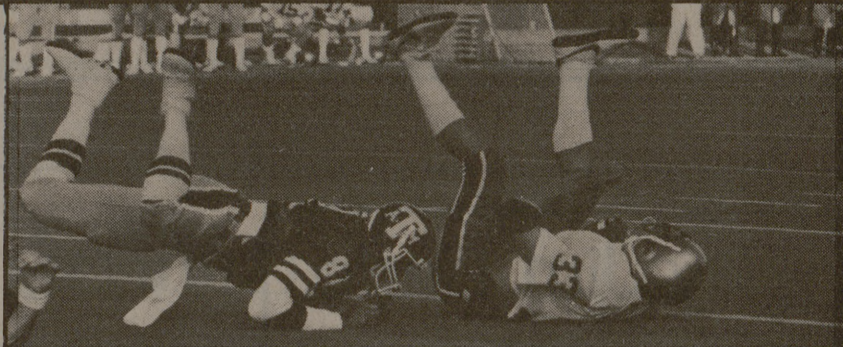




## Touring Brenham's little bit of heaven

See At Ease



## Aggies vs. Mavericks: a preview

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# Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

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## Bush rebuts Tip O'Neill's aid remarks

**United Press International**  
 WASHINGTON — Vice President George Bush today dismissed as "degeneration" or "old Boston politics" the remarks of House Speaker Thomas O'Neill that President Reagan has ice water for blood and no real concern for the poor and handicapped.

"It might be desperation. It might be just old Boston politics. It's the old assigning to a decent man motives that are not correct. I was very disappointed in the Speaker. It injected a whole kind of personal thing in to it that's disappointing," Bush said on an NBC interview taped late Thursday and broadcast on the "Today" show.

A day earlier, also in a taped interview, O'Neill said Reagan stared coldly at him during a White House meeting when O'Neill suggested that Reagan, about to leave to have his picture taken with some handicapped children, tell the youngsters O'Neill was working to save government programs affecting them.

"You know," said O'Neill, "it's nice to be, it's nice to have an effervescent smile and a friendly way and a warm handshake, but you've got to have more than ice water for blood that pours to the heart. You have to have one thought for them. It's one thing to feel sad for them. It's another thing to do something for them and I've

been doing things for that type of people all my life.

"I don't think he has the concern for those that are on the bottom rung of the ladder."

Later Thursday, in an address to blacks, Bush said, "That is pure unadulterated — well, that's not true. Tip O'Neill knows it's not true."

The vice president added that, "What this president is attempting to do is to reverse the O'Neill-Carter-Mondale economic disaster of the past by cutting inflation, taxes and interest rates. And they're all down, Tip, because the American people rejected your ideas of the '30s and adopted the new ones we proposed for the '80s."

Today, Bush said O'Neill's remarks appeared to signal the start of a Democratic campaign tactic, but added, "It'll fail. There isn't the venom, the vitriol out there about the man. People see him as honorable and decent. They don't buy the description the speaker laid on him."

And referring to the \$1 billion Democratic-pushed jobs bill the House passed Thursday, added, "Now six weeks, eight weeks before an election comes forth with an old pork barrel approach, the kind of approach that has failed in the past."



An exhausting demonstration

staff photo by David Fisher

Mario Perez, an executive from the Clean Fuel Institute of Riverside, Calif., demonstrates Thursday that the exhaust from his company's hydrogen-burning truck — mostly water vapor and air — is safe to breathe. The

University's chemistry department may have found a cheaper way to produce hydrogen fuel for the vehicle, which would make the \$2,000 conversion from a conventional engine economically feasible.

## Council approves change in PUF distribution

by Denise Richter  
Battalion Staff

A compromise proposal affecting the distribution of the Permanent University Fund was approved this week by top officials of Texas public senior colleges and universities.

The proposal, if adopted, would allow proceeds from the \$3 billion fund to be shared with parts of the Texas A&M and University of Texas systems other than the main campuses.

The plan agreed upon by the Council of Presidents and Chancellors of Public Senior Colleges and Universities of Texas is subject to approval by representatives of university

boards of regents, the Legislature, the governor and voters.

The PUF is composed of income from oil produced on land set aside by the Legislature. The Texas A&M and UT systems share the Available Fund, which consists of proceeds from the PUF. Texas A&M receives one-third of the Available Fund.

At Texas A&M, some of the money indirectly generated by the PUF already is used by other campuses, said Robert C. Cherry, vice chancellor for public affairs. Cherry represented the System at the council meeting.

Regents of the Texas A&M and UT systems can sell bonds against future PUF revenue. At

Texas A&M, proceeds from bond sales can be used by the other components of the System, except for Texas A&M University at Galveston and the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory.

Payment on principal and interest on these bonds is the first priority of the Available Fund. Money left after these payments are made can be used only by Texas A&M.

"This follows the concept of creating a university of the first class," Cherry said.

The council also approved the establishment of a constitutionally dedicated appropriated fund for the 17 schools that do not share the PUF.

Texas A&M abstained from voting on this issue.

"Since it (the new fund) doesn't affect us, it would not be appropriate for us to affect their policy," Cherry said.

The amount of the appropriation to be requested has not been determined, but will include an escalator clause based on either construction costs or the Consumer Price Index.

Construction at schools outside the Texas A&M and UT systems previously was financed by the ad valorem property tax. In 1979, however, the Legislature drastically reduced the ad valorem tax, leaving these

schools without a dependable source of construction funds.

Other items endorsed by the council include:

- full funding of such "formula items" as faculty salaries. Formula items are those for which the Legislature appropriates money based on a set formula.
- the passage of emergency legislation to finance the payment of utility costs, which exceeded the amount appropriated by the Legislature for the current fiscal year.
- full funding by the Legislature of Social Security costs now paid by employees.

Issues

## Apartments offer housing alternative for Brazos elderly

by Colette Hutchings  
Battalion Staff

Ruth O'Brien, 67, moved from Pennsylvania to Bryan to live with her daughter, husband and their teen-age son. But after two months, she found it hard to live in a house full of people who felt obliged to cater to her every need, and she missed the independence she once had.

So when she applied for the LULAC Oak Hill apartments for the elderly in College Station and was accepted, she was so happy she cried.

Here is a place secluded from the noise, traffic and hustle-bustle of a young college town. It's where colorful flower and vegetable gardens, begging for gardeners, surround private patios and where a dear friend, who's the same age, lives next door.

And it's a place where even 67-year-olds still are encouraged to do "their thing."

"You're never lonely and you can't get bored, there's so much to do," O'Brien said.

Laquata Griffin, 77, another Oak Hill resident, said:

"I love it, my son tells me: 'I've never seen you so satisfied.'

"I love living by myself. I can do what I want to. If I want to clean the apartment I can, if I don't, I don't have to."

Anna Dewitt, 85, said: "All I can say is it's heaven. You do what you want — if you want coffee you go and get it.

"You know an older person has different ways, naturally different from the younger generation, and this is something for an older person. You can do as you please."

The segment of the U.S. population 75 years old and older increased more than 37 percent during the 1970s and continues to be one of the fastest-growing segments.

A census estimate as of July 1, 1981, said the number of persons living in the United States who are 65 and older is about 27 million.

A breakdown of this figure shows the number of people 65 to 69 is 8.88 million; ages 70 to 74 — 7.13 million; ages 75 to 79 — 4.91 million; ages 80 to 84 — 3.85 million; and those over 85 total 2.36 million.

Census reports from 1980 show the number of Brazos County persons 65 and older is 6,388 — including 4,514 from Bryan and 908 from College Station.

Although the number of elderly in the country is abundant, most of the elderly don't live in nursing homes, Letitia Alston, sociology professor at Texas A&M University, said.

"I think they estimate 4 to 6

percent of the population over 65 are in nursing homes," she said. "The tendency for the vast majority is to live in their own homes."

Ruth Morales, manager of the College Station LULAC (League of United Latin American Citizens) Oak Hill, said the elderly often have problems living in their old home and in finding alternatives to nursing homes.

"Some of them had their homes, but it's an older home — the roof leaks and the house has started to run down," Morales said. "You know, it's too cold for them in the winter and too hot for them in the summer."

"And then it's hard for the children to keep them. It's 'what do we do with momma or papa?' They (the elderly) still may be able to get around, but they're sent to nursing homes."

"Or they're afraid. There may be a couple who fights all the time living near them or kids running around. This (Oak Hill) is an answer and an alternative to moving in with a daughter or son or moving to a nursing home or housing project."

LULAC Oak Hill is the brainchild of Morales' brother, Pete Ramirez, local LULAC chapter president and president of LULAC Oak Hill.

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## Shell now promoting use of credit cards

**United Press International**  
 HOUSTON — Shell Oil Co., capitalizing on recent moves by competitors who have abandoned credit cards or charge a premium for their use, said it is launching a campaign to attract new credit card customers and encourage current holders to use them more often.

"Like our competitors, Shell is concerned about the rising cost of providing credit, but we also have to consider that a large segment of the driving public wants the convenience and safety provided by credit cards," said W.J. Bittles, Shell vice president of

retail sales.

Many consumers, he said, "either resent or don't understand some of the confusing gasoline price policies they are encountering today. We think they will opt for service stations where the dealer's price is competitive, but the same — cash or credit."

In the past year, a number of major oil companies have tried to discourage credit card use. Some have offered customers discounts for cash purchases and others have announced plans to discontinue their credit card program.

Shell said it hopes its campaign will encourage holders of other oil company credit cards to present them at Shell service stations, at which time they would apply for a Shell card.

Shell said it will evaluate the results of its program "very carefully while continuing to monitor and respond to competitive conditions in all of our markets."

The Shell promotional campaign — which will utilize newspaper, radio and television advertising — will initially be confined to markets east of the Rocky Mountains, Shell said.

## TI to make chips for IBM machines

**United Press International**  
 DALLAS — Texas Instruments has been chosen by International Business Machines Corp. to develop sophisticated electronic chips to connect various types and brands of computers in an office, TI has announced.

The agreement between the two giant firms would mean the creation of a major market worth millions of dollars for the Dallas-based firm.

The development of the electronic chips would be a major step in achieving complete automation of offices and permit equipment such as electronic printers, word processors,

electronic filing cabinets and video display terminals to communicate and share information with one another.

Experts say if the IBM-TI technology proves successful, it could become a standard in the industry.

"It's one of the most complex system undertakings going on in the semiconductor industry today," said Wally Rhines, manager of TI's advanced semiconductors development program.

Rhines said TI was chosen by IBM because of leadership in the development of single chip microcomputers.

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### forecast

Today's Forecast: High in the low to mid 90s, low in the low 70s. Twenty percent chance of afternoon showers.