

Firefighting . . .

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county," he said. "From that point of view, we are concerned with the level of fire protection in the county. We feel it is not up to the level it should be. The problem is mainly with communication."
In a College Station city council meeting on Sept. 27, City Manager North Bardell listed communication between the area volunteer fire departments as a major problem which needs to be solved in the new contract.
Bardell said there have been instances when more than one unit, both volunteer and city, has shown up to fight a fire outside of city limits.
Landua agrees this is a major problem.
"Well, I really can't speak for the volunteer fire departments," he said. "We haven't had much trouble with them. I definitely think they need a central dispatch to coordinate things, though."
Philbin agrees.
"There is a big problem with communication," he said. "Right now there is a problem with communication with the sheriff's de-

partment. I think there is probably a need for some sort of dispatching unit. I've seen it work in other places I've been."
Philbin said there are pros and cons to having a central unit.
"On the positive side, you have quicker response in emergency situations," he said. "There are problems, however. You must train people in the dispatch unit, you must decide on the type of system you want and you have to build a place to house it all. It takes money."
Adams listed a lack of water facilities such as fire hydrants as another problem to be considered.
"If you don't have anything to hook up to, it gets to be a real problem fighting any grass fires or something that could pose a threat to homes or property," he said. "Out in the country, it's difficult sometimes to get to water. You must keep grass fires and such from getting houses and barns."
The fire departments have always had problems with a lack of water, Landua said.
"It used to be we didn't have any

hydrants outside of the city limits," he said, "so we always had problems finding a water supply."
Landua said the city often had to resort to a "shuttle effect" way of resolving the problem.
"If all else failed, we had to get water from here in the city," he said. "We would go out and use the water we had, then drive all the way back here and get more water."
"It was easier if we had two units, though. One would battle the blaze while another would go get water, and vice versa."
Landua said he pushed to get hydrants installed, and now the situation is better.
"I sold them on the idea of putting in hydrants in different towns around the county," he said. "It saved the county money in the long run. At the time, we were charging them five dollars per engine mile, so all that coming and going for water was really adding up. It was costing sometimes \$50 just to make one trip."
"We still have certain areas that need water supplies, though."
Landua said the dispute between

the county and the city has been going on for quite awhile. He listed the 1977-78 College Station Fire Department budget as an example.
During this fiscal year, Landua said, the fire department had an operating budget of \$479,468. Fire calls outside of College Station amounted to \$100,688 or 21 percent of the budget.
However, Landua said, the county only paid \$28,168.91 for the services — only six percent of the total budget.
"We billed the county on a per-run basis," he said. "They don't have to pay for stand-by time or the time we sit around waiting for the fire. They pay for actual fire-fighting time."
The negotiations shouldn't take much time, Adams said.
"I don't think there's any problem," he said.
"We're not mad at the county over this — we may be before it's over," Adams said. "Our obligation is to serve, and we will remain in that capacity on the basis of the present contract until something happens."

Follow-up test to be held for flu study

By MARJORIE McLAUGHLIN
Battalion Reporter

This year, the flu season may be easier for some 2,100 people who participated in a Russian flu immunization experiment at Texas A&M University last year.
Dr. John Quarles, a microbiologist with the College of Medicine, said he is trying to locate at least 1,200 to 1,400 of the participants for a follow-up test to be held next Wednesday through Friday.

The test will determine if people vaccinated last year are still immune.
According to Quarles, this test may also reveal whether vaccines for one type of flu offer any protection from other types of flu.
Flu viruses run in cycles of three to five years, Quarles said. When enough people become immune to the strain, a virus either dies out or mutates into a new strain.
Quarles said researchers are al-

ways trying to find vaccines to combat these new strains.
Vaccines which imitate the actual virus attack give the best protection against the disease, Quarles said.
The participants in last year's test were administered the vaccine in the form of nose drops, which mimics the infection process.
The immunity follow-up tests will be from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. in the Commons lounge and at Beutel Health Center.

Sex facts, fiction discussed on campus

By ANGELIQUE COPELAND
Battalion Reporter

The belief that it is safe to engage in sexual activity during a woman's menstrual period is just one of the popular myths many people hold about sex and contraception, said Brenda Meddler, a member of Family Planning.
This and other myths about pregnancy and birth control were aired in an open discussion about sex by some staff members of Family Planning and Woman's Referral Service in the Lounge A outside Briggs Hall Wednesday night.
Meddler explained researchers now believe that sperm released into the uterus are capable of fer-

tilizing an egg up to 10 days later. In this way, sperm still present after the end of the cycle and at the time of ovulation can achieve fertilization.
Family Planning is a service organization for health and pregnancy counseling in Bryan. The center has just begun to include students in a program that provides free or low cost examinations and various methods of birth control.
Meddler, the education coordinator for Family Planning, said many people have wrong ideas about what the effective methods of birth control are. For example, she said some people believe conception can not occur the first time a woman has sex.
Any time a woman engages in sex without using some reliable form of birth control, she runs the risk of becoming pregnant, Meddler said.
People also do not realize that penetration need not occur for a woman to become pregnant, Meddler said.

During foreplay, the male organ secretes seminal fluid just as lubrication is excreted by the vagina. Contact of this fluid with the outer edges of the vagina is enough to transfer sperm capable of traveling up the uterus and fertilizing an egg, she said.
Other myths Meddler brought up were rinsing the vagina immediately after sex to prevent pregnancy and the belief that conception will not occur unless orgasm is achieved.
Meddler and Casey Ray, of the Women's Referral Service, then discussed more reliable methods of birth control.
Methods available without seeing a doctor are condoms, spermicides, rhythm, and withdrawal.
The most effective of these forms are condoms used in conjunction with a spermicide, Meddler said. Used together, these forms of birth control are 94-96 percent effective.
The condom is also the only form of birth control that offers protection from venereal disease.
When used separately, the effectiveness of these devices decreases, with condoms being more reliable than foam.
Meddler cautioned against using Vaseline to lubricate during intercourse, especially when using condoms. She explained that Vaseline is an oil-base substance that is irritating to the lining of the uterus and can cause infections. It is also corrosive to the latex used in condoms and causes them to rupture.
The rhythm method, when used correctly, requires discipline and complicated planning, Meddler said. There are two types of rhythm. In one type, the woman records her temperature every morning for eight months to a year and then plots the days near ovulation when conception is most likely and ab-

except for sterilization and the pill.
Disadvantages of an IUD encountered by some women include longer and heavier menstrual periods and cramping. Ray said, however, that medication is now available to relieve the cramping in most women.
Probably the best known method of birth control is the pill, Ray said. The pill contains the two female hormones estrogen and progesterone. By maintaining high levels of these hormones, the pill "fools" the body into believing pregnancy has occurred and eggs are not released.
With the exception of sterilization, the pill has the highest reliability rate of all other methods of birth control at 96-98 percent effective.
Possible side effects of the pill include weight gain, nausea, headaches and growth and tenderness of the breasts. Ray also said that women with a history of hypertension, clotting disorders or migraine headaches should consider alternate methods.
While no method of birth control is 100 percent effective (there is a one in 300 chance pregnancy will occur after sterilization), there are methods available that provide a high degree of protection, Meddler said.
Pregnancy counseling is offered through both Family Planning and the Women's Referral Service.

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gained popularity in recent years, Ray said. Used in conjunction with a spermicide jelly, this device must be fitted to the woman by a doctor. Weight gain or loss of more than 5 pounds requires refitting and the diaphragm must remain in place for six hours after intercourse.
The two most common methods available through doctors are the Intra Uterine Device, (IUD) and the birth control pill, Ray said.
The IUD must be inserted by a doctor and has the highest success rate of all methods of birth control

except for sterilization and the pill.
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