



Robert Cherry, left, briefs Regent H.C. Bell on the Texas A&M University System budget requests. Cherry is the System's legislative liaison. Bell unexpectedly had to present the System's requests Tuesday when the chairman of the Board of Regents had to leave on business — the original schedule called for Texas A&M's presentation before The University of Texas, but that was switched.  
Battalion photo by Liz Newlin

## No time for amateurs

Texas A&M University System has long been envied by other universities for its presentations at State Legislative hearings. But Tuesday's performance would not have made anybody jealous. Its presentation before a House subcommittee on higher education demonstrated that uncertainty about the chancellorship is damaging the University System.

Without a chancellor, there was no one who could answer questions about the whole System and direct its presentation. Instead the regents decided to fill in.

But this was no place for amateurs — especially unprepared amateurs. Regent Clyde Wells, designated as acting chancellor when Chancellor Jack Williams resigned a month ago, had to leave on business when the hearing was delayed 1 1/2 hours. The University of Texas System was allowed to present its budget first, and its chancellor directed the show.

Regent H.C. Bell, only briefly prepared, was called upon to answer questions about the system.

It was apparent that someone more familiar with the intricacies of the System was needed to direct the presentation.

Rep. Wilhelmina Delco, D-Austin, questioned the regents' method in presenting the budget — letting each institution "fend for itself" by allowing each institution's executive to speak. She said it was unclear who made budget decisions for Texas A&M — the institutions or the regents.

Twice representatives asked for Dr. Williams, forgetting he is no longer chancellor.

The Texas A&M University System did not look professional. Sadly, Bell may have summed up his performance in the unexpected role with a closing remark to the committee:

"I know I'm not doing a good job at it."

The regents could have decided to ask someone else in the system to speak. Clyde Freeman, who was acting chancellor when then-President Williams was sick, would have been far more familiar than a regent with System workings. Or President Miller could have answered more knowledgeably.

Texas A&M's regents should realize that this is a time for leadership, not for amateurs.

The House hearing illustrated that even a chairman of a board of regents, designated to act as chancellor, can't be expected to know the day-to-day operations of a system. It's even worse, as it was Tuesday, when even he can't appear.

We need someone experienced in working with the University System — someone should be named now to exercise this kind of leadership.

— K.T.

## Cambodia suffers barbaric atrocities

By ALAN DAWSON  
United Press International  
HANOI, Vietnam — Communist visitors to Cambodia since the Vietnamese invasion in early January have returned appalled at the horrors of life under the overthrown Khmer Rouge.

They also report continuing resistance by Khmer Rouge loyalists even in the Phnom Penh outskirts and predict it will take years to rebuild the country into even some semblance of a 20th century nation.

"It really is the year zero in Cambodia right now," said a Vietnamese.

Foreign visitors to Cambodia during the past six weeks have been allowed in only on the condition they not state publicly that Vietnamese troops dominate the winning forces.

someone with a rifle near the edge of the city.

Some reporters have been taken to western Cambodia where the fighting is said to be heaviest. One said a trip to the temples of Angkor Wat proved that pro-Vietnam forces hold that ancient symbol of Cambodian nationalism.

The Khmer Rouge, which broadcasts over a China-based radio station, has claimed their forces hold the temple complex.

Most but not all the Hanoi-based reporters come from communist countries or are pro-communist themselves. It may be presumed this sometimes shades their reporting, although most obviously are highly professional.

"It's just very difficult to think of an adjective to describe the Pol Pot regime," said one reporter. "Barbaric is not severe enough."

### Foreign Commentary

The Cambodian capital, they said, is a deserted city, like a movie where all the people were killed by an atomic bomb.

Breakfasts from April 17, 1975, the day the Khmer Rouge won the war, still sit on tables in houses. Clothes hang in closets.

There were no lights and no electricity when the Vietnamese entered the city. "And now they have just a bit of power restored," said one reporter. "But most of the city is still blacked out."

One newsman celebrated his birthday in Phnom Penh with and cognac in the Royal Palace. Then he returned to his hotel room where there were no lights and no water.

A Cuban journalist said he picked up 1.5 million Riel, the Cambodian currency, from the floors of the bomb-shattered national bank building. The Khmer Rouge outlawed money after taking over Cambodia and switched to a crude barter system.

Even Phnom Penh's once imposing French-built cathedral was wiped away by the Khmer Rouge. None of the newsmen knew it ever existed until informed by a Westerner who had been in the capital in pre-Khmer Rouge days.



### Two file for Consolidated posts

Two candidates have filed for A&M Consolidated School Board positions that will become vacant on April 7. James F. McNamara, an education professor at Texas A&M University, has filed for Position 2. Mary C. Fellenz, a homemaker, has filed for Position 1. The current trustees in these positions, Rodney Hill and Lambert Wilkes, respectively, have decided not to seek reelection. The filing deadline is Wednesday.

### A&M dean now on bank board

Dr. Haskell M. Monroe Jr., associate vice president for academic affairs at Texas A&M University, has been elected to the board of directors of City National Bank in Bryan. The announcement was made Thursday by Bookman Peters, the bank's chief executive officer. Monroe is also Texas A&M dean of faculties. He joined the University in 1959 as a history instructor. "Texas A&M University is clearly the major economic influence in our community and Dr. Monroe will give us valuable guidance on banking services desired by the faculty, staff and students," Peters said in making the announcement.

## STATE

### Solons back same-day primary

Two Houston legislators said Thursday they have signed commitments from 78 of the 150 House members for legislation that would block attempts to have a presidential primary in Texas on a different date than the regular state primary elections. Reps. Brad Wright, R-Houston, and Ron Waters, D-Houston, are sponsoring their own presidential primary bill, which would allow either major political party to choose whether it will conduct a presidential primary in 1980, but would require any presidential votes be on the same May date as regular state elections. Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby and Speaker Bill Clayton have been pushing legislation to establish a presidential primary in March and change the date of the primaries for state offices from May to July.

### 3 states want suspected hit man

A homicide investigator Thursday said a parole violator arrested last week after a day-long siege of his trailer home is a suspect in 15 murders — many of them kill-for-hire contracts — in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana. Harris County Sheriff's Detective Jim Waller said Robert Eugene Drummond, 25, was charged in one Montgomery County, Texas, murder this week and was a suspect in a series of paid killings. "It's called eliminating witnesses," he said. The detective said law enforcement agencies from several states were seeking information about Drummond, arrested last Friday on a warrant charging him with parole violation.

### Estes pleads innocent to charges

Billie Sol Estes, the man who became a millionaire from a fertilizer tank scheme, pleaded innocent Thursday to new swindling charges that could send him back to prison. A federal grand jury last week indicted Estes on charges of income tax evasion, mail fraud, interstate transportation of stolen property and concealing assets. Estes pleaded innocent to each of the charges in the court of U.S. District Judge Sarah T. Hughes, who scheduled trial for May 14 before U.S. District Judge Robert M. Hill. Defense attorney Jerry Irving protested the arraignment, saying the government could not prosecute his client because of an earlier plea bargaining arrangement. Hughes told Irving to address those contentions during the trial.

## NATION

### Physicist: Wastes can be stored

One of the nuclear physicists who developed the hydrogen bomb told Mississippi lawmakers Thursday that radioactive waste material can be stored in the salt domes of south Mississippi without danger to people living in the area. Dr. Edward Teller told two state House committees that nuclear wastes would be stored in deep caverns. He said federal regulations governing the storage of such materials are safe and strictly enforced. Teller said the material's radioactivity is self-contained, and the salt would serve as a seal to prevent leakage. "Many sites have been discussed. These salt domes are the easiest and least expensive method. The domes will remain dry and undisturbed for a million years," he said.

## WORLD

### Iranians capture evacuated base

A group of 22 U.S. Air Force personnel who were evacuated from a top-secret U.S. electronic monitoring base near the Soviet border left Tehran Thursday for Paris en route home to the United States. Western diplomatic sources said the Americans were forced to abandon their base at Kabcen, near the Soviet border in northeast Iran, after right-wing guerrillas attacked and seized the base, capturing secret monitoring devices. The State Department acknowledged the base had been abandoned but denied it had been attacked by guerrillas or that top-secret monitoring equipment had been lost. Meanwhile, tens of thousands of Iranians poured into the streets of Qom, 100 miles south of Tehran, Thursday, welcoming Ayatollah Khomeini, the leader of the Islamic revolution that swept the shah from power. Khomeini left the turmoil of Tehran and retired to the holy city, where aides said he would devote the rest of his life to teaching religion.

## WEATHER

Partly cloudy and mild with isolated showers Friday afternoon. There is a 30% chance of rain Friday night. High today 70 and low tonight in the upper 50s. Winds will be S.E. at 10-15 mph. A cold front will be passing through College Station on Saturday.

### Letters to the Editor

## Admittance hassle useless bureaucracy

Editor:

After being at TAMU for more than six years, there remain few entanglements which yet succeed in flustering me.

However, finally I have found a situation that has cracked my hard years of intensive training in patience that life at Texas A&M has provided. After trying to enter the G. Rollie White Coliseum Monday night in order to attend my scuba class (which I can miss no more than two times if I want certification), the personnel on the other side of the door requested my ID card.

After being told two weeks before by similar personnel that identification would not be necessary to attend classes, I had not made certain that my ID card was with me that night. Unfortunately, I only had last year's card.

Alas, this would not suffice, and I was not allowed admittance to my class. (And when I went anyway, I was followed and asked by my instructor to leave — which I did without hassle).

It was obvious (or could have been without too much imagination) that I was indeed a student, who somewhere had an ID card. One doesn't carry a notebook crammed full of notes dated 1979 if he isn't a student, nor does A&M often allow a person on its official rolls if the person is not recognized as a student.

I am disappointed in the staff of the intramural office for not clearly stating the requirements for attending class, and for enforcing their rules the same night the announcement of intent was given to the class.

I am also disappointed in the lack of discretion in the personnel on duty that night. The situation called for common sense rather than strict compliance as it was obvious I was not some shenanigan planning on bringing down the shan. If I had wanted to, I only needed to borrow an ID.

I suggest that some alternative means could have been provided by the department — particularly if the staff intended strict adherence to the rules — for those students, including myself, who were denied entrance Monday night.

As it was, I spent the majority of the class period not greater than 30 feet from my

classroom waiting for my ride, who was incidentally in scuba class at the time.

—Dawn Merton, graduate student

### Get the points?

Editor:

This is in reply to Charles Cody's badly misinformed letter of Feb. 21 concerning nuclear power. I will take it point by point.

1. Yes, nuclear plants do release radiation, but at a level hundreds of times less than that released by a coal-fired electric plant (Yes, coal! Look it up).

2. In the same studies where you learned of radiation induced genetic mutations, you should also have learned that virtually everything on earth and in the rest of the universe is radioactive including Charles Cody. The maximum level of radiation that

nuclear power plants are allowed to release is much less than that natural background level; about 5 percent of it. Typically, a nuclear plant emits only about 0.01 percent of the background.

3. You voiced concern over uranium miners. Per unit of electricity produced, uranium mining is by far safer than coal mining.

4. On the problem of nuclear waste disposal, we actually know a great deal. First, reprocessed nuclear waste becomes less radioactive than the ore from which it came in about 600 years, not 500,000 years as you claimed. From nature's own nuclear reactors that operated about 2 billion years ago in the Gabon Republic, Africa, we see that nuclear waste is not a problem. In fact the ability to remove nuclear waste from the biosphere is one of nuclear power's best selling points.

5. So called "thermal pollution" is associated with any electric plant that uses heat to produce steam (oil, gas, coal, nuclear). In Texas and many other places, this "thermal pollution" seems to be beneficial rather than harmful.

6. While nuclear power is not THE MOST efficient way to produce electricity, it is comparable to other steam-electric plants (oil, gas, coal, nuclear). The next generation of nuclear plants which includes the HTCR and the fast breeder, will rival or surpass the most efficient of the present steam-electric plants. Nuclear power is an excellent way to mass produce electricity.

In short, nuclear power is the cleanest and safest way to mass produce electricity.

—Clay Booker, '79

### Need nuke's power

Editor:

The following comments address Dennis Chester's letter to The Battalion (Feb. 22).

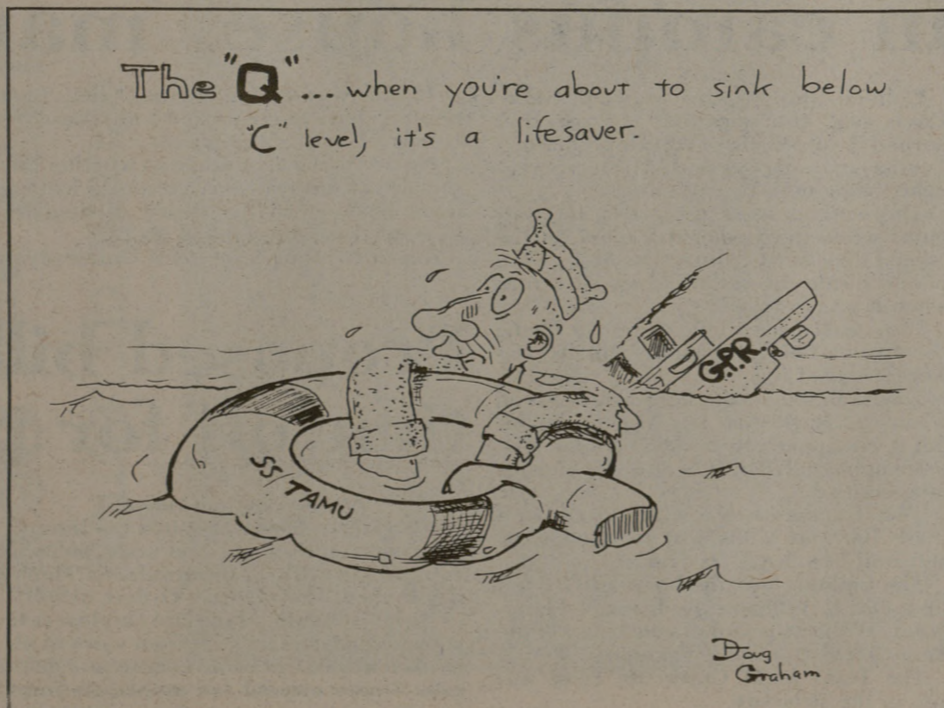
I would like to criticize his comments stating that nuclear power is both "a limited energy source" and "unnecessary." Mr. Chester seems to lack the knowledge of breeder reactors and fusion, for he did not mention them in his article. It is true that breeder reactors use limited fuels such as the various isotopes of uranium or plutonium, but the fact is that these types of reactors produce more fuel than they consume.

Mr. Chester has also neglected fusion. The dominant fuel used for fusion is the isotope, deuterium, which is found in hydrogen. The common source of hydrogen is water, and water is nearly inexhaustible.

Therefore, nuclear power, with the use of breeder reactors and fusion, is far from being a limited energy source.

As for nuclear power being unnecessary, any energy source that has the potential of supplying the world with a substantial amount of power is definitely needed, not to be discarded.

—Roland Dunn, '81



## THE BATTALION

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