

# State and Local

## State to begin repair of Jersey Street near A&M

The Texas Highway Department will be working on the north side of Jersey Street between Texas Avenue and Wellborn Road starting Wednesday.

Bob Wiatt, director of security and traffic at Texas A&M, said vehicles should not be parked on the street from Wednesday to about Friday.

Vehicles in the workers' way will be relocated to another part of Jersey Street, Wiatt said. Owners of the vehicles, he said, will not be ticketed or charged for towing fees if their vehicles must be relocated.

No traffic lanes on Jersey Street will be closed and the road work should not interfere with traffic, Wiatt said.

He said the work needed to be done because cracks have begun appearing on the street.

Workers will be placing a seal coat, a topping applied to keep a street from cracking, from the north curb to about eight feet onto the street, Wiatt said.

Wiatt said the street probably will be resurfaced in June.

## Filing to begin Wednesday for upcoming SG elections

By FRANK SMITH  
Staff Writer

Those wishing to file for the April 2 student elections can do so this week at the Student Government office on the second floor of the Pavilion between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Wednesday, Thursday or Friday.

On election day students will select:

- The 1986-87 student body president.
- Four of five Student Senate chairmen.
- Student Senate representatives.
- Yell leaders.
- Residence Hall Association officers.
- Off-Campus Aggie officers.
- Class councils.
- Graduate Student Council members.

One senate chairman — the rules and regulations chairman — will be appointed later by the senate.

Election co-commissioner Alan Moore said he encourages all students interested in filing to come by Wednesday, so they can pick up an application and be briefed on filing and election regulations.

*To file, each candidate must submit a completed application along with a \$5 filing fee and meet any other requirements outlined for that office in the Student Government constitution and in the election regulations.*

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For instance, those interested in filing either for student body president or for one of the senate chairman positions must submit an election petition containing signatures of 100 currently enrolled students.

In addition, presidential candidates must have a minimum overall grade-point ratio of 2.5 at the time of the election.

Candidates for any of the senate chairman positions must have an overall 2.25 GPR.

A candidate for the Student Senate must have an overall 2.25 GPR and must turn in an election petition, containing 25 signatures of students enrolled within the candidate's constituency when filing.

Yell leader candidates also must have a 2.25 GPR overall and OCA candidates must have an overall 2.0.

Election co-commissioner Chris Gavras said information about grade requirements for those running for RHA, class councils or the Graduate Student Council will be available for prospective candidates when they come by the Pavilion.

The election commission decided this year to have an open filing system. As a result, Moore said that sometime Thursday afternoon or evening a list will be posted in the second floor in the Pavilion with the names of all the candidates who have filed for each office at that point.

All candidates who file for office will be expected to attend the candidates' meeting with the election commissioners March 11.

## Judge rules teacher competency test legal

Associated Press

AUSTIN — Requiring Texas teachers to take a reading and writing test in order to hold their jobs is legal and in line with major public school reforms, a judge ruled Monday.

The decision by State District Judge Harley Clark gave the Texas Education Agency the go-ahead for competency testing of 210,000 public school administrators and teachers March 10.

Those who fail, and do not pass a make-up exam in June, will lose their teaching certificates.

The Texas State Teachers Association had challenged the TEA plans, saying school boards should decide whether a teacher is competent.

A top TSTA official said Monday that the decision "will allow the state to make or break the careers of professional Texas educators on the basis of whether or not they pass a single test."

TSTA president Charles Beard said the orga-

nization is still convinced that the test and its implementation are unconstitutional.

Beard said the TSTA believed the testing would be discriminatory against minorities, handicapped, some bilingual teachers and "those whose area of specialty is outside language arts."

Gov. Mark White said he had "every confidence that Texas teachers will meet the challenge of this test."

The Texas Classroom Teachers Association, which was not part of the suit, said it was not surprised at Clark's decision.

TCTA president Thomasine Sparks of Kingsville said, "Although we were opposed in principle to the so-called 'competency test,' we felt from the beginning that an effort to fight it would be ill-fated and would falsely raise the hopes of teachers."

Clark made a three-part ruling on the TSTA challenge to the teacher testing. He ruled the law

mandating the test is constitutional and said the State Board of Education had acted properly in implementing the test. Clark also said the testing should proceed without delay.

The Teachers Examination of Current Administrators and Teachers (TECAT) was part of the school reforms mandated by the 1984 special session of the Legislature in order to upgrade Texas schools.

"If a teacher cannot read or write, there is a recourse," Robert Chanin, attorney for the National Education Association, argued for the TSTA in a Feb. 21 hearing. "It is the responsibility of the employing school board to determine whether their teachers can read and write."

Chanin said the teaching certificate was a "lifetime license," and it was unfair for the state to change the rules.

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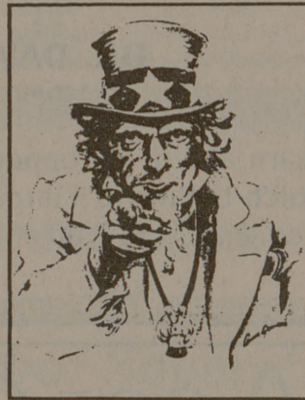
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## TONIGHT

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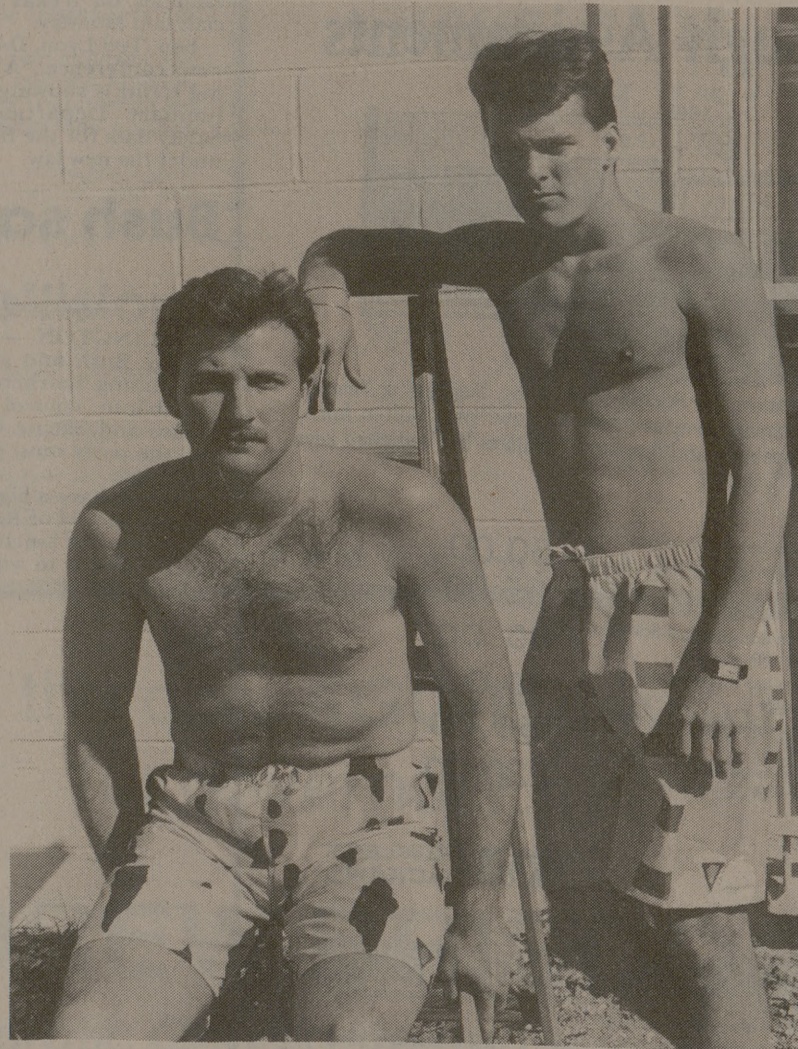
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