

Tuesday, February 21, 1989

## MSC council discusses proposals Constitutional change, grant topics presented at regular meeting

By Fiona Soltes  
STAFF WRITER

The MSC council discussed a constitutional change and suggestions for a prospective grant at its regular meeting Monday night.

Cathy Valenzuela, vice president of student development, presented a proposed constitutional change that will be voted on March 6. The change concerns the break-up of the directors of the student development leadership training into areas based on experience within the MSC organization. The directors of the apprentice, craftsman and master areas will be responsible for coordinating sessions for their group — weekly for apprentice and master groups, and weekly for the craftsman group.

Sara Wall, executive vice president of MSC Marketing and Personnel, introduced four proposals made to a prospective donor for a grant of \$500,000 to the MSC.

The first proposal for the grant concerns the establishment of an institute for visual arts enrichment, to facilitate exposure to the visual arts and present opportunities for students and others to see and experience fine art on a first-hand basis.

The second proposal involves a leadership fellowship, to encourage exceptional young men and women to hold major leadership positions in the MSC. Financial assistance from the fellowship would ensure students would not be denied developmental opportunities because of personal financial limitations.

The third proposal suggests an institute to heighten awareness of international business careers, providing programs and services to enlighten the Texas A&M student body concerning opportunities, requirements and rewards for an international business career.

An international business speaker series, support for the international business programs and a resource center also are included in this proposal.

The final proposal involves a leadership institute to provide endowed support to preserve and enhance student leadership training and personal development programs for student leaders, including programs like Fall Leadership, Spring Leadership and the MBA/Law debate program.

An update on the prospective grant will be given at the March 6 meeting of the council.

In other business Student Body

President Jay Hays, Corps Cmdr. Todd Reichert and Residence Hall Association President Trey Jacobson gave reports from their prospective groups.

Announcements included future programs for MSC Political Forum and multicultural sessions for Student Development. Student body elections are set for the month of March and a resolution will go before the Student Senate Wednesday to reaffirm a 1987 referendum supporting student service fees given for a future intramural recreational facility.

The Texas Residence Hall Association Conference 1990 will be held at Texas A&M February 15-18, and this weekend A&M will host the Conference on Student Government Associations, which includes student governments from across the nation.

## Thousands evacuate Port Arthur to avoid gas from leaking tank

PORT ARTHUR (AP) — Thousands of people were evacuated from their homes in this coastal city Monday evening after strong winds blew a noxious gas with traces of hydrogen sulfide from a leaking crude oil tank, authorities said.

More than 20 people were treated at local hospitals for minor reactions to the fumes, which officials did not consider life-threatening.

Authorities described the precautionary evacuation as the largest in recent history for the heavily industrial city near the Louisiana border.

"We've had some real bad fires at these plants where people were injured and killed, but even then we never had an evacuation of this magnitude and I've been here 28 years," Port Arthur police Sgt. Cedric Clayton said.

Sgt. Mark Blanton estimated late Monday that 5,000 to 7,000 people were evacuated from a densely populated 14- by 17-block area on Port Arthur's west side. About 3,000 people were being housed at three schools that were opened as emergency shelters, he said.

Officials decided after a late meeting with Chevron officials that the evacuation would continue until at least 7 a.m. Tuesday, Blanton said.

"It appears the spill is under control, but the odor is still present and we're going to keep it evacuated until then," he said, adding that Chevron tests show a minimal amount of hydrogen sulfide is present.

"We decided to evacuate the entire area simply as a safety precaution," he said. "There are a lot of elderly people who live in that particular area and there are two or three (public) housing complexes."

Chevron officials said they had been monitoring air quality in the

area of the leak since early afternoon, and described the gaseous release as a minimum risk but a terrible odor.

"Most crude oils in Texas have sulphur in them, and that means their gas contains hydrogen sulfide, which is listed as one of the hazardous chemicals," Chevron spokesman Art Spencer said.

Hydrogen sulfide is a flammable, poisonous gas with a characteristic odor of rotten eggs.

"We're doing continuous monitoring and we're finding that there's nothing there that is hazardous to health and we're also finding that the hydrocarbon smell in the air is lessening," Spencer said. "But the odor got so strong that the city emergency response unit decided to go ahead and evacuate people downwind of it."

At least 24 people were examined at local hospitals as a result of the leak, officials said.

"We got 20 people this afternoon and they were all treated and released," Jody Roberts, spokesman for Port Arthur's St. Mary Hospital, said. "Most of them were treated for fume inhalation and some were complaining of headaches or watery eyes and some had breathing difficulties."

Roberts said some of the patients were elderly residents concerned that exposure to the gas may complicate existing conditions, but had not yet suffered ill effects.

Four patients also were being evaluated at Doctors Hospital, including a 97-year-old bedridden woman who was transported as a precaution, spokesman Dan Bleyhl said.

A Chevron employee discovered the leak around 1:30 p.m. Monday and reported it around the same time that the first calls began arriving at police headquarters, officials said.

## Gas company merges to avoid take over

HOUSTON (AP) — Texas Eastern Corp., battling a takeover attempt by Coastal Corp., on Monday signed a merger agreement with Panhandle Eastern Corp. after the company outbid Coastal with a \$3.2 billion cash offer, officials said.

The merger, subject to approval by federal regulators, was accepted by the Texas Eastern board just hours after the \$53-a-share offer was approved by Panhandle Eastern's board of directors, company spokesman Jim Hart said.

The combination of the two Houston-based natural gas companies would create a 27,000-mile system and result in the nation's second-largest pipeline company in terms of total miles, Hart said.

"We expect the combination of the two companies to result in significant operating synergies and appreciably enhanced operating income of the combined companies starting in 1990," said Robert Hunsucker, chairman, president and chief executive officer for Panhandle Eastern.

"In addition, we believe the combined companies will benefit from significant growth opportunities available in the Northeast United States," Hunsucker said.

Coastal Corp. spokesman Fred Wichlep said Monday that the company will study the Panhandle Eastern offer before deciding whether to continue its pursuit of Texas Eastern.

"We are going to consider our options, including possibly raising our offer, dropping our bid or other courses of action open to us," Wichlep said.

Under the agreement executed Monday, Panhandle Eastern plans to begin a cash tender offer Tuesday for up to 80 percent of Texas Eastern's outstanding shares at \$53 per share, Hart said.

The Panhandle Eastern bid came five weeks after Coastal offered \$2.6 billion, or \$42 a share. That offer was rejected by Texas Eastern officials who believed they could fetch a higher price.

Panhandle Eastern has access to large mid-continent supplies of natural gas, including the Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas and the Gulf of Mexico, and also operates a large liquefied natural gas facility in Lake Charles, La.

The company also has connections to Canadian gas through the Northern Border Pipeline, Hart said, while Texas Eastern has access to the rapidly growing New England natural gas market.

"The combined systems will provide access to almost all the major gas processing markets in the nation," Texas Eastern spokesman Fred Wichlep said.

Dennis R. Hendrix, president and chief executive officer at Texas Eastern, described the merger agreement as "the result of a thorough, orderly process that has yielded for Texas Eastern

stockholders the best value among the proposals developed."

Texas Eastern officials said Monday they had talked to several interested companies since Coastal's surprise takeover bid, but would not disclose the number or the seriousness of other inquiries. However, Hendrix said the Panhandle Eastern bid, which included provisions for a share exchange, was by far the superior offer.

"The purchase price is approximately \$650 million higher than the Coastal Corporation's tender offer, which our directors determined as inadequate and advised our stockholders to reject," Hendrix said.

Those shares not purchased under the cash offer will be exchanged for Panhandle Eastern stock at the same \$53-a-share value, according to the Monday agreement.

Coastal's offer, when announced Jan. 16, was 40 percent more than the \$30.25 Texas Eastern stock was bringing at the time. Since then, Texas Eastern stock has soared past \$42 on the New York Stock Exchange.

The company's stock closed at \$43.50 on the last day of trading Friday. The exchange was closed Monday in observance of President's Day. Panhandle Eastern stock closed Friday at \$24.50 on the exchange.

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2.08	\$7,850	\$16,000	.21	\$165	\$300	2.04	\$11,875	\$25,000
1.78	4,965	10,000	.21	215	450	1.56	4,775	9,000
1.61	5,325	11,000	.19	165	300	1.35	2,650	5,200
1.51	3,875	9,000	.18	155	290	1.23	3,350	6,700
1.43	5,550	11,500	.16	118	250	1.17	3,650	6,800
1.33	2,475	5,000	.15	111	240	1.04	2,585	6,000
1.18	2,325	4,600	.14	95	200	.83	2,575	6,000
1.17	2,750	5,200				.79	1,895	3,200
1.11	2,350	4,650				.72	2,130	5,000
1.03	3,595	8,500				.71	2,095	4,100
1.06	1,975	4,000				.70	1,795	3,100
1.03	2,195	4,200				.70	2,250	4,500
1.03	3,875	9,000				.64	1,385	2,600
1.00	2,750	5,200				.55	850	1,700
1.00	1,650	3,300				.47	625	1,300
.95	2,395	4,700				.45	795	1,400
.93	1,595	3,200				.41	650	1,300
.92	1,650	3,300				.39	795	1,400
.91	3,195	6,400				.35	495	900
.90	1,750	3,500				.25	250	500
.89	1,350	2,700				.23	275	550
.88	1,340	2,700				.18	195	400
.85	1,685	3,300				.11	110	200
.84	2,150	4,200						
.83	1,595	3,200						
.81	2,250	4,500						
.76	1,360	2,700						
.70	1,235	2,500						
.64	895	1,700						
.64	1,325	2,700						
.62	795	1,500						
.60	795	1,500						
.57	795	1,500						
.56	895	1,700						
.55	695	1,300						
.55	695	1,300						
.53	795	1,500						
.52	895	1,700						
.52	795	1,500						
.51	1,250	2,500						
.51	795	1,500						
.50	695	1,300						
.50	795	1,500						
.47	750	1,450						
.46	650	1,250						
.46	495	900						
.30	335	700						
.22	185	400						

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