

BATTALION EDITORIALS

Budget Increase Produces Optimism

The recently-announced budget for Texas A&M brings with it a sense of both satisfaction and optimism.

A&M's allocation for the 1965-1966 school year represents a five-million dollar increase over last year, a gain of approximately twenty per cent. A deeper look into these figures is even more encouraging.

This budget increase has not been appropriated for building purposes. It will be used for salary increases, for the purchase of library books, for additional scholarship funds and similar items.

The 38 per cent salary increase in funds for salaries is particularly significant. Not only will this benefit and serve as a morale boost to present faculty members, but it will also enhance A&M's potential in the recruitment of new teachers.

Money is of vital importance in building strong faculties, as the University of California at Berkeley well exemplifies. Armed with lavish appropriations from the California legislature, its administrators have lured away instructors and researchers from the finest universities in the world, and in doing so have elevated the Berkeley institution to that level.

The heightened outlay for book purchases is also important, for the strength of a school's library is one of the prime factors in assessing its overall quality.

The legislature's action illustrates that body's attitude toward A&M and reflects a creditable job on the part of A&M's spokesmen in the presentation of their case. While the more-publicized issues of coeducation and compulsory ROTC were attracting the attention, the unspectacular but vital matter of appropriations was unobtrusively being decided.

The new budget provides concrete proof of the legislature's continuing interest in A&M and of its faith in the school's future.

Class Of 1965 An Unknown Quantity

Already the satirists are imagining the future of the Class of 1965. Undergraduate drawings show differing campus types ending up as exactly the same sedentary figure signing papers at a desk. Predicting this class's 25th Reunion, a columnist describes an industrialist remembering his student radical days and musing, "I guess we just ran out of issues."

It does not take the eye of a satirist to see the likelihood of youthful idealism giving way to complacent middle age. Yet there was a time when commencement orators felt they needed to exhort the graduates to put their ideals into action. This year the tendency has been to recognize the action young people have already taken and to try to separate the good from the bad.

There have been student excesses and follies. There has been some evidence of cynical exploitation of student zeal. But even though only a minority of students have been "activists," the present commencement generation has conveyed a sense of commitment to causes more serious than phone-booth stuffing, less selfish than mere financial success.

Will they lose their steam as the freedom to be single-minded is tempered by the responsibilities of jobs and families? By their very vigor they have given themselves a hard act to follow.

Some signs suggest that the Class of '65 may continue the old college try in the world outside. For example, material rewards are reported to be playing a decreased role in job decisions. There is said to be a turning from business careers, as if graduates were bored at the thought or did not realize that business needs not only money-making ability but social commitment and offers such commitment increasing scope.

Probably more than half of the new graduates will go on to graduate school. Most will thus prepare themselves better for future challenge. A few will merely postpone it.

Thousands of both graduates and undergraduates will work at volunteer or low-paying summer jobs on behalf of civil rights, education, or the poor.

Is the sense of commitment merely the property of the few who have shown it in action? Or has the action of the few encouraged commitment, though of less overt kinds, in the majority? We have an impression that the college atmosphere has become such that there must be an element of awareness even in the student who chooses to remain committed only to himself.

Perhaps in this atmosphere will lie a hope for this generation's maintaining an active idealism. Members of the Class of '65 will be testing their futures against a time of ferment rather than apathy. Many a campus fighter for others' freedom may subside into contentedly enjoying his own. But the satirists need not be wholly right.—By Christian Science Monitor.

THE BATTALION

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LANI PRESSWOOD

EDITOR



"We did what you said, professor and ran your quiz key through th' computer to check it! You made a score of 69 which is not bad considering this is th' first time you'll be giving this 'quiz!'"

Highlights And Sidelights From Your State Capitol

AUSTIN, Tex. — Two of the three redistricting plans passed by the last Legislature soon will come under courtroom attacks.

In a legislative redistricting case in Houston, motions will be filed asking that the new plan for dividing Texas into 150 districts for the House of Representatives be declared unconstitutional.

State Republican Chairman Peter O'Donnell Jr. has announced that the Harris County plaintiffs in the Congressional redistricting case, headed by George Bush, will drop out of active roles in the case because that county was treated fairly in the redistricting plan.

But the Republicans plan to

bring in new plaintiffs from Dallas, Bexar, Tarrant, Midland, Ector, Jefferson, Orange and Brazoria Counties to try to convince the three-judge federal court in Houston that the new law violates several apportionment principles.

On legislative redistricting, state Reps. Jake Johnson of San Antonio and Robert C. Eckhardt of Houston, who joined in the suit which led to present reapportionment procedures being declared unconstitutional, will ask the court to say that the new plan violates the U. S. Constitution, too.

Main attack is expected to be purely on the question of whether county-wide districts with more

than one legislator serve to discriminate against minority and political groups.

No attack is expected on the plan passed to divide the Texas Senate into 31 new districts.

UT LANDS LEASED

University of Texas leased 1014 acres of land for \$10,100 at the 50th public auction of land and gas leases.

Active bids were drawn on 167 tracts offered. All leases were made for five-year terms and a one-sixth royalty on mineral production. Highest and second highest bids — \$280,000 and \$225,000 — were on 320 tracts in Ward County.

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