

Too many people, too many cars

# Northgate: two problems for CS

By SANDRA SEFCIK  
Battalion Reporter

The Northgate shopping area is causing problems for the city of College Station. At a recent meeting, College Station City Council discussed two student-related problems of the area.

First, the Northgate area is short of parking spaces. Second, overcrowding of Northgate establishments serving alcoholic beverages has increased this semester.

Parking spaces are desperately needed in the Northgate area, City Manager North Bardell told the council.

Many of the spaces are being used by students and Texas A&M University employees. Most parking spaces are full by 7:30 a.m. and are not emptied until 5 p.m., Bardell said. This leaves no available room for Northgate store customers.

Police Sgt. Mike Matthews told the council that cars are given tickets to discourage parking in Northgate. This has not been effective, however, because the tickets often aren't paid.

It is almost impossible to track down students to make them pay the ticket, Matthews said. Some students' cars are registered at Texas A&M under parents' names, and often Texas A&M doesn't have a current address.

Matthews said it takes a lot of time and personnel to track down the students — time and personnel the police department doesn't have.

Two Northgate merchants approached the council about one possible solution.

The city owns a parking lot between Church and Patricia streets meant to help relieve some of the parking problems along University Drive. The two merchants want to lease the lot from the city.

Bardell said the merchants would combine the city lot with an adjacent lot. In addition, a parking attendant would be on duty to make sure only Northgate customers use the lot. The council asked Bardell to begin negotiating a lease.

As for the problem of overcrowded drinking establishments, Matthews said on a Thursday, Friday or Saturday night the Northgate crowd often numbers over 200 people. He said he has attempted to enter the bars and make exact counts, but he couldn't send in an inspector on some nights because the bars are so crowded.

The problem, Matthews said, is that most of the students stand outside of the

bars: on sidewalks, in parking spaces and sometimes on part of the west bound lane of University Drive. Some incidents of broken windshields and scuffles between students have been reported, he said.

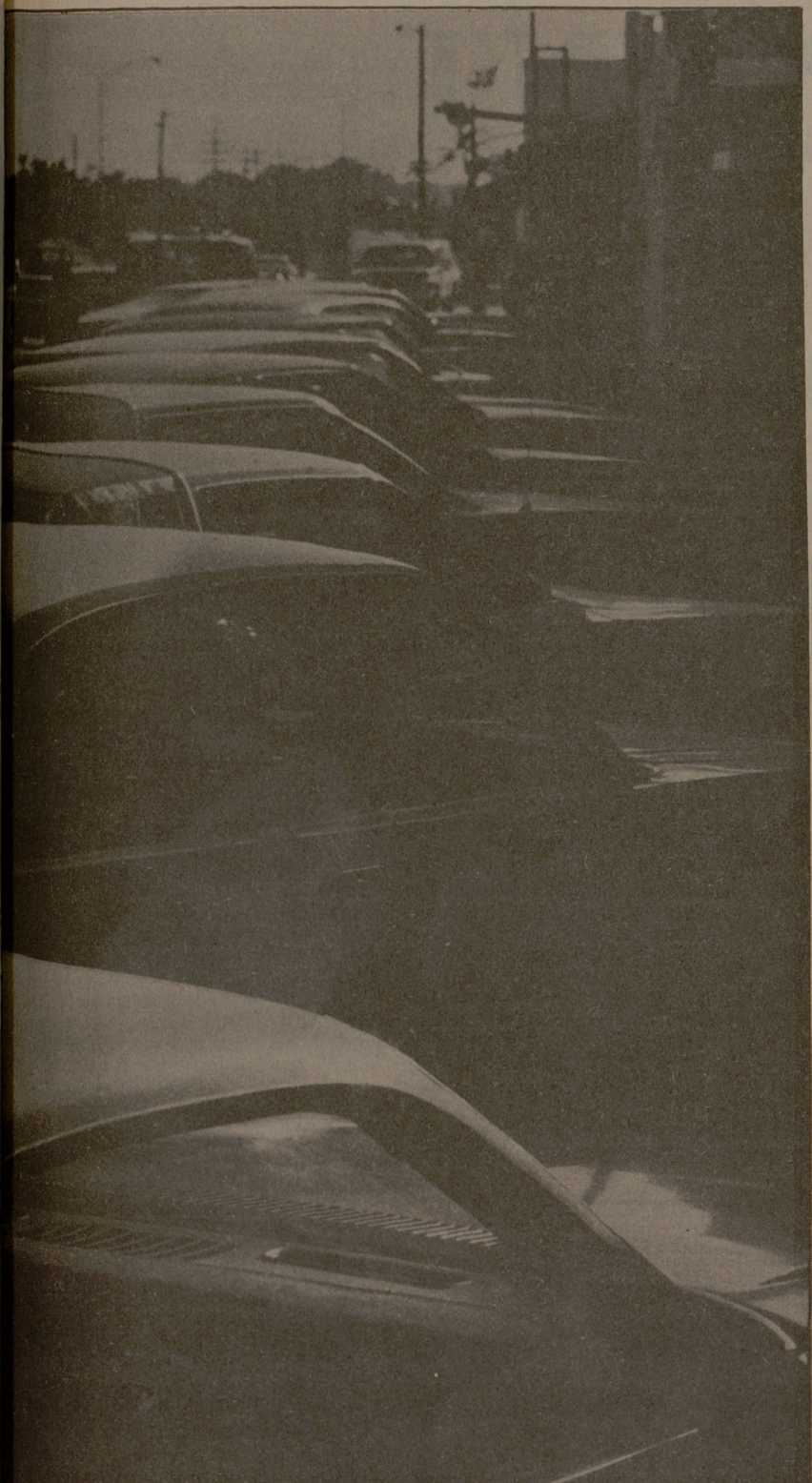
Trying to do something about the overcrowding poses still other problems. Once the crowds have gathered, the police department cannot break them up. Police Chief Marvin Byrd said a solution would be to post officers in front of the bars around 7 p.m., before the crowds gather.

However, Byrd said the police department doesn't have the time or the personnel to do this during weekends. Also, the presence of police would discourage cus-

tomers and this upsets the bar owners, he said.

Along with overcrowding, the bars are violating fire codes. Fire Marshal Harry Davis said the situation is hazardous, but not much can be done because the bar owners are more than willing to pay a \$40 fine. They will pay the fine every night because they can make an additional \$1,000 or more serving the extra students.

Bars not in Northgate, such as Astraptes, Sports Club and Studio 2818, are also too crowded, Matthews said. The council decided to see if the city staff could recommend any solutions to the city-wide problem of overcrowded bars.



Parking in the Northgate business area along University Drive has become more of a problem in recent years, along with the overcrowding of drinking establishments there.

Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leshch Jr.

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## 'Killer bee' senators tell how they beat the system

By MARY JO PRINCE  
Battalion Reporter

The famous "Killer Bees" stung the 1979 Texas Legislative Session, attempting to prevent passage of a bill that would have allowed separate Republican and Democratic primaries in 1980.

Wednesday night, two members of that famous swarm — Sens. A. R. "Babe" Schwartz, D-Galveston, and Gene Jones, D-Houston — lighted on a Political Forum audience in Rudder Theater and told of their involvement in the incident that curtailed legislative activities for five days in May.

"We evolved a plan to break the quorum on that Friday morning, and then hold out to see what the reactions would be," Schwartz said.

Schwartz said that the disappearance of the twelve senators during that last session was to prevent a 1980 March Republican primary, or, as the liberal-to-moderate senators said, "a preferential presidential primary," that would give presidential candidate John Connally a definite jump on the 1980 race.

The walk-out turned into a wild goose chase, with Texas lawmen searching all over the state for the so-called law breakers.

When the search was over, the senators emerged from a garage apartment three miles outside of Austin.

Schwartz added that had the primary bill passed, the cost to taxpayers would have been five million dollars.

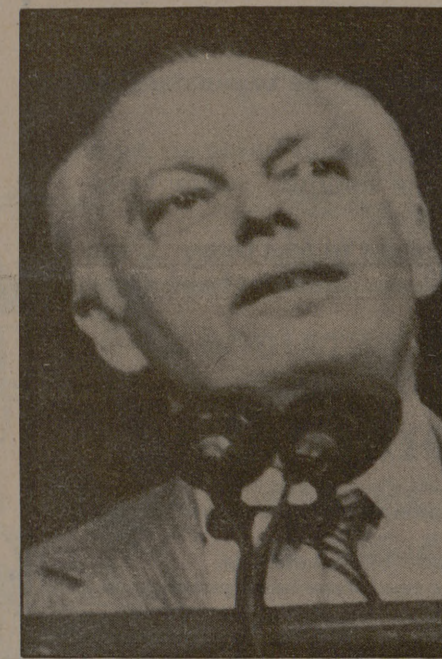
"What we achieved was in the best interest of the state's political system — for both the Republican and Democratic parties."

Schwartz referred to a lighter side of the "Killer Bees" incident. During the hide-out, Jones was "allowed" to leave the legislators' hide-a-way.

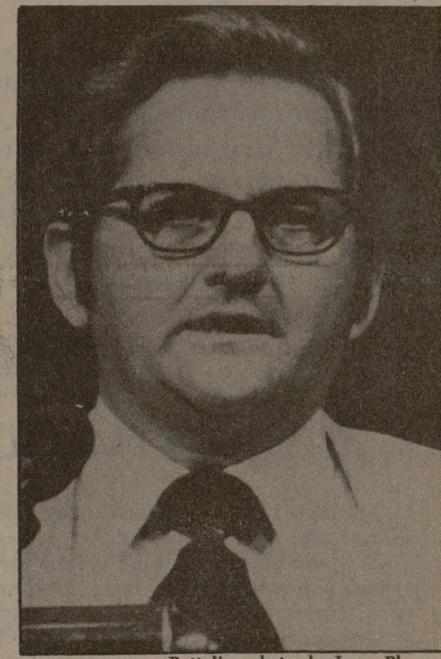
Jones did return to his Houston-area home, and soon after, the news media had reported his apprehension by Department of Public Safety officers. But to the delight and humor of the other "Killer Bees," Jones reported that it was his brother who had been "arrested" while stepping out to get his paper.

Jones's part of the program highlighted the legislative decisions made during the 1979 session. He made special mention of the "Sunset Legislation," which created positions for consumers, as well as profes-

sionals, on professional state boards and agencies, and provided for the deposit of these boards' funds in to the State Treasury for allocation purposes.



Sen. A. R. 'Babe' Schwartz



Sen. Gene Jones

Battalion photos by Lynn Blanco

## NRC official: FBI investigating nuke plant

United Press International

HOUSTON — The FBI has been investigating construction of a Texas nuclear plant, reportedly looking into suspected falsification of records at a project that is months behind schedule and \$1 billion over budget.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission Re-

gional Director Karl Seyfrit said he understood the FBI in three months of inquiry had found "essentially nothing" wrong in construction of the South Texas Nuclear Project at Bay City.

The FBI refused to confirm or deny the inquiry.

Seyfrit disclosed the investigation of the \$2.7 billion plant while commenting on an ex-inspector's new charge — to be aired in a television program today — that the plant went five months without quality control on concrete pouring.

"The FBI investigation has been going on for about three months, and I think it's pretty well wound up now. My understanding is that they have found essentially nothing," Seyfrit said.

Seyfrit said the FBI had looked into a "wide variety of things" on request of Rep. Henry B. Gonzalez, D-Texas. The inspection lapse charge was revealed Tuesday by ex-inspector Dan Swayze, who claims he was fired for zealotism.

Brown & Root Inc., building the plant for utilities in Houston, Austin and San

Antonio, declined immediate comment. Swayze has accused Brown & Root of firing him on the false pretext of soliciting bribes for approving faulty work.

Seyfrit said he would not consider a lapse in inspections at the time Swayze cited a serious matter because "very little work was going on at the time, and it was not critical work."

Swayze charged that a Brown & Root construction foreman beat up a quality control inspector in July 1977 and that the company did not really want them to do anything except fill out papers.

He said he and the six concrete inspectors he led had voted unanimously to stop doing anything except signing inspection approval forms.

"For five months, we did no inspection whatsoever," Swayze said. "We sat in our office. We had radios. When they wanted a (concrete) pour signed off, we went down. The man assigned to that area went down, signed the pour card, came back and played cards for the rest of the day."

Swayze charged a foreman once threatened to kill him because of construction delays caused by inspections.

Seyfrit said the NRC had verified a report of a construction supervisor hitting an inspector last March 7. Seyfrit said the supervisor was fired.

Seyfrit said Swayze had made a number of other allegations, none of which ever was substantiated by federal investigators. However, Seyfrit said Swayze never before informed NRC about the five-month hiatus in inspections in 1977.

Swayze said the lapse was not reported before because "we didn't have any faith in NRC and didn't know what to do."

Swayze disputed Seyfrit's assessment of the lapse as not serious.

The ex-inspector said concrete pouring started in March 1976 and the structures that went without inspection were "Class I safety-related structures. I don't know how much more critical you could get."

Seyfrit said there is no way NRC officials can inspect every phase of construction. They rely on the companies to hire their own inspectors to meet federal standards.

"But we don't rely on records alone and we feel pretty comfortable the overall job has been performed in a satisfactory way," Seyfrit said.

Swayze will appear today on a CBS television network broadcast featuring a study of the South Texas project.

### Stormy waters prevent capping

## Runaway well still gushing

United Press International

MEXICO CITY — Four months after Ixtoc I blew out in the Gulf of Mexico, Mexico's oil agency said Wednesday it could not predict a date for capping the source of the world's largest petroleum spill.

The crippled well has poured more than 2.3 million barrels of crude into the Gulf waters since its blowout June 3. Large patches of oil gushing out of Ixtoc have stained U.S. beaches hundreds of miles away.

"We have encountered many problems but the worst has been the weather," said a spokesman for the state oil agency Petroleos Mexicanos (PEMEX). "High seas and strong underwater currents have delayed work on every project. Therefore we can not estimate when the well be capped."

Ixtoc I is located 42 miles west of the Yucatan peninsula in the Gulf, a hurricane-prone area. Several twisters have hit the region in the past weeks.

He said a pumping operation, which usually takes eight to 10 hours, took technicians four days.

PEMEX so far has undertaken three projects: one to reduce the flow, another to capture 80-90 percent of the crude and gas, and a third to seal off the well. There also have been skimming operations.

For weeks technicians have been steadily pumping thousands of tennis-sized lead and steel balls into the well and have achieved some success by cutting down the flow to 10,000 barrels daily from the previous 20,000.

American divers working on capping operations, however, claim that Ixtoc is still spilling some 20,000 barrels a day.

When the well first went out of control, it began dumping 30,000 barrels per day but thanks to several valve maneuvers the stream was reduced to 20,000.

Immediately after the accident PEMEX began construction of two relief wells, which the monopoly said appeared as the best and only solu-

tion to shut it off, and one of them was scheduled to touch the mouth of Ixtoc on Wednesday. But bad weather again stalled drilling operations.

The spokesman said one of the wells, known as 1-B, was only 1,460 feet short of the mouth of Ixtoc I. But again, he could not predict when it would reach the 12,000-foot depth of the petroleum deposit, believed to contain 800 million barrels of crude.

The other well, 1-A, has only reached a depth of 9,590 feet because it had to be rerouted.

Last week PEMEX twice tried but failed to swing a 300-ton steel cone above the wellhead to catch up to 90 percent of its flow. After the second attempt engineers found cracks in several hinges in the arm holding the bell-like structure and had to send the cone back to Houston for repairs.

At the time, oil officials said they hoped the Sombraero would be back in 15 days but on Wednesday the spokesman said it would take at least 20 days.

## Land developer charged with Texas lot sales fraud

United Press International

WASHINGTON — A Federal Trade Commission judge has ruled that Horizon Corp., a major land developer, was involved in a "vicious consumer fraud" by selling worthless lots in Texas, New Mexico and Arizona for nearly \$370 million.

The judge also ruled Wednesday that the company advertised falsely, including one television ad featuring talk show host Merv Griffin plugging the land.

Ernest Barnes, an administrative law judge for the agency, recommended the commission go to court to seek refunds for the victims — an action he said "may be the sole remaining hope for any consumer relief."

Horizon sold lots around its home base in Tucson, Ariz., and in Albuquerque, N.M., and Phoenix, Ariz., as well as Houston and El Paso, Texas.

"Horizon, in almost every conceivable way short of an absolute guarantee, represented its land to be an excellent investment, better than savings accounts, stocks and bonds and insurance, and risk-free," he said.

In reality, Barnes said, "Horizon's lots are not only bad investments they are worthless as investments."

A final decision in the matter will be up to the agency's four commissioners.

## Yell practice set for Tech

Whenever there's an out-of-town football game, somewhere, there is a midnight yell practice the night before. Saturday's Texas A&M-Texas Tech contest is no different, said head yell leader Pete Greaves.

Midnight yell practice for the Tech game will be in the parking lot of South Plains Mall, at the intersection of Loop 289 and Slide Road in Lubbock, Greaves said.

Kickoff for the game is set for 7:30 p.m. Saturday at Jones Stadium in Lubbock.