



The Battalion



VOLUME 64, Number 41

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1968

Telephone 845-2226

Good Future Seen In Texas Novels

By JANIE WALLACE
Battalion Staff Writer

Terry Southern is the best novelist of Alvarado, Texas, according to novelist Larry McMurtry. But the Lone Star State probably did not inspire the much-banned novel, "Candy".

Speaking to a standing-room-only audience here Thursday, McMurtry, whose novel "Horseman, Pass By" became the movie "Hud," discussed Texas literature in the first presentation of the Contemporary Speakers Presentation of the Literary Arts subcommittee.

McMurtry's critique centered around what he termed the "Big Three" of Texas literature: Roy Bedichek, W. P. Webb, and J. Frank Dobie.

"THE WORLD outside never heard of Bedichek, hasn't read Webb, and isn't particularly interested in Dobie," he said. The world inside doesn't read much and doesn't read well, but the three men were loved and honored here."

McMurtry compared the old generation of the "Big Three" and the generation that is developing now.

"Bedichek, Webb, Dobie revered nature," he noted. "For my generation, the reverse holds true. I doubt we could scrape up enough nature-lore between us to organize a decent picnic."

McMurtry pointed out that one can love nature without the rural way of life. Life in the country now usually means life in or near the small town, and the small towns do not enlarge one's character—they shrink it, he said.

BUT IF small towns shrink one's character, how can the present generation be accounted for? "Such communities as Chillocothe, Archer City, Stamford, Clarksville, Floydada, Groesbeck, Alvarado and Dundee have produced novelists and can no longer be considered intellectually virgin," McMurtry said. "Some, of course, may have been victims of intellectual rape."

The only answer McMurtry offers is: "If these creative writing courses aren't stopped, every town in Texas will have its novelist within a decade."

Another facet of the difference between the "Big Three" and the present is the lack of introspection.

In conclusion, McMurtry gave an incentive: "Texas writers are sometimes so anxious to avoid the accusation of provincialism that they will hardly condescend to render the particularities of their own place, though literature thrives on particulars."

"If this is the era of the Absurd, then all the better for the Texas writer, for where else can one find a richer mixture of absurdities? Literature has coped with physical aspects of Texas, but our emotional experience remains largely unexplored, and therein lies the drama, poems, and novels."

Senate Backs Proposals On Board Payment Hike

By DAVID MIDDLEBROOKE
Battalion Staff Writer

The Student Senate Thursday endorsed three fee-increase proposals to be considered Wednesday by the Board of Directors.

If passed, the proposals would take effect next September.

Howard Vestal, management services director, conducted the three-hour briefing at a special called meeting of the Senate.

Vestal was assisted by Tom Cherry, vice-president for business affairs; James P. Hannigan, dean of students, and Ed Cooper, civilian student activities director.

THE FIRST two proposals, concerning room, board and laundry fee increases and room deposit increases, were endorsed by a large majority of the Senators. The third, concerning a charge in some cases for the privilege of a single room, was endorsed by a bare 19-12 majority.

Vestal explained that expenditures for residence halls will increase by \$339,000 next year. Food service costs will rise by \$250,000 and laundry by \$35,000.

Most of the residence hall cost increase is due to a \$133,000 increase in bond payments, he explained. Another large portion will be used in new programs for civilian residence halls. Here, the cost is mainly more student salaries for residence hall advisors.

The rise in food service costs, Vestal continued, is mainly due to higher labor costs. Texas A&M now comes under the Fair Labor Standards Act and must pay more in wages.

The laundry fee increase, he said, is also mainly due to rising labor costs. He added that all new equipment was installed in the laundry plant earlier this year.

For students in non-air conditioned dorms, with or without telephones, the fee increase per semester would amount to \$39 for people on the 5-day plan and \$43 for the 7-day. For those in air-conditioned dorms, the increases are \$48 and \$52.

THE SECOND proposal concerned room deposit. Currently, Vestal explained, the room deposit is \$30. If a student fails to register, he forfeits the deposit and the university keeps it. The cost of the empty room, though, exceeds the deposit.

In an effort to curb cancellations, Vestal said, a deposit increase to \$75 is being proposed. This would "make a man think twice" before not showing and forfeiting. If he does register, \$45 would be applied toward payment of fees. In effect, registering students would pay only a \$30 room deposit.

THE THIRD proposal read, "During the second semester and summer sessions, residence hall students may be offered a single room provided they pay one and

one-half times the per-person rate; those not desiring to pay the rate may be required to occupy a similar room with another student." This proposal would go into effect at mid-term.

"For every room occupied by one man," Vestal said, "the university's cost is the same as if two men lived there. We feel that the student desiring the luxury of a private room should help pay the cost."

This does not mean, he pointed out, that every student living alone would be charged the proposed rate. If a student's roommate were to die, or if he were simply stuck in a room alone, for example, he would not be charged the proposed rate.

THE SENATE then considered each proposal separately. After some discussion, the first proposal was endorsed unanimously. On the second proposal, Student Senator Bob Burford expressed concern about a man being able to afford the \$75 initial cost, which would have to be paid during the summer before he arrived. The Senate did not consider the problem too serious, however, and endorsed the proposal 29-2, with one abstention.

The third proposal produced a heated discussion, with a substantial minority feeling that the idea was not acceptable to them, at least in its present form. It was endorsed, finally, by two votes over the number required.

"I am pleased that the administration would brief the students on a proposal before submitting it to the Board of Directors," said Bill Carter, Senate president. "This is the first time the administration has done this, and I hope it won't be the last."

Ag Rifle Team To Go Against TU Marksmen

Texas A&M engages the University of Texas at Austin Saturday in the Southwest Rifle Association match.

A&M is 3-1 going into the match, defeating Rice last week-end by 1,307 to 1,160.

Army Capt. Bob Whittington, adviser, said the same five-man team that defeated Rice will fire against the Longhorns.

Chris West of San Antonio shot 268; Wayne Jordan of New Boston, 257; Tom Mayes, Fort Worth, 271; Danny Huddleston, Falls Church, Va., 253 and Joseph Toelle, San Antonio, 258. Pat Bailey of Trona, Calif., will fire in the sixth position.

The Aggie riflemen placed sixth among 14 college division teams in the recent University of Texas at Arlington Invitational. UTA won with 2,202; Houston team took second and fourth; Oklahoma State, third, and Arkansas, fifth. West paced the 2,014 point A&M effort with 534 of a possible 600.

A&M team wins were over Rice, Prairie View A&M and Trinity and the only loss was to the University of Houston.

'Union Gap' To Follow Bonfire

A musical phenomenon of the last 22 months, The Union Gap, charges into G. Rollie White Coliseum Tuesday for a Town Hall special.

The Union Gap was organized in January, 1967, and took its name from a historic town of South Central Washington state. Affecting military titles and Civil War uniform dress, the five-member group assaulted clubs and colleges from Washington into Southern California and attracted a large following.

"From the standpoint of the usual long climb to the top for a pop artist, the Union Gap has made it in half an hour," commented Louis Adams, Town Hall chairman.

As a special attraction, the Tuesday night performance will admit all patrons on a single event ticket only, Adams added. Tickets are available at the Memorial Student Center Program Office.

THE UNION GAP general, Gary Puckett, has a sergeant, corporal and two privates in the outfit he organized in San Diego, Calif. Lead singer-songwriter-arranger Puckett is proficient on the guitar, piano, organ and blues harmonica.

Sergeant Dwight Bement plays tenor sax; Corporal Kerry Chater, bass guitar; Private Gary (Mutha) Withem, woodwinds, piano, and Private Paul Wheatbread, drums.

"Our general is Gary, our corporal is Kerry so they call me Mutha," notes Gary Withem. "Besides, I love pickles and ice cream."

The easy, danceable beat and Puckett's singing made their debut Columbia single a likeable combination to more than a million record buyers.

ALSO WITH "Woman, Wo-

University National Bank
"On the side of Texas A&M."
—Adv.

Benson Succeeds Crash Victim As C-1 Commander

James C. Benson of Dallas, a senior history major, has been named commanding officer of Company C-1 in the Corps of Cadets.

The command change was necessitated by the death of the C-1 commander, John W. Groves of Lovington, N. M., noted Col. Jim H. McCoy, commandant. Groves and two C-1 freshmen, George W. Reynolds of Orange Grove and Donald Coward of Corpus Christi, were killed in a Nov. 9 auto accident north of Fort Worth.

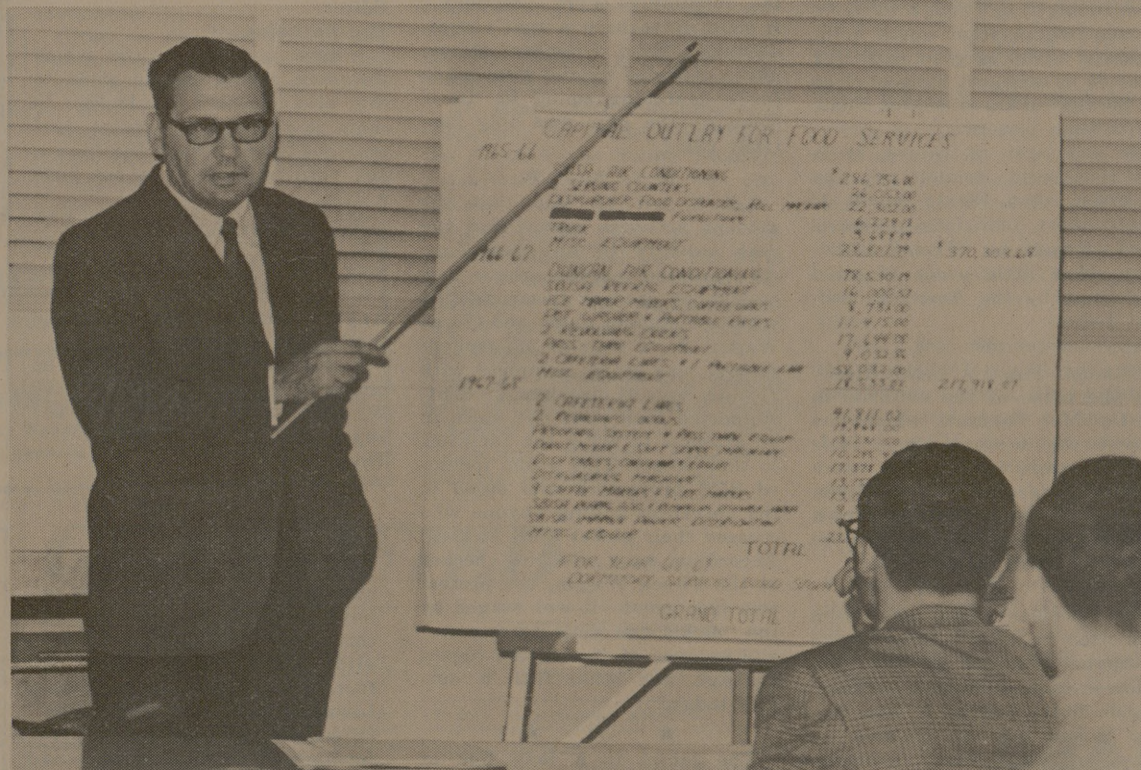
A cadet major, Benson previously was First Battalion executive officer. He is intelligence officer of the Ranger Company here.

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PROPOSAL TALK

Howard Vestal, director of management services, explains a chart showing expenses which will necessitate fee increases. Vestal briefed Student Senators Thursday on his office's three proposals for increase methods. The Senate endorsed the ideas, which will be presented to the A&M Board of Directors Wednesday. (Photo by Larry Frisk)

Local Statutes Can Harass Citizens, TCLU Chief Says

By DALE FOSTER
Battalion Staff Writer

Be careful how you wear your hair when driving through West Texas, warned Texas Civil Liberties Union Executive Director Doran Williams Thursday night at the Unitarian Fellowship.

"Anybody who looks like a hippie, even just with long hair, will be picked up for vagrancy or some similar charge. This happens no matter how much money a man might have in his pocket or how nice a car he is driving," he commented.

"An example of this is a case in Potter County, where the sheriff arrested a young man for vagrancy, put him in jail, brought in a television camera, and showed the prisoner's head being shaved for the enjoyment of area residents," stated the long-haired, moustached lawyer.

GUEST SPEAKER at the annual meeting of the Brazos Civil Liberties Union, Williams noted that certain local and state statutes are often used to arrest and subsequently harass law-abiding citizens for their social or political activities.

"One of the major problems we have encountered in most of the cities where we have affiliate chapters in the broad interpretation of statutes that are very vague in their intent," he added.

The 1966 graduate of the University of Texas Law School, speaking on "The Past, Present, and Future of the Civil Liberties Union in Texas," said that most of his time in the coming year will be spent organizing new committees in areas such as McAllen, Brownsville, Corpus Christi, Waco, and Wichita Falls.

COMMITTEES ARE organized in cities where there are not enough members to support a full chapter. New committees are presently being formed in Amarillo, Denton and Lubbock.

At present, although there are more than 2,000 members statewide, the TCLU has only eight chapters. The two newest are in Brazos County and the Sabine area which includes Beaumont. Both were formed in the past year. Other chapters are located in Austin, Dallas, Houston, San Antonio, El Paso, and Fort Worth.

"Cases that the TCLU chapters Bryan Building & Loan Association, Your Savings Center, since 1919. —Adv.

have taken in the past year have included ones on civil rights demonstrations, church - state relations, military court-martial, and political activity," the former Starr County United Farm Workers Council told the more than 40 people present.

DURING THE business session, chairmen of four committees gave reports on investigations of local cases ranging from racial discrimination to police brutality. In most of the cases the committees reported the charges unfounded.

One case, which has since been dropped, concerned the validity of the A & M administration's blocking the enrollment of Students for a Democratic Society

Chapter President Jeff Daniels this fall. The committee arranged an on-campus hearing, but Daniels didn't show up and is now enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin.

Another committee is now investigating the complaint by a group of A&M Negro students that they are unable to organize on campus.

A new member of the Brazos Community Services Council, a federation of local public service organizations, the Brazos CLU has more than 70 members in Brazos and surrounding counties. President of the group, whose motto is "Bringing the Bill of Rights to the Brazos Valley," is Paul A. Tryxell.



FIRST LOG

Dale Odum, left, and Steve Smith perch atop a 35-foot log brought in for the Bonfire by a crew from Walton Hall Saturday. Odum arranged for cutting of the 2 1/2-foot-thick oak at a friend's property near Liberty. Still to be worked out, according to Walton President Andy Scott, is how to get the log to the Bonfire area across campus. (Photo by Marty Amadio)

Bonfire Ashes Can Hurt Car Finish, Powell Warns

Chief Ed Powell of the Campus Security warned students Thursday of the effect of Bonfire ashes on the paint jobs of cars in the area.

"In the past, students have complained of spotting on the finish of their cars," said Powell. "This is caused by the settling of ashes on the car and, when dew forms in the morning, it causes

the lye in the ashes to eat into the paint.

Powell recommended that students either drive their cars a short distance to blow the ashes off or to wash their cars well as soon as possible after the Bonfire. Due to the change in wind direction, virtually all the parking lots in the Duncan area could be affected.

"Cars belonging to residents to the south of the campus will probably not be affected due to the distance," said Powell. "Also, visitors to the Bonfire will not be faced by the problem, since they will be driving their cars immediately afterward and the wind will remove the residue from the fire."

Dining Halls Plan Bonfire Schedule

A special meal schedule for Bonfire weekend has been issued from the office of Col. Fred Dollar, director of food services.

Civilian students eating in Sbis Dining Hall will be served breakfast from 5:30 to 8 a.m., lunch from 10:30 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. and dinner from 4:30 to 7:15 p.m.

Cadets eating in Duncan Dining Hall will be served breakfast at 5:30, lunch at 12, and dinner at 7. The noon meal will be issued in the cutting and stacking areas.

WEATHER

Thursday — Cloudy, occasional rain afternoon. Winds Easterly 5 to 10 mph. High 63, low 46. Friday—Partly cloudy. Winds North 70 to 15 mph. High 62, low 38. Kyle Field — Partly cloudy. Winds Calm. 58°.