

# THE BATTALION

Serving the Texas A&M University community

Vol. 74 No. 162  
8 Pages

Tuesday, June 16, 1981  
College Station, Texas

USPS 045 360  
Phone 845-2611

## The Weather

Today

Tomorrow

|                              |                              |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| High . . . . . 82            | High . . . . . 87            |
| Low . . . . . 65             | Low . . . . . 70             |
| Chance of rain . . . . . 50% | Chance of rain . . . . . 30% |

## Weather service predicts more Texas flooding

United Press International  
With a 50 percent chance for more rain in the forecast, officials in central Texas spent another uneasy night fearful heavy rain could push rain-engorged waterways over their banks and bring more death and devastation.

Since the Memorial Day weekend, flooding has taken 22 lives in the Austin and central Texas area, and caused millions of dollars worth of damage.

Wide areas of south central Texas and the Hill Country have been inundated by intermittent, heavy thunderstorms for the past seven days and the area was so saturated, any further heavy rainfall was sure to cause flooding.

The National Weather Service continued to issue flash flood watches for the area, warning it could be threatened by thunderstorms for another three days.

Federal officials were in Austin Monday to resurvey flood damage after residents were denied federal assistance from the Memorial Day weekend flooding that took 13 lives in Austin and one in a neighboring county.

At least eight people died last weekend in the high waters that chased

2,200 people from their homes. The worst of the flooding was in San Marcos and Austin.

Four of the weekend victims were visitors to Pedernales Falls State Park, near Johnson City, southwest of Austin, who were swept away when they ventured onto rocks protruding from the river.

Blanco County Sheriff's Department officials on Monday recovered the bodies of George Cooper, 54, academic dean of the Hutchinson, Kan., Community College; his wife, Wilma, about 50; their son, Eliot Cooper, 26, of Austin; and Leslie Lehman, 21, of South Hutchinson, Kan.

Two other drowning victims were located Monday. Mario Zamora, 13, was found at Six Mile Creek in San Antonio about a mile from where he pulled his brother to safety Sunday, then slipped and fell in. The body of Rosalee Hawkins, 4, was found in Nolan Creek, about 100 yards from where the car in which she was riding stalled.

Antonia Flores Jimenes of Muldoon and Billy McFerrin of Houston, died in separate accidents Saturday when their vehicles were swept into floodwaters.



Dog on Wheels

Staff photo by Greg Gammon

Caesar, a shepherd mix dog, gets a little appreciation for his work as man's best friend in the form of a free ride. Mike Evans' dog seemed

to enjoy the motorcycle trip, which beat walking on the hot pavement. The ride was good for a few stares from passing students.

## Miss A&M pageant in financial trouble

By KATHY O'CONNELL

Battalion Staff  
A proposal by the MSC Hospitality Committee to change the format of the 1981-82 Miss Texas A&M University Pageant was tabled by MSC Council members until further information can be found.

Because the scholarship pageant has operated in the red for the past two years, the committee has proposed several changes in the pageant format. The 1981 pageant resulted in a \$3021 loss to the committee.

With the intention to make the 1981-82 pageant financially successful, the committee has suggested "a double-crowning, switching to a one-night format and revising the budget to better manage finances."

Shortening the length of the pageant to one evening would cut back on auditorium costs and other expenses, said Holly Day, Hospitality Committee chairman.

The double-crowning would include a second title, Miss Bryan-College Station, in addition to that of Miss Texas A&M University. This would mean a dual pageant with expenses shared by the committee and the two cities.

To have a Miss Bryan-College Station, both cities would have to become a member of the Miss America franchise.

Faculty representative Ward Wells questioned the idea of a dual pageant. "I've been hearing a lot of things that include outside organizations and two

city councils that haven't been able to decide on anything for years," he said.

Questions were also raised concerning who would be liable for debts if the 1982 pageant again suffered financial losses.

Council President Doug Dedeker suggested the pageant might be referred to the Program Study Committee if the pageant continues to operate at a loss. The Program Study Committee was established to review the effectiveness of MSC committees.

It was suggested the Hospitality Committee investigate all questions concerning the proposal before the council makes a final decision.

This year's pageant deficit will be made up through MSC reserve funds.

In other business, MSC Director Jim Reynolds mentioned plans to install a \$30,000 data processing system for the Memorial Student Center. He said this system will be used mainly for accounting purposes. "We plan to move very slowly and very carefully (in initial use of the system)."

He said a good part of the money will come from the MSC reserve fund. There are also two other major projects under way; one is the renovation of the Basement Coffeehouse, which is expected to be completed by the fall.

The other plan is to expand Rudder Box Office by adding another ticket window and building more space for a display area to announce upcoming events.

## A&M regents sell bonds, refuse state attorney general's legal bill

Permanent University Fund bonds totaling \$20 million were sold Thursday by the Texas A&M Board of Regents to finance future construction and related projects at System locations around the state.

Bache, Halsey, Stuart and Shields, Inc. of New York City, the low bidder, purchased the bonds at an effective interest rate of 9.4 percent.

System officials noted the proceeds from the bond sale primarily will be used to provide additional facilities to accommodate enrollment increases and expanded programs at several locations. Texas A&M University, which has been the nation's fastest growing university in the past decade, is expected to have a

1,500 enrollment increase this fall for a total of approximately 35,000 students.

After considerable discussion the regents declined Attorney General Mark White's request to pay \$117,080 for legal fees incurred when a Washington, D.C. law firm was retained to provide counsel to the state regarding Department of Education rules on desegregation in higher education.

A decision on the matter had been deferred from the Board's May meeting pending additional information and precedents.

The attorney general had proposed that the University of Texas System Board of Regents also pay \$117,080 to cover expenses noted in a final billing by

the firm of Verner, Lipfert, Berhard and McPherson. The attorney general's office paid an earlier bill of \$78,846.

The regents also named two new modular dormitories scheduled to open in the fall in honor of Rita Crocker Clements, wife of Gov. Bill Clements, and Ammon Underwood of Houston, Class of '07, who has made substantial financial contributions to the University.

In the special meeting held in Dallas, the regents also named Dr. Svetozar Pejovich, acting president of the University of Dallas, the new director of Texas A&M's Center for Education and Research in Free Enterprise.

Pejovich's appointment is effective July 1. He succeeds Dr. Gene Uselson

who continues to serve as professor of finance.

Pejovich, who earned a law degree at the University of Belgrade in 1955 and a doctorate degree in economics at Georgetown University in 1963, served on Texas A&M's economics faculty from 1967 to 1970 and was a visiting professor from 1977 to 1980.

The regents also appointed Dr. Carl F. Raba Jr. of San Antonio to the Board of Consultants of the Center for Education and Research in Free Enterprise. Raba, who holds three Texas A&M degrees in civil engineering, is president of Raba and Associates Engineering Inc. He succeeds James Galloway of Houston, a retired Exxon executive.

## Cities' public transportation future dim

By RACHEL BOSTWICK

Battalion Reporter  
The chances that a public transit system in the Bryan-College Station area will be started are slim, and the chances that it will be successful are even slimmer.

In 1979 the Texas Transportation Institute drew up a transit improvement plan for Bryan-College Station considering the need for public transportation, the existing services, alternative services, cost, financial alternatives, ownership and management.

The plan goes into operation when approval is given by the two city councils and requires a minimum of three years for the financing, federal reviews and grants, selection of facility sites and completion of buildings and delivery of the buses.

Recently, the Bryan City Council voted to turn down the federal funds available for an investigation into the need for public transportation.

The transit improvement plan would call for capital costs of around \$2 million, and operating deficits of \$425,000. The federal government would pay 80 percent of the capital costs, the state government would pay 13 percent and the local government would pay seven percent.

The problem is the payment of the operating deficit. At the time of the report, the federal government was planning to pay for one-half the deficit, with the other half being shared between Bryan and College Station, depending on the number of vehicle-miles of service to each city.

The need for public transportation is as great as it was at the time of the report and is getting greater, said C.S. Bridges, head of the Economics and Planning Division of TTL.

However, there are several problem with public transportation in the area.

One of these problems is that neither city has a business district center. Another is the wide dispersion of jobs other than Texas A&M University, which is the largest central employment agency.

These sort of things work against a system, Bridges said.

"Ideally we'd like demand to be concentrated, fairly

high density of living, and for places of employment to be fairly well concentrated."

Bridges said the bus system proposed in the transit improvement plan will not replace the shuttle bus system at Texas A&M.

Major traffic problems are growing more serious each year during the morning and afternoon peak hours, Bridges said. Right now, he said, it is only about 15 minutes in the morning and 15 to 20 minutes in the afternoon.

Bridges said these few minutes are going to start spreading out to 30, 45, and 60 minutes. He said more vehicles have already been measured on Wellborn Road than were being forecast in 1985.

"Let me emphasize that whether we put in a public transportation system or not in the Bryan-College Station area, it will not have any kind of large impact on traffic congestion," Bridges warned. He said the majority of people who will ride the public transportation are those from the low-income families who don't have access to an automobile in the first place.

## College Station awarded \$343,000 federal grant

By DENISE RICHTER

Battalion Staff  
The City of College Station has been awarded a \$343,000 community development block grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The grant program was established by the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974.

Cities receive the grant if they are classified as entitled cities, fill out the proper forms and have properly spent money received in the past, said Jane Kees, a College Station zoning official.

Cities qualified for grants are those with a population of at least 50,000 or that are in a Standard Metropolitan Statistical Area (SMSA).

Both College Station and Bryan are qualified cities, Kees said.

Money received through the block grant program is to be used for streets and drainage, housing rehabilitation, clearance, street lighting, water systems and park improvement.

College Station Mayor Gary Halter said, "The grant is given, not for a specific project but for broad projects. The city decides how to spend the money."

The community development grant program is not competitive, Halter said. The city applies for the money and, with the exception of 1978, has received the funds each year since 1975 when the program was started.

Kees said, "Every year, if we fill out the application properly and have been spending the money we've received in

the past properly, we'll get the grant."

College Station received its first block grant in 1975. The \$75,000 grant was spent on street improvements, as were the grants that were received in 1976 and 1977.

However, to remain eligible for a block grant, some of the money received has to be used to provide housing, Kees said. Since all of the money College Station had received in the past had been used for street improvements, the city did not receive a grant in 1978, she said.

To have the grant reinstated, the money left over from the 1977 grant was used for a housing rehabilitation program, park improvements, the installation of water lines and fire hydrants, and the installation of street lights in low- and moderate-income target areas, Kees said.

The grant was reinstated in 1979. Cities apply for the block grant in January, Kees said, and in the application tell the Department of Housing and Urban Development exactly how the money is going to be spent.

The \$343,000 grant will be divided in the following manner:

- \$144,000 for housing rehabilitation.
- \$105,000 for street construction.
- \$24,000 for parks improvement.
- \$20,000 for demolition.

The rest of the money will be used for contingency and administrative funds, Kees said.

## Proposed tax cuts may not steady jumping inflation rate

Nothing would ease America's economic woes like a tax adjustment to inflation, not even the tax cuts being offered by the government today, suggests a Texas A&M economist.

"Once you could predict an annual rate of inflation at about 2 to 3 percent a year," said Dr. Thomas Saving, "but since the rate has started jumping from zero to 18 percent on a month-to-month basis, hardly anyone is willing to predict what it will be."

Saving and doctoral student Gregory Hoelscher suggest that until investors feel more secure about being able to predict what the inflation rate will be, the amount of money poured into business investments and savings accounts will continue to drop.

"The uncertainty of inflation increases the risk and costs of savings and investments, hampering economic growth," Saving said.

A tax adjustment to inflation would help to reduce the size of government, as opposed to current tax-cut proposals that only help reduce the rate it is growing, Saving said. It would also help Americans retain more income by preventing "bracket creep," which has acted to reduce purchasing power.

"The present tax system is outdated as it doesn't account for the kind of inflation that we have experienced since 1965," Saving said. "Other countries such as England and Brazil have already adopted tax adjustments to inflation to reduce the size of government and enhance their economies. It's time we do it, too."

While current economic thought suggests tax cuts and a strict monetary policy would spur the economy along, Saving predicts the inflation rate will continue its "roller coaster" fluctuation

from one period to another.

Saving said the government could adjust taxes for inflation by taking the current tax structure and multiplying it by, say, the increase in the consumer price index, which would increase the amount of deductions people could take as inflation increases the amount of expenses they incur. Such a move would also keep people in the same income bracket unless their income rose faster than prices.

"Right now, Congress likes inflation because it increases revenue in a more subtle way than tax increases," Saving said.

"Perhaps we should overcompensate for inflation in our tax structure to make inflation hit government where it hurts — in the pocketbook," he said. "That's how it's been working for consumers."

## Evacuation caused by false alarm

A false alarm sounding at 12:59 p.m. Friday summoned two College Station fire trucks and one ambulance to the System Administration Building on the Texas A&M University campus.

Charles Yeager, assistant chief of the College Station Fire Department, said the alarm was probably the result of a malfunction in the building's alarm system. "I'm pretty sure it was the smoke detector," he said.

Yeager said there were no injuries or damages resulting from the incident. The building was evacuated while fire station officials made their investigation.

The Administration Building houses the offices of the System chancellor as well as the University's College of Agriculture and the Texas Agricultural Extension Service.