

Texas A&M The Battalion

Vol. 87 No. 104 USPS 045360 8 Pages

College Station, Texas

Friday, February 26, 1988

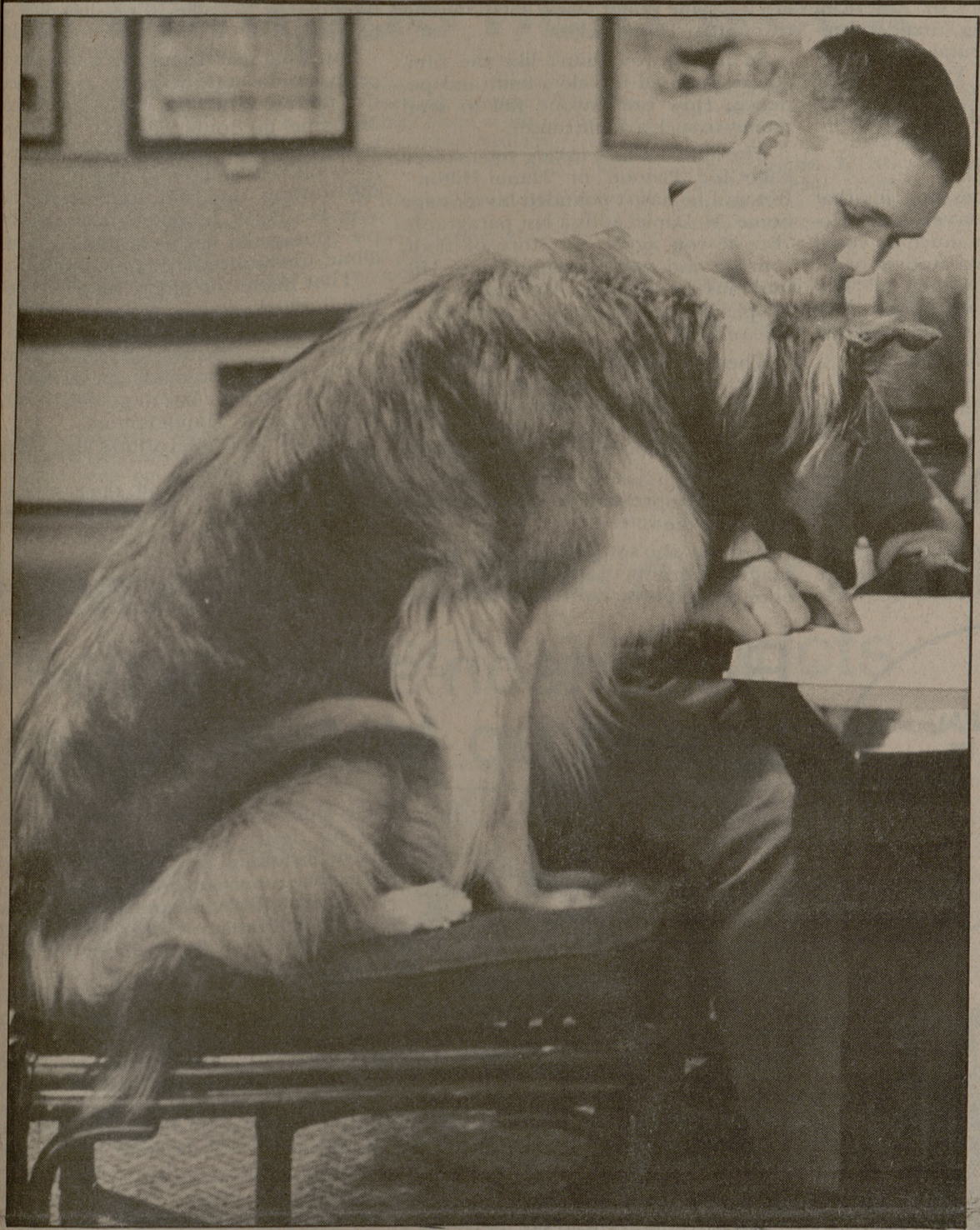


Photo by Cindy Mullican

Dogging the books

Studying for his second round of exams, David Oakland, 20, and Reveille V go over one last chap-

ter in the MSC. Oakland is a sophomore business administration major in Company E-2.

Signs, maps will help guests find buildings at Texas A&M

By Doug Walker
Reporter

How many times has a stranger asked you to give directions to G. Rollie White Coliseum or Sbis Dining Hall? Even if you know the campus well, chances are you had a hard time describing a building's location. A system of signs and maps to help people find their way to buildings all over the campus is about to be put up, said Eugene Ray, the coordinator of the project and director of grounds maintenance at Texas A&M.

According to Stewart Cushon, project inspector for A&M, the cost of the entire project is under \$600,000. Ray said the goal of the project was to make the campus more attractive while holding the cost far below \$1 million.

The project, to begin Tuesday, will include new lettering for some buildings and a uniform system of lettering for all signs on campus, Ray said. Also, there will be several maps of the campus to aid visitors and new signs for the entrances and parking areas of the school, he said.

Although the project is long overdue, Ray said this is the first organized effort to improve the situation in the 15 years he has been at the University.

"There has been talk ever since I've been here about doing something about the graphics on campus, but there has never been much emphasis until now," he said. Ray credited the Facilities Planning and Construction Department with getting the project started.

"The facilities construction people initiated it and the administration decided our campus graphics were not sufficient," he said. "The school pursued the project and hired a graphics consultant to make some recommendations."

"Now we're at the implementation stage. We're going to do away with the signs currently used to identify buildings and the offices they house."

Ray said the graphics consultant for the project, James Glass of the Kelvin Group of Houston, walked around the campus last summer and made a campus map.

"He (Glass) developed a campus map divided into sections showing the various sign locations," Ray said. The contractor for the project, Cantrell Industries of Houston, is making the signs and will begin assembling them on campus soon, Ray said.

The campus won't be without signs, he said, because the old signs will be taken down and replaced immediately.

"They (the workers) will be systematically moving about the campus adding new signs and replacing the old ones," Ray said.

Ray said the letters on buildings will be standardized with ten-inch bronze Helvetica lettering and will be supplemented by a numbering system.

Helvetica is a easy-to-read typeface used on many street signs.

"Each building will have a number located in a certain place," Ray said. "The number will match the number assigned to it on the University map. These will be porcelain-backed with a reflective number."

The signs for the buildings also will provide insight into what the buildings contain, Ray said.

"There will be building identification signs that will give the name of the building and a directory giving the major occupants of the building," he said.

He said parking areas also will receive new signs, which will be slightly larger and will continue to be color coded.

"All these signs will have reflective lettering as opposed to lighting," he said, explaining that lighted signs would be too expensive.

There will be a visitor center built in conjunction with the new parking garage under construction on the north side of the campus, he said,

and several maps to aid campus visitors.

"There will be a number of directional maps placed around the campus and some locators that tell you where you are for both pedestrian and vehicular traffic," he said. "I think these will help because this has become such a big place."

He said locators will be placed in the dorm areas for parents and others who need to find a student. Signs at three major bus stops on the campus will list bus routes and their hours of operation.

Athletic directors worry about A&M network

By Anthony Wilson
Sports Writer

While Athletic Director and Head Football Coach Jackie Sherrill explores the possibility of Texas A&M abandoning the Southwest Conference Radio Network to form its own radio network, the conference's other athletic directors are worried about its possible impact on other SWC schools.

Rudy Davalos, University of Houston athletic director, said the SWC's smaller schools could suffer if A&M strikes out on its own.

"I think that when you do look for ways to increase your own revenue, you have to look and see how it would affect the other people in the conference," Davalos said.

A&M's athletic department said Tuesday that it had sent bids to nine radio stations across the state, hoping to improve on the \$95,000 it received from Host Communications last season. Host has a contract with the SWC for the rights to broadcast its football games.

But A&M and Arkansas are the only schools in the SWC that did not sign the contract with Host Communications. A&M Sports Information Director John Keith said that because A&M is not legally bound to Host Communications, A&M is trying to increase its revenue by finding

Helicopter crashes, killing at least eight

CHICO (AP) — A twin-rotor Army helicopter caught fire in flight and smashed into a North Texas pasture Thursday, killing at least eight soldiers, badly burning 10 others and sparking a raging grass fire, authorities said.

Two soldiers fell 35 feet after leaping out of the flaming CH-47D Chinook as it hurtled down near Chico, about 50 miles northwest of Fort Worth, Department of Public Safety Sgt. Robert Rankin said.

One of them died, and the other told Rankin that a fire had broken

out at the helicopter's rear and that everyone on board had tried to move toward the front to get away from the flames.

"We do have some witnesses who said they saw parts falling off back toward Chico (several miles away), and some of the witnesses said it was on fire before impact," he said.

The craft skidded about 75 feet before breaking apart in a sheet of fire at about 3:29 p.m., witness Wendell Berry said.

Berry, a farmer who tried in vain to fight the flames with a hand-held

fire extinguisher, said he helped douse flaming bodies scattered around the wreckage.

"We put a lot of fire (on people) out," said Berry, who lives near the scene. "We couldn't do very much but get 'em out of the way."

Of the survivors, seven were taken to Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, where four were in critical condition and three in serious-to-critical condition, hospital spokesman Jean Mason said. The four critical patients were to be transferred to Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio later Thursday.

A&M officials to propose second 2,000-car garage

By Richard Williams
Senior Staff Writer

By January 1989 Texas A&M could have a second 2,000-car parking garage on campus, an A&M official said Thursday.

Wesley E. Peel, vice chancellor for facilities planning and construction, said "we will submit the proposal to initiate the project to the Board of Regents at their next meeting."

The proposal to initiate is an official step toward final approval for construction of a building. If the proposal to initiate is approved, the Board still would have to approve the design plans and bids before construction could start.

Peel said the proposed garage probably would be similar to the one under construction on University Drive. That garage should be completed in October and will cost about \$9 million.

Robert Smith, vice president for finance and operations, said the new garage will be funded by bond sales authorized at the last Board meeting. A&M recently received bond ratings of AA and A1 on bonds currently being sold, he said.

"I'm immensely pleased with the ratings of the bonds," Smith said.

He also said there had been a "strong positive reaction" to the bonds.

The Battalion first reported the possibility of a new garage on January 22 after Bob Wiatt, director of security and University Police, said the project was in "the basic discussion stage."

Wiatt said the garage was being talked about because A&M already had decided to build four dormitories in the Commons area.

Other A&M officials, including Peel, denied any "official" work was being done at that time. However, at a regents meeting on January 24, Peel brought up the possibility of the garage after being questioned about the parking in that area by Regent Royce E. Wisenbaker. Wisenbaker and other regents expressed concern about the lack of parking in the

New parking garage to offer stronger security for users

Security at Texas A&M's parking garage on University Drive will offer extra protection for its users, A&M's director of security and University Police says.

Bob Wiatt says that extra security measures have been included to increase security in the \$9 million garage.

Wiatt says the garage will include a visitor's information center similar to the one in Rudder Tower and a security office. The security office will be staffed by A&M police officers for at least 16 hours every day, he says. These officers will be able to monitor the 44 video cameras that will be placed in the building and

people in the garage will be able to contact officers by using an intercom system that will be installed, Wiatt says. There will be intercom terminals on each level of the garage. The cameras and the intercom also can be monitored in the main police office.

Wiatt says an individual in an enclosed area is much more likely to be attacked than someone in the open. To lessen the chance of attacks in the garage, the exterior walls of the garage stairwells and elevators will be made of glass, he says. This will allow people outside the garage to see into these areas and should discourage attacks in these usually secluded areas, Wiatt says.

area of the new residence halls.

Peel said the new residence halls will house 1,000 students and about 700 of those will have cars to park on campus.

The new halls, scheduled for completion in September, are going to be built on part of the Commons area parking lot. The parking lot will lose between 350 and 400 spaces.

Smith said officials also are considering building the garage on Parking Annex 60, which is the visitor's parking lot south of Rudder Tower.

However, Smith said A&M needs to have parking facilities close to residence halls to be competitive with the private sector.

Wiatt said students probably would be the biggest users of a garage built in the Commons area.

Smith said a parking garage in the Commons area would make it easier to fill the new residence halls being built there. It could be hard to fill the new halls if "we tell students they can live here, but they have to park

way over there," he said.

Peel said locations in the vicinity of the Commons area are also under consideration, including the Commons parking lot and the golf course.

"I hope they put it on the golf course because if we put it on the parking lot we will lose those 400 spaces that are left," Peel said.

The golf course would have to change a couple of greens if the parking garage were built there, he said.

Johnny Andrews, the golf course greens and grounds superintendent, said stakes already have been set up to define the area the garage would be placed in if the regents approve the course as a site.

The course pro shop is in the middle of the proposed site and would have to be moved if the garage were built there, Andrews said.

If the garage were built on the golf course, tees No. 1 and 10 and the No. 18 green also would have to be moved to accommodate it, he said.

whether they signed it or not, they're a member of the Southwest Conference and the conference signed the contract."

The question of whether A&M is legally bound to stay in the Host contract is unclear. SWC Commissioner Fred Jacoby did not return Battalion phone calls Thursday.

Windegger acknowledged that A&M should be able to look at its money options, but that he thinks A&M has an obligation to the conference.

"I feel that A&M has a right to look at any resources they can get on their own," he said. "At the same time, they're a member of the Southwest Conference and as long as they're a member, they will abide by what the majority votes on as far as conference affiliation. I'm sure Jackie feels that way."

Sherrill released a statement on Wednesday dismissing reports that A&M is planning to leave the SWC or use the possible radio deal as a bargaining chip.

"We want to state emphatically that we have no intentions of leaving the Southwest Athletic Conference and never have," Sherrill's statement read. "We are merely exercising our right to explore this matter from an economic point of view."

ger schools in the SWC will follow suit, which could hurt the smaller schools financially.

Davalos said that although he understands that A&M is looking for ways to increase its finances, he believes A&M should consider how that could affect the conference. He said that the Big Eight conference is below par because Oklahoma and Nebraska financially dominate the other teams in the conference.

"Our first responsibility is to our university," Davalos said. "But we certainly hope there would be some feeling for the rest of the people in the league..."

"I don't think anybody comes out a winner if one or two schools share all the wealth and the other schools are really hurt financially. I'm not talking just about radio. I'm talking about the total picture."

Frank Windegger, Texas Christian University's athletic director, said that because the SWC signed a contract with Host Communications through 1989 and A&M is part of the SWC, A&M should honor the contract.

"They've participated in the package," Windegger said in a telephone interview Thursday. "I think there's one entity legally that says as long as they were part of the package and participated, then regardless of

a more lucrative radio pact.

"I don't think we have to challenge them in court," Keith said. "I don't think they have anything legally that binds us. They have an agreement with the conference. They don't have an agreement with Texas A&M."

"Let's put it this way. If we get the kind of deal like Oklahoma or LSU, we'll take a real hard look at it."

Oklahoma and Big Eight foe Nebraska have radio deals worth \$1 million a year. Louisiana State signed a three-year contract for \$2.1 million. A&M hopes to receive offers three to 10 times bigger than what it received from Host.

"We can make more than that (\$95,000)," Keith said. "As scarce as money is and as much as every athletic department needs money, we're just looking at the idea of forming our own radio network and breaking off from that thing. Texas, Texas A&M and Arkansas could all probably do better on their own."

"I think they'd (UT and Arkansas) probably love to see us do that. That way, we're the bad guys and they can go in and do the same thing without taking all the flak. The rest of the schools might not be able to."

That's precisely what worries the smaller schools in the SWC. Davalos said he thinks if A&M forms its own radio network, the big-