

# Roof repair bids taken

By ROBIN THOMPSON  
Battalion Staff

The A&M Consolidated school board accepted two bids for repairing the roof at A&M Consolidated High School Monday night.

Olie C. Grauke, Assistant Superintendent of Finance for the school district, reported he received a bid over the telephone Monday from All-American Enterprises of Phoenix, Arizona for \$133,466.

On April 19, the board received a bid of \$136,500 from General Coatings, Inc. of Houston.

Grauke recommended the council accept the bid of All-American Enterprises.

But trustee Ann Jones questioned Grauke's method of accepting bids.

"Is this the way we normally accept bids?" she asked. "It seems to give the late bidder an advantage."

Grauke said there is usually a deadline for accepting bids. The sealed bids are opened at one time, giving all bidders the opportunity to be present.

Grauke said this procedure was not followed because he had trouble contacting All-American Enterprises.

"They were behind through no fault of their own," he said.

Trustee William Fitch suggested the firms be allowed to rebid through sealed bids in the usual manner. The suggestion was voted on and it passed unanimously.

In other action, a letter from Joseph U. LeBlanc, a College Station resident, was presented to the school board.

According to the letter, people attending board meetings sometimes leave confused because they do not understand the issues on the agenda.

The letter listed poor acoustics in the meeting room and a lack of background data on current issues as reasons for the public's confusion.

Several trustees spoke out against the public address system in the meeting room, located in the Special Services Building at 1300 Jersey St., College Station.

"Since I've been on the board we have continually struggled with the speaker system," said trustee Bill Wasson.

"We have the responsibility that if the public takes the time to come, they should be able to hear what we say," he said.

Wasson said a way to give the public more understanding of issues would be to include background information on current issues as part of the agenda.

Trustee Bruce Robeck

suggested setting up a question and answer period for both the board and the public to clear up confusion over board matters.

"If the board ceases to communicate with the public," Wasson said, "there is no point in being here."

Robeck suggested the board look for another place to meet. One possibility, he said, could be the Oakwood Elementary School.

Board president John Reager suggested putting these suggestions on a future agenda.

As the board was about to recess, newly elected trustee Herman Brown, who had been silent for the entire meeting, made a sudden outburst.

He said he had been on the school board for a month and he still does not know what is going on.

"I feel very inadequate," he said. "I do not have a feel for the problems."

Fitch suggested that he wait it out.

"You're smarter than I am," he said. "By the end of summer you may figure out what's going on. It took me six months."

On the serious side, Fitch said this lack of communication and understanding of problems is the reason it took so long to get the roof on the high school repaired.

# Racquetball boom draws 8 million

By NANCY ANDERSON  
Battalion Reporter

College students and senior citizens are doing it. So are housewives and professional football players. But the majority of those doing it are 25 to 45 year-old middle-income professionals.

What these approximately 8 million people are doing is playing racquetball, America's fastest growing sport.

The game was developed by a self-made millionaire and avid handball player named Robert Kender. He took the game of paddle racquets, changed the name, applied the rules of handball and began promoting it.

And it has caught on. One reason is because it is that it has few rules and can be learned in just one lesson.

Basically, the goal is to hit the ball with the racquet before it bounces twice and to prevent the opponent from doing so.

The game is played on an enclosed, box-like court, which is 40-by-20 feet and has a 20-foot ceiling. With the exception of the serve, the ball does not have to hit the front wall first, so often the ball bounces wildly off the side walls and ceiling.

The racquets look like a squared-off, sawed-off tennis racquet with a string attached. The string prevents the racquet from flying out of a player's hand. Prices for racquets range from \$13.95 to \$75, and they are usually made of light-weight aluminum. For the more affluent player, a new graphite racquet which sells for \$150 has just been made.

The balls are pressurized and hollow, are usually green or blue and cost from \$2.95 to \$4.39 a pair. Last year alone, an estimated 18 million were sold.

Most of this activity is taking place on courts on college campuses, in YMCAs and in about 900 privately racquetball clubs. These clubs have sprung up in the last few

years and are making profits despite the initial \$60,000 to \$70,000 cost for a court. This price includes everything from the land to the electric wiring.

Sports Illustrated magazine has started its own chain of clubs. Memberships costs vary, but a local club runs \$50 a year plus court fees. The fees run from \$4 to \$7 an hour, depending on the time of day. Lessons are also available and cost \$5 plus the court fee.

According to an instructor, beginners are plagued by a lack of anticipation and an inability of keeping out of their opponent's way. This makes them run more. Also, it sometimes leads to clobbering an opponent with a racquet or running into a wall.

Because of the fast pace and constant activity, a complete physical workout can be had in just an hour. On an aerobic scale from one to 10, racquetball rates a nine, only topped by jogging and swimming. Tennis rates only a four.

Besides enthusiastic amateurs, there is now a professional tournament circuit with prize money for this year at an estimated \$500,000. Sponsors include Colgate-Palmolive, and Coors sponsors tournaments for professional athletes who compete in other sports.

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Day students get their news from the Batt.

# Israeli planes hit again

United Press International

Israeli warplanes attacked Palestinian targets in southern Lebanon late Tuesday in their second raid of the day and the fourth air strike into Lebanon in three days, the Israeli military command said.

Israeli planes struck the same village, Rihan, during similar strikes Monday. The command again said only that the targets of the strike

were "terrorist concentrations" with no further details.

The new Israeli attack came after Lebanon rejected an Israeli peace proposal as "blackmail" and Egypt vowed to go ahead with the peace process with Israel.

Initial reports by Beirut radio indicated at least one Palestinian was killed and three wounded in Tuesday's first raid.

In the Lebanese capital of Beirut, Lebanon rejected Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin's offer of peace talks in Jerusalem, Beirut or a neutral place as "blackmail."

In Fez, Morocco, the Islamic Congress moved today to suspend Egypt's membership in the 44-member organization to punish Cairo for signing a peace treaty with Israel.

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