

STATE AND LOCAL

Council wants crossing closed at Luther Street

By MICHAEL CRAWFORD
Staff Writer

The College Station City Council last week moved closer to its goal of substituting a Holleman Street railroad crossing for the one on Luther Street where two Texas A&M students were killed in September.

Council members unanimously approved a resolution Thursday authorizing Mayor Gary Halter to execute an agreement with Southern Pacific Transportation Co. to construct a Holleman crossing.

The agreement calls for the city to pay \$14,810 to finance the roadbed through Southern Pacific's right of way and \$128,730 for installing electronic signals and preparing the crossing site.

Holleman Street presently does not cross the railroad, but is complete except for the Southern Pacific easement west of Wellborn Road.

The agreement was negotiated more than a year ago, but city officials charge that Southern Pacific dragged its feet on final approval.

The city tried to finance the crossings with money raised from developers in the area, but city attorney Cathy Locke said the city did not receive a response. The \$143,540 will be taken from bond money approved by voters in January 1984.

The railroad company must provide the labor, equipment and

materials for adjusting electrical and communication facilities, prepare the track, stabilize the crossing site and install the timber crossing.

The City of College Station plans to close the Luther Street crossing because it is unable to handle increased traffic from development in the area. Capital improvements director Elrey Ash said construction of the crossing would take at least a year.

In other business, the City Council also approved an application by Alan R. Sumner to rezone 7.99 acres of land on Southwest Parkway from low density to medium density apartments. The 4 to 1 vote allows the land between the Oakwood and Brownstone apartments to be developed for 192 luxury units. The dissenting vote was cast by Councilman Pat Boughton who said the current restrictions, established eight years ago, should not be changed.

The Council postponed a decision on a recommendation from the Committee to Rename Roads on the West Side of Texas A&M that University Drive (FM 60) be designated "University Drive West" from the West Loop (FM 2818) to Texas Avenue.

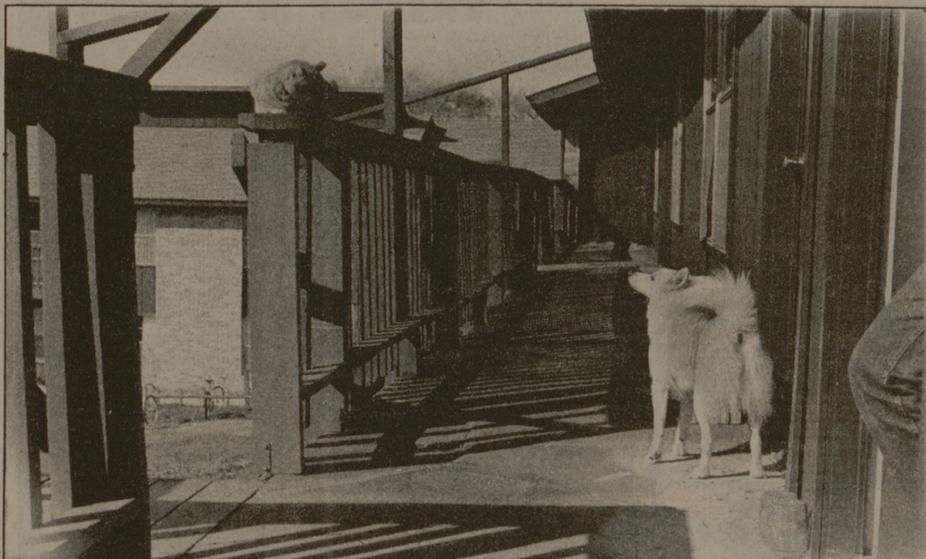


Photo by ANTHONY S. CASPER

Renewing an acquaintance

Humans aren't the only ones seeing old friends at the start of the semester. Here, Chelsea, a white Spitz, attempts to lay down some new ground rules to Mag, an orange tabby. The two have known each other since the beginning of the fall semester.

Class cancellation explained

Hazardous roads cited

By DAINAH BULLARD
Staff Writer

Texas A&M students have attended school in spite of gale force winds, bitter cold and chilling rains, but the snow and sleet which has paralyzed areas south of College Station was deemed reason enough to cancel Monday's classes.

Art Blair, assistant to President Frank Vandiver, said Monday Vandiver decided to suspend classes after considering weather conditions and the number of A&M students who live in afflicted areas.

"Dr. Vandiver surveyed the weather, and he knew that a lot of students come from areas in trouble with the weather," Blair said.

The decision was not made because of weather conditions in the College Station area, he said. Sus-

pending Monday's classes was an attempt to prevent students from driving under hazardous conditions, Blair said.

"We can better afford to lose one day of classes than to lose one student on the roads," Blair said.

Vandiver's decision was released Saturday so it could reach news services before students in afflicted areas took to the roads Sunday. Jeffrey Alford, associate director of public information, said the wire services and radio and television stations were notified of the decision.

"We depended on them to get the word out," Alford said. "As far as we know, the word did get out."

The decision was a timely one for students still in Austin, San Antonio, Houston and their surrounding

areas. Monday afternoon, a spokesperson from the State Troopers said roads out of San Antonio and Austin were still snowy and icy, but passable. Roads in the Houston area were reported back to normal.

Though such changes due to weather conditions are rare, this is not the first time the University has submitted to foul weather. David Chapman, an assistant library professor who works in the archives, said University employees have been dismissed early due to dust storms and hurricanes. Chapman said that once in the mid-1970s, when he was a student at A&M, students who could not return to campus following a weekend ice storm were not required to make up missed classes.

Election tab may prevent repayments

United Press International

HOUSTON — A costly election tab run up by freshman Rep. Mac Sweeney may prevent him from repaying two Texas banks unsecured personal loans of \$66,000, a newspaper reported Monday.

Sweeney, R-Texas, also acknowledged to the Houston Chronicle that the loans may violate a strict interpretation of federal campaign law that requires candidates to be treated as any other loan applicant, and for loans to be made "on a basis which assures repayment."

The Federal Elections Commission will not look into the matter unless a complaint alleging a violation is filed.

The two loans are part of \$81,000 in personal notes Sweeney still owes from his campaign against Rep. William Patman, D-Ganado, one of the richest members of Congress.

At the time of his last financial report, Sweeney, a Republican, also owed \$15,000 to a Houston bank for which he pledged stock, bonds and a car as collateral. The original loan was for \$20,000, but Sweeney repaid \$5,000 last fall.

The remaining amount was due Jan. 2, but neither the bank nor Sweeney would disclose if, or how, the loan agreement was amended to give him additional time to pay.

A \$40,000 loan from a Wharton bank is due Jan. 30, and a \$26,000 loan Sweeney secured from a Victoria bank is due Feb. 26. Both banks legally could extend the due dates.

"We're making a good-faith effort and talking to them now," Sweeney said.

Sweeney said he ran out of money to live on in September.

Hightower supports farm gas regulation

United Press International

AUSTIN — Supporters of legislation to bring natural gas used to fuel irrigation pumps under state regulatory jurisdiction said Monday farmers are the only consumers of natural gas who have no control or recourse over its cost and quality.

"Only farmers are left to fend for themselves against the gas companies," Agriculture Commissioner

Jim Hightower said at a news conference.

Of the 10 top agriculture-producing states, only Texas does not regulate the price of irrigation gas. The result is that the price of gas to these farmers has increased by 300 to 400 percent over the last decade.

Hightower said, adding some farmers paid as much as \$40,000 a month for natural gas.

Police beat

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

- MISDEMEANOR THEFT:**
- Four wire rim hubcaps were stolen from a 1982 Chrysler in Parking Annex 50.
 - A purse containing \$80 in cash was stolen from 112 Beasley Laboratory.

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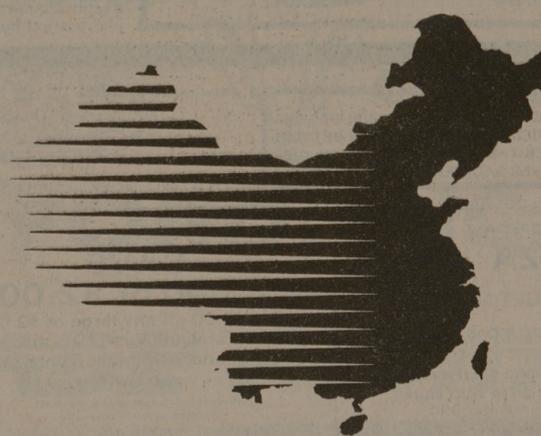
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HOST & HOSTESS JANUARY 20 & 21

DELEGATES JANUARY 21 & 22