



The Western Texan

OFFICIAL STUDENT PUBLICATION OF WESTERN TEXAS COLLEGE

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Snyder, Texas 79549

Thursday, October 31, 1974

APPEARS ON CAMPUS

Mary Kirchoff Outlines Needs For Legislature

Mary Kirchoff, Republican candidate for the 30th District of the Texas Senate, stopped briefly at WTC Oct. 21 to speak to interested persons and visit with students and faculty.

Speaking initially in the Student Center, she outlined various needs she will be concerned with if elected to the legislature and her stand on different issues.

The Plainview resident expressed a need for an industrial bond in Texas. This would allow industry to come into the state, and set up production on credit backed by the state.

"Those states that have it are eating our sack lunch," she stated.

While participating in a later "question and answer" session in Ray Robbins' law enforcement class, Mrs. Kirchoff explained further why she feels

this way. "Clovis, N.M. has attracted four different industries that were unable to set up in Plainview due to the absence of an industrial bond in Texas."

The Republican candidate feels something should be done about second and third crime offenders. She explained, "We can put our heads together down there and come up with a solution."

Kirchoff stated that there is an urgent need for doing something about the water problem in West Texas.

She is in agreement with the "right to work" issue, with the exception of the agency shop platform. It calls for forced unionization.

With the surplus money in the Texas treasury, the 30th District candidate stated that a refund should be given to the taxpayers.

Finally, she is in favor of keeping "Texas' natural resources in Texas."

At the other session, Kirchoff provided background on herself. "I was born in a house with a dirt floor in the Ozarks of Missouri. There were five girls in the family, and when time came to go to the fair, only the oldest got to go."

Mrs. Kirchoff is presently a schoolteacher in Plainview. She said the largest amount of her income comes from farms that she and her husband own.

She served on the committee responsible for bringing the Central Plains Hospital to Plainview. She is now serving on the State Executive Board.

Mary Kirchoff will face Ray Farrabee, Democratic nominee, Nov. 5 for the Senate seat. Farrabee is employed as an attorney in Wichita Falls.



CHATS WITH INSTRUCTORS — Mary Kirchoff, Republican candidate for the 30th District of the Texas Senate, visits with Franklin Pruitt (right) and Toni Turk during her recent stop.

Crew Receives Recognition

by Katy LeMond

Charles Holland, WTC Drama Director, has asked that all members of the backstage crew for the fall production of "Last of the Red Hot Lovers" receive a formal "thank-you" for their aid in the success of the production.

Countless hours of assistance and presence were required of the five-person crew who performed odd jobs and maintained key responsibilities during rehearsal and production nights.

Jakie Fontenot, stage manager, played the crew's star role. Co-stars were Robert Howell, backstage guidance and assistant aid to cast members (more popularly known as commode-flushing engineer), Carol Posey, prop collector and distributor, Katy Lemond, lighting, and Doug Harmon, sound and slide show technician.

Fontenot held all stage and technical responsibilities. To mention a few (and only very few) of his numerous tasks, Fontenot cleaned the stage before and after productions, cued actors, relayed messages, passed out Roloids, and provided spontaneous morale for actors.

Howell, in spite of his responsibility to the cassette-recorded sound effects of Barney's commode-flushing, also dedicated his time backstage to safely exiting the actors from the stage area during the dark scene changes. Howell also assisted with props, curtain calls, and backstage lighting.

Posey memorized countless lists of props needed for each act, including everything from shot glasses and liquor bottles to apples and after-dinner mints.

LeMond managed house and

stage lighting. Two switchboards, one containing 100 on-off circuits and a possible variation of 2200 dimmers, had to be triple-checked before each rehearsal and performance.

Every square inch of stage area had to be sufficiently lighted. If a failure in the lighting developed, circuits and dimmers had to be traced (along with an Excedrin bottle).

Harmon, alias 'Evil Knievel' on the WTC campus, organized slides and sound production. Music and slides were repeatedly synchronized for proper distribution and viewing. At times, Harmon manned two tape recorders and a slide projector simultaneously, while he and LeMond, equipped with headphones, corresponded with Fontenot, backstage, for directions and advice.

Four Senators Attend ACUI Convention At College Station

Paula Bell, Jakie Fontenot, Teresa Scott, Pee Wee Sellars, members of the Student Senate,

and Mrs. Mickey Baird, sponsor, attended the Association of College Union International (ACUI) at Texas A & M University Oct. 24-26.

The group attended sessions such as trends into unions, concerns of unions, and union programming.

"The main concept of the workshop is that the college union isn't just an extracurricular activity. Rather the union is co-curricular," said Mrs. Baird.

She was re-elected to the regional board as regional coordinator of two year colleges in Region XII. This region is a three-state area which includes Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana.

The 1975 fall convention site for ACUI is set at Tulane University in New Orleans.

Pictures To Arrive In Mid-November

Arthur Burks, of Arthur Burks Photography for Schools, has asked that students who ordered color package pictures be notified of a mid-November arrival.

"There are a few who were late on getting their order in, but I will notify them that their order will be delayed," Burks said.

Ray Robbins Instructs From 'Top Experience'

by Paul Williams

"I guess I've got the most." This was the answer Ray Robbins, WTC Law Enforcement instructor, gave when asked about the number of students majoring in his field.

Mr. Robbins is credited with an impressive background in the criminal law profession.

Besides working for a number of police forces in the past, he gave up his job as Chief of Police in Andrews to accept a position on the original teaching staff here at WTC in 1971.

Starting with an Associate Degree in Police Science from Odessa College and numerous certificates in everything from Police Administration to Narcotics and Vice from the Midland Police Academy, Robbins attended various Department of Public Safety and Texas Education Agency workshops.

He received the Advanced and Instructor's Certificates from the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education, as well as attended the 75th Session of the FBI National Academy in Washington, D.C.

Working with hundreds of top state and national law enforcement officials, he says he was twice privileged to meet the late J. Edgar Hoover.

A couple of weeks ago, he attended a Refresher Session of past graduates from the National Academy. His enrollment has also been recently accepted at the Oklahoma University College of Liberal Studies.

Although he is uncertain of his ultimate career objectives, Robbins says that he and his wife, as well as his two children, are very pleased with his position here.



OUTLINES POINT — Ray Robbins, law enforcement instructor, explains a question to Curtis McGlothlin (right) during one of his classes.

Course Offered

Graphoanalysis, a scientific approach to personality assessment through the study of handwriting is offered as a Community Service course. The class started Oct. 23.

In this course, the student will learn to detect approximately 100 personality traits from handwriting. Graphoanalysis is said to be as accurate as any other means of rating personality.

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editorially...

Fun, Speech Don't Mix

Politics is an important subject in Scurry County and across the state.

Several candidates approached WTC to appear in classes and/or in the Student Center. For example, Mary Kirchoff, Republican candidate for the 30th District of the Texas Senate; Mike Ezzell, Democratic nominee for the 63rd District of the Texas House of Representatives; and Rich Anderson, Republican candidate for State Representative in the 63rd District, appeared.

October 21, Mrs. Kirchoff lectured in the SC for approximately 20 minutes. Although she arrived unexpectedly, she was invited because she was in Snyder at the time, replacing Jim Granberry who was scheduled to visit but could not fly in because of the weather. It gave WTC an opportunity to hear her voice her ideas.

As she talked to a number of students and faculty about her campaign and proposals, loud noises came from the gameroom, disturbing the group trying to listen to the candidate and, no doubt, disturbing her as well.

We are all adults and should be old enough to be polite when our college has a special guest. He or she deserves our attention. She came out of her way to see us.

When the Student Activities Director has to quiet a group down, something ought to be done — perhaps have the gameroom shut down during public appearances.

It is a shame those students could not devote 20 minutes to our political guest. And to think of all the people who gripe about our government!

— Pam Block, Spring Editor



fact & opinion

By Paul Williams

On the whole, the United States has recently regained status control as we are definitely headed onward in solving our past problems.

"I want very much to have the facts and circumstances known." These were key words spoken by President Ford, as he voluntarily addressed a congressional panel considering the pardon of former President Richard Nixon.

He efficiently explained that the reason for the pardon was not particularly for Mr. Nixon's benefit, rather, to get the United States concerned with serious problems both home and abroad.

Ford did a good job during the discussion, again proving himself as a man with nothing to hide.

Concerning the automobile industry and the new 1975 "unleaded" cars: Market reports tell that new car sales are already down almost 10 per cent from last month. It seems that the cheaper 1974 models are more in demand.

If finding gas last winter was a problem, next year is really going to be tough! The new autos are equipped with a smaller gas tank opening keeping normal gas station nozzles from filling the tank, except with the unleaded fuel.

And to the surprise of most...in Virginia, the long, forsaken devil-heathen-weed marijuana has showed evidence of beneficial effects.

Studies show ingredients in pot will possibly distort the growth of cancer. And marijuana in "pill form" could be administered to advanced cancer victims three or four times a day, which would help cheer them up, giving them a better will to live, and stimulate their appetite to regain lost weight.

Another favorable point is in President Ford's new program concerning public-service jobs. His idea closely resembles the "New Deal" and the "Works Progress Administration" of the 1930's.

The idea is to get state and local governments to hire the jobless at federal expense. The Labor Department has already set aside \$970 million for Ford's emergency employment. The program could hold a worthwhile future.

Of course, we still have our drawbacks. Especially with the Boston school violence. Beginning when more than 18,000 students underwent busing orders from authorities by rule of a federal court. Over 100 persons have been injured with at least 160 arrests.

At one time, nearly 500 state riot-trained police officers were stationed in Boston while 450 Massachusetts National Guardsmen were on 24-hour standby and the 82nd Airborne Division of Fort Bragg, N.C. on temporary alert.

How will this end? Boston has been the landing point of a number of historical liberty decisions. Possibly this will be our last busing dispute. Let's hope so.

Another top question concerns our Vice-president's nominee, Nelson Rockefeller. Controversy has arisen over a man who has given \$33 million to philanthropic and charitable groups in gifts and forgiven loans.

Who really knows?

This week, the priority debate is in elections. Although far less than half our unenthused America is expected to vote, much is questioned. In the past, the same people who complain-

The Student Center needs magazines for leisure reading. Mrs. Mickey Baird, Director of Student Activities, said.

People who would like to donate magazines may leave them in her office in the SC or at the Museum information desk.

Mid-semester grades were filed in the registrar's office yesterday afternoon. Grade sheet estimates will be distributed soon.

The Senate Entertainment Committee sponsored a Student-Faculty T-Shirt Day Tuesday.

The Program Council will sponsor a Halloween Dance tonight from 8:30 — 12 midnight in the Student Center. Admission is 25 cents, or wear a costume. C & P Productions will entertain.

Members of the Texas Student Education Association presented a workshop on bilingual education at the District I TSEA convention in Lubbock Saturday morning.

The WTC group also staged a skit as part of the entertainment during a Friday night session, Dr. Mary Hood, faculty sponsor, said.

Scurry County Commissioners Court has under study a proposal to request an FM Road from FM 1605 (37th Street) to FM 2763 at the east edge of the campus.

This would be an extension of Avenue E southward to FM 2763, the new road running east and west at the south boundary

of the campus.

City Manager George Patterson presented the proposal. Patterson said the Texas Highway Department suggested the Avenue E extension might have a better chance of develop-

ment under the FM program.

The proposed road would provide an additional route to WTC from the east section of the city. County Judge Preston Wilson said the commissioners court would study the proposal and take action on it.



CREAM-OF-THE-CROP — Winners in last Tuesday's T-shirt contest were (L to R) Perry Turnbow-Sloppiest, Gay Hickman-Controversial, Steve Wittie-Most Original, and Jay Mullins-Most Artistic.



The Western Texan

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Letter To The Editor

I think it's a shame that our secretaries and maintenance department don't get any recognition for the role they play. Neither department does anything spectacular like streaking across campus or

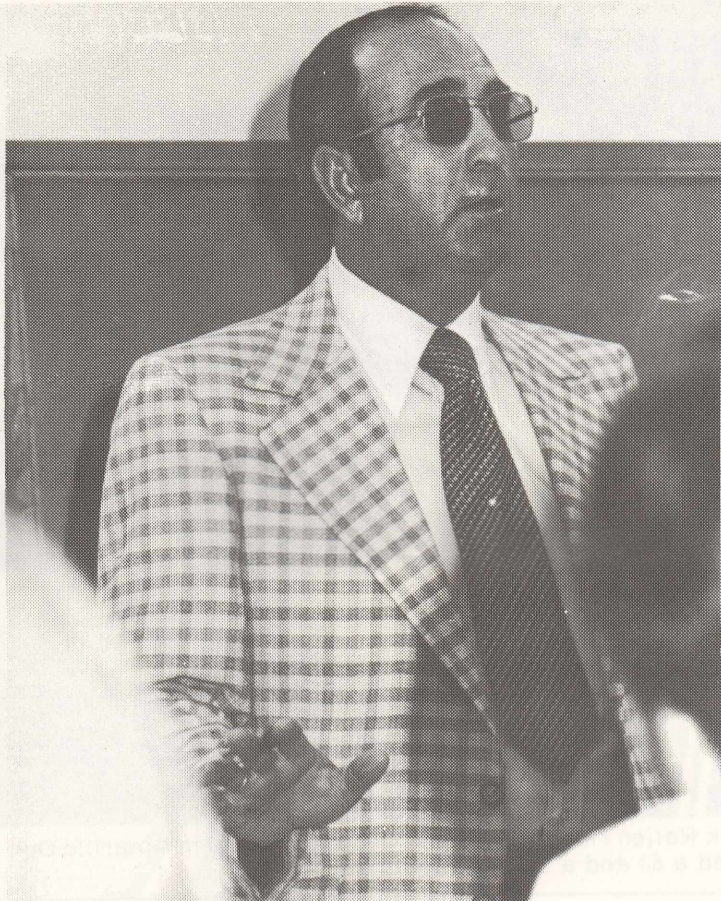
jumping off buildings. Each department does their thing in helping to keep the college running smoothly.

Why not recognize some of them every so often? I am sure

it would make each of them feel a little bit better to know that the student body knows we exist.

Thank you,
Forgotten

GOP Candidate Speaks To Government Class



TALKS TO STUDENTS — Rich Anderson, Republican nominee for the 63rd Representative District, explains a little about himself to students.

Republican candidate for the 63rd District of the Texas House of Representatives, John R. Anderson, met with Government 231-1 Monday, presenting a self-biography and answering class questions.

Anderson was born in Midland. He graduated from high school at Lovington, N.M. After graduation, he entered Oklahoma University and received a BA degree in history and sociology. Anderson considered entering law school, but decided to return to his ranch.

"We need to send a good representative to Austin to represent this rural area," he stated. "Since the Warren Court ruling, the larger cities have several representatives. If we do not have good representation, these people will put our tax money to use in their cities."

The 63rd District candidate is against amnesty for draft evaders. "If a crisis was to come up in America, you would

see a lot of people leaving, thinking they could come back when it was over."

Anderson expressed what should be done with the surplus money in Texas. "With this money build-up, we should be able to make a selective tax-cut. Also, the money can be put into our school systems. Borden and Scurry counties are not in need of this, but there are other counties in the district which are," said Anderson.

He is against the equal rights amendment. With this amendment, women would lose their rights in the courts. At present the courts are in favor of the woman. Also, women could be drafted and would have to sleep in barracks with men. They would really be losing their rights."

Rich Anderson has served as president of the Borden County School Board for the past six and one-half years. He is past

president of the Board of Trustees of Medical Center Memorial Hospital and serves on the board of the Dora Roberts Rehabilitation Center and the Security State Bank in Big Spring.

He is also a committee member in the Texas and South West Cattle Growers Association.

Anderson has resided in Borden County for the past 22 years, where he is a rancher. He is married and has four children, two in college and two who attend Borden County High School.

The 63rd District consists of Borden, Coke, Dawson, Howard, Scurry, and Sterling counties.

In 1972, Anderson was defeated for the post by the incumbent, Renal B. Rosson, by some 1100 votes.

Nov. 5 he will be facing Mike Ezzell of Snyder for the seat.

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- ACROSS**
- 1 Lower back
 - 11 Highest point
 - 15 Fear of Heights
 - 16 Discomfort
 - 17 Circus performer (pl.)
 - 18 Mass. — of Tech.
 - 19 Part of wedding ceremony (pl.)
 - 20 German city
 - 22 — Scully
 - 23 Never: Ger.
 - 24 Type of soup
 - 26 Sweetsop
 - 28 Man's name
 - 30 John or Jane
 - 31 Medicinal substances
 - 33 One named after another
 - 35 Rests
 - 37 Italian coin
 - 38 Hugh Hefner bunny
 - 42 Hard worker
 - 46 Poetic term
 - 47 Advertisements (slang)
 - 49 Alaskan city
- DOWN**
- 1 Aids to digestion
 - 2 Sourness
 - 3 Crosby, e.g.
 - 4 Swoboda and Hunt
 - 5 Make a choice
 - 6 If — a hammer
 - 7 Arthur Miller family
 - 8 Spanish or Portuguese
 - 9 U. S. Military decoration
 - 10 Peggy —
 - 11 Relating to bees
 - 12 G. B. Shaw play
 - 13 Recognized incorrectly
 - 14 Common suffix
 - 21 Bullfighter
 - 25 Born
 - 27 Eastern group of colleges (abbr.)
 - 28 "Such — for the course"
 - 29 Leaves out
 - 32 Argentine plains
 - 34 Spahn's teammate
 - 36 Part of an intersection
 - 38 Go to —
 - 39 Going away
 - 40 Region of Asia Minor
 - 41 Try to equal or surpass
 - 43 Sound
 - 44 Come forth
 - 45 Secondhand dealer
 - 48 12½ cents
 - 51 Urges
 - 55 Malay law
 - 56 Brazilian heron
 - 57 Palm drink
 - 58 Body of water
 - 60 Ignited

"Answer To Puzzle In Next Issue"

'Belly Dancing' Course Planned

Students wishing to learn belly dancing, a continuing service course, are invited to attend a demonstration Nov. 7 at 7:30 p.m. in the Fine Arts Theatre. Also, those who would like to enroll in the class may do so at the demonstration. Class will begin Tuesday, Nov. 12 and last for six weeks. Each lesson will last an hour. Cost of the course is \$24. Scheherazade of Lubbock will teach the group. "It is a new form of exercise and is very popular in the United States," said Rex Hopkins, program coordinator. If demand is sufficient, a course will be offered Wednesday

day morning, Nov. 13. For further information, contact Continuing Services office at 573-8511, ext. 237. Time of the course will be known later.

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TAKES STAND — Mike Ezzell, Democratic nominee to the 63rd District of the Texas House of Representatives, responds to a student's question.

Ezzell Visits WTC

Mike Ezzell, Democratic nominee for the 63rd District of the Texas House of Representatives, visited two government classes at WTC last week, explaining a little about himself and answering questions students had concerning the election.

The Snyder Public Schools counselor related three reasons for seeking the post. Ezzell is concerned with education.

"I would favor an increase in taxes to bring quality education to Texas," he stated. Texas is presently ranked about 37th on the scale of quality education of the 50 states.

Ezzell added that another reason was the qualities he possesses. He is 30 and interested in "improving things in Austin."

He can relate to different

aspects of our region. "Having been involved in these fields, I understand the variety of oriented people in this area, labor, agriculture and business," Ezzell explained.

The 63rd District candidate moved to Snyder in 1967. He was a classroom teacher for two years, and has since been an elementary counselor.

He is married and has two children, both in pre-school.

When asked the difference between him and his opponent, Rich Anderson, he replied, "I would be able to turn loose more."

The 63rd District Representative will be decided Nov. 5 in the general election.

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Teams Fifth, Sixth In West Texas Rodeo

WTC's Rodeo Team dominated bull riding in Amarillo at the West Texas State University NIRA Rodeo held Nov. 15-16.

Daryl Drain finished second in the average, Mark Ratjen was third and Cary West fourth. Drain received 62 points on his first bull and 69 on his second. Ratjen marked 63 on his first bull and 65 on his second, while West received scores of 68 and 58.

Jackie Pruitt made 65 on his first bull, but failed to score on his second. Other WTC bull riders were Jesse Rollins with 55, Tony Thomas with 54, and Bill Baber with 56.

In bareback bronc riding, Pruitt was fourth in the first go

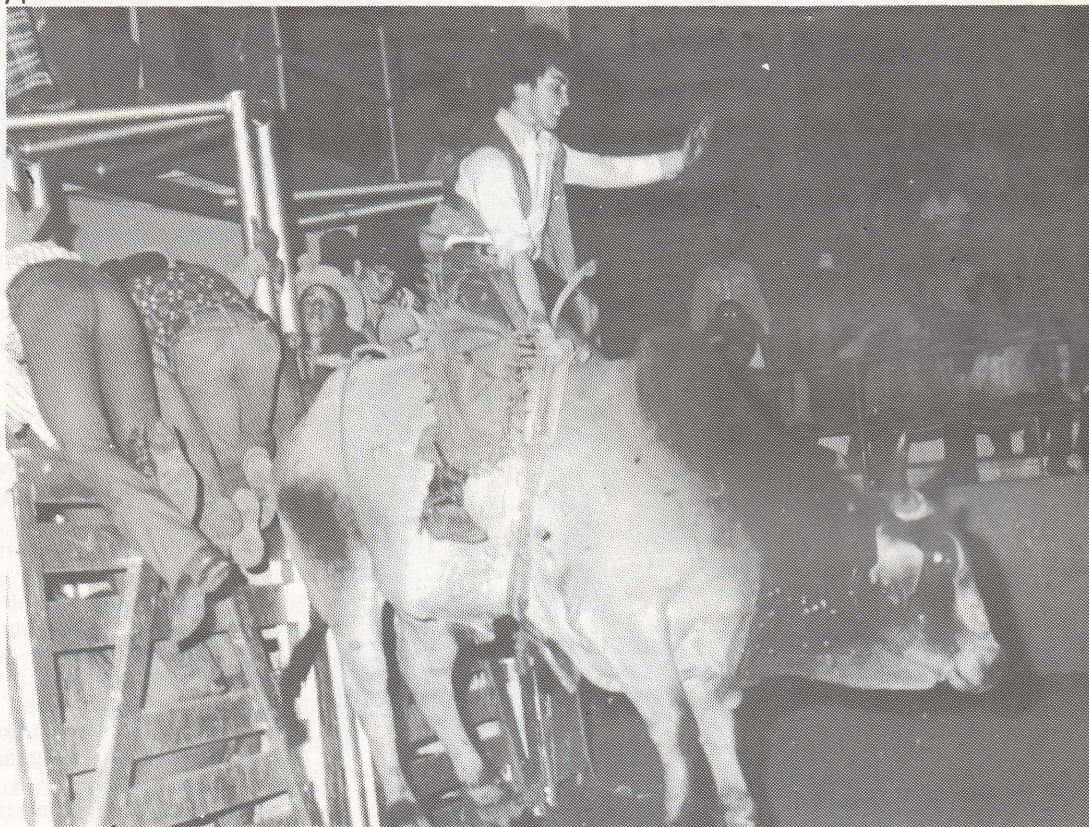
with 58. He received no score on his second ride. John Crain scored 40 points on his first ride and 42 on the second. In steer wrestling, Crain had 16.2 seconds.

In calf roping, Joel Ham turned in 12.4 and Scott Hudson 12.6.

Debbie Bloxom, who went into the WTSU rodeo leading the Southwest Region in breakaway roping, had bad luck and took 40 seconds. Candy Cotton was fourth in the long go with 4.1.

Debbie Winters was fifth in the first go with 14 seconds. Cheri Clark had 14.27 in the first go and 13.81 for fourth place in the short go.

The men's team finished fifth and the women's team finished sixth overall.



HANG IN THERE! — Mark Ratjen rides high at the NIRA rodeo held in Amarillo Oct. 15-16. The WTC student scored a 63 and a 65 in competition.

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Club Sponsors Party Tonight, Ping-Pong Match Begins Nov. 4

Kappa Chi will host a Halloween party Thursday, Oct. 31, at 8 p.m. in the Christian Student Center.

Information concerning the whereabouts of their haunted house will be given after the party begins.

Refreshments will be served at the CSC upon returning from the haunted house.

Tickets are selling for 25 cents and may be obtained from Jeff Box, Sue Guisto, or other club members. Tickets will also be available at the door party night.

Registration for a ping-pong tournament, sponsored by Kappa Chi, is being conducted by all persons interested in participating at the CSC building.

Tournament date is Nov. 4 in the Student Center gameroom.

Trophies will be purchased with the 25 cent entry fee required from each participant.

Students may choose between three classes of entry: beginner, intermediate, and open competition.

Shell Films Scheduled

Science professor Leslie Albin has announced a series of films to be shown in the science lecture hall during activity period and at 1 p.m. according to the following schedule:

Oct. 31, Rubber by Design
Nov. 13, This River Must Live
Nov. 20, Air Is for Breathing
Nov. 27, Drama of Metal Forming

The first program explains chemical processes in the synthesis of rubber, while the second describes how industries along rivers meet their responsibilities in sewage treatment.

Third film set illustrates industry meeting clean air standards, and the final offering depicts processes in shaping and molding metal products.

The four films are on loan from Shell Oil Company, and the public is invited to attend.

Netters Fall At Abilene Meet; Competing In Amarillo Today

WTC's tennis team is traveling to Amarillo today to compete in a two-day invitational tournament this weekend.

West Texas State, South Plains and Midwestern University are among teams expected to compete for top honors.

Westerners entered in the meet are Luis Valdez, Ed Balderas, Rolando Torrellas and Edward Henry. All players

will compete in singles events. Doubles teams will consist of Balderas-Torrellas and Valdez-Henry.

The netters traveled to Abilene last week to compete in the Halloween Tennis Tournament.

First round action saw the WTC team eliminated from the tourney. "The competition was much harder than I expected!" commented tennis coach Wendell Jones. "I feel that we'll do much better this week. We were just too uptight but we're more relaxed now," he said.

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COME ON! — Luis Valdez practices his volley for today's Amarillo meet.

BOX SCORE

WFL Struggles to Live, Challenges Old Dynasty

This is the fourth issue of the Western Texan and the third BOX SCORE, and I'm completely out of ideas! Wonder what the rest of the year is going to be like?

Anyone know where an ex-sports editor can get a job?!

Rambling onward toward that game in town, the World Football League, it's a shame to see

that organization in such a mess. At least two teams are bankrupt and others have changed their home towns.

It appears the WFL is experiencing birth and death simultaneously. The question has been raised concerning those multi-million dollar contracts made with NFL super stars.

I would like to see the league make it through these growing pains and give the NFL dynasty some real competition.

Wonder if Bob Lilly and the Doomsday Defense has anything against Craig Morton?

The new Giant quarterback had his debut dampened by a sturdy defense last week, yet he

managed to put on a fair show for the amount of time he has been able to work out with his new team.

New England put it to the Vikings in an upset victory while St. Louis kept its winning streak going by defeating Washington.

Next week they travel to Dallas. What will happen then? Should be very interesting!

Looking at the local gang, the Snyder Tigers are making a name for themselves. The team has a season of hard games but appears to consistently come out on top.

They take on the undefeated Dunbar Panthers tomorrow night in Tiger Stadium. The cats should have little trouble with the visitors.

WTC basketball season starts in two weeks, Nov. 14, for both men and women's teams.

Action will begin at 6 p.m. with the gals going against West Texas State in the Scurry County Coliseum. Immediately following that contest, the guys will battle Lubbock Christian College.

We're fortunate because we have two good teams to support, so let's do just that and pack the stands in two weeks!!



TEST OF STRENGTH — William Phillips (right) attempts to return Randy Potts' serve during Intramural competition on the WTC court.

Forty-one Entered

Intramural Raquetball Underway

Raquetball intramurals got underway last week with 41 students competing for top awards. According to tournament director, Lee Burke, action will continue until Nov. 27.

Five divisions of competition are open to players in men's and

women's singles, doubles, and mixed doubles. Men's singles boasts 20 enthusiasts, while women's number seven. In doubles, eight male, four female, and four mixed teams will be matched.

"Each player or team is given a beginning position. From there, they will challenge other players and work their way to first place," Burke said.

"Players can only challenge

two positions ahead of themselves. For example, the guy in the 20th slot can play against numbers 18 or 19, the 18th guy can go against the 17th or 16th man. The challenger must set everything up, reserve the court and contact me and the other player."

"I'm really excited and surprised by this turnout. I didn't expect it to be this large," the tournament director said.

EMT Pacing 'Mural Race

Bad weather has disrupted the remainder of the intramural football season, throwing the schedule off by a week and a half.

With five games left to play, EMT is leading the pack with a 4-0 record. Rigby's Rangers and the Raiders are tied for second with 2-1 standings while the Snyder Tigers and the Cods are also deadlocked for the fourth place slot with 1-2 tallies. South Second, with a winless 0-3, is in last place.

At present EMT has scored victories over the Cods 8-0, the Raiders 20-12, the Tigers 14-0, and South Second 1-0 (a forfeit).

The Raiders have topped South Second 1-0 and the Raiders 8-6. A rematch of this game is set due to a bad call by one of the referees. EMT was the Raiders' only loss.

Rigby's Rangers defeated the Snyder Tigers 8-0 and received a forfeit from the Cods, 1-0.

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AMTRAK ARRIVING

Passenger Train Chugging Back

by Bob Burton

Between the 1880's and 1940's, America had a superb system of passenger trains. Rising costs and the emergence of the jet and automobile have cut the network to a mere shadow of the great days. Although a return to silk upholstery and 50 or more trains daily between New York and Chicago is unlikely, recent events have caused a resurgence of the passenger train.

Until recently, the government's passenger train monopoly, Amtrak, suffered from lack of patronage. That was the same illness causing the agency's creation.

Availability and cost of gasoline has driven travelers to the rails. Patronage rose 57 percent in three months. The Chicago — Seattle trains average 400 per trip, and consideration has been given to running the Chicago-Los Angeles Southwest Limited in two sections of 350 each.

Equipment was lacking for the Southwest Limited plans — actually for any alternative plan. Congress regrets not adequately funding Amtrak in order to build a strong physical plant before the crush started. Now Congress is supplying money and legislation for the company.

The states are also busy attempting to "put meat on the skeletal system." Under Section 403 (b) of the Rail Passenger Service Act of 1970 (Amtrak Law), "any state, regional, or local agency" can ask Amtrak for and receive service, provided it is possible and the "agency" pays at least two-thirds of the operating loss (Congress plans to cut that to one-third). Presently, half the nation has either agreed or actually applied.

Texas remains silent, likely because of oil lobbies. If the state does not speak up, some "regional or local agency" might because large areas of the state, conspicuously West Texas, are not served.

A Chicago-Houston train goes through Fort Worth and Temple. The two other trains, St. Louis-Laredo (via Dallas, Fort Worth, Temple, Austin, and San Antonio) and Los Angeles-New Orleans (via El Paso, San Antonio, Houston, and Beaumont), operate three times weekly.

Potential Routes

Many routes in West Texas that could support self-propelled passenger cars include Abilene-Lubbock, Wichita Falls-Abilene-San Angelo, Abilene-Odessa, Dallas-Fort Worth-Wichita Falls-Amarillo, Lubbock-Amarillo, and, if the Permian Basin Railroad is ever built, Lubbock-Odessa.

Full trains also have several routes available, including Houston/Dallas-Denver via either the Santa Fe or Burlington; and the Rock Island's route between Memphis and Albuquerque via Little Rock, Oklahoma City, Amarillo, and Tucumcari. But two routes are more likely than any others: Texas & Pacific between El Paso and New Orleans, and Santa Fe between Houston/Dallas and Albuquerque.

The T & P run would probably be a four-times-per-week extension of the Los Angeles-New Orleans Sunset Limited.

The Sunset currently operates tri-weekly, but traffic is so heavy west of El Paso that that portion of the run may become a daily operation. Business through San Antonio is light, so Amtrak may decide rather to run the train via Dallas and other population centers in North Texas and along the Red River in Louisiana.

Six trains would be required

to cover the Sunset system. Judging from the traffic potential of the northern route, that route may become a daily run. Nine trains would then be necessary.

The Santa Fe route would be a revival of the California Special. This train once ran between Houston and Clovis, New Mexico, and had a section running to Dallas from Brownwood. Scheduling allowed overnight Houston/Dallas-Lubbock service and through cars from Texas to California via Clovis connections.

New California Special

Several changes would have to be made to fit the train into Amtrak's system.

First, the run would have to be extended to Albuquerque for a connection with the west and the Southwest Limited. Second, the Dallas train would need to be shifted to the T & P because of the greater population along the way. Connection with the main train would be in either

Sweetwater or Abilene, and an extension west would provide an overnight Dallas-Odessa service.

The Houston-Albuquerque run could utilize two trains, but that would mean tight scheduling. A system employing three trains would be easier to manage but inefficient.

To cut inefficiency, the third train could be used in an Albuquerque-El Paso run.

The Sunset would arrive in Houston at 9:25 p.m. with the Special departing soon thereafter. Arrival in Lubbock would be 7:15 a.m. and Albuquerque would be reached in time to board the westbound Southwest Limited at 5:15 p.m. Passengers from Chicago could take the Special to El Paso, arriving at 11:40 p.m.

The train would head north early the next morning, make the Limited connection at 1:20 p.m., and reach Houston at 8:15 a.m. in time for the Sunset connection.

Congress Helps

Congress is considering a bill authorizing and financing train service connecting large cities 100-300 miles apart. Abilene-Lubbock or Odessa are examples of service which might result if the bill becomes law.

Last month, Congress ap-

propriated \$1 billion for upgrading Amtrak's choice or routes to the track standards of 40 years ago or to "allow for an average speed of 110 mph." This first major appropriation will aid railroads owning the routes as well as increase Amtrak's speed.

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