campus & city

Annexation . . .

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was annexed now. "The developer (Galindo) will be able to build streets and sewers faster (than the city could) and more efficiently," he said. "The area (the MUD) will grow faster and then our property value will appreciate."

Now, the MUD receives limited ambulance and fire protection from the city. Bryan's emergency crews will only respond to a MUD call if they are not busy serving someone else in the city, Nelson said.

Bryan police will not respond to any call coming from the MUD unless it is an extreme emergency; the county sheriff is responsible in every other case.

Thorensen moved into the MUD to get out of the city and is not concerned about the lack of city police protection.

"We have not had any problems," he said, "and if at some later date we need it, we will just have to all work together and use the county to help us."

If a need for greater police protection is evident, Miller said, the board of directors would be able to authorize funds needed to solve the problem.

Both Thorensen and Miller said annexation was no longer a big issue because they heard the city council had already made its decision on annexation.

The MUD residents in favor of annexation have organized and appeared before the council. Approximately 60 residents attended the public hearing. Six spoke to the council pleading for annexation.

The council had been given a petition earlier with over 150 resident signatures in favor of annexation.

Their biggest objection to living in the MUD is its system of taxation.

According to a booklet published for prospective bond buyers, the board of directors is responsible for taxing property of the residents as much as is necessary to cover the bond payment. It can charge whatever amount is needed to assure bond payments can be met.

The booklet states the tax ceiling is $1.19 per $1,000 of any property's worth. If the taxes need to be raised above that to cover the MUD's bond payment, and if a public hearing is held, the board may raise taxes as high as it wishes.

The MUD tax rate is currently 77 cents per $1,000 of value, with 100 percent of the property's worth counted in the valuation. Bryan's tax rate is 72 cents per 80 percent valuation.

On a $100,000 home, the difference in tax is $194. In Bryan, the taxes would be $576; in the MUD, taxes would be $770.

If more bonds are sold but not balanced by increased population, which would spread out the bond debt payment in the MUD, present residents could be forced to pay exorbitant taxes, said Donald Clark, MUD residents. This is "taxation without representation," he said.

The area being speculated on by the bond buyers would have to be able to support the added debt or else the buyers would not invest their money, Galindo said.

Another resident, Pete Teel, appeared at the hearing and charged that the board of directors, who are elected for two-year terms, were not chosen democratically. Elections are held each year with rotating terms. This year, three out of the five board members were elected — each receiving only three votes in the election.

Teel said the residents have no removal power of the board members so it will be at least two years before the residents can hope to have a voice in the administrative business of the MUD.

The board of directors have officially taken a neutral stand in the annexation issue. Vaughn Bryant, board president, said the group does not know the true feelings of all the residents because they have not had the time to go out and poll everybody.

"Besides," Bryant said, "it is our job to conduct the administration of the district. Although annexation concerns the district, it is not our business — therefore, we are taking a neutral stance."

In the last paragraph of a memo to City Manager Ernest Clark, City Planner Hubert Nelson recommends the city formulate a policy about annexation to eliminate such confusion in the future.

The memo read, in part: "The City of Bryan is here to serve the needs of its people and provide those services which cannot be economically funded on an individual basis. In order to protect the public interest, an aggressive annexation policy could be the answer."

$55,000 show

Beach Boys concert — biggest ever

By ANGIE JONES
Battalion Reporter

Students who felt the pinch of buying tickets to the Beach Boys concert may be comforted to know they attended the biggest stage production ever presented on campus.

The Sept. 31 concert was also the largest show ever attempted by the Town Hall Committee, which brings entertainment to campus.

Michelle Scudder, chairman of THC, said committee members invited the Beach Boys after a student survey last spring rated the group highly. The survey also indicated students would be willing to pay more to see bigger shows.

Total cost of the Beach Boys concert was about $55,000.

Scudder explained ticket prices are set by dividing the total cost of the show by the number of seats available.

Total cost of the Beach Boys concert was about $55,000. Since 7,800 seats were available, ticket prices $8.50 for general admission, $9.25 for reserved bleachers and $9.75 for reserved chair-backed seats. Of the 7,800 tickets, 6,800 were sold.

"That's not a bad turnout considering the price of the tickets," Scudder said.

A breakdown of THC's contract with the Beach Boys shows $35,000 of the concert's cost was a professional fee for the group. An additional $20,000 production fee covered costs for equipment rental, food, advertising and the opening act.

A sound and lighting system had to be rented as well as the unusually large stage.

The stage, which was 5 feet high, 56 feet long and 40 feet deep, was the largest ever used in G. Rollie White Coliseum. Scudder explained that 150 seats were "lost" because tall speakers and other sound equipment blocked the view.

An expense incurred only two weeks before the concert was the cost of the opening act, Prism. A separate contract was signed with the band, and it became a part of the production fee.

The cost of four catered meals on concert day for the Beach Boys, their road crew and Prism was also part of the production fee.

The Beach Boys requested a variety of foods including fresh shrimp and crab platters, vegetables, cheeses, hors d'oeuvres, fruit juices, health foods, soft drinks and Perrier water. Liquor could not be provided for the groups because it is against Texas A&M regulations.

The road crew was served a traditional breakfast of ham, eggs and hash-browned potatoes. For lunch, BLT sandwiches, potato chips and soup were served, but for dinner the crew asked for lasagne, salad, vegetable platters and a delicatessen tray.

The stage, which was 5 feet high, 56 feet long and 40 feet deep, was the largest ever used in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

The THC chairman said all terms of the Beach Boys contract were met. However, a few of the group's requests were impossible because of the coliseum.

Six dressing rooms were requested — one for each of the five Beach Boys and one for Prism. THC was able to provide four of these by using rooms in the health and physical education department and a basketball dressing room.

The group also wanted to "fly" the sound system — suspend the speakers from the ceiling. But THC found the coliseum could not safely support the weight.

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Scudder said the group asked for an even larger stage than the one provided, but a 60-by-40-foot stage would not fit in the coliseum.

"Physical limitations in G. Rollie White Coliseum are the biggest problems in not providing groups with what they want," Scudder said. But she also said no performers or groups have turned down a performance request because of the coliseum.

A 3-foot barricade was set up between the stage and front row to keep enthusiastic fans from getting too close to the groups. Scudder said security guards, Memorial Student Center staff advisers, 93 THC ushers, Alpha Phi Omega and backstage passes helped to keep security "pretty tight."

Scudder said students will be surveyed in the spring to see what performers they would like to see next year.

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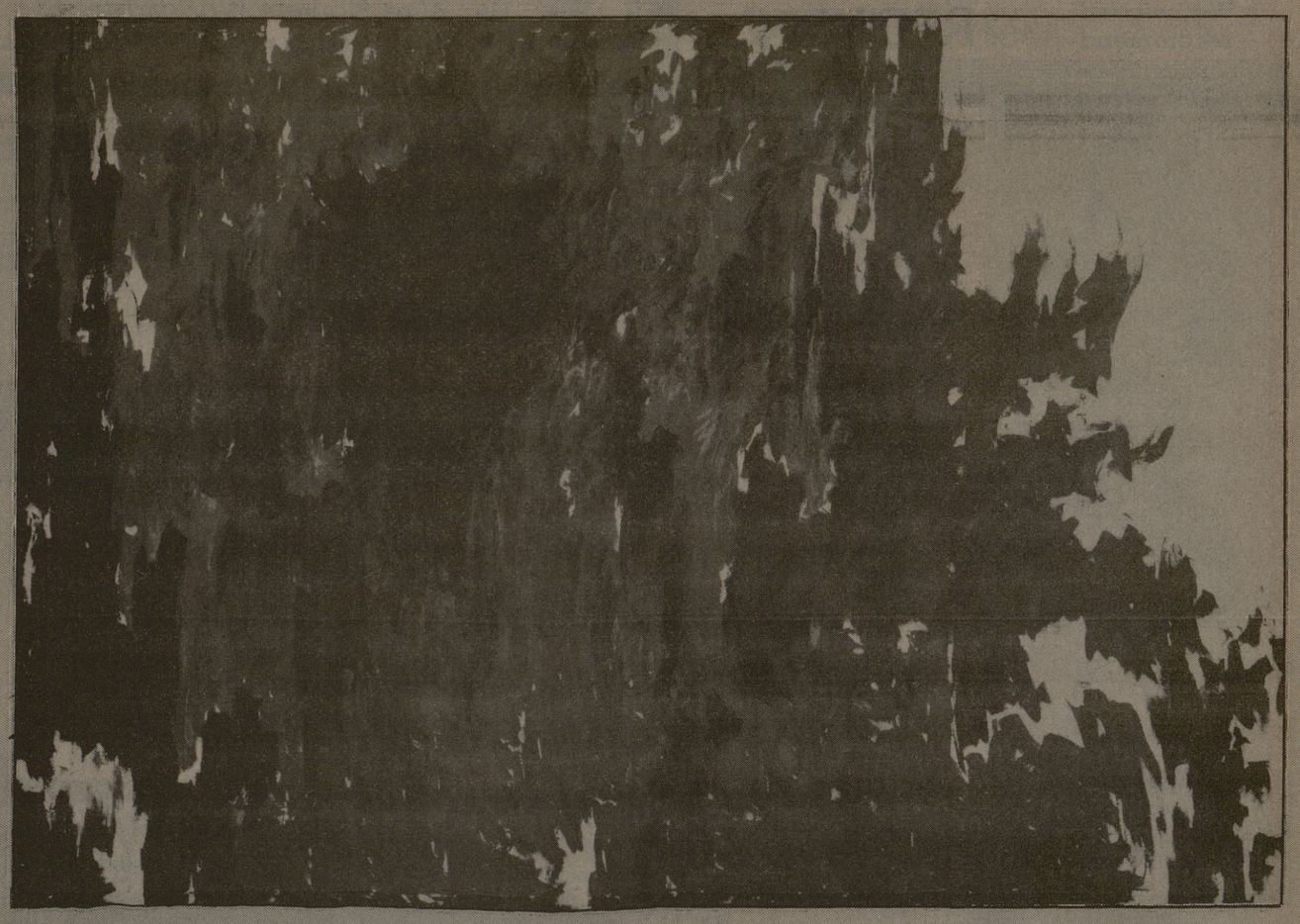

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