

# Bryan council to vote on annexing utility district

Editor's note: This is the first of a two-part series about a proposed ordinance before the Bryan City Council annexing the Municipal Utilities District (MUD).

**By SYLVIA FELLOWS**  
Battalion Reporter

For the past few months, heated debates have occurred over annexation of the Municipal Utilities District (MUD) and its 100 residents.

The Bryan City Council will meet Monday night to vote on the final reading of the annexation ordinance.

Although the council will be considering areas for annexation, the MUD has been the most controversial area.

The issue concerns whether or not the 100 people will become the city's re-

sponsibility or remain in the district's power.

The MUD is a 695-acre residential area with about 570 families on the west side of town, bordered by Finfeather Road, Villa Maria and the West By-Pass.

The MUD is the first and only utility district in Brazos County. It pays for the installation of utilities through the sale of bonds.

The council held a public hearing on the issue and at the first reading, Councilman Henry Seale moved for approval of the complete ordinance.

Since Councilman Joe Hanover was ill and could not attend the meeting, Seale said they should not discuss or approve the amendment. Once an area is rejected for annexation on the first reading, it cannot

be picked up on the second reading.

Differing opinions concerning annexation of the MUD are related to personal and professional interests of the people involved.

—the council is concerned that annexation will cost the city too much, —the developer wants a chance to finish the project with the current development contract,

—the majority of residents wish to be annexed now so they can receive city services and be more assured of limited taxation,

—and other residents would like to remain outside the city so they can keep control of the district's development and maintenance.

The council asked Hubert Nelson, di-

rector of planning and traffic, to find out what the approximate cost to the city would be if the MUD were annexed now.

In a memo to City Manager Ernest Clark, Nelson outlined the economics of annexing the MUD:

—The \$2.3 million bond debt would cost the city approximately \$200,000 annually for 25 years. Nelson said this payment would be offset by not having to build an already approved sewer system designed for west-side Bryan residents at a cost of \$620,000. The MUD sewer plant is large enough to service residents outside the district. The city should pay for the MUD's bond debt from utility revenue — not property tax, Nelson said.

—Bryan would lose approximately \$27,000 annually from services the MUD

would stop buying. They buy bulk water and electricity for their sewer plant.

—The city will have to add three police officers and expand existing patrol districts at a cost of approximately \$36,000 annually. However, because of normal growth of the community, Nelson added, the city will demand additional protection whether the city annexes more land or not.

—The city will not be charged for other services. Other services such as garbage, water and sewer pay for themselves through service charges.

—Bryan will gain approximately \$263,000 annually in total revenue. Property, sales, sanitation, water and sewer revenue were included in this estimate.

—Bryan's total expense will be approx-

imately \$159,000 annually. This total includes expenses for sanitation, water and sewer service, street maintenance, and police protection.

—Bryan will receive \$20,000 in certificates of deposit and escrow accounts. The MUD would have to turn these over to the city. Nelson said they should be used to help pay off the bond debt for the first year, Nelson said.

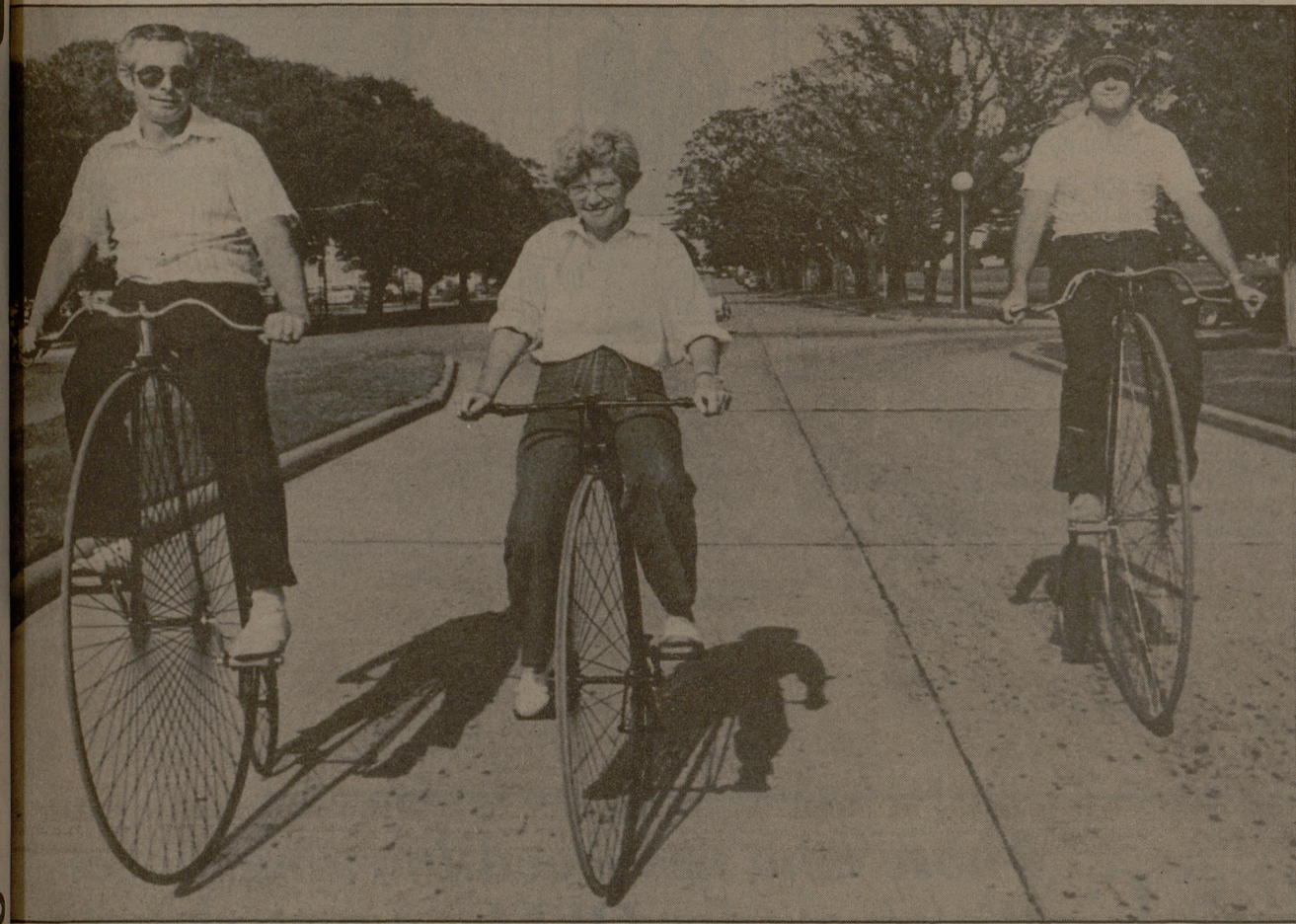
Nelson also wrote in the memo that there are many variables in trying to project the economics of annexation. Such variables as rainfall affecting water revenue, construction activity affecting tax base, weather affecting maintenance cost and inflation affecting materials and labor costs could cause the best estimates to be off substantially either way.

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Battalion photo by Sam Stroder

From days gone by

For the Lee family of Houston, substitute forms of transportation for their car include these antiquated vehicles — penny farthings, more commonly known as high-wheelers. For a cruise around

the Texas A&M University campus, Larry Lee (left) rides a 57-inch 1884 Ludge. Mrs. Lee rides a 42-inch 1878 Columbian model, and son Lindsey, a junior at A&M, rides a 55-inch 1889 Columbian.

## CS, county debate over firefighting

By RICHARD OLIVER  
Battalion Staff

Although negotiations between Bryan College Station and Brazos County over firefighting services have not begun yet, several officials agree a solution should be found quickly.

"There's definitely going to be a problem if someone doesn't come up with a solution," said Jack Philbin, Bryan fire chief. "There are several problems which need answers fast."

College Station is involved in a contract dispute with Brazos County over fire services. Under the present contract, which expires Dec. 1, the county pays College Station whenever the city fights a fire outside city limits.

According to city council members, College Station has not been paid for several

calls over the past few years.

Much of the pressure is on College Station Fire Chief Doug Landua, Philbin said.

"College Station is definitely feeling the heat," he said. "Doug doesn't know from one day to another what's going to happen. We (Bryan) haven't had that much of a problem with the county."

Landua said he's ready for a solution.

"As far as I'm concerned, we will continue to help Brazos County residents until told otherwise," he said. "We'll help anyone in need, anytime we can."

"I haven't been involved in the talks, but I kind of wish they would get it over with so I can know what's going on."

College Station City Councilman Homer Adams said a solution would have been found sooner, but a death in County

Judge Dick Holmgreen's family caused a delay in negotiations.

Holmgreen is representing Brazos County in the negotiations. Bryan and College Station will each be represented by their city managers.

Bryan will definitely be involved in the negotiations, Adams said.

"When we gave Brazos County 30 days to come up with a solution, it looked like Bryan was going to follow our lead and do it, too," he said. "After we did it, though, they decided they better hold off. They wanted their new fire chief (Philbin) to be involved in the negotiations."

Philbin said Bryan is involved because it is concerned with the fire protection services in the county.

"We don't have a contract with the

(Continued on page 3)

## Pope says it's God's will that only men be priests

**United Press International**  
PHILADELPHIA — Pope John Paul II Thursday defended the Roman Catholic Church's refusal to accept women as priests and said the policy will not change, because the priesthood is a matter of God's will, not human rights.

The pope's homily, delivered to a congregation of 20,000 priests, brothers and nuns, was the first time he referred to the touchy issue of priesthood for women during his U.S. trip.

John Paul's words, which reflected his traditional, conservative position on the volatile controversy over priesthood, won a rousing standing ovation. The cheering and chants of "Long live the pope!" lasted several minutes.

Despite the warm approval from the religious audience — the Philadelphia Civic Center was a sea of men and women garbed in black and white vestments — there were some islands of reserve in the congregation, chiefly from groups of nuns.

**See related stories, page 4.**

seated in the balcony who appeared to be applauding only politely.

Wearing his traditional watered-silk vestments and a gold cape, the pope spoke from a red-carpeted, elevated altar. The Civic Center was festooned with banners welcoming him in English and Polish.

Much of the pontifical mass was sung in Latin, another symbol of the traditional policies the pope was defending.

Cardinal John Krol introduced the pope to the priests and nuns in the hall before the mass began, and he inadvertently raised the priesthood for women issue even before the pope's homily.

Krol told the pontiff his congregation included priests representing every diocese in the United States, and "some sisters."

A groan and then a burst of laughter broke out in the giant hall, stopping only when Krol motioned for quiet.

The pope's speech to the religious, delivered at the midpoint of his six-city, week-long U.S. crusade for peace, also was a vigorous defense of the requirement for priestly celibacy. God himself, the pontiff said, had decreed only men should be chosen for the priesthood.

## Court orders resentencing for policemen in Torres case

**United Press International**  
NEW ORLEANS — The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals Thursday granted a prosecution appeal for resentencing of three former Houston policemen who were given suspended sentences in a brutality case that resulted in the death of prisoner Joe Campos Torres.

The 14 judges said the probation imposed by U.S. District Judge Ross Sterling of Houston was improper because federal law did not allow suspended sentences in cases where the maximum penalty was death or life imprisonment. The officers could have been sentenced to life imprisonment.

The remand to the district court was ordered on a rehearing by an en banc court panel, meaning all or most of the 5th Circuit judges took part in the case. A three-judge panel of the same court previously had denied the appeal.

The officers also were sentenced to one

year in jail on a companion misdemeanor assault charge. Those sentences were not at issue in the government's appeal and remained valid.

The three defendants were Terry Wayne Denson, Stephen Orlando and Joseph James Janish. They were convicted of civil rights violations for brutality resulting in the death of Torres, a 23-year-old Mexican-American who was beaten and pushed into a bayou where he drowned while in their custody May 5, 1977. His body was found in the bayou three days later.

"The clerk shall issue a writ of mandamus vacating the sentences imposed and commanding the district court to resentencing the defendants in accordance with law on their convictions of the charges in count one of the indictment," the court said.

Four members of the panel suggested a different judge should be assigned to the

case for the resentencing, but the other judges disagreed.

The 5th Circuit said it was aware that the defendants could be sentenced to concurrent one-year jail terms on both counts and thereby serve no more time in custody than under the suspended sentence. But the judges said that possibility was beyond their control.

"It is not the result we command but proper process," the 5th Circuit said. "The district judge will, we are confident, perform his duty. It is unseemly for us either to assume that he will take a particular course or to suggest what he should do so long as he reaches his decision in accordance with the controlling statute."

## Home hidden by man's laundry

**United Press International**  
DENVER — Jerry Knoll found out the hard way that a home buyer should inspect his purchase at night as well as in the daytime before signing any papers.

Knoll said he moved into his \$100,000-plus home and found that headlights from passing cars shone continually into his living room. Knoll said the lights made the room "totally unusable."

Knoll said he decided to spend \$12,000 to build a small entry courtyard. The cour-

tyard would include a 7-foot brick wall to block the headlights.

When he applied for a zoning variance to build the courtyard, Knoll discovered he also needed a change in the neighborhood's restrictive covenants. He submitted plans for the courtyard to the plans committee of the Crestmoor Park Homeowners Association, which turned him down.

Knoll then collected 35 signatures from neighbors who did not object to his plan.

But when he appeared before the Denver Board of Zoning Adjustment, only one person appeared in his favor, compared with seven for the opposition.

The board vetoed Knoll's courtyard on a 3-2 vote.

In protest, Knoll Wednesday stretched a clothesline between two trees in his front yard and hung out his laundry.

"The sheets will give me some privacy and I'm sure they'll help keep out the headlights," he said.

## Construction to blame for campus power failure

**By KENT DUNLAP**  
Battalion Reporter

Construction and maintenance were to blame for lights being out in two areas of the campus last week.

Lights in front of the Chemistry Building were off Monday through Friday last week because of the improvements being made to the fountain in front of the building.

Lights along the sidewalks in front of the Oceanography and Meteorology Buildings as well as in front of the Systems Building were out beginning early this week. Power was restored to this area Thursday.

Jim Harless, area maintenance superintendent, said lights in front of the Chemistry Building were cut off when maintenance began on the fountain, and they were turned back on when the work was com-

pleted.

The fountain was shut off during the spring semester last year, because of an internal water leak.

Circuit problems were blamed for the lack of lights along the sidewalks in front of the O&M and Systems buildings.

Harless said minor circuit problems can occur at any given time. They can require repair work ranging from replacing a blown fuse to reworking a complete circuit.

"We found a bad breaker on one of the main light circuits Thursday, and we're hoping that solved the problem," Harless said. "We'll find out tonight."

Fortunately, while the lights were off, University Police Chief Russ McDonald, who was not aware of the problem, said there had been no incidents reported.

## PR puts school in national limelight

# Company hired to push A&M image

**By LAURA CORTEZ**  
Battalion Reporter

A public relations firm was hired by Texas A&M University last fall to promote the image of the school on a national level, and Lane Stephenson, director of public information at Texas A&M, said he is pleased with the results.

Stephenson said that Gehrung Associates, a New Hampshire-based firm that deals exclusively with colleges and universities, was responsible for stories about Texas A&M appearing in some general interest publications over the past year. The publications include Newsweek, The New York Times and People magazine.

"Gehrung Associates makes it their business to know the needs and interests of the national media,

and they are then able to alert us to those needs," he said.

Frank Dobisky, director of the western region for Gehrung Associates, said an example is the case of the Texas Gulf Coast oil spill. He put Good Morning America and People magazine, both of which were interested in the subject, in touch with Dr. Roy Hann of the Texas A&M civil engineering department, who has done extensive research on oil spills.

Dobisky said that it is the goal of Gehrung Associates to "tell the A&M story" and to make people recognize the academic reputation, not just the athletic reputation, of the University.

Stephenson said he feels it is beneficial to the University to have a firm such as Gehrung Associates working for it because the national

publicity makes many people aware of the research and other worthwhile programs at Texas A&M.

The firm charges the University \$6,000 per year for its services. This money is provided by the Association of Former Students, Stephenson said.

He also said that Gehrung representatives, including Dobisky, visit Texas A&M a few times a year to familiarize themselves with the various programs and professors.

During the rest of the year, they are in continual telephone contact with the office of information.

Among other national media stories Stephenson said could be attributed to contacts made by Gehrung was a story which appeared in US magazine concerning Dr. Rod O'Connor, professor and director of First Year Chemistry

Programs, whose unconventional yet effective teaching methods (he pops out of a fake phone booth wearing a "Super Aggie" T-shirt, enters class in a puff of smoke and conducts demonstrations with shaving cream, gum drops and beach balls) have earned him fame.

In addition, the New York Times has made mention of the underwater archaeology program, and Newsweek cited the business administration program at Texas A&M as one of the largest in the country.

Stephenson said he feels Gehrung Associates has been "very productive," and this feeling is shared by Dr. Haskell Monroe, assistant vice president for academic affairs.

Stephenson said he plans to employ the services of Gehrung Associates to an even greater degree in the future.

The Littlest Brewery  
94th Texas State Fair  
Whenever someone mentions a from Fiddlin' Franchole Burke and