

The Battalion: How it comes out.

see At Ease



Aggies vs. Hogs 7:30 tonight

see page 9



Texas A&M The Battalion

Serving the University community

Vol. 76 No. 125 USPS 045360 32 Pages In 2 Sections

College Station, Texas

Friday, April 1, 1983

New gas tax goes into effect today

WASHINGTON — Many motorists start paying the extra nickel-a-gallon gasoline tax today but industry spokesmen say the drop in the price of gas during the past year will help ease the pain.

Vic Rasheed, executive director of the 60,000-member Service Station Dealers of America, said most stations, many of them hard pressed, would raise their prices immediately.

He said dealers now have their lowest profit margins in history, and 85,000 of the nation's 226,000 service stations have gone out of business since 1974.

Rasheed predicted the increase in price would not affect the volume of sales. He said the price of gasoline has dropped about 15 cents a gallon in the past year and motorists have cut back their driving as much as they can.

"They're prepared to pay their way," Rasheed said. "I think motorists realize they've had a pretty good ride as far as gasoline prices go and I don't think anyone expected them (low prices) to last forever."

But the American Petroleum Institute said the higher margins of many gasoline dealers and refiners last year suggest the motor fuel industry might be able to absorb a portion, even a large portion, of the nickel increase.

The intensifying competition, API economists said in an analysis paper, could delay the increase and "result in rising prices for motor fuels in late 1983 and 1984, as the long-run burden is shifted to consumers."

Norm Nicholson, chairman of the API's marketing committee and vice president of the Ohio-based Marathon Oil Co., said he expects greatly intensified competition among gasoline retailers in the next few years.

"There will be a whole range of ways to buy gasoline, from convenience stores right on to full-service stations," Nicholson said.

The Energy Department predicted that U.S. oil consumption will rise in 1983 for the first time in five years as a result of lower oil prices and increased economic activity.

The new law increases the tax on gasoline 5 cents a gallon, with 4 cents going for highways and 1 cent for mass transit — at an estimated cost of \$30 a year to the typical motorist. The law also permits longer, wider and heavier trucks on the nation's highways.

Congress passed the bill after the Democratic wins in the November election and it survived a conservative Republican filibuster in the Senate to gain final passage on Christmas eve.

John Berard, spokesman for the Associated General Contractors, said the law will go "a long way" toward repairing the nation's highways and bridges as well as put up to 300,000 persons back to work.

"It will mean fewer potholes, fewer weight-restricted bridges, fewer detours, and quicker delivery of goods and services," he said.

The law is adding about \$4.4 billion to this year's highway program, making total federal spending of about \$12.5 billion. Federal aid provides a third of the money, so total highway spending in the nation will be about \$37 billion.

Election results still pending

The results of the student body elections have been invalidated because of computer problems, election commissioner Les Asel said today.

Student government workers are developing another program to run the ballots through the computer again.

The results should be announced by 6 p.m. Monday.

"The results were not wrong because of the ballots but because of the computer," Asel said.

Asel presented the election results to the Judicial Board Thursday night

and recommended that the results be invalidated because of computer problems. The board approved the recommendation.

Candidates were notified of the decision and were told they may keep their campaign signs up over the weekend in case their races end up in runoffs.

The results were scheduled to be posted by Thursday morning. However student government was unable to run the program at that time. A consultant then was called in to help with the program.

After the results were completed last night, Asel verified some of the races and said they looked good. But, he said he decided to rerun all of the ballots to assure correct results.

Runoff elections, which were to be Tuesday, have been rescheduled for April 12.

Asel said a decision has not been made as to what to do about the three races where candidates names were left off the ballot. He said that he will talk with all the candidates in the three races after the results are in before deciding if they will be included in the runoff.

Nobel winner to visit A&M, may join faculty

from staff and wire reports
Nobel Peace Prize-winner Norman Borlaug, who in the 1970s was known as "the father of the Green Revolution," says he will spend two weeks at Texas A&M in May to look into the possibility of joining the faculty.

Borlaug will arrive here May 13 and said he plans to spend the rest of the month looking into "everything that's going on in wheat research" on this campus.

"This is an exploratory thing to see if I can be useful to A&M in their research on wheat and small grains," Borlaug said Wednesday.

The Iowa-born Borlaug, 69, now a consultant to the international wheat consortium in Mexico, has lived out-

side the United States for 39 years. Texas A&M officials say he may be ready to move on to a university position now.

Dr. H.O. Kunkel, dean of the College of Agriculture, said: "I think he wants a place he can continue his research in a dynamic atmosphere like we have here."

Kunkel said the University has been talking with Borlaug about coming to Texas A&M for about a year and is happy about the prospect of having him here.

"He (Borlaug) is deeply dedicated to science and agriculture and he would bring us (the University and the agriculture college) a global insight," Kunkel said.

Borlaug's research has taken him to Pakistan, Italy, Mexico, India and many other nations.

He won the 1970 Nobel Prize for his work in developing high-yield wheat and rice seeds that quickly boosted agricultural production in many of the world's poorer nations.

Borlaug is the second Nobel Prize-winner to show interest in coming to Texas A&M in recent months. Harvard physicist Sheldon Glashow announced recently after months of negotiations that he would spend part of his year-long sabbatical doing research here.

Kunkel said he expects that Borlaug will be made available to students through classes and seminars.



staff photo by Guy Hood

What the ...?!

The Aggie Band opened auditions today for the first female members in the band's history. This unidentified cadet brushes up

on her tuba in anticipation of the tryouts. Interested candidates can report to the band hall for auditions. APRIL FOOL!

Special units a major part A&M Corps life, traditions

Editor's note: This is the last of a five-part series on the Corps of Cadets.

By Michael Raulerson
Battalion Reporter

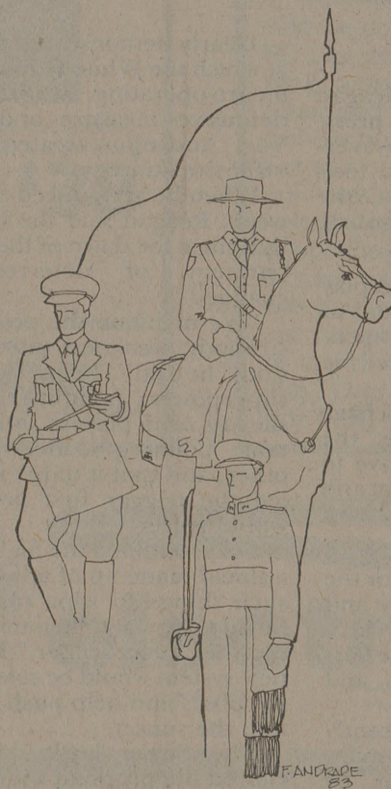
Special units, numbering about a dozen in all, are a major part of the traditions of the Texas A&M Corps of Cadets. Some of the major units are the Ross Volunteer Company, the Texas Aggie Band, Parsons' Mounted Cavalry, the Fish Drill Team, Women's Drill Team, the Black Hats and Rudder's Rangers.

"Special units give you a chance to do something extra," said Mitch Winters, the leader of the Black Hats, a group of about 20 seniors in the Army program.

The Ross Volunteer Company, the oldest student organization in Texas, was organized in 1887. It originally was called the Scott Volunteers, in honor of Col. T. M. Scott who was business manager of the college and agent of the board of directors at that time. The name was changed in 1891 to the Ross Volunteers in honor of former Texas A&M President Lawrence Sullivan Ross.

Boyd Smith, commanding officer of the Ross Volunteers, said: "We try to model ourselves after Lawrence Sullivan Ross. Lawrence was a guiding figure."

Applicants for the Ross Volunteers are screened for character traits, academic and military standing, in-



"We like to think the Ross Volunteers are the elite of the Corps and we try to uphold the highest traditions of the Corps," Smith said.

During the spring banquet, a firing squad of 21 members is selected from the 144 members — 72 juniors and 72 seniors — in the company. The seniors select the juniors each year, Smith said.

The squad's services are available to the University for the annual Aggie Muster and Silver Taps, Smith said. The company also serves as honor guard for the inauguration of Texas governors and it participates in the Mardi Gras parade in New Orleans, Smith said.

The Aggie Band, with more than 300 members, is the official University band. It performs at athletic events, military ceremonies, parades and other functions.

Shayne Doering, the commander of the Aggie Band, said the band usually starts with more than 300 members, but loses a few students when they find out they have to be in the Corps to be a band member.

During the fall semester, the main activity of the band is preparation for football game halftime performances. The band, which practices six to nine hours a week, changes its halftime drill each week, Doering said.

"It's a challenge being in the Aggie See CORPS page 8

inside

Around Town.....	4
Classified.....	8
Local.....	3
Opinions.....	2
Sports.....	9
State.....	6
National.....	12
Police Beat.....	4
What's up.....	12

forecast

Cloudy to partly cloudy skies today with a 30 percent chance of thundershowers and a high of 80. Gusty southerly winds of around 15 to 25 mph. Partly cloudy tonight with a low near 40. For Saturday, clear skies with a high of 68.

Blocker, Hobby, Ashby to give addresses

by Karen Schrimsher
Battalion Reporter

Former Texas A&M Regent John R. Blocker, Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and Houston Post columnist Lynn Ashby will deliver spring commencement addresses here. About 950 degrees will be awarded at three ceremonies May 6 and 7 in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Blocker, president of Blocker Energy Corp. and a member of the Class of '45, will speak at ceremonies for master's, doctoral and undergraduate degree candidates from the colleges of agriculture, geosciences and liberal arts at 2 p.m. May 6. He has served as vice chairman of the Board of Regents.

Hobby will speak to undergraduate degree candidates from the colleges of architecture and engineering

at 7:30 p.m. May 6.

Hobby, a graduate of Rice University, is serving his second term as lieutenant governor. He has served as member of the Texas Air Control Board, the University of Houston Board of Regents and the board of directors of the Houston Chamber of Commerce.

Ashby will speak to undergraduate degree candidates from the colleges of business, education, science, and veterinary medicine, and from Texas A&M University at Galveston at 9 a.m. on May 7.

Ashby, a 1962 journalism graduate of the University of Texas, has written many of his daily columns about Texas A&M. He was named an honorary Aggie by the Association of Former Students after a long relationship with the University. He spoke at a 1977 graduation ceremony.