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College Station, Texas

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The Weather	
Yesterday	Today
High 83	High 85
Low 58	Low 60
Humidity 75%	Humidity 58%
Rain 0.0 inches	Chance of rain none

Northgate crowding solutions presented

By NANCY ANDERSEN
Battalion Staff

Tentative solutions to the problem of overcrowded Northgate bars were presented to the student senate Wednesday.

During peak nights, students overflow into several lanes of traffic on University Drive outside the four bars. David Collins, vice president for external affairs, reported some temporary solutions until a long range one could be implemented to alleviate the situation.

The proposed solutions included:

- 1) Blocking off the parking spaces in front of the bars to create more standing space.
- 2) Adding another light on "Bottle Cap Alley" to try and draw more people into the alley area and away from the street.
- 3) Remove the motorcycle parking area between the Dixie chicken and the Alamo.

These solutions have not been worked out with the businesses involved yet, but Collins said "we can count on some cooperation on them." Collins said the proposals will be submitted to the College Station Planning and Zoning Commission and City Manager North Bardell.

The long range solution would be to block off and resurface Patricia Street, which runs behind the bars and the adjoining parking lot. This would create a mall area, he said. Lights, benches and maybe a roof would complete the conversion, he added. "It would be a walking street — orienting all the Northgate businesses toward the back," he explained.

College Station city officials are very concerned with the pedestrian problem and will try to float a \$1 million bond for capital improvements, of which an estimated \$100,000 would be used for conversion, Collins said.

The earliest this conversion could be implemented would be next fall, he added.

Collins said that he needs student input on this problem, and that students with ideas should come by the Student Government office in 216 MSC.

In legislative action, senators hotly debated the documentation an academic minors bill, but sent it back to committee. This bill would require the Registrar's Office to place a student's minor, if applicable, on the official transcript.

The controversy centered around the fact that the University does not recognize minors in any fields on transcripts.

"Minors are merely policies within your fields," said Kevin Pond, off-campus graduate senator.

So before such a proposal could be enacted, the University would have to recognize minors, approve the bill and send it to the Coordinating Board in Austin for final approval, he said.

Since minors are not looked on favorably by the board, Pond said, the bill will run into problems getting approved in Austin. The trend is away from specialization statewide, and currently no state institutions have academic minors, he added.

"The chances of this passing our administration and the coordinating board are so slim, that we shouldn't put pressure on our administration," said Steve Crumley, business senator and academic affairs committee member.

"We have to think of our reputation with the administration," added Kathleen Miller, vice president for academic affairs.

Phil Hannah, sponsor of the bill, disagreed.

"Since no one else has them, why can't A&M be the first to have an academic minor?" asked Hannah. "This is extremely important to anyone who has a minor. Having the field stated would be more powerful than course listings."

"We are here to represent the students and not impress the administration," said Rhonda Rhea, Ward II senator. "I have yet to talk to a student who doesn't support this bill."

However, bill opponents said the situation isn't as simple as adding the word "minor" on a transcript.

The way the bill is written, there would have to be a review of all courses offered to specify which ones would be required for a minor, Miller said.

In other action, a parking row indication bill was tabled until the last senate meeting of the semester. This bill will recommend that University Police put row markers in nine of the larger parking lots. Sponsor Hannah said the \$50-per-sign cost was a little high and other solutions should be investigated.

The senate also heard and asked questions about the "Only One Date a Semester" bill. No action will be taken on it until the next meeting, Wednesday, Oct. 22.

Computer delays action

New traffic lights waiting

By DEBBIE NELSON
Battalion Staff

As soon as delayed parts of the new computerized traffic signal system arrive and are installed in College Station, traffic will flow more smoothly.

Installation of 16 new lights at about 5,000 has been delayed by controller boxes (which electronically time the flashing of lights) which failed to pass Texas Department of Highways and Public Safety tests, said Roger Barnes, TDH engineering technician and inspector for the project.

Replacements have been ordered, but not received. Barnes said the state office in Austin will put the new controllers through "severe tests" the first set of lights will be through.

Arrival of the system's computer has been delayed several times, John Black, city traffic engineer, said. Fourteen of the new lights, or all but four of the city traffic lights, will be connected to the computer.

The computerized system is being tested by the Texas Department of Highways and Public Safety. The city of College Station will take over maintenance once the tests are installed.

Each individual controller box will be programmed to decide how long a light stays green, Black said. The boxes are about the size of a refrigerator and will sit on concrete slabs at the intersections.

But adding the computer can change the lights' timing for light and heavy traffic periods.

"Basically, when you plug it into the computer, the computer will override what all the little controller boxes are doing," he said.

Barnes said there are three weeks left on the construction contract, but because of equipment delays, construction will run overtime a little.

Black said he expects complete installation to be delayed from 60 to 90 days, and said he would hate to estimate when the computer would arrive.

A cable will connect all the lights to the computer in Black's office in city hall. A large lighted map will display the city traffic lights.

Black said the new system will work similarly to the two lights on Wellborn Road at Jersey and W. Main.

Timings are set for each signal head. Metal detectors in the road hold a green

light on Wellborn until a car comes off of the campus or across the railroad tracks.

The new system will contain about 150 metal detectors at various places around the city, counting the number of cars passing over them at certain times, Black said.

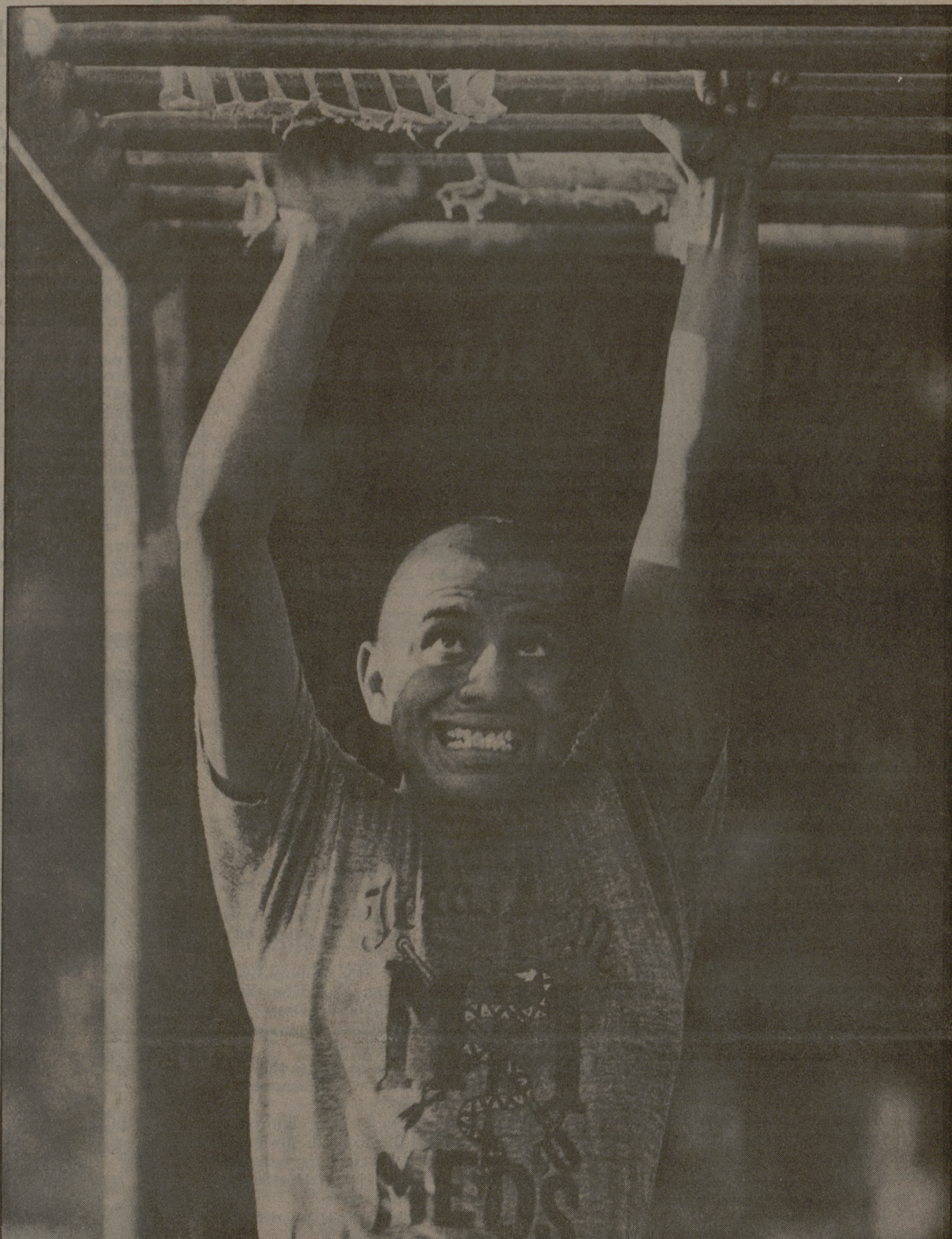
The computer will use that information to determine when individually programmed signals should be overridden.

The present traffic system has been updated several times, but contains "some antiquated equipment," Barnes said.

Only four city signals will not be connected to the computer: Agronomy Road and University, Tarrow and University (by FedMart), Rosemary and Texas (to be taken over by Bryan) and Southwest Parkway and Texas.

The city itself will install a controller box at the Southwest Parkway-Texas intersection. But the box it will use is presently being used at Jersey and Wellborn Road, which has not received its new controller box yet.

"We're waiting on the state, and the state is waiting on the contractors, and the contractors are waiting on the manufacturer and supplier," Barnes said.



Staff photo by Pat O'Malley

Fish Tarzan

Stevan Perez, a company M-1 freshman, goes through the motions on the obstacle course behind Mount Aggie.

The outfit placed 35th at the Texas Tech march-in, so freshmen were "paying for it" Wednesday afternoon.

Lithuanian wins Nobel prize

STOCKHOLM, Sweden — In a surprise decision, Lithuanian author Czeslaw Milosz today was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature.

Milosz is the first Lithuanian to win the coveted prize, worth \$215,000 this year.

He won over a star-studded field that included Norman Mailer, Britain's Graham Greene and Trinidad-born author V.S. Naipaul.

The award to Milosz, a 69-year-old poet who comes from a tiny Soviet-ruled Baltic state of 3.4 million population, was in line with a recent tradition of awarding the prize to lesser known literary personalities from smaller countries.

Last year's prize also went to a poet, Odysseus Elytis, a Greek wartime resistance fighter.

In awarding the prize to Milosz the Swedish Academy cited his family background of ancient lineage "in which primitive folk traditions lived on together with a complex historical heritage."

Since 1960, Milosz has been a guest lecturer in Slavonic languages at the University of California in Berkeley.

Milosz grew up in the Polish town of Vilna. The academy also said that during his youth, industrialization had not made itself felt in earnest.

Refugee move to Puerto Rico halted by judge

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico — A federal judge halted the transfer of 5,000 Cuban and Haitian refugees to a Puerto Rican naval base in a stunning setback for President Carter's attempt to temporarily settle the refugees on the island.

Wednesday's injunction order was issued as a victory for "the democratic system" by Puerto Rico Gov. Romero Barcelo. The White House announced it would appeal the decision ordering a halt to the setting up of the temporary camp at Fort Allen Naval Base.

Work stopped at the Fort Allen tent city pending a decision on the White House appeal in the 1st District Court of Boston, which has jurisdiction over Puerto Rico, a U.S. commonwealth.

U.S. District Judge Juan R. Torruella ruled President Carter had not proved a disaster would result if the Cubans were transferred to Puerto Rico and thus had no right to waive local environmental laws on sanitation and crowding at the Fort Allen camp.

Carter's executive order, issued Oct. 3 under a law giving him the right to waive environmental regulations in cases of catastrophes or national security, overruled a Puerto Rican environmental board's requirement that Fort Allen not be used as a refugee camp until an environmental impact statement could be filed.



Staff photo by Pat O'Malley

Rally 'round

A rally for the Democratic presidential ticket and local candidates was held Wednesday afternoon in Culpepper Plaza parking lot. From left to right are Kent Caperton, candidate for state senator; Geech Cook, '66, an actor,

formerly of CBS' Carter Country; and Jerry Webster, a musician from Austin who performed in the show. About 50 people showed up for the rally.

Ships wait out war

Oil tankers stranded

MUSCAT, Oman — Almost 40 huge oil tankers rode at anchor near the mouth of the Persian Gulf today — stranded at sea by a war that has made the oil shipping lanes dangerous and prohibitively expensive.

The harbor master at Mina Qaboos, near Oman's capital of Muscat, said 38 empty oil tankers were sitting off the Omani coastline in the Arabian Sea awaiting instructions from their nervous owners.

Looking out to sea from Mina Qaboos, the huge oil tankers filled the horizon. The ships' owners were reluctant to send them through the 24-mile-wide Strait of Hormuz into the Persian Gulf because of the recent 300 percent increase in war-risk premiums imposed by insurance brokers on the region after the onset of the Iran-Iraq War.

Harbor officials said all the tankers were headed for Iraqi and Iranian oil export terminals or other ports "close to the war zone."

There are normally only two or three tankers anchored off Mina Qaboos, and Omani officials have begun to charge the shipowners per ton for every week's stay in their protected waters.

Shipping sources said they could not gauge how long the tankers would wait out-

side the Persian Gulf, but they noted there was no great demand for tanker tonnage now and it was cheaper for the owners to keep their ships in the area.

The owners apparently are hoping for a quick end to the conflict and an equally rapid reduction in the war-risk premiums before they allow their tankers near Iran or Iraq.

In a related development, the Qatari news agency reported from the United Arab Emirates port of Dubai, inside the Persian Gulf, that Dubai has concluded an agreement with Iraq to accept shipments destined for Iraqi ports until the hostilities end.

Shipments for Iraq can now be unloaded at Dubai so captains don't have to enter the war zone.

As the war continued today, Iranian warplanes set huge fires in Baghdad and attacked the oil center of Kirkuk. Iran claimed its airborne forces destroyed 35 Iraqi tanks and killed more than 100 enemy troops along the northern border.

Fighting was reported on several fronts along the Iraq-Iran border as the war entered its 19th day today, with each side still claiming the tide of battle was in its favor.