

Consol head authorized to begin new facility plans

By KATHLEEN HARTNEY
City Reporter

A resolution authorizing Superintendent Bruce Anderson to contract a consulting architect to develop plans for a new maintenance, transportation, and housing facility was passed at the A&M Consolidated School District meeting Monday night.

Anderson said the current facilities located on the north side of the district are inadequate for current needs in several areas:

— Present facilities lack space which limit the performance of preventative maintenance.

— Present buildings used by central maintenance lack efficient and effective space and cannot be economically remodeled to provide the space.

— Storage space for food products cannot be handled at the present volume and must be directly delivered to each campus resulting in increased costs.

— Space is needed to store other supplies such as large volumes of paper which are subject to damage, an additional fuel tank needed for a desirable level of fuel reserves and building plans and records of the school district.

Anderson also said a closer location would provide the district with a more efficient operation.

A proposed six-acre site owned by the district is located west of Welch Street. Anderson said the initial construction cost based on contacts with contractors would be \$250,000.

In other business, the school board passed a resolution to repair and add to the seating in the district's football stadium.

Anderson said the first priority would be to install aluminum plank seats on the homeside, construct 920 seats on the homeside and replace

aisle seats. The cost of the construction will be about \$45,000. The seats on the visitor's side will also be repaired at an estimated cost of \$38,000.

local

Trip to Washington benefits Kapavik

By RICHARD OLIVER
Staff Writer

Texas A&M University Student Body President Ronnie Kapavik traveled to Washington, D.C., last week, and returned with a greater awareness of the "tremendous responsibility of the president and his staff in leading the nation."

Kapavik joined 300 student body leaders Friday in a one-day briefing on domestic and national affairs. The briefing, held in the White House, included addresses by several key cabinet members and President Carter.

Kapavik said the main item discussed was the institution of draft registration and the possible participation of women in the draft.

"The main thrust of the briefing appeared to be the introduction of draft registration," he said. "The speakers stressed vigorously the difference between the draft registration and the actual draft."

"They felt since women are represented in 92 percent of domestic

jobs, they should be responsible for military duty."

Kapavik said the officials added the military obligation for women would be non-combat, should they be drafted.

Kapavik estimated 70 percent of the student leaders at the briefing agreed draft registration was necessary.

The briefing involved reviews of such topics as inflation, the budget and SALT II, Kapavik said, and included a 30-minute talk by the president.

Although much of the briefing was beneficial, other parts caused concern, said Kapavik.

"I got a lot of insights," he said. "I have a great concern for what's going on in Washington. We need to be involved in choosing a representative leader."

"What was appalling were the economic justifications given for taxation and supporting programs. It helped me to see there are several things we are doing that we don't have a need for."

Kapavik said he believed the briefing was for more than just information.

"I picked up many socialist tones throughout the day," he said. "It motivates me to put a more responsible person in the White House."

"I believe the invitation was political. It (student briefing) had never happened in their (the Carter) administration before."

Not all the tones were negative, however, said Kapavik.

"It was good to hear we (the United States) are targeting our funding of federal programs in areas where the most production is evident," he said. "Carter had a tough row to hoe when he took office. The problems were there four years ago."

Kapavik said the trip was worthwhile.

"It helped me in a large way," he said, "to see the direction the government is going. It was a good trip, I enjoyed it."

The funding for Kapavik's trip was provided by the University.

Steve Martin, Andy Gibb— junior high math tutors?

United Press International
Andy Gibb, hero of the bubble gum set, has something in common with John Belushi, comic from television's Saturday Night Live.

And they both have something in common with comedian Steve Martin, Dr. J. from the "Sixers" and an assorted cast of characters idolized by the junior high set.

They're all part of the graphics and, sometimes, problem situations in a new magazine for junior high students having trouble with math.

"Many of these students have learned most of their basic computation skills, but they are failing math anyway," said Victoria L. Chapman,

editor of "Scholastic MATH."

"National testing results tell us students perform increasingly well on straight arithmetic tasks, but often can't use those skills in a practical setting."

"They can't calculate sales tax, make change or even use a ruler with accurate results."

"We learned through our tests that we would have to fight fear first. Students locked into fear of failure cannot learn new skills. So we motivate interest and defuse fear with humor, cartoons and arithmetic drills put into game and puzzle format."

The television personalities that have become part of the students' every day are featured in many of the situations in the first edition of the math magazine designed for classroom use.

But there's more to it. Chapman said poor reading skill stands in the way of math success.

So to keep the reading level easy, math problems in the magazine are put in real-world situations — via maps, catalogs, sports articles.

"Our goal is to reflect the real world, where reading, reasoning and arithmetic are never far apart," she said.

Among features in the preview issue are:

— "Rock and Roll DJ" — a career article using math to plan a radio show.

— "You Be The Coach!" which has students calculate basketball shooting percentages for selected professional basketball players.

— "It Pays to Compare" — a consumer education article about discount shopping for records. Students are supposed to figure where they get the best buy: from Apple's Discount where all albums are only \$5.99, or Disco Dollar, where "many" albums are \$6.50 or are sometimes 20 percent off the regular

\$6.50 price.

"We know," Chapman said, "if we don't rescue those falling behind in math in junior high they will just stay on a spiral staircase downward."

"They will fall behind faster and faster. They need someone to say — 'Hold on; here's a different approach.'"

A recent report from the National Assessment of Education Progress, a national program funded by the U.S. Office of Education, showed students falling behind in math have difficulty thinking with numbers.

"They have trouble with applications of math," Chapman said.

Chapman said she was a math cripple in college — even though she took calculus at Bloomington High in Bloomington, Minn.

Chapman recalls that she passed on tears, getting a "sympathy" grade.

But she met her enemy again at Hamline University in St. Paul, Minn.

"There I flunked the math placement course," she said. "And they put me in an introduction to addition and subtraction. Idiot math."

"The experiences help me to emphasize with the kids this magazine is trying to reach."

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