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Texas A&M The Battalion

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College Station, Texas

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Special elections scheduled

From staff and wire reports

AUSTIN — Gov. Mark White Tuesday set special elections for March 10 and April 7 to fill vacancies in the Texas House created by the resignations of two members.

White said a special election will be held in March to fill the seat being vacated by Rep. Bill Presnal, D-Bryan, and in April for the seat given up by Rep. Lanny Hall, D-Fort Worth.

The qualifying deadline will be Feb. 8 for Presnal's seat and March 7 for Hall's seat.

The election to fill Presnal's seat in the 28th Congressional District, which includes Bryan-College Station, is scheduled during Texas A&M's spring break. Since local schools also have a break at this time, some feel faculty and parents will be out of town at this time as well.

Former Bryan mayor Richard Smith, a Republican candidate for Presnal's seat, told The Battalion Tuesday night that he thought the date "was not set in such a way to encourage voter participation."

The goals when setting an election date should be to encourage voter participation, he said. "Why would one schedule an election at this time when many people are out of town?" he asked. "It's a slap in the face to the people at Texas A&M."

Smith said he couldn't understand why the governor didn't schedule the special election at the earliest possible time. If the governor thought the election was important enough to schedule early, why didn't he make it as early as possible instead of waiting until March 10, Smith asked.

April 7 is the date of municipal elections and March 3 is the earliest the special election could have been scheduled.

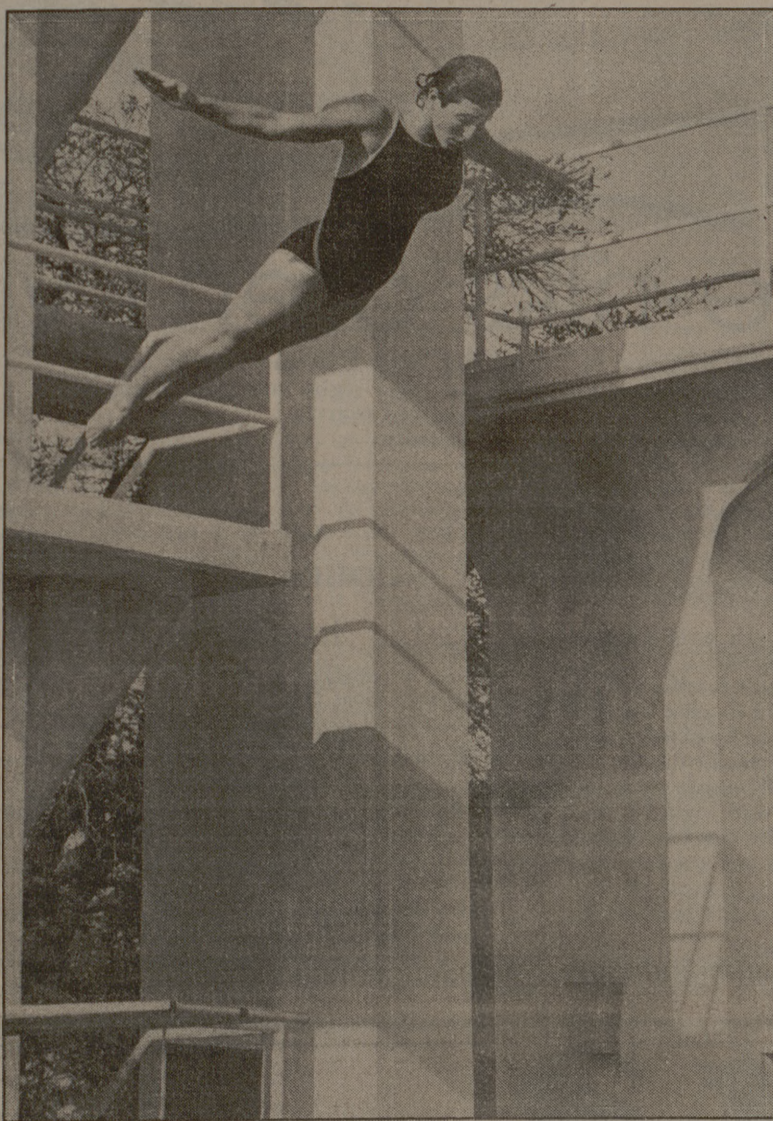


Photo by BILL HUGHES

Practice, practice, practice

Texas A&M diving team member Susan Burkart practices for a diving meet to be held this Friday at 3 p.m. against Texas Tech. Burkart is a sophomore bioengineering major from Annandale, Virginia.

Regents grant tenure to 107 faculty members

By BRIGID BROCKMAN
Senior staff writer

The Texas A&M Board of Regents approved all of the committees' recommendations Tuesday, and heard status reports from the presidents of Texas A&M, Tarleton State and Prairie View A&M.

There was no further discussion regarding the parking and traffic flow study, the special events center or the relocation of the railroad.

The board approved the request by the Executive Committee to grant tenure to 107 faculty members, 88 of whom are from the main campus.

The board also approved the guidelines for the 1984-85 operating budgets.

The Objectives, Rules, Regulations for The Texas A&M University System was amended to give the board

the right to make exceptions to the retirement policy.

Dr. Barry B. Thompson, president of Tarleton State University, reported to the board that the university is pleased with its growth rate, and the enrollment at Tarleton now has grown to 4,146.

Thompson said he is confident the university will be able to raise \$28 million by the year 2000, and that the students, faculty and friends all have shown an interest in helping.

It takes more than just state funds to become a good school, he said, and Tarleton is working to develop into a first class institution.

Dr. Frank E. Vandiver, president of Texas A&M, gave the board a quick update on the University.

He pointed out the recent damage the University suffered because of the unusually cold weather in December.

The damage totals over \$70,000, and Vandiver said he fears the cost will be even more extensive.

Vandiver took time to praise the many physical plant workers who worked overtime during the freezing weather.

Dr. Percy A. Pierre, president of Prairie View A&M University, gave the board an update on its academic plans.

Pierre said they are eliminating programs that compete with community colleges, consolidating those that are closely related and creating new programs to attract more and better prepared students.

The university has cut down the number of programs offered from 133 to 100, he said, and reduced the number of academic budgets from 72 to 47.

All bonds pass in B-CS

By MICHELLE POWE
Senior staff writer

Bryan and College Station voters turned out in better-than-expected numbers Tuesday for their cities' bond elections and passed all of the bond issues proposed.

In Bryan, 17 percent of the registered voters turned out to pass all five of the bond propositions. Bryan's City Manager Ernest R. Clark said the 3,767 ballots cast were "much more than I think we expected."

He said the bond proposals were passed with the greatest margin than in any previous bond election.

College Station Mayor Gary M. Halter said 12 percent of College Station's registered voters turned out for the election. All seven propositions were passed.

Halter said the voter turnout figure for College Station actually would have been 16 percent if voting precincts 20 and 35 were excluded from the count. He said the turnout of registered voters in those two districts — comprised largely of Texas A&M students close to campus — was the lowest in College Station.

And, he said, the turnout in those two precincts is typically the lowest.

Now that the bond issues have been approved the city councils for both cities will begin selling the bonds to raise money for the proposed improvements.

The College Station bond issues include: improving the streets, building a new police station, adding onto the main fire station, building a new

fire station and renovating Lincoln Center. Bryan's bond issues include: improving the streets, improving parks and recreational facilities and improving city offices and the police department facilities.

Clark said he hopes that all of the improvements for Bryan will be completed within the proposed five years.

Halter said College Station's Capital Improvement Program is a three-year plan and he hopes the improvements will be completed within that time frame. He said the proposed new police station and the additions to the main fire station should be first on College Station's list of priorities. And the street improvements should come next, he said.

International fees questioned

SG to discuss funding

By ROBIN BLACK
Staff writer

As a result of a report filed by the Legislative Study Group, the finance committee will recommend to the Student Government Senate tonight that funding of international student services be redefined.

The report by the LSG found that about half of the student service funds allotted to the International Student Services Office — \$118,000 last year — is being used to cover the administrative costs necessary to meet U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service regulations.

The LSG supports the idea that the office does provide student services, and that these services are necessary and should be funded by student service fees.

Mike Cook, vice president of finance, said the finance committee

doesn't think that student service fees should pay for the office's administrative costs.

"Since the service is vital to the students, we are recommending that it only be funded one-half by the student fund," he said.

The international student office requested \$117,000 in funds for this year, but the finance committee is recommending that only \$58,000 of that amount come from the student service fund.

Aside from student advisory costs, the service is also responsible for the cost of maintaining student records and documentation for the immigration office and the membership fees for association with such organizations as the National Association of Foreign Student Administrators.

The international student service also pays these fees for the admissions

office, the English Language Institute and the study-abroad office.

The LSG pointed out that the service is eligible for state funding, as recommended by the state Coordinating Board of Texas colleges and university system.

Other items on the Senate's agenda include recommendations of revisions to University rules and regulations (blue book).

The finance committee will also recommend that faculty and staff pay a semesterly fee for use of intramural facilities proportionate to the amount taken from student service fees for the same use.

"We're going to recommend that they pay what the students pay every semester for intramurals," Cook said. "Right now faculty and staff just pay \$2 a year for use of intramural facilities, and the students are paying about \$9 per semester."

Reagan claims 'a miracle'

United Press International

WASHINGTON — President Reagan, poised for a re-election campaign, said Tuesday his first three years in office have produced "an American miracle" that places the nation in a position of strength and security.

Reagan sounded the emerging theme of his expected bid for a second term during a Capitol Hill luncheon with Republicans who gained control of the Senate in the same 1980 electoral sweep that landed him in the White House.

He is expected to announce his intention to seek re-election Sunday night in a live television broadcast from the Oval Office.

"Thirty-six months — that's just a short span in the life of a nation," Reagan, who marked his third anniversary in office last Friday, told the GOP senators. "But I deeply believe that, together, we've changed American history."

The trip to Capitol Hill was the first of two Reagan will make this week. The luncheon, a weekly event for Republican senators, came just one day before he is to deliver his State of the Union address to a joint session of Congress.

The mood was light. Reagan joked that Senate GOP leader Howard Baker and Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, had called to remind him of the \$5 charge for lunch and later pulled out the required cash.

Giving the lawmakers a preview of the optimistic outlook he will take Wednesday night, Reagan rattled off a list of accomplishments upon which he is expected to base his re-election effort.

"In the past 36 months, the world has seen an American miracle," he said. "Time has marched on, but instead of growing older and more tired our country has recaptured the vital-

ity, self-confidence and courage of the youthful nation that she still is."

Reagan said inflation has been slashed to the lowest level in more than a decade, the prime interest rate "is barely half of what it was when we took office."

He also said his arms buildup and projection of military force have ended a period in which "America had become known the world over for hesitation, vacillation and self-doubt."

"In foreign policy," he said, "the world knows once more what America stands for: the freedom of mankind. From Central America to Africa to the Middle East, we're working to support democracy and produce peace."

Despite the chilly course of U.S.-Soviet relations, Reagan said, "by strengthening our defenses and showing the world our willingness to negotiate, we've laid the foundations for a lasting world peace."

11,000 fans attend Raider homecoming

United Press International

LOS ANGELES — More than 11,000 black-and-silver-clad fans cheered the Los Angeles Raiders at a frenzied downtown rally Tuesday, and most of the Super Bowl champions responded in their untraditional style — they didn't show up.

Only 21 of the team's 55 players joined Mayor Tom Bradley, coach Tom Flores and the silver Super Bowl trophy on the steps of City Hall.

Eight of the no-shows — including Lester Hayes, Ted Hendricks and Todd Christensen — had a good excuse. They were selected to play in Sunday's Pro Bowl and flew directly from Tampa, the site of the Super Bowl, to Honolulu.

Among the 26 other players missing and listed as having "other commitments" were quarterback Jim Plunkett and wide receiver Cliff Branch, who played key roles in the

Raiders' 38-9 victory over the Washington Redskins.

Also not appearing was team owner Al Davis, the man most responsible for the fact that Tuesday's celebration took place in Los Angeles and not in Oakland.

The fans, despite occasional boos when they realized many of their heroes weren't there, were soothed by the appearances of two of the biggest stars, running back Marcus Allen and defensive end Lyle Alzado.

The Raiders' cheerleaders, wearing their scanty uniforms, brought loud cheers from much of the crowd as dozens of police officers successfully kept the surging masses behind barricades of water-filled steel drums.

The crowd, which police called the biggest ever for a City Hall ceremony, eventually swelled off the grassy park onto the streets, halting traffic.

Druze leader asks Gemayal to quit

United Press International

BEIRUT — Druze Moslem leader Walid Jumblatt stepped up his war of words on the Lebanese government Tuesday, demanding President Amin Gemayal resign and inaugurating a radio station to rally his followers in revolt.

Druze militias based in the mountains east of Beirut fought duels with the Lebanese army. There were no reports of casualties.

Jumblatt's statement appeared to doom the fledgling "national reconciliation" process, which had managed to get the leaders of Lebanon's warring factions to sit down at a bargaining table last November in Geneva.

"We will not take part in any government or format with President Gemayal," Jumblatt said on official Syrian radio from Damascus. "There-

fore, I repeat my earlier request to Amin Gemayal to resign."

Jumblatt's demand marked yet another reversal, since he first issued the call during the weekend and then denied it. But his chief aide, Marwan Hamade, said by telephone from Damascus the Druze leader "is not retracting what he said."

Backed by Syria, the Druze and more mainstream Sunni and Shiite Moslem sects, who now constitute a majority in Lebanon, are fighting for a greater share of power in the government dominated by the minority Christians under Gemayal.

Underscoring Jumblatt's tough posture, a new Druze radio station went on the air Tuesday afternoon to counter the government-run Beirut radio and the stations of the Christian Phalange Party and Christian Phalange militia.

In Today's Battalion

Local

- A touch of the Old West in the Brazos Valley? See story page 3.
- A&M research engineer says coal-fueled engines could be successful. See story page 3.

State

- Princess Anne toured the Houston Medical Center Tuesday. See story page 4.
- The Houston Cougars have reinstatedward-guard Benny Anders. See story page 16.
- Gov. Mark White's new jet has it all -- even a \$4500 toilet. See story page 5.
- Kilgore slayings may have been drug-related. See story page 10.