

local

No mirage — an oasis of parking

By JERRY MAZE
Campus Reporter

An Aggie dream has materialized at Texas A&M University — more parking spaces.

This oasis in a desert of overcrowded parking lots shimmers for half a mile along the west side of Wellborn Road, between Jersey Street and West Main Street.

The approximately 50-foot wide strip between the pavement and the railroad tracks was leased from Missouri Pacific Railroad by Texas A&M at a minimal cost to handle overflow parking at football games, Assistant Police Chief Morris Maddox said Wednesday.

Because of student parking taken over by work on Kyle Field, Maddox said, railroad officials have agreed to let students continue to park on the leased area.

"The only restriction to parking on the railroad property is to stay at least 10 feet from the track," Maddox said.

"Any vehicles parked too close, that interfere with the work of railroad vehicles, will be towed



A temporary solution to the student parking squeeze — Texas A&M University is leasing the 50 ft. strip off Wellborn Road from Missouri Pacific Railroad. Photo by Cindy Colvin

away," he said.
An added delight to anyone who has ever circled the campus

looking for a space in their designated parking lot, Maddox said, a parking permit is not required to

park in the area and parking tickets will not be issued by University Police.

Summer may have melted 'snow' on University's artificial ski slope

By USCHI MICHEL-HOWELL
Campus Reporter

The boiling heat over Aggieland may have been so strong last semester that it even "melted" the black Durasnow on the "Mount Aggie" ski slope.

But nobody knows if it was the sun, faulty material or misuse that caused the artificial snow to deteriorate after only two months of use.

The \$17,000 surface was put on the small hill next to G. Rollie White Coliseum last September, said Dr. George T. Jessup, associate professor of health and physical education, who also helped select it. The Ski Club and the health and physical education department supplied the labor and any additional material needed to install the surface, said Robert L. Seibert, a member of the Ski Club at Texas A&M University.

After two months' instructions on the two-inch thick, bristle-like surface, the pointed bristles broke off the black carpet, Seibert said.

"The sun in the summer is tough on that material," said Dr. Leonard D. Ponder, head of the health and physical education department. "The thing simply disintegrated," he said.

He said that as soon as the molded 12-inch squares showed signs of deterioration the department called the company in California which manufactured the material. The company then sent replacements.

"We tried to patch up the surface, but it did not help," Ponder said. Durasnow is the second surface on

"Mount Aggie," which was built by the department and Ski Club members in 1977.

"Durasnow had not previously been used in the South," Ponder said.

At the end of the last fall semester Durasnow had deteriorated so much that the department purchased material called Snowmat to test it on the slope, Ponder said.

"Right now we are testing the new surface," Ponder said. "If this new material does not work we don't have another alternative," he said.

He said that the expenses have been high for "Mount Aggie" and that the skiing lessons might have to be cancelled if Snowmat does not work.

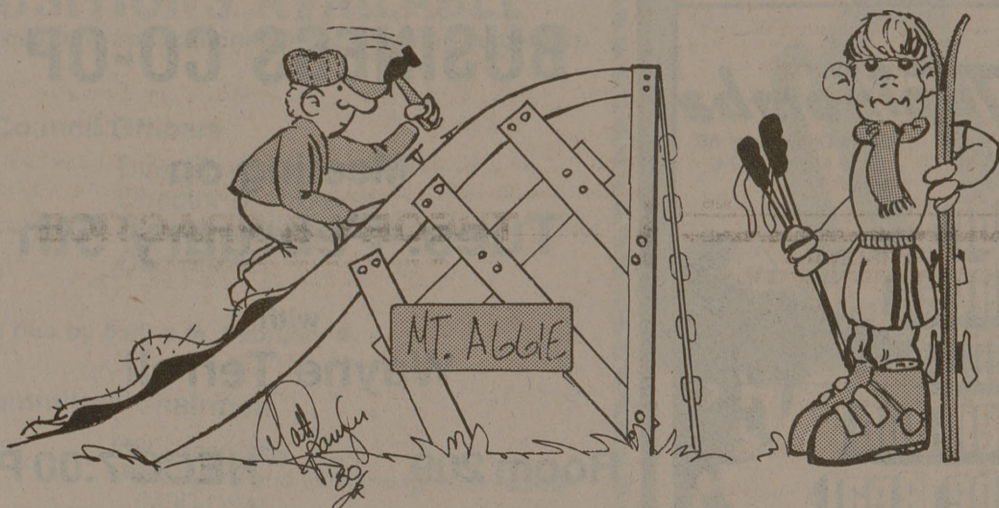
"I believe it (skiing) is liked by youngsters and it provides a service

to the University," Ponder said.

Ponder said that he did not know if the material was faulty or if a group of people that walked on Durasnow with regular shoes caused the deterioration.

Snowmat is more abrasive than Durasnow and requires skiers to wear gloves and padding.

It cost the department \$2,736, Ponder said.



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'Beef referendum' vote Feb. 19-22

By PETE HALE
Campus Reporter

All cattlemen are urged to register and vote on a proposed Beef Research and Information program Feb. 19-22, said Dr. Ed Uvacek, economist and marketing specialist with the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

Cattlemen across the nation may register at their local Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service office by Wednesday.

For the referendum to be valid, 50 percent or more of those who register must vote, and only a simple majority of those voting is needed to pass the order. Uvacek explained that if only ten

people register, five voters can carry the proposal.

The rules also allow only one vote per production entity, be it an individual, family or corporation.

The "Beef referendum," as the proposal is known, would allow cattle marketing research to be done under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Passage of the proposal would instigate a self-help program in which cattlemen would invest 20 cents per \$100 valuation of their cattle in a research and marketing education program.

The results would allow cattle raisers to predict more closely the up-and-down cycles of the cattle

market and provide better marketing information. This would help aid not only the beef producer, but also the consumer.

While the proposal has continually gained support, many ranchers still oppose the issue, saying there is no need for government intervention in their business. One association of cattlemen, the Independent Cattleman's Association of Texas, feels the proposal would give the USDA too much power and infringe on rights of free enterprise.

Uvacek said he feels opposition and support are about evenly divided. He added that regardless of their opinion, it is important that all cattlemen register and vote.



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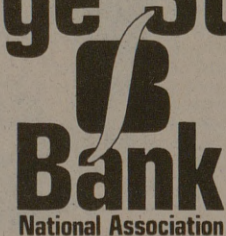
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