

### CS board to debate tax rate

The College Station school board will meet tonight in the Oakwood Middle School library at 7 p.m. to vote on a proposed 19 percent tax rate increase.

The board's budget committee will meet this afternoon before the meeting to discuss the possibility of a smaller increase. The proposed increase is from 77 cents per \$100 to 92 cents per \$100.

During a public hearing on Oct. 4, citizens asked the board to consider cutting the budget so the tax increase wouldn't be as large.

In executive session, board members will discuss possible suits against the Central Appraisal District and the companies involved in A&M Consolidated High School construction that failed to meet city fire safety codes.

The suit against the appraisal district stems from what the board called inequitable tax assessments.

Also on the agenda for tonight's meeting are appointments to the 1982-83 Textbook Committee and a proposed high school band trip to Florida for a contest.

### Campus stereo sales win A&M approval

by Rebeca Zimmermann  
Battalion Staff

A Texas A&M University student group's fund-raising plan, criticized by local merchants, was given University approval in a hearing Friday.

In the hearing, conducted by student activities adviser Dave Bergen, two local sound equipment merchants protested the Audio Engineering Group's plans to sell stereo equipment as a fund-raising project.

"The general feeling is that the University's function is not to be in competition with local businesses," said Gene Joyce, owner of Audio Video of College Station.

"It's a deep-rooted feeling that the University shouldn't compete with private businesses, including selling mums and food services," he said.

Erich Friend, president of Audio Engineering Group, said many groups compete with local businesses, such as MSC Cinema, mum sales and dairy product sales.

"The University upheld the policy that organizations can make as much money as they can, as long as it's not illegal," Friend said.

He said the University was concerned about whether the group's fund-raising will provide a service and education to students.

The group plans to use money from the stereo equipment sales to purchase audio testing equipment such as a frequency spectrum analyzer and a public address system for student and faculty use.

The organization, which is open to all students, plans programs to make members aware of careers in audio engineering and to increase understanding of audio equipment.

"The idea is if we're students, we should be working with state-of-the-art equipment," Friend said. The public address system will be available for use by other student organizations.

Joyce said the hearing and the decision was fair because Bergen could base his decision only on what other student organizations already were doing.

"He didn't say it was right," Joyce said, "but on past experience, he couldn't say no."

Barron Hardison, vice president of the group, said the merchants were concerned about University policy on student group competition with businesses.

"Part of the rub is that we can be on campus," Friend said.

Joyce said local businesses' prices are competitive with the Audio Engineering Group's prices.

But the campus group will have added exposure because students will be able to set up a booth in the Memorial Student Center to sell equipment.

"That's our big problem," Joyce said. "We can't reach as many people as with a booth."

"If we set up on an equal basis — no problem. But they have some advantages we can't get."

Joyce said \$5 difference in a price isn't significant — who stands behind the equipment and services it is significant.

"We spend a lot to establish our businesses," Joyce said. "They'll take the easy sales away from us. We'll still get the hard ones."

"Our concern is that the student will not be getting the kind of service they think they are," Joyce said the group couldn't be an authorized dealer because a fixed location is needed to be an authorized dealer.

However, Hardison said, the group is an authorized dealer for some brands because only a certain amount of buying and selling of equipment is required to be authorized.

Friend said all of the equipment sold by the group has a full warranty.

### Council to discuss advertisements, arts

by Jennifer Carr  
Battalion Staff

The MSC Council will discuss beer companies' advertising in Rumours and hear proposals from the Arts Committee tonight at 7:30 in 216T Memorial Student Center.

The proposal for advertising in Rumours was first heard in the council's meeting Sept. 27. A representative from the MSC Basement Committee said the committee had been contacted by Miller Brewing Co. about sponsoring groups to perform in Rumours. The company also wanted to give away such items as T-shirts and "gimme" caps.

Miller wanted to do the advertising for a month, the basement representative said. She said the committee also was approached by Budweiser. She said, if possible, the committee would do advertising with both companies.

All advertising would be done through the basement committee, which would have final approval of all promotion. A preliminary discussion by the council indicated no serious objections. The proposal is subject to all University rules and regulations.

Council president Todd Norwood said the council would hear a proposal from the Arts Committee asking for new walls for the gallery located on the first floor of the MSC. A related proposal from the Endowed Lecture Committee would ask for a series of lectures in the spring.

The council also will hear a report on the Fall Leadership Conference held at the Texas Power & Light Co. youth camp in Trinidad.

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