

Garage squeaks by

In large election-day turnout, voters authorize city council to build Northgate parking facility

BY COLLEEN KAVANAGH
Staff writer

College Station voters gave the city council the authority to proceed with plans for a Northgate parking garage Saturday in the second-largest voter turnout since 1971.

Voters defeated an ordinance limiting the city council from extending, using, lending or granting funds for the development or construction of a public parking garage at Northgate. The ordinance was rejected 1,947 votes to 1,894.

The proposed four-story, 752-space garage would be located on 1.65 acres between College Main and Second Street that the city of College

Station would acquire. The estimated cost of the garage is \$6,807,639. The city council will decide how to fund the project before the garage can be built.

Mayor Lynn McIlhane said the newly-elected city council members will be brought up to speed as to what the council has done so far.

"We want new council members and returning members on the same page," she said. "We had started negotiations for the land, but when the petition hit, we put everything on the back burner until the vote."

McIlhane said she appreciates both sides' work to make sure the community understood the ordinance.

"We know parking has been a problem for 20 years," she said. "Now, we have the authority to work with a variety of plans for a solution."

In other election results: • McIlhane won re-election to a second term, receiving 67 percent of the total votes cast.

• Ron Silvia won Place 2 on the College Station City Council with 42 percent of the votes, defeating three candidates.

• Anne Hazen defeated incumbent Dick Birdwell for the Place 6 seat on the College Station City Council.

• Councilman Larry Mariott won the Place 4 seat on the College Station City Council, receiving 60 percent of the vote.

Election '98 Results

•Lynn McIlhane wins re-election as College Station mayor.

•Ron Silvia wins Place 2 on city council.

•Anne Hazen wins Place 6 on City Council.

•Larry Mariott wins re-election to Place 4 on City Council.

•Ordinance restricting Northgate garage loses by small margin.

Debit card creates chaos for students

DENTON (AP) — Parents of high school students across Texas have received letters making available for \$25 a debit card that purportedly is required to receive discounts on books and meals at colleges across the United States.

Officials of several universities in Texas say it sounds like a rip-off to them.

And several national card companies are issuing disclaimers to make it clear they're not associated with "The Campus Card," promoted by a for-profit New Jersey company, the National College Registration Board (NCRB).

Literature from the NCRB to 1.5 million high school seniors nationally said the \$25 cards are "essential for college life."

According to an April 8 letter, signed by Wade M. Stewart, national director of the NCRB, universities not only will accept that card, but require it.

The letter advised students to send the company a "one-time \$25 card fee" by May 15 so an account can be established

for students' fall expenses.

The promotional materials claim that students can use the card for substantial discounts on textbooks, food, laundry, dry cleaning and other services. It also claims the card can be used "to pay for all your living needs while on campus."

"I think that there might be the possibility that there has been some misleading information provided by NCRB," said Andy Bland, manager of electronic data processing services for the Texas A&M fiscal department.

He said Texas A&M has its own student ID card, which includes a debit card option. The official A&M ID card and the Campus Card "are two different animals," he said.

"Using the Campus Card at A&M would be similar to using a gasoline card at a department store," Bland told the *Denton Record-Chronicle*. The Campus Card won't be accepted on the A&M campus, he added.

It's a Cinch



Jason Tyner, a junior centerfielder for the Aggie Baseball Team, autographs a photo for Kristen Fleeger, a first grader at Brazos Christian School. Kristen and her father waited outside Olsen Field to greet the team as they returned home from Sunday's game against Baylor in Waco. With the series victory over the Bears, the Aggies have clinched the Big 12 Championship and will receive the first seed spot in the Big 12 Tournament May 14-17 in Oklahoma City. Although the team lost Sunday's game, the 8-1 win Friday at Olsen Field and the 8-4 win in Waco guaranteed the championship to the Aggies who are 21-9 in conference play.

Please see full coverage of this weekend's baseball action on page 5.

Building Bridges

Annual conference educates students about alcohol and substance abuse

BY KELLY HACKWORTH
Staff writer

Building Bridges '98 marks the fourth annual conference sponsored by the Regional Addictions Institute of the Brazos Valley Council on Alcohol & Substance Abuse (BVCASA).

The two-day conference, beginning 8:30 a.m. May 7 at Reed Arena, is a community education event co-sponsored by the Student Life Alcohol and Drug Education program at Texas A&M University. The conference includes 19 speakers in the areas of substance abuse, multicultural education and work with at-risk youth. The reduced-attendance cost for A&M students is \$49.

Mark Scharenbroich, a nationally known speaker and author, will present the "Uncommon Educator."

Rebecca Wood, conference coordinator and BVCASA education intervention specialist, said the conference is the only major conference of its kind in the area and gives participants 13 hours of continuing education credit.

"It is good for those in this profession to network and share ideas," she said.

Cindy Mathieu, a first-time presenter and a doctoral student in counseling psychology at A&M, will pre-

sent "Factors Related to Adolescent Substance Abuse" at the conference.

"I will be trying to get across red flags, things associated with adolescent substance abuse," she said. "Adolescents have a rocky time trying to find their racial, sexual and ethnic identities, and this can lead to drug and alcohol abuse."

Christa Noland, BVCASA education intervention specialist, said the conference will be especially beneficial to students who are interested in counseling and teaching.

Dr. Dennis Reardon, coordinator of the A&M alcohol and drug education programs, said the conference is also beneficial to students who have an interest in alcohol or drug abuse issues. Students in the alcohol and drug education field can also gain from attending the conference.

"It's a great opportunity for students in the alcohol and drug education field to further educate themselves and network with people currently in the field about the challenges those working in alcohol and drug abuse are faced with," he said.

Students interested in attending the conference are encouraged to contact Rebecca Wood at 776-7070.

"I will be trying to get across red flags, things associated with adolescent substance abuse."
Cindy Mathieu
Doctoral student

NEWS

BRIEFS

Student files suit, quickly reinstated

A Texas A&M University graduate student filed a lawsuit against Texas A&M and got her job back the same day.

In the lawsuit, Michele Stephenson accuses Robert Maggio, her boss and the previous director of the Mapping Sciences Laboratory of the Texas Agricultural Experiment Station, of firing her for cooperating with audit investigations against Maggio.

Stephenson was fired in mid-April. Her attorney, Phil Banks, said Texas A&M University officials offered her the job back an hour later.

A University audit released on April 7 accuses Maggio of misappropriating at least \$4,000 in state funds and over \$100,000 in equipment and personnel funds related to his personal businesses.

Class schedule changes this week

With the approaching week of finals, Texas A&M University has redefined this week's class schedule.

Classes that normally meet on Friday will meet this Tuesday to accommodate for the Good Friday reading day. This Wednesday and Thursday will be reading days.

RHA installs 1998-99 officers at meeting

BY AMANDA SMITH
Staff writer

The Residence Hall Association (RHA) officers for the 1998-99 academic year took their posts officially at the meeting last Wednesday night with their eyes cast towards improving life for next year's on-campus residents.

The RHA officers for 1998-99 were all elected unopposed in the spring student body elections by on-campus residents.

Michael Haughey, former RHA vice president for programs and a junior mechanical engineering major, will serve as the organization's president next year.

"RHA is there for the halls," Haughey said. "I'd like to work with the halls more one on one, and then get the halls to work with each other. The residence halls offer a community to the residents."

Caton Brown, a junior civil engineering major, said he is looking forward to serving the residents as vice president for programs.

"RHA has the potential to be one of the strongest organizations on campus," Brown said. "This organization has a lot of potential that hasn't been tapped yet."

As vice president for administration, Brown oversees Freshman

Leaders in Progress (FLIP), RHA Casino Night '99 and service and social programming on the board of directors.

Mike Trachta, former director of technology on the RHA executive board and a sophomore computer engineering major, will serve as the vice president for administration.

"I want to increase the visibility of RHA," Trachta said. "A lot of people are impacted by RHA."

All students living on campus automatically qualify for membership in RHA.

Two of the officer positions will be held by students who are currently freshmen.

Amanda Albritton, a freshman agricultural development major, said she looks forward to continuing her work with RHA as vice president for operations.

"I want to work on getting inputs from the students, and I would like to publicize more and let them know what we can do for them," Albritton said. "We would like to see more programming within the halls next year."

Albritton said that increasing co-programming between the halls and facilitating hall leadership training are among her top priorities for efforts in the fall.

The vice president for operations

RHA TAMU

President:
Michael Haughey

Vice presidents:
Caton Brown
Mike Trachta
Amanda Albritton
Julie Cast

oversees financial development, facilities and operations and training and technology.

As vice president for relations and a freshman marketing major, Julie Cast said she wants to use her position to help improve RHA.

The vice president for relations oversees operations by the External Affairs and Public Relations and Publications Committees.

Cast said that one of the events that she is looking forward to the TRHA '99 conference that Texas A&M will host in the spring of next year.

"The conference is going to be a great way for us to show off and to expose Texas A&M (to other universities)," Cast said. "It's going to be an opportunity for universities to share leadership skills and ideas with one another."

INSIDE

aggie life



In *He Got Game*, Denzel Washington leads the cast as the father of a young basketball player.

See Page 3

sports

Aggies capture Big 12 title with series victory over Baylor Bears.

See Page 5

opinion

Mireles: America says 'good-bye' to 'Seinfeld' and the ability to laugh at nothing.

See Page 9

online

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