

Plans call for tower to be up by next fall

by Chris Cox
Battalion Reporter

Plans have been set for the 140-foot Albritton Tower to be completed by the start of the 1984 football season, says the assistant director of facilities, planning and construction for Texas A&M.

Daniel T. Whitt said construction of the tower, a gift from former regent Ford D. Albritton, should begin in early 1984 on the west side of the main campus.

The original site proposed by Albritton, Class of '43, was in front of the Academic Building between the YMCA and the Coke Buildings. Because of the underground utilities at the site and the expense to relocate them,

another site had to be found, he said.

After investigating various proposed sites, Albritton, the administration and several members of the Texas A&M Board of Regents selected the west entrance as the site, Whitt said.

The tower will be built at the intersection of Jones and Lamar Streets and Main Drive.

One reason the site was chosen is because of its prominent location. The tower will act as a unifying element between the main campus and the expanding west campus, he said. Due to the expansion of the west campus, the tower could one day mark the center of the campus.

The tower will be placed on a 70-foot landscaped circle. It will be constructed of brick and Texas limestone with two foot arches at the base. It will contain 47 bells electrically and automatically operated in a room within the tower.

One of the features of the tower will be a three-bell victory peal. The bells will be sounded after each Texas A&M victory in a sports event.

Whitt said, "The final design will be extruded to begin construction in early 1984. It was Albritton's decision that the tower and carillon be in place and operating by the beginning of the 1984 football season."

Whitt said he sees no construction problems associated

with the tower. He said like most other construction at the University, temporary access will be provided when needed.

"This is not going to be a Texas A&M project," Whitt said. "The Morris-Aubry Architect Firm of Houston will design the tower. Albritton also will employ a contractor to build the tower."

Whitt said the construction department at the University will be involved in reviewing the design drawings and observing the construction.

"As it has been pointed out by Albritton and others, a carillon is a major part of many universities," Whitt said.

Prof finds winning political races costly

by Mitch Clendening
Battalion Reporter

Election to public office carries a higher price tag than it did a decade ago, Bruce W. Robeck, associate professor of political science, says.

Robeck, who is serving as president of the College Station School Board, considered seeking the 6th Congressional District seat being vacated by Rep. Phil Gramm. He said a lack of funds—combined with a lack of time—persuaded him to pass on the race. The cost of such a campaign, he said, has increased faster than the rate of inflation over the last decade.

A primary campaign costs about \$250,000, Robeck said, adding that if the candidate makes it past the primary, at least another \$250,000 will be

needed. It takes time and contacts to raise that much money, he said.

The cost of a successful campaign often acts as an "absolute barrier" against people with few financial resources, he said.

It doesn't cost a lot of money to run, but it does cost to win, he said. An incumbent has a big advantage over the challenger in a race, Robeck said, but the incumbent often spends more than the challengers.

Increasing name recognition is one reason. Name recognition is essential to win any political race, and often can be the deciding factor when an individual pulls the levers on election day, Robeck said.

An incumbent enters a race with a lot of name recognition, and often spends a lot of money before making any progress in that area. A challenger usually starts with little name recognition and gets more mileage from campaign funds.

Robeck said the key to judging effective campaign spending is how much the challenger spends. He said the challenger must reach a large number of people who don't follow the

political scene, but do recognize the incumbent's name.

Robeck said part of the increase in campaign costs can be traced to breaking this "barrier of ignorance." Fewer people pay attention to current local events, and the cost of getting their attention is high. The financial barrier of political campaigning would be lowered if more people were attentive to the political scene, he said.

Experience is an important qualification for a candidate, Robeck said. Most people are hesitant to trust someone who hasn't served in public office, he said, and voters must see the candidate as a credible officeholder.

When no one from Brazos County expressed interest in the 6th District race, Robeck began considering a campaign. After a week of talking to potential supporters, he decided to sit out this contest.

Robeck said the chance to run for a congressional seat without the shadow of an incumbent doesn't come along often. He said he will keep his eyes open for an open seat in the Texas Legislature.

Club members to keep on trying

Locals try to contact astronaut

By Debbie E. Warren
Battalion Reporter

Bryan Amateur Radio Club members didn't get to talk to an astronaut on Saturday like they had wanted although the group had set up a ham radio in the parking lot of Post Oak Mall trying to make contact with the Columbia space shuttle as it flew over the Bryan-College Station area.

Bill Hobson, president-elect of the local club, said Saturday some members had picked up a transmission from astronaut Owen Garriott earlier, but that Garriott was not able to hear them.

"I think that somebody in the local area is going to get a shot at him eventually," Hobson said. "He's been over twice where we've actually been able to make

recordings of him, but the closest area that we know of that has made a two-way contact with him is in Temple. We still have until Wednesday or Thursday to contact him."

Astronaut Owen Garriott has been over twice where we've actually been able to make recordings of him — Bill Hobson, Bryan Amateur Radio Club.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has given Garriott permission to talk to ham operators during his off

hours of the nine-day mission. Garriott has been a ham operator since he was 12 years old.

Hobson said Garriott transmits for one minute and then scans a set of randomly selected frequencies to listen for responses.

Hobson said club members have been getting most of the information about when the best chances are to pick up Garriott from the Johnson Space Center amateur radio group.

"They've had a repeater in the Houston area that we can monitor here in Bryan," he said. "We've been listening to them and they've been giving the orbits, the times, what degrees to set our antennas at, and when we should hear the signal and when we should lose it."

"If we do hear him, we'll jump over to the frequencies he is on.

The first 40 seconds or more of the conversation will be spent transferring our call signs. If he has any time left after that I don't know what I'll say to him. I don't know if I'll be rational at that point, I'll be so excited."

Club members played the recordings they made of Garriott's earlier transmissions at the mall and showed pre-recorded video tapes of him in the space shuttle.

"Most of the people coming by have been pretty impressed," Hobson said. "Especially with the sample recordings we've been playing for them. It just kind of blows their minds that here's an average citizen with an opportunity to actually talk to an

amateur radio operator."

Hobson said bringing the ham radio equipment to the mall was troublesome, but it was well worth the trouble even after the group didn't contact the astronaut.

"The main thing we're trying to do is give people the opportunity to actually look at the different facets of amateur radio operations these days," he said. "Besides being involved in this sort of thing we also do a lot of public service type activities."

"We have worked with the Red Cross to provide emergency communications during Hurricane Alicia and during the local tornado that we had in the Milligan area."

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Over 25,000 preregister

by Ed Alanis

More than 25,000 students signed up for spring classes during preregistration, and associate registrar Donald Carter expects at least 9,000 more to register before classes begin on Monday, Jan. 16.

For those who did preregister, fee slips will be sent to the students' local addresses this week.

Students will have until Friday, Dec. 16, to clarify any errors in their fee statements with the fiscal office.

Preregistration fees must be paid by Tuesday, Jan. 3, to avoid cancellation.

"Traditionally enrollment drops 2,500 to 3,000 for the spring semester," Carter says, "but registration lines will still be long in January."

Delayed registration runs Wednesday, Jan. 11, through Friday, Jan. 13—three business days before spring classes begin.

The drop-add period begins the same day, so it is likely that the registration center will be crowded, Carter said.

Registering early helps because card packets are processed on a first-come-first-served basis, Carter said.

The only exception to the first-come-first-served rule is seniors whose card packets are processed separately for obvious reasons. Seniors approaching graduation must take the classes they need.

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HEALTH NEWS

ARTHRITIS

By Dr. Stewart D. Stephenson, D.C.

Swelling, redness, and pain in the joints indicates inflammation. Your fingers may swell. Some people can't close their hands in the morning and walk around with pain in their feet and ankles. The above are some of the indications you are suffering from arthritis.

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Stewart D. Stephenson, D.C., P.C.
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A&M to host institute

by Christine Mallon

A four-week Soils Science Institute will be held beginning in January at Texas A&M and will attract agronomists from all over the country, the coordinator of the institute said Wednesday.

The institute will be from January 23 through February 17 as part of a Continuing Education program. All programs and presentations will be held at Rudder Center.

This is the first time Texas

A&M will host the institute, which has previously been held at Iowa State and Cornell University.

The schedule for the program tentatively calls for about 108 hours of instruction plus student presentations.

Texas A&M professors who will be participating in the program include: Dr. Murray H. Milford, Dr. Charles Hallmark, Dr. Lawrence Wilding, Dr. David Zuberer, Dr. Frank Hons and Dr. Frank Calhoun—all soil and crop sciences professors and Bobby Carlile, an extension soils

specialist.

The intention of the institute is to participate with other soils and crop sciences instructors from across the country in intensive study, Milford said.

The soils institute can be very beneficial to Texas A&M, he said, since instructors come together and share ideas about the growth and importance of the soil industry.

Each participant will give one 30-minute presentation of a special project in soils in their state.

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