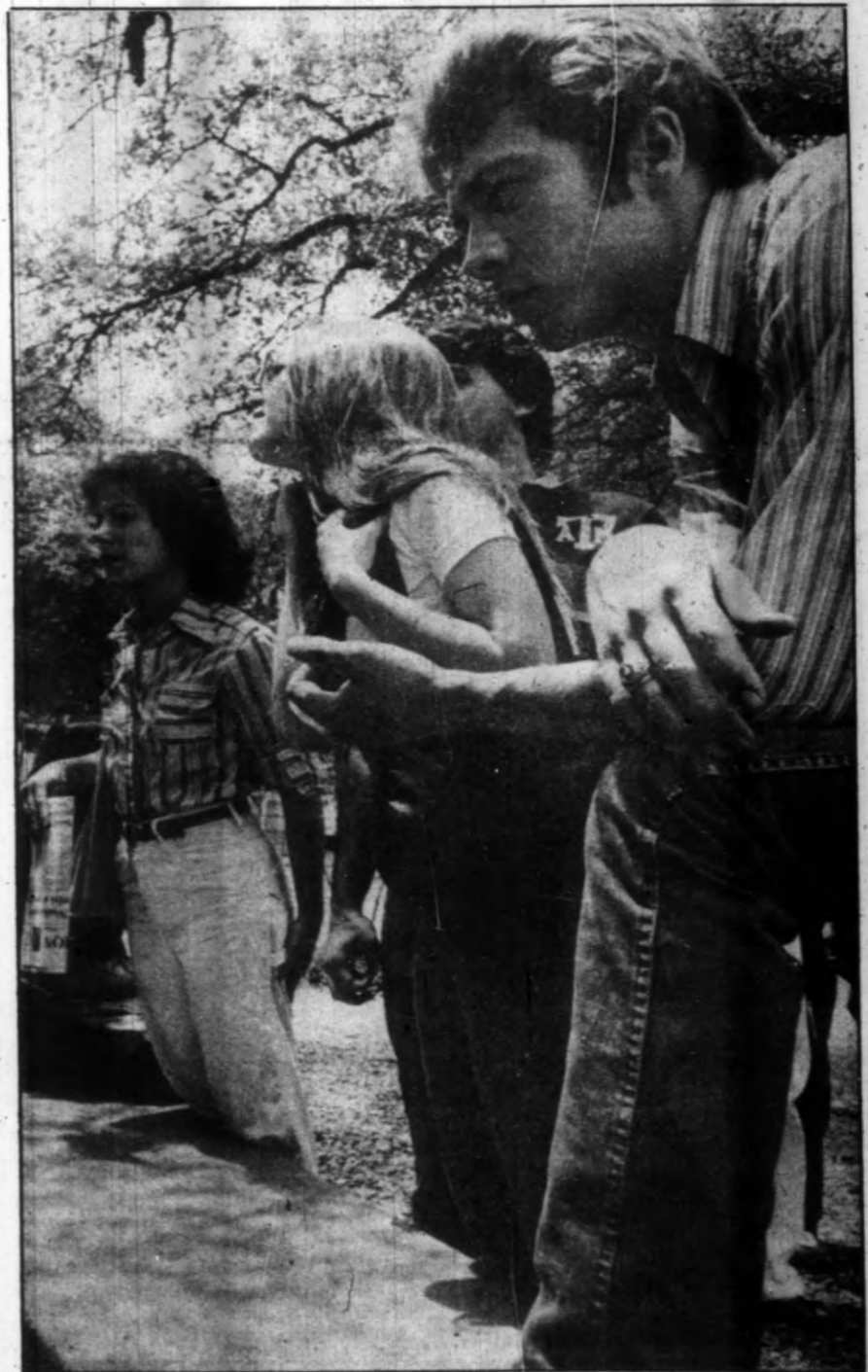
"This is happening now. All in all it has been a difficult year. The challenges have been great, but we have been strong. We will continue to build and emphasize quality in the coming year."

Miller discussed programs for students as well as faculty recruitment in order to keep the educational quality of Texas A&M high.

Scholarship programs such as the Sul Ross Scholarship Fund will be used to attract exceptionally qualified students.

Dr. J.M. Prescott, vice president for academic affairs, introduced similar programs pertaining to faculty improvement which will deal with centers for teaching and counseling.

The Association of Former Students, which is responsible for the awards every year, recently donated \$250,000 for



Graduating seniors anxiously check the list of seniors cleared for graduation today and Saturday. The list, posted at Heaton Hall, brought both squeals of delight and groans of despair from more than one senior.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

scholarships to attract students to Texas A&M, keeping in step with next year's plans.

AFS president Robert Smith III said the association presently has 80,000 members and is the "best association in the country."

"This is our highlight to honor you, the faculty," Smith said.

The Amoco Foundation also gave three awards for teaching and one for research. The award winners are listed in the order they received their honors.

Distinguished Teaching Awards were given to Dr. Rod O'Connor, professor of chemistry, Dr. Herbert G. Thompson, professor of marketing, Merrill D. Whitburn, professor of English, Dr. Bryan R. Cole, professor of education, Dr. Joseph Donaldson Jr., professor of environmental design and Dr. Donald R. Herring, professor of agricultural education.

Research awards were given to Dr.

William R. Klemm, professor of biology, Dr. Worth Nowlin Jr., professor of oceanography and Dr. Joe B. Dickson, professor of soil and crop sciences.

Awards for individual student relations were given to Dr. Leon Russell, professor of veterinary public health and Dr. Warren A. Dickson.

Awards for extension and continuing education to Dr. Donald F. Seaman, studies and training specialist and Dr. Raymond Frisbie, professor of entomology.

R. Clark Diebel received his service award for his job as fiscal manager.

The Amoco Foundation Awards, which gave the winners \$1,000, a watch and a plaque, were given for outstanding service to Dr. Homer C. Jenkins, professor of business and science, Dr. Fred Smeins, professor of range science, Dr. William L. Perry, professor of mathematics and Dr. Milton Nance, professor of history.