State and Local

S &M to get new class-scheduling system

Phone registration possible in 1987

By Rodney Rather

telephone registration sysallowing students to register classes from anywhere in the ited States should be available Texas A&M in 1987, said Steve liams, director of A&M's stuinformation management

tics 1101. A&M will be one of the largest versities to have such a system, iams said.

> none registration systems curdy are operating at 12 other leges and universities in the ited States. tudents will use touch-tone

ones to dial a campus number taped message

he message will explain and

direct them through the registration process.

After the student punches in the phone code numbers for the courses and sections available, the registration system interprets the signals and checks to see if the desired classes are available, Wil-

If a course or section is full, he said, the system will tell the caller and an alternate course or section may be chosen.

If a student calls and all 32 phone lines linked to the system's computer are busy, the phone will keep ringing until a line be-comes available, he said.

"We hope that will help students who are calling long distance in the sense of having long distance charges," he said.

Detailed instructions explaining how the system operates will be included with the 1987 spring

class schedules, he said. Students also may use the new system for the drop-add process for the spring, he said. Williams said although the sys-

tem should be ready for spring 1987 pre-registration, several details need to be worked out.

Two unanswered questions concern whether or not to retain the present seniority system and also determining how students will get adviser approval before registering, he said.

Seniority, which currently al-

lows students with a higher classification to register first, can be kept in the new system, Williams

"Exactly what kind of control procedures will be implemented, if any, hasn't been decided yet,' he added.

Decisions involving adviser ap-proval will probably be left to the individual departments or colleges to decide, he said.

Furthermore, departments can decide not to use the system, but Williams said he doubts that option will be used.

'I expect all departments will use the system because there's no additional overhead for the departments to use the system," he said.

ruary, College Station hired Self Insurance Resource Inc. of Richardson to look into the feasibility of a self-in-

surance program for the city. For \$10,000, a company's consultant will analyze the current market conditions and recommend what the city should do, VanDever said.

Glenn Schroeder, assistant director of finance for the city, said the consultant's report was supposed to be ready April 1

VanDever said the city staff was still waiting for the report on May 1.

The city also paid a consultant \$400 to recommend a type of com-

puter system for the city's use, and it paid \$60,000 to another consultant who worked on the city's comprehensive land use plan, he said. VanDever said the consultant's pay comes from city revenue funds.

They are worth the money, Van-"From time to time, as in any busi-

Donahue to be taped in Dallas

DALLAS (AP) — "Donahue" does Dallas this week, showing that Texas — the place where they do things big is a lot more than oil.

At least that's what Phil Donahue, the inquisitive host of the sometimes controversial television talk show 'Donahue," promises in his pre-

The remote studio is Southfork Ranch, just north of Dallas, but discussions won't center around J.R. Ewing's latest scandal.

"Obviously, we try to strive for variety, so people can have fun and learn," said Pat McMillen, executive producer of Multimedia Entertainment, which produces the program. "It's educational, I'd like to think

"We're not going to Texas looking for stereotypes. There will be an exacting interest in topics. I think it's going to be a diverse audience.

One thing's for sure — the audiences will be standing room only.

More than 1,500 spectators are expected to attend the five one-hour shows that will be broadcast live in Dallas-Fort Worth area. shows will be aired on a one-day de-

The topics for discussion, as are typical with Donahue's show, run the cuss the relationship between older women and younger men.

Nuclear disasters will be the topic Tuesday, while the sanctuary movement for political refugees will dominate discussion Wednesday. Donahue takes on the gun control issue Thursday before wrapping up the week with "Men Who Left Their Wives for Other Women.

'We thrive on spontaneity. The only thing he (Donahue) walks out with is a list of guests so that he can know where they're sitting."
The show, which is in its 19th sea-

son, aired in Dallas in November 1980 with Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton as guests discussing the movie "9 to 5."

This week marks the 87th time the show has left its home base of New York or Chicago.

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ity consultants used as planning resource

The city uses consultants mainly to make up for a lack

of staff expertise. The staff either doesn't have the time

to do the necessary studies, or doesn't want to add peo-

- Van VanDever, College Station assistant city man-

By Craig Renfro Staff Writer

ugh the College Station City may not agree with some consultants' recommendaconsultants' recommenda-still considers the consultants

anuary, the College Station an city councils paid \$10,000 Hopper, a rate consultant astin, to decide if McCaw Cawas entitled to a rate in-

per recommended that the

he said, the increase

s give McCaw a rate increase.

councils gave the cable com- to perform the services. he full increase despite the tant's findings. Bryan-College city manager offices con-

on and was entitled to the full

aid McCaw ran an efficient

turn analysis before making his rec-

ple to the staff.

Van VanDever, College Station's assistant city manager, said it is not not be as much as the com- uncommon for the city staff to do some work with the consultant, although the city paid the consultant

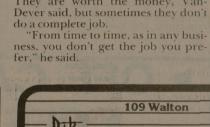
VanDever said the city uses consultants mainly to make up for a lack of staff expertise. The staff either a rate-of-return analysis, doesn't have the time to do the necessary studies or does not want to

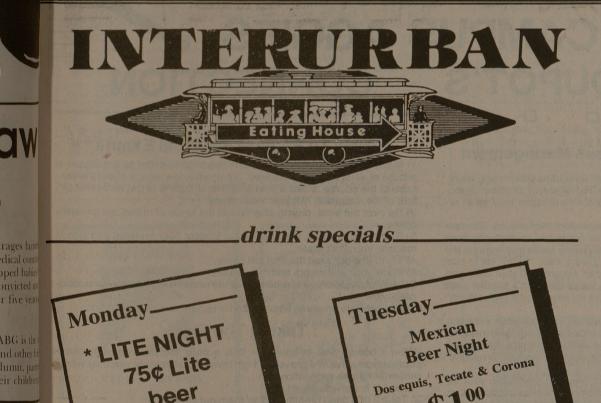
add people to the staff, he said. He said the city uses the Texas

to research consultants before hiring them. The city also uses lists compiled by architectural and engineering firms to search for consultants, VanDever said.

He said consultants were used in the planning process of many of College Station's utility programs. They also were used extensively in the city's comprehensive land use plan, VanDever said.

But some problems arise when consultants are used, VanDever said. Sometimes the consultant takes longer than originally planned to per did not do a rate-of-re- Municipal League reference guide make recommendations. In Feb-







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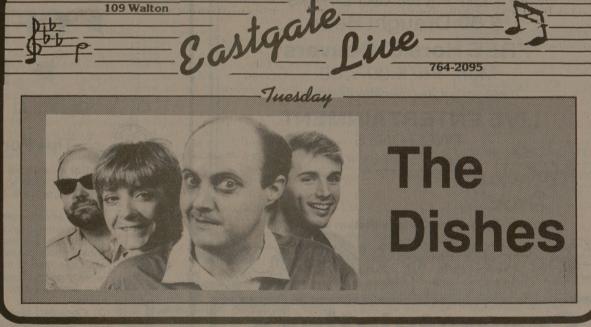
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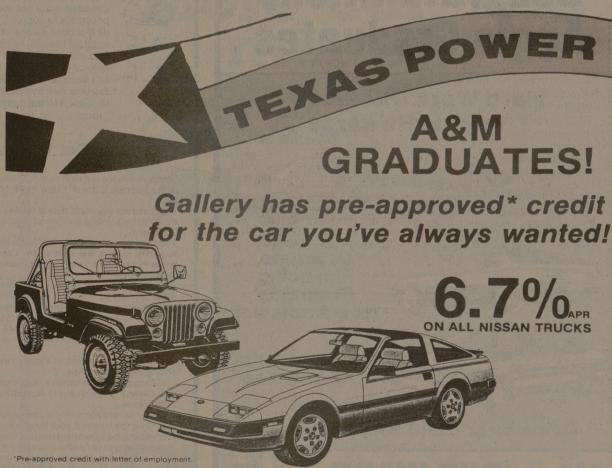
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5:00 p.m. 'til close

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