

Plans Complete For Student Conference Here

By HARRI BAKER
Battalion Editor

Plans are now complete for the Student Conference on National Affairs to be held here next year—the only thing lacking is the \$12,000 the 50-school conference will cost. The conference, called SCONA

and set up to be held annually would cover all fields of national affairs, and would involve colleges in the Western part of the United States. It would be held here sometime in December. The SCONA planning committee, a part of the Memorial

Student Center organization, plans to ask an educational foundation to provide the money, said John Jenkins, chairman of the SCONA committee. "We're confident that we can get the money," Jenkins said. "A project of this type would appeal to the founda-

tions, and there is a need for such a conference in this part of the country." The SCONA program is based on a similar conference held at West Point each year. The West Point conference is primarily for Eastern colleges. Here is who would be invi-

ted to the SCONA conference:
• All Texas senior colleges with an enrollment of 1,500 or more.
• All senior colleges with an enrollment of 3,000 or more in states within a 600-mile radius of College Station.
• All land-grant Colleges and

universities within the 600-mile radius, regardless of size.
• West Point, the new Air Academy, the University of Mexico, Mexico City college, and Monterey Institute of Technology.
This adds up to 21 Texas schools and 29 others.

Outstanding national and world leaders such as state department officials, Congressmen, industrial leaders, and educators would be invited to be speakers and panel leaders at the conference. Discussion groups would be (See SCONA on Page 2)

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COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS, THURSDAY, MAY 5, 1955

Price Five Cents

R. T. Miller Is Valedictorian For May Graduation Exercises

Grade Ratio Opportunity Awards Is 2.96 Through Fall Tests To Be May 7, 14

Robert Thomas Miller, fifth year petroleum-geology engineering student, has been named valedictorian for the May, 1955, graduating class. He has a grade point ratio of 2.96 through the fall semester and did all of his work at A&M.

Miller, who is from Bishop, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. R. B. Miller of Honolulu. His father is an FBI agent.

He is a graduate of Lamar high school of Houston and was born in San Antonio.

The 1955 valedictorian finished his ROTC work in 1954, being a member of the cadet corps for four years, and he plans to do graduate work here after graduation. Throughout his college work, Miller worked in the summer months in his profession—petroleum-geological engineering.

Miller was a technical editor of the Engineer, a member of the Memorial Student Center Browsing Library committee and was chairman for one year. He also was a member of the MSC directorate. He was on the freshman drill team and a winner in the slide rule contest, and was the outstanding freshman in his squadron.

His activities at the college include membership in the Petroleum and Geology club and in three national honor societies—Tau Beta Pi, engineering honor society, Phi Kappa Phi, college-wide, and Phi Eta Sigma, freshman honor society.

Miller is the holder of the George P. Mitchell award in geology, given each year to an outstanding junior in geology, and in his senior year won an award in petroleum, a hand level and handbook, both from Mitchell. He also is the holder of the Socony Vacuum and Standard of Texas, awards, given to students for outstanding achievement in petroleum engineering.

Recently he was awarded the General Electric fellowship, worth \$1,750, to do advanced work in engineering.

"The valedictorian," the qualification rules state, "shall be the candidate for his first baccalaureate degree who has the highest grade point ratio on all of his work through the fall semester of his final year. All work for the degree must have been done at this college except that a maximum of 12 semester hours may have been completed in summer sessions elsewhere. He must be a candidate for the degree at the spring commencement."

Experiment Station Receives Grants

The Agricultural Experiment station has received recently more than \$8,000 in grants.

Twenty-five individuals, companies, associations, and banks in the Lower Rio Grande valley together gave a grant of \$2,816.19 for cotton improvement research.

The Squibb Institute for Medical Research has made available \$2,500 for poultry growth research under the supervision of Dr. J. R. Couch, head of the poultry husbandry department.

The American Dehydrators association renewed their \$2,000 grant for research on turkey feed, a project also being supervised by Couch.

More than 500 Texas high school boys will compete May 7 and May 14 at A&M for a chance at a college education. At stake are 100 Opportunity Award scholarships, available at A&M, beginning in September and good for the next four years. The scholarships pay an average of \$250 a year—about a third of the total cost of a year's schooling at the college. Winners are also eligible for part-time employment to supplement the \$250 awards.

Ring Dance Tickets Now on Sale

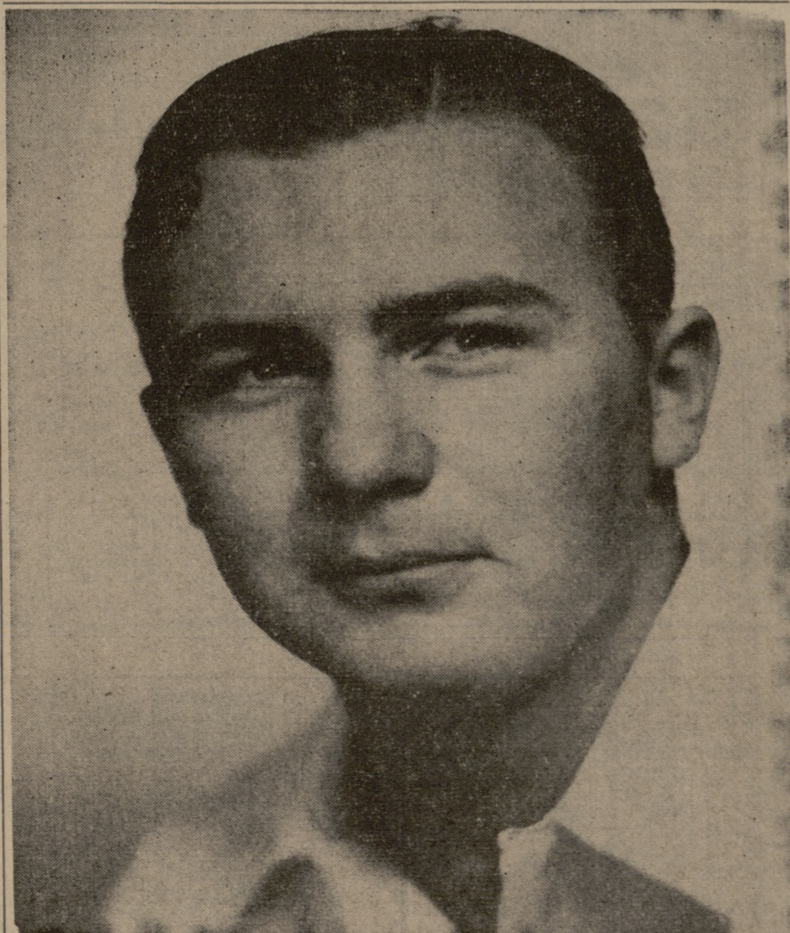
Ticket salesmen for the Senior Ring dance and banquet May 21 have been named by the class officers.

Dance tickets will be \$5 stag or date, and the banquet will be \$1.50 per person. Tickets for the banquet will go off sale May 16, and advance ticket sales for the dance will end May 20. Dance tickets, however, will be sold at the door.

Those selling tickets and the dormitories they represent are as follows:

Bobby Williams, 1 and 2; Dale Stice, 4 and 6; Don Dittmar, 8 and 10; Howard Childers, 12; Harry Tilley, 3; Wallace Eversberg, 5; Bill Bass, 7; Paul Gentry, 11; James Buchanan, 14 and 17; Dave Williams, 15; Alan May, 16; Sam Rowland, Hart; Louis De Haes, Law and Puryear; Farrell Huber, Walton.

Day students may purchase tickets at the student activities office.



VALEDICTORIAN—R. T. Miller, a petroleum-geology engineering student from Bishop, has been named valedictorian for the May graduation exercises. (See story above.)

First of the two groups of scholarship contestants will be about 300 high school seniors who will take four and a half hour examinations on May 7. The following Saturday, more than 200 boys are expected for competition in similar examinations at the college. The tests are similar to those given entering A&M freshmen.

Applicants for the awards are chosen after a study of their past school records, work experience, character reputation, financial needs, and competitive tests. More than 90 per cent of all Opportunity Award winners have made good in college since the start of the program nine years ago, according to college officials.

Aggie Receives Mr. Splash Title

Gene Shuey, architecture major from Dallas, was named Mr. Splash by a panel of five physical culture experts last weekend in Galveston. The contest was part of the city's annual Splash day activities.

Shuey finished in a tie for first, but a second demonstration caused the judges to vote 3-2 in favor of Shuey. He was awarded a two foot-high trophy.

Shuey was also the winner of the odd meet weight lifting contest held Saturday. He was one of 14 entrants, and won the meet with a one-arm lateral snatch and a forward curl. He was also awarded a first place trophy for this event.

Elam To Head

Stacy Elam is the new president of the Horticulture society. Other new officers are Harold Jones, vice-president, and Albert Ferdandez, secretary-treasurer.

The awards were first given in 1946, with 16 winners. At present 305 students at the college are attending on Opportunity Awards, and 206 former winners have graduated.

Top Students In Agriculture Named At AZ

L. E. Sheppard jr from Crockett, and Konrad Peter Losen from Lima, Peru, were named outstanding sophomore and freshman in the School of Agriculture at the annual Alpha Zeta banquet Monday night in the Memorial Student Center.

Sheppard has maintained a grade point ratio of 2.54. This was a repeat performance for Sheppard, since he was named outstanding freshman last year.

Losen has a grade point ratio of 3.0. The names of these two men will be engraved on a plaque which will be placed in the Agriculture Building.

Dean E. J. Kyle, former dean of agriculture who established a record by serving in that capacity for 33 years, delivered the principal address of the evening. Kyle's topic was, "Maximum Exploitation of One's Abilities."

Arts and Sciences Presents Awards

More than 30 awards, including scholarships, cash, and other prizes were bestowed by the School of Arts and Sciences Wednesday.

Jimmy Clay Burns, James Ergle Cook jr., Terrell Hunter Hamilton, George Peter Knipple and William Darrell Willis jr. won the Julia Ball Lee Memorial scholarships in Biology. The business administration department's R. L. Elkins award went to James M. Parrack jr. The Lumbermen's Association of Texas Scholarship award was presented to Thomas C. Dye, John C. Niemeyer, Paul Rathbun, Rudy Rodriguez and Hugh Wharton.

Also in the business administration department, Vernon D. Ander-

Fuchs Elected Club President

Monroe Fuchs was elected president of the Poultry Science club Tuesday.

Other officers named were Earl Geddes, vice-president; Dane Kimmel, show manager; Jim Brooks, secretary; Gene Larey, treasurer; Arthur Herzo, reporter; and E. D. Parnell, C. B. Ryan, and W. F. Krueger, club sponsor.

Weather Today

PARTLY CLOUDY

The weather outlook for today is partly cloudy.

Yesterday's high was 88, low 62. The temperature at 10 this morning was 76.



WOMAN DRIVER—Sure, she's a woman driver, but one that is learning driving properly. Miss Fay Simms, junior at A&M Consolidated high school, sits in the driver's seat as Miss Ann Fleming, also a junior, and Jack Shaney, industrial arts teacher at the school, look on. Miss Simms, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Simms of College Station, and Miss Fleming, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. D. W. Fleming of the city, are students in the drivers training course at the school. Chaney is instructor for the course.

A&M Consolidated

Drivers Course Offered

By BILL FULLERTON
Battalion City Editor

A&M Consolidated students 14 years old and older have an opportunity to benefit themselves and their families by taking the drivers training course at the school.

After a three-year lapse, this course is now being given at the school to 11 students, with Jack Chaney, industrial arts teacher, as instructor. The one-semester course is divided into two six week periods, the first being 30 hours of theory and the remainder actual driving training.

In the course the students learn to drive properly, and they learn the traffic laws of the county, state and nation. Also, basic rules about

maintenance of an automobile are taught. A \$15 fee for expenses was assessed this year.

The course uses as a text the American Automobile Association Sportsmanship Driving book. The standards for the class are those of the AAA. The handbook put out by the Texas Department of Public Safety also is used for study.

Any student who successfully completes the course will receive a 10 per cent discount in automobile insurance rates, Chaney said. This reduction applies to any family who has a son or daughter in the 14-to-25-year-old classification complete the course and get the AAA certificate. If the family has another child who drives but has not had the drivers course, the reduction will not be given, he said.

Students who have already finished the course this year are John Way, Tom Ivy, Richard Richardson and Dall McCannon. New students in the class are Faye Simms, Ann Fleming, Bill Little and George McKay. Those who will take it next are Dick McCannon, David Smyth and John Price.

All of the students have finished

the theory and are taking their driving four at a time. The automobile used in the course is a 1955 Chevrolet, furnished through the courtesy of the Culpepper Chevrolet company of Hearne.

A "brake gun" is used to test reaction time. When Chaney pulls a string, a blank .22 calibre shot is fired from a "gun" on the brake. The student depresses the brake, which automatically fires another shot, and the time between the shots is the reaction time.

Class Filings End At 5 p.m. Today

Filings for class offices and the election commission will close today at 5 p.m. Students may file in the student activities office, second floor of Goodwin hall.

The class of '56 and '57 will elect class officers and all classes will elect five members to the election commission.

There have been only 20 students file for the election commission positions, according to W. D. (Pete) Hardesty, business manager for student activities.



IT'S HOT HERE—For those of you who thought yesterday was an unusually hot day, here is proof that it definitely was. Campus Security Officer M. A. Maddox inspects a line of flame in the street next to the White coliseum. The fire was caused by an underground leak in a natural gas pipe. Actually, yesterday wasn't too hot—it was 85 when this picture was taken.