

Muppets on parade

Photo by Phelan M. Ebenhack

Susan Sedgwich, a fifth year senior, and her dog Wilcox dressed for Halloween as the Muppets and walked the Texas A&M Research Park Tuesday afternoon. They try to walk at least twice a week.

Officials: Voter minority will decide amendments

AUSTIN (AP) — If past trends hold true on election day Tuesday, a small minority of Texans could decide the fate of the 21 constitutional amendments placed before voters. The amendments range from such weighty matters as providing water improvements for the state's standard "colonia" developments to local issues such as abolishing the offices of several county surveyors. Also at issue is whether the salaries of members of the Legislature should be more than tripled, to \$23,000-plus, along with a near tripling of their daily expense allowances. "Unfortunately, history tells us that despite the importance of the constitutional amendment elections, they generally yield low statewide voter turnout totals," said Secretary of State George Bayoud. Since its adoption in 1876, nearly 500 amendments have been proposed to the Texas Constitution, and 307 have been adopted. "The issues are too important to let a small number of people decide their outcome," Bayoud said.

During the 1980s, the turnout of voters for amendment elections has ranged from 11.6 percent to 12.8 percent. The only exception was 1987, when the lengthy list of proposed amendments included a referendum on legalizing pari-mutuel gambling on horse and dog races. That year, turnout was 30.6 percent of the 7.34 million registered voters, said Mark Toohey, a spokesman for the secretary of state. Bayoud noted that the small amendment turnouts are a sharp contrast to other recent elections. "Sixty-six percent of registered Texas voters cast ballots in last November's presidential election," he said. "In years when Texas elects a governor, the turnout rate usually hovers around 50 percent." While the ballot is long and several of the propositions have been criticized as confusing, Bayoud said, "Any attempt to alter language in the Constitution is significant and should be thoughtfully considered by all Texans." One big factor that could boost

turnout is the state's "no-excuses" absentee voting law, which allowed voters to cast ballots during a 17-day advance period, ending four days before Election Day. Another factor on turnout is the election in Houston, the state's largest city. There, voters will be choosing a mayor, city council members and a successor to Congressman Mickey Leland, who was killed in a plane crash in Ethiopia, so the city's turnout could be high. This year, the most pre-election attention has focused on Proposition 1 and Proposition 11. **Book shines new light on LBJ** Author raises questions about his military career

In Advance

MSC Great Issues to host animal testing lecture

MSC Great Issues will present "How Necessary is Animal Testing?" Thursday at 2 p.m. in 201 MSC. Dr. Neal Barnard, the chairman of the Physicians Committee for Responsible Medicine, will speak for animal rights. The research side will be presented by

Dr. John Howe, president of the University of Texas Health Sciences Center in San Antonio and president of the Texas Society for Biomedical Research. The program is not a debate, but rather a two-part lecture. Each speaker will be allotted 30 minutes, followed by a 30-minute question-and-answer session.

Civil engineers to hold reunion this weekend

Texas A&M University's Department of Civil Engineering will hold a reunion Friday and Saturday for faculty, staff, students and former students. Patti Wunneburger, events committee member, said that events for the reunion include a golf tournament, dinner, a country fair cookout, tours of the engineering facilities and professional development programs. The development programs, "Effective Communication Skills" and "Understanding and Motivating Self and Others," will last

90 minutes each and will be taught by professors from the College of Business. Wunneburger said that a special section has been reserved for the civil engineering department for Saturday's A&M - SMU football game. She said the tickets, \$15 each, may be purchased through the Athletic Ticket Office. Reservations and fees are required for many of the events. For information and reservations contact Johna Smith at 845-2458 or Donn Hancher at 845-2401.

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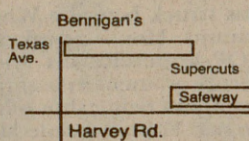
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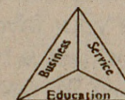
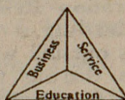
WANT TO BE A RESIDENT ADVISOR (RA) FOR FALL '90?

To be considered, you must register for a one hour credit, 11 week class for the Spring '90 semester. This class is:

EPSY 489 - Human and Community Development

Sections:

- 507 - M-W 11:00 - 11:50 a.m.
- 508 - M-W 2:00 - 2:50 p.m.
- 509 - M-W 3:00 - 3:50 p.m.
- 510 - M-W 4:00 - 4:50 p.m.
- 511 - T-TH 12:30 - 1:20 p.m.
- 512 - T-TH 2:00 - 2:50 p.m.
- 513 - T-TH 3:30 - 4:20 p.m.



These classes are not listed in the Spring Class Schedule Book.

Take the challenge and apply for a Resident Advisor position. For more information, please contact Tom Murray, Department of Student Affairs, 845-1229.

Environmental Symposia

November 7, 1989

- Day topics: 9:00-10:00 a.m. Environmental Economics: Finding a Balance
10:30-11:30 a.m. The Greenhouse Effect
12:00-1:00 p.m. Waste Disposal: Where do We go from Here?
1:30-2:30 p.m. Water Quality: Evaluation and Control
3:00-4:00 p.m. Uses and Abuses of Our National Forests

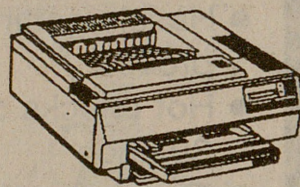
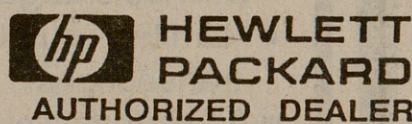
Evening topic: 7:00 Theatre
The World Environment with Peter Burtchell of The Cousteau Society



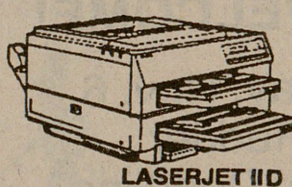
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Professional Computing

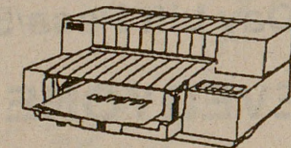
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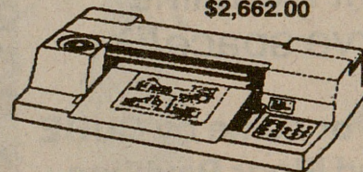
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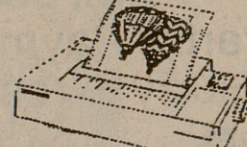
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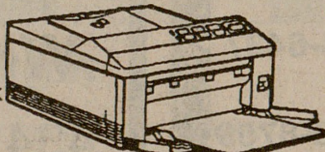
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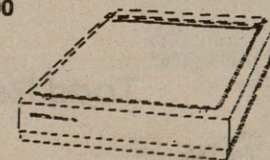
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DALLAS (AP) — A Pulitzer Prize-winning author has written a book that says former President Lyndon B. Johnson stretched a 13-minute ride on a World War II bomber into a personal legacy of bravery and honor.

The book, written by Robert A. Caro, is set for publication next year and will be the second volume of his biography of Johnson. This volume covers Johnson's "hopelessness and despair" from 1941 to 1948.

Caro writes that, in the years after the war, Johnson "portrayed himself as a war-scarred veteran of many battles on many fronts."

Actually, Caro says, Johnson saw combat in the South Pacific, only as an observer, "for a total of 13 minutes," in a ride on a bomber.

An excerpt of the book "Means of Ascent" published Monday in the New Yorker magazine claims that the Silver Star Johnson bragged of winning in World War II was merely a political gesture made by Gen. Douglas MacArthur.

"Not only did Johnson accept the Silver Star," the New Yorker serialization says, "he arranged to accept it in public. Several times. Buying the decoration (in an Army-Navy store in Washington), he took it to Texas, where, in a number of public appearances, it was affixed to his lapel as if for the first time."