

Cable

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DiBacco said it was purely coincidental that ran the full-page advertisement ran when the majority of the Texas A&M students were gone. McCaw designed the proposed line-up when Bryan Mayor Ron Blatchley asked for a proposal that citizens could discuss before the final reading of the franchise agreement. The advertisement could not be run until the proposed line-up was completed.

Blatchley also asked for the estimate of the largest possible rate increase before the council approved the franchise agreement.

McCaw said that the maximum rate increase that the company would ask for would be an increase to \$9.50 for the basic cable. The \$9.50 fee is an estimate of the proposed increase. The actual amount of the increase is not known yet, and cannot be set until the line-up is finalized, DiBacco said. However, he said, a rate increase is needed and would be requested.

Any rate increase must be approved by city councils.

The reasons a rate increase are needed are varied. One reason is that the Midwest Video and Community Cablevision rates were artificially low because they were trying to put each other out of business, DiBacco said.

A rate increase also is needed in order to update the service training and quality of the equipment.

"We want to make sure that we have adequate funds for all the expenses to provide first class service," DiBacco said.

"Once we have an opportunity to get our hands on the cable systems to correct the problems that we know exist there and correct some that we don't know are there but that we anticipate will be there anyhow, people will see that for their \$9.50, they are getting a good value for their money."

DiBacco added that another thing the company wants to avoid is over-expectation of changes the day McCaw takes over. Over 1,000 miles of cable facilities are in the Bryan-College Station area. DiBacco estimated that it will take six to nine months for the company to get the system back to get the system to the first class quality and service desired.

"Obviously it would not be in subscribers best interest to throw away what is good equipment and replace it with new just simply to make it new," DiBacco said. "So we will be evaluating all the equipment and replacing it on an as need basis in order to provide state-of-the-art capability service."

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One topic which has provoked a lot of discussion is that apartment dwellers will no longer receive bulk-billing rates. McCaw will charge to same rate to apartment dwellers that is charged to those in single family units.

"We want to deal with all subscribers on an individual basis," DiBacco said. "We think that will improve subscriber communications between the company and subscriber and we think it will be more fair to people living in single family dwelling units instead of asking them to carry the bulk of the expenses of operating cable."

The decision of whether the apartment residents will pay for cable on an individual basis or have it included in their rent will be made by each complex owner.

The extra income provided by equalizing the billing rates was also figured in the \$9.50 proposed rate.

Many citizens have voiced concern about not being able to use the remote controls on their "cable-ready" television sets. Cable-ready sets are those which can receive all the channels of the extended service.

With the new McCaw equipment, the extended service signals will be scrambled so the sets cannot pick up the signals of the extended service without a converter. McCaw will rent remote controls that work with the converter for about \$2 a month.

Subscribers can have their cable system wired to allow them to use their remote for channels 2 through 13 and the converter remote for the other channels or the converter remote for all channels. The service will cost a one-time installation fee of about \$20.

The cable's remotes also will be able to be used on televisions which are not equipped for remote themselves.

Having only one cable company has also a topic of debate. Bryan and College Station was one of the six communities in the United States with two cable companies.

DiBacco said cable companies are natural monopolies because the companies need the economic base of being the only system in town to operate.

Blatchley also says that cable is not a monopoly.

"We're going to have a modern cable operation and as a result I think we're going to see some real improved service," Blatchley said.

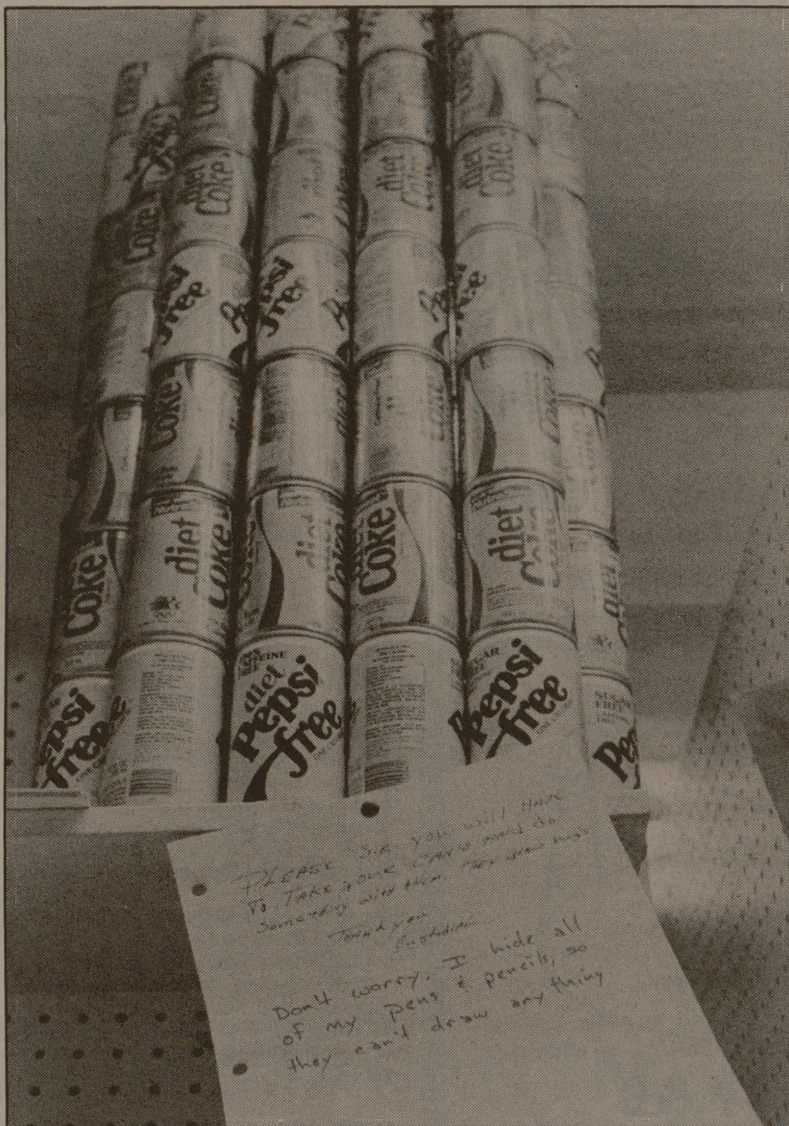


Photo by Dean Saito

Artistic Bug Problem

This correspondence between the Halbouty Geosciences Building custodial staff and the builder of the can tower was found Monday on a desk shelf in a graduate students office.

A&M Faculty Senate approves changes

By ROBIN BLACK
Senior Staff Writer

The 1984-85 Texas A&M Faculty Senate met for the first time Monday and approved a list of recommended curriculum changes and set up a new committee.

The Senate, under the guidance of new Speaker Murray Milford, approved recommendations that, if passed by the Board of Regents, will add new courses, change prerequisites of others, and change titles

and course descriptions of still others.

One recommendation that passed only after several senators had voiced disapproval was the proposed change in curriculum for the computer science program.

Opposing arguments, especially that of former Speaker of the Senate John McDermott, concerned the lack of hours designated for human-

High Court approves roadside sobriety test

United Press International

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court unanimously approved use of a roadside sobriety tester Monday, turning aside a challenge that states said could have crippled their efforts to get drunken drivers off the highways.

The 9-0 ruling relieves police of any duty to save breath samples of drunken driving suspects given on-the-spot breath tests and approves use of the Intoxilyzer — a popular portable device.

The decision reverses a California court ruling that banned use of the "Intoxilyzer" — the device preferred by 85 percent of police officers in the state — because it does not save a breath sample.

A national prosecutors' group and five states joined California in arguing that forcing police to save breath samples would seriously jeopardize drunken driving laws.

The justices soundly rejected arguments that breath samples of motorists arrested for drunken driving be saved so they can challenge the results of the roadside breath-tests in court.

The court, in another major ruling, gave its approval to a widely applied exception to the controversial exclusionary rule that bans prosecutors from using illegally obtained evidence.

The 7-2 ruling in an Iowa case sanctioned the "inevitable discovery" exception to the rule of evidence, which until now did not allow use of illegally discovered evidence even if it would have inevitably been discovered legally.

The ruling upholds the conviction of Robert Anthony Williams for the murder of a 10-year-old Des Moines girl who disappeared from a YMCA on Christmas Eve 1968.

The evidence showed police illegally coaxed Williams to reveal the location of the body of Pamela Powers by telling him she needed a "decent Christian burial."

In the drunken driving case, a state appeals court banned use of the Intoxilyzer because it has no mechanism for saving the breath sample after it is tested. The results are kept on a printed card.

In other action Monday, the court — Unanimously overturned a Michigan court ruling that allowed the state to regulate farmers' conduct in selling their agricultural goods. The ruling sided with a canners' group that said regulating conduct of farmers or "producers" of agricultural products, amounts to "compulsory unionism."

—Voted 9-0 that California's tax board can order the U.S. Postal Service to garnish the wages of employees who are delinquent in paying their state income taxes.

—Voted 7-2 that Ohio prosecutors are not barred from seeking a murder conviction against a suspect even though a judge previously accepted a manslaughter plea and imposed a sentence.

—Unanimously ruled that Arkansas prosecutors do not violate a murder defendant's rights by making a plea bargain offer, then withdrawing it and offering a less favorable deal.

Police beat

The following incidents were reported to the University Police Department through Monday.

- MISDEMEANOR THEFT:**
- A blue Columbia ten-speed bicycle was stolen from the Architecture Building bike rack.
 - A black Murray BMX single-speed bicycle was stolen from in front of a student's apartment.
 - A man's wallet containing his driver's license, \$45 in cash and several credit cards was stolen from 173 East Kyle.
- CRIMINAL MISCHIEF:**
- Three tires on a car in Parking Annex 60 were deflated.
- INDECENT EXPOSURE:**
- A student reported seeing a man masturbating in the Memorial Student Center lounge. Responding police officers were unable to locate the man.

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