

What Does SCONA Do?

By JACK TEAGUE
 "SCONA" What's that? This is the reaction that many students give when they are asked about A&M's Student Conference on National Affairs.

SCONA, a committee of the Memorial Student Center Directorate, is an informal seminar to survey the impact of world problems on the nation that has emerged the leader of the Free World; it is an attempt to grasp the complexity of these problems rather than to solve them; it is a long-range effort to promote enlightened, responsible citizenship through free

discussion of the crucial issues of our time.

The First Student Conference on National Affairs (SCONA I) was founded in the belief that the select group of college seniors and juniors in attendance would be among those future leaders in public affairs who will influence the whole people, who have always been the final authority in directing the course of this nation.

SCONA I was the outgrowth of a visit by the vice-president of the Memorial Student Council, Bud Whitney, to the annual Student

Conference on United States Affairs at the U. S. Military Academy, West Point, N. Y., in 1954.

On his return from the meeting, Whitney got together with the MSC Council and friends to discuss the possibility of a similar meeting for students from colleges of the Southwest and Midwest.

By September, 1955, students had raised \$12,000 from interested foundations, business and industrial organizations and individuals; had received the blessing of college authorities; and were on their way. In December the same

year the first conference at A&M was held.

Students from A&M went out throughout the state and raised their own money. Doors were slammed in their faces, people were nasty and the future looked pretty dismal for these interested "pioneers" from A&M. But, they stuck to their goal and finally hit pay-dirt. This has been the custom of SCONA's II, III, and IV, also, to raise their own funds.

SCONA I attracted 106 students from 48 college and universities in 16 states and 2 localities in Canada and Mexico. These young men and women heard addresses on "The Role of the United States in World Affairs."

At SCONA II—held Dec. 12-15, 1956—116 delegates came from 55 colleges and universities in Texas

and from 14 other states and 2 localities in Canada and Mexico.

And SCONA III grew even more. Some 146 delegates from 64 colleges throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico found themselves welcomed by Aggies when they arrived here at College Station. The budget grew to \$14,500. Under the leadership of Jack E. Nelson, SCONA III chairman, A&M developed the finest program of its kind in the Southwest, and one that gained national recognition.

SCONA IV, to be held Dec. 10-13 of this year, will continue to add merit to the conference which has been held in the past. The budget remains the same, \$14,500. But the spirit of the interested Aggies has doubled. And a good program is guaranteed.

Students Lead SCONA

These are the student members of the SCONA IV. They are preparing now for the conference to be held in December.

Robert T. (Bob) Pfeuffer, chairman, SCONA IV, is a history major from New Braunfels. He is also Corps Operations Officer, cadet lieutenant colonel. As overall chairman, he is responsible for the outcome of the entire conference.

J. Gray Peeples, is a senior physical education major from Mexia. Gray is Secretary of SCONA IV.

Charles H. McKinley, Conference Manager, is an aeronautical engineering major from Killebrew. He is also a cadet lieutenant colonel 5th Group Commander.

Hugh F. Wharton, Jr., President of the MSC Council, does not take an actual part in SCONA IV, but is a member of the Executive Committee and approves SCONA activities.

George A. Stansell, Chairman, Great Issues Committee, is a personnel major from Gladewater. Great Issues and SCONA work hand in hand and is a member of the Executive Committee. He is also Day Student liaison officer, 2nd Wing Staff.

Ronald D. Stewart, Chairman, Arrangements Committee, is a mechanical engineering major from New London. He is also commander, Squadron 5.

Other members of the Arrangements Committee are T. E. Downs, Patrick J. Harn, Billy J. Leftwich, Herbert E. Whalen, Albert G. Cox, Bernard N. Roarnet, John M. McMullen, Charles E. Dahl, Samuel L. Neal, Jr., Gordon C. Graham, Frank B. Buchanan, Milton P. Martin, William G. Shenkir, D. Patrick Harley, Hubert Oxford III, Joseph T. Hearne, Thomas F. Urbanosky and W. Ray Olds.

Jay B. Bisbey, Chairman, Finance Committee, is a mechanical engineering major from Houston. He is also cadet colonel, Commander, 2nd Regiment.

Other members of the Finance Committee are Kenneth F. Keller, Byron C. Blaschke, Travis L. Wegenhoff, Joseph J. Sekerka, Herman A. Ayers, Teddy R. Lowe, John T. Jaekle, Alden J. Smith, Charles N. Messer, Robert F. Turner and H. Jarrell Gibbs.

Grady W. Barr, Chairman, Housing

Committee, is a physical education major from Big Spring. He is also cadet lieutenant colonel, Commander, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Regiment.

Other members of the Housing Committee are Charles W. Philipp, Harley H. McAdams, Floyd H. Christian, Lee R. Ratliff, Thomas L. Johnson, Ross F. Hutchison, Robert Bower, Jr., Charles E. Oualline, Roger S. Terry, Ray L. Burns, M. Michael Reid, Clarence E. Mamail, and Glenn A. Jones.

Jack N. McCrary, Chairman, Planning Committee, is a mechanical engineering major from Fort Worth. He is also cadet captain, commander, B Ordnance.

Other members of the Planning Committee are Charles W. Philipp, Donnie R. Duplissey, Richard K. Thomas, James Eugene Stubbs, Theodore C. Shields, Steve P. Volinis, Gustavo Barrera, Frank M. Foster, Raymond R. Hanningan, Jr., Aaron B. Moses, Efraim P. Armentariz, James M. Vrba, Jr. and

Timlon J. Reeves.

Lawrence R. Lynd, Chairman Program Committee, is a general business major from Fort Worth. He is also a cadet major, executive officer, 5th Group Staff.

Other members of the Program Committee are William R. Markillie, Thomas H. Miller, S. Rush McGinty, Guyron B. Laycock, Delma P. Posey, Bryan R. Simmons, Kenneth W. Moore, William B. Crist, Marvin J. Schneider, Jerry H. Hatfield, David M. Wallace, John L. Ligon and Theron D. McLaren.

John O. (Jack) Teague, chairman, Publicity Committee, is a journalism major from Washington, D.C. He is also a cadet lieutenant colonel, Corps Public Information Officer.

Other members of the Publicity Committee are James W. Boyce, Robert A. Reeh, Thomas L. Sutherland Jr., John H. (Johnny) Johnson Jr., William E. (Bill) Reed, Edward W. Hill, John V. Kitowski. (See SCONA, Page 8)

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