

THE BATTALION

Serving the Texas A&M University community

Vol. 74 No. 128
Pages

Monday, April 6, 1981
College Station, Texas

USPS 045 360
Phone 845-2611

The Weather

Today	Tomorrow
High 74	High 72
Low 45	Low 52
Chance of rain none	Chance of rain none



Stretcher race, Corps style

Photo by Skip Merrick

Martha Langford, Kim Russell, and Susan Melde, Class of '84, and Mary Stubbert, Class of '85, race for women's Corps unit WI in the games at the Brazos Bottoms Staurday. The games were part of the

annual Corps March to the Brazos to raise money for the March of Dimes.

Wellborn Road may be elevated

By BELINDA McCOY
Battalion Staff

Wellborn Road may someday be above our heads, but those of us now here at Texas A&M University probably won't be around long enough to enjoy it, said County Judge Dick Holmgreen.

Holmgreen led a delegation of county, city, civic and university officials March 19 in a formal request before the State Highway Commission to elevate Wellborn Road.

The request includes a plan to elevate Wellborn Road from University Drive to Jersey Street. A pedestrian mall between Old Main Drive and Joe Rott Boulevard is included in the plan, along with two pedestrian crossings — one between University Drive and Old Main Drive, and one between Joe Rott Boulevard and Jersey Street.

Holmgreen asked the Highway Commission to put the project on its 20-year master plan. But if the Commission approves the plan, it probably won't take 20 years for the improvements to be made on the road.

But it could take several years, Holmgreen said.

"It could take two or three or four years if they have the money before they could do anything," he said.

The proposal has now been turned over to the state highway engineer for consideration, Holmgreen said. The final decision about the proposal should come within two or three weeks.

J. Malon Southerland, assistant to the president at Texas A&M, and Dr. Charles McCandless, associate vice president for academic affairs, both said they were optimistic that the Commission would approve the plan.

Since the state will be the funding the proposed project, the chances of the Wellborn project getting put on the master plan will depend on the availability of state funds, Holmgreen said.

The project is estimated to cost \$13 million, but Diane L. Bullard of Texas

Transportation Institute, said the delegation told the Commission that the project could be completed for \$11 million if only two lanes were built above ground.

The extra \$2 million includes plans for a four-lane highway, Bullard said.

The proposal presented to the Highway Commission allowed the railroad to remain where it is now located. An alternative to the plan would call for the relocation of the railroad, an additional \$13 million.

An estimated 20,000 vehicles will travel this segment of Wellborn Road daily by 1985. And 185 accidents occurred between University Drive and Jersey Street between 1977 and the first nine months of 1979, according to a study conducted by the Metropolitan Planning Organization, composed of the Texas Transportation Institute, Texas A&M, the city of College Station, State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, District 17, and the Federal Highway Administration.

Wellborn Road presently splits Texas A&M's campus, which is rapidly expanding westward beyond the road. The completion of the project will aid in a one-campus concept for the University, the study said.

A second alternative in the plan calls for the depression of the road, for an estimated \$39 million. A subalternative to that plan requires the movement of the railroad for another \$13 million.

Southerland said this plan was probably not suggested to the Commission because of the additional cost.

The delegation of over 25 included Holmgreen, Bullard, McCandless, Southerland, Acting President of Texas A&M Dr. Charles Samson, Chancellor Frank W. Hubert, Director of TTI Charley Wootan; College Station Mayor Gary Halter; Brazos County Commissioners Billy Beard and Walter Wilcox and Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce's Switzer Deason.

CS voters re-elect councilmen

By BELINDA McCOY
Battalion Staff

College Station voters Saturday re-elected two council members to the City Council, and appointed one new member.

Incumbent Tony Jones defeated challenger Jim Gardner, a Texas A&M University urban and planning professor, in the race for Place 5 by 19 votes. Jones received 50.4 percent of the vote

— 1,316 votes — and Gardner received 1,297 votes — 49.6 percent.

Incumbent Larry Ringer succeeded in his bid for Place 3, defeating challenger Nancy Ann Thornberry, an elementary school teacher, with a 1,483 to 1,130 margin.

The 16.8 percent voter turnout elected newcomer Dr. Alvin Prause to the Place 1 post, with 1,492 votes to incumbent Roy W. Kelly's 1,093.

Gardner is considering a request for a recount of his 19-vote loss to Jones, he said. Before he makes his decision, he said he will first have to find out the exact process in requesting a recount and its subsequent cost.

Voters also approved a \$27.3 million, seven-proposition bond issue. The seven propositions included improvements to the city's water, sewer and electric systems, streets, public build-

ings, and public parks, and a park lands acquisition plan.

The last four propositions could result in a 10-cent-per-\$100 increase in the city's tax rate.

A non-binding public opinion poll was also included in the ballots Saturday. In the poll, voters supported the city's financial involvement in industrial recruitment, calling for commercial development and recruitment of high-technology industries in the city.

A&M may soon be left in computer 'dark ages'

By BERNIE FETTE
Battalion Staff

Due to the rapid growth of Texas A&M University and the even more rapid advancement of computer technology, the University is now faced with the possibility of being "left in the dark ages" if it does not keep up with what the director of the Texas Engineering Experiment Station calls the "computer revolution."

Two months ago, the Data Processing Center added a new computer costing \$2.5 million which doubled the system's capacity. And since that addition, the University has been faced with a transition period of "getting the bugs out."

"In acquiring the new computer, we've experienced problems in connecting it with the existing one and have had to develop a new operating plan for the system," said Dr. Wilbur A. Porter, director of the TEES. "That transition period is the main cause of the problems with the Wylbur terminals in the Remote Computing Center."

Porter heads a committee whose purpose is to study the needs of the University in the area of computer service and make recommendations to the chancellor concerning future needs.

Three user committees have been formed to recommend needs for each of three major computer functions: administrative, academic and research. Those three will report to the main committee, Porter said, and hopefully there will be enough information to present a plan to the chancellor by Sept. 1.

The biggest problem in the RCC, he said, is the wait between the time the user enters his program and the time he sees results on the screen.

The DPC will soon be increasing their capacity again in order to accommodate some 200 additional terminals which are housed in the Academic Agency Building when it is

finished, DPC Director Dick B. Simmons said.

Porter said there is really no complete solution to the University's problem because it's next to impossible to keep up with technological advancements. "No matter what you have today, it's going to be out of date tomorrow," he said. "But we'll get left in the dark ages if we don't do something now."

Porter said the lowered prices and higher sophistication of pocket calculators is a perfect example of such technology.

He also said that paper memorandums would soon be replaced by memos sent by one party to another's personal computer terminal.

"You just don't know what the Japanese or IBM will come up with next," Porter said. "The system that used to fit in a room now fits in a desk, and will probably fit in your pocket tomorrow."

He said that future needs as well as current requirements have to be considered. The problem now is the computing capability of the present system.

A single system in the DPC is being used for administrative computing as well as academic and research computing. "These are very diverse functions and the three combined are also an incredible strain on the system's computing capability," he said. "The system has been strained to the limits."

A multi-unit computer system, however, is not being considered. Porter said the main need is for more specialization, not more computers.

Some departments on the campus, of course, are heavier users than others, Simmons said. The engineering department is one example.

Light users are the colleges of Liberal Arts and Education. But Simmons said, even those departments will experience an increasing need for computer service in the future.

Run-off candidates to meet to draw for ballot positions

Students involved in run-off elections for the offices posted Thursday night will meet at 6 p.m. tonight in the Student Government office (216 Memorial Student Center).

The positions are: Class of '84 president and vice president; Class of '82

historian and Graduate Student Council representatives for the colleges of Agriculture, Education and Engineering.

Candidates will draw for ballot positions at this time. If a candidate is unable to attend the meeting, a member of

the Election Commission will draw for him.

The run-off election will be Wednesday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Polling sites will be the Memorial Student Center, the Commons, Evans Library, Sbis Dining Hall and the guard room.

Dr. election to be held today

Graduating seniors, previously forbidden to vote in the Student Government elections, will have the opportunity to cast their ballots in a special election today.

The election will be held in the Memorial Student Center from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

All graduating seniors, including those who had their I.D. cards punched

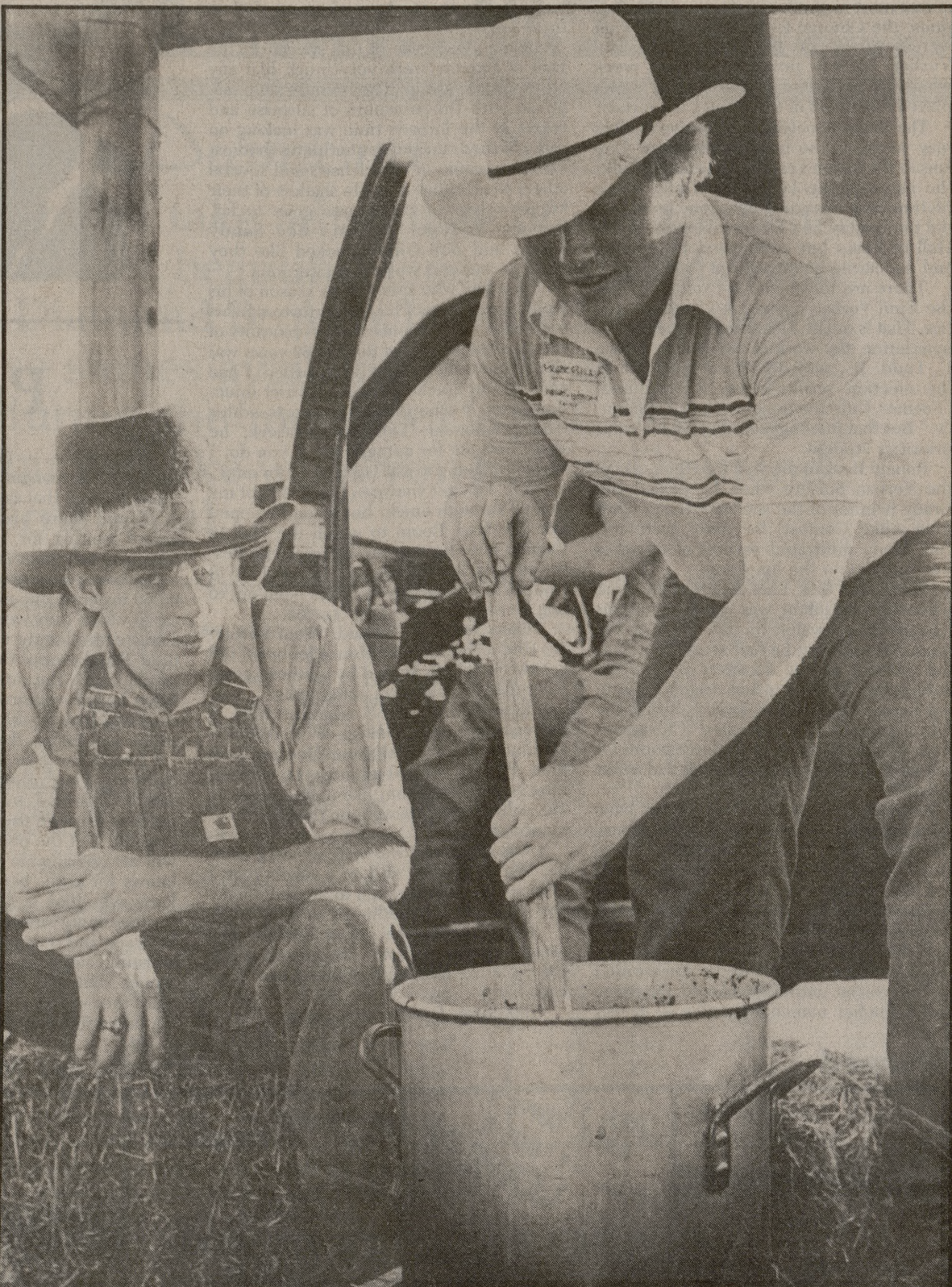
but were then denied the right to vote in the March 31-April 1 election, will be allowed to vote for the following offices: student body president; legislative vice presidents; living area senators (except Corps senators); academic at-large senators; Residence Hall Association offices; Off-Campus Aggies offices and yell leaders.

Rolls will be used to check the status

of voters at the polling place.

The special election is a result of the Student Government Judicial Board's decision that graduating seniors have the right to vote in student body elections.

This decision came after a four-hour closed meeting of the Judicial Board Thursday night.



What's cookin'?

Photo by Dave Einsel

Dave Kinkaid, a senior industrial distribution major and Mark Phillips, a senior range science major, tend to their pot of Brazos Bottom chili at the chili cook-off Sunday. The cook-off was sponsored

by Krueger Hall to benefit the Brazos County Humane Society. The team placed 10th in overall competition.