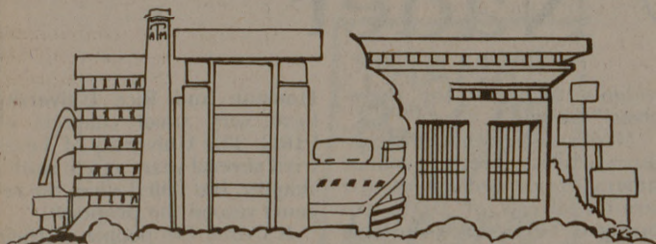


## Around town



### Bonfire fundraisers to be held

Make this weekend a bonfire weekend. Two campus groups are sponsoring bonfire fund raising events this Saturday, Oct. 23.

The first is the **Bonfire Barbecue** honoring Thomas R. Parsons, former Corps Commandant, to be held Saturday afternoon in the Grove. Prices for tickets are \$5 for students and \$7.50 for all others. Tickets can be purchased in the MSC all this week.

The second event is a **Bonfire Benefit Dance** sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega, a national service fraternity. The dance starts at 8 p.m. Saturday night in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Advance tickets for the dance are being sold this week in the MSC. The price is \$2 for singles and \$3 for couples. Tickets will be available at the door as well.

Wear your tennis shoes or be prepared to dance barefooted because no shoes will be allowed on the gym floor. Music for the dance will be provided by a local disc jockey.

### Volleyballers to play tonight

The **Texas A&M Women's Volleyball** team plays Texas Tech tonight in G. Rollie White Coliseum at 7:30 p.m. Five Pizza Hut pizzas will be given away at the game as door prizes. The Aggie Ladies are number one in the Southwest Conference and need your support.

### ET students raise money

Even rain doesn't stop **Texas A&M engineering technology** students. The ET's braved the weather last Wednesday to raise money for their current service project, the College Station Morning Lion's Club Semi-annual garbage bag sale. The money raised by the engineering students will be donated to the Lion's Club for use in various local charities.

### Church to hold Halloween festival

Santa Teresa Church on Bryan's west side - 1212 Lucky Street - will have its **7th Annual Halloween Jamaica and Church Festival** on Sunday, Oct. 24 beginning in the morning and lasting until 9 p.m.

Special features include a costume contest, a carved pumpkin contest, and a Super Spook House. The dancers from the Fiesta Patrias will give two performances and music will be provided during the day by Los Salvajes de Matamoros and Los Momentos. There will be games and food available, including home-made tamales. A raffle drawing for a car and eight other prizes will conclude the festivities. The public is cordially invited to attend.

### Peace Corps representative to speak

If you're interested in oversea opportunities and hard work, Betty Staubinger, a representative of the **Peace Corps**, will speak at 7 p.m. tonight in Room 231 of the Memorial Student Center on opportunities for students and others in the Peace Corps.

### Cubicle space available to groups

Recognized student organizations who wish to apply for one of the cubicle spaces available in the new registration center must turn in applications by Oct. 29. For more information, contact the **Student Activities Office** at 845-1133.

### Yearbook pictures to be taken

Pictures are now being taken of **juniors and seniors** for the 1982-83 Aggeland. If you want your picture in the yearbook, go now while there are no lines to Yearbook Associates (9700 Puryear) and have it taken. No appointment is necessary. For more information call 693-6756.

If you have an announcement or interesting item to submit for this column, come by **The Battalion** office in Room 216 Reed McDonald or call Tracey Taylor at 845-2611.



**GOING SHOPPING?**  
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## Zoning Board tables, denies

by Angie Kerr  
Battalion Reporter

A request to allow temporary signs to be displayed in front of sorority houses was tabled last night in a meeting of the College Station Zoning Board of Adjustments.

The Board asked that the College Panhellenic Association of College Station set more specific guidelines for the signs which would announce events such as football games, Songfest and rush.

Jean McDermott, Panhellenic advisory board member, said that the signs would only be displayed in front of the houses, and would not be used as identification for the sororities.

In other business, the Board denied a request to allow rear parking at the proposed Village Square Office Park located in Southwest Valley. Residents living directly behind the proposed complex complained that the rear driveway and parking would encourage a high amount of traffic, noise and litter.

The Board also denied a request for expansion of a duplex

located at 203 Fairview Street. The area, zoned single-family residential, doesn't allow for construction of duplexes. Those that existed prior to the zoning can be maintained but not expanded. The request by Johnny A. Martinez for an addition to his duplex was denied by the board.

The board did not consider one item on the agenda concerning Northgate parking because of a recent College Station City Council ruling.

The ruling states that, as of Sept. 23, there will be no changes concerning parking in the Northgate area for the next 12 months. The area is bordered by University Drive, Wellborn Road, South College Avenue and the city limits.

A request was approved for the construction of a screened-in porch in the backyard at the residence located at 1026 Rose Circle.

The next regular meeting of the Board, originally scheduled for Nov. 16, has been rescheduled for Nov. 30 due to a conflict with the College Station City Council meeting.

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ORC is an MSC Committee serving Students, Faculty & Staff.

## Parks overused as tourism grows

by David Hatch  
Battalion Reporter

As the number of tourists and residents has increased in Texas, state parks have gotten more use — in some cases, too much.

"Judging a park as overused is a rating which is dependent upon the judge's personal concepts of what exactly constitutes overuse," said Dr. Glenn Carls of the recreation and parks department.

Overuse judgments are based on two major criteria. The first is the social carrying capacity — the rating that compares the number of people in the park to the activities in which they are participating.

On the social carrying capacity basis, a crowded beach is overused. There is simply not enough room for people who want to play frisbee, jog or lie in the sun to do so without interfering with each other.

The second category is the environmental carrying capacity — a rating of the number of people a park can handle before physical damage to the environment is done.

"An example of overuse in environmental terms is Huntsville State Park, where the soil in the picnic area has been packed down by years of use to the point that several tree roots are exposed," Carls said.

"Overuse can also be seasonal. Lost Maples State Park (in Bandera County) is almost always empty except for a few weeks in the fall when the foliage begins to turn colors, at which time the park is relatively crowded."

The most popular parks in the state are close to population centers and have a body of water for recreational purposes. The most visited park in the state is Garner State Park located in northern Uvalde County. Second on the popularity list is Inks Lake State Park near Waco. The combined beaches and parks on Galveston Island are third.

"The more popular parks in the state have been hardened to help offset the potential damage that could be caused by overuse," Carls said. "This means that modern sewer systems have been installed and that campsites and the trails to main attractions have been paved or covered with a protective gravel."

Many of the parks in the state have huge tracts of land which are not easily accessible to the family camper or day visitor.

"It is hard to rate a park overused when the majority of it is simply unused because it is away from the main attractions, so few people bother with the area," he said.

"A family who brings a camper and parks in a crowded campground find the park overused whereas an individual with a backpack into the woods few miles can find the nation and wilderness experience he wants. Since park visitors use the popular areas, a majority of visitors consider the park overused."

Carls also said that increased use of state parks sometimes can lead to problems by visitors.

"We don't have the problems in Texas that they have in California with parks being so heavily used that air pollution and traffic problems are caused. Nevertheless, Texas we have trouble with people being intoxicated, causing problems and a problem with people stealing signs for souvenirs."

Because of the popularity of some state parks, Carls said, newly-employed park rangers often find their jobs different than they expected.

"Often times, rangers see their job expecting to be a conservationist and a tour guide," Carls said. "What really happens is that they are assigned to parking lots and maintenance work. This will happen more and more as park increases, and could possibly discourage many employees from staying with the service."

## Local bifida association promotes special week

by Pamela J. Franklin  
Battalion Reporter

The newly-formed Bryan College Station Spina Bifida Association is promoting National Spina Bifida Week this week. The group wants to promote awareness of the disease, a birth defect of the spinal column which affects approximately one child born every hour.

Dr. Clifford Sherry, president of the local spina bifida chapter, said spina bifida associations are raising money to fund research to find the disease's cause.

Mike Baker, a member of the

association, said the Bryan College Station association was formed in September and has approximately 20 members. The association's projects include placing coin containers in local businesses and collecting money door-to-door. They also will have a Healthy Baby Booth on Oct. 30 in Post Oak Mall and a float in the holiday parade.

Sherry, a specialist in birth defects, said that when a child is born with spina bifida, his backbone never closes completely and part of the spinal cord is exposed through an opening under the skin.

Sherry said there are three forms of the birth defect. In spina bifida occulta, the birth defect is so slight that most people are unaware they have it. In spina bifida meningocele, the spinal cord protrudes from minor backaches and bladder problems.

In another form of spina bifida, children are born with a sack on their back. The sack can be removed by surgery, but the child may experience weakness in the area of the body affected by the exposed portion of spinal cord.

In spina bifida cystica, the lower back — which usually forms the nerve roots of the spinal cord — contains a sack with little or no skin covering making infection a danger. Surgery is necessary to cause the child could die from the infection. In addition, the child's legs are paralyzed and have no feeling.

Sherry said spina bifida does not decrease a person's lifespan and mental problems do not occur unless hydrocephalus, a condition which sometimes develops in children with spina bifida — is present.

Hydrocephalus occurs when fluid collects in the brain. It can be corrected by placing a tube in the skull to drain fluid.

Sherry said spina bifida can be detected at about the week of pregnancy. Amniocentesis, a test on amniotic fluid. The only preparation for spina bifida is about he said.

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