



"I used to be more lenient when they said their ride was leaving early until I found out some of them lived in Bryan!"

IEC Offers Hope

The Student Senate's Idea Exchange Conference was just what the title described—a meeting at which Southwest Conference student representatives were able to compare situations in student government, administration - student relations, publications and a few other points that are always good for a few gripes. Among some of the more interesting, if not noteworthy, points brought out were that Baylor's elections commission runs an average of two elections per week, that candidates for student body president at Arkansas spend thousands on campaigning because the office is considered a steppingstone to the state governorship, and that TCU is the scene of continuing strife between the student newspaper and virtually every branch of student government.

But aside from trivia-quiz activities such as comparing student salaries and living conditions, the conference pointed up something pretty basic: that student leaders who are willing to grant that somebody else may have found a better way of doing things, are able to improve students' conditions at their own schools. This doesn't sound particularly revolutionary, but the simple fact is that no meeting of the minds for Southwest Conference schools had been arranged for precisely that purpose until A&M's Student Senate did it.

Such exchanges offer hope for continued strengthening of students' involvement in their universities. We hope the conference can keep up the good work in future meetings—next time, perhaps, with all member schools participating.

Bulletin Board

TONIGHT
Industrial Education Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the mechanical engineering shops.
Hillel Club will meet at 6 p.m. in the Hillel Building. Annual Chanukah party will be held. Friday night services will be held at 8 p.m.
Civil Engineering Wives Club will sponsor a demonstration on party foods at 7:30 p.m. at the Lone Star Gas Co. Guests are welcome. Members are reminded of the Christmas party for friends and families of the C. E. faculty and staff at the Civil Engineering

building at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday.
Bee County Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the YMCA.
American Veterinary Medical Association Student Auxiliary will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the YMCA. A short business meeting will be held and the remainder of the meeting will be a Christmas social. The Auxiliary has voted to donate \$25 to the Aggie Wives' Council as its Christmas project.
WEDNESDAY
Beaumont Hometown Club will meet at 7:45 p.m. in room 203 of the YMCA. Christmas activities will be discussed.

THE BATTALION

Opinions expressed in *The Battalion* are those of the student writers only. *The Battalion* is a non-tax-supported, non-profit, self-supporting educational enterprise edited and operated by students as a university and community newspaper.

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsey, chairman; Dr. David Bowers, College of Liberal Arts; F. S. White, College of Engineering; Dr. Donald R. Clark, College of Veterinary Medicine; and Hal Taylor, College of Agriculture.

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M is published in College Station, Texas daily except Saturday, Sunday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

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Listen Up the batt forum

Editor, *The Battalion*:

When one has the courage to rise from the mass of hypocrisy and proclaim the wrongs of society, his case should be examined and not condemned before the true facts are known and understood. At Texas A&M a few have finally had the strength to speak out for the student, and yet the majority of the student body has already condemned their action. They have shown a weakness in the system and expressed a need for change, yet the typical "Texas Aggie" has already closed his mind. Don't you people think? Don't put yourselves on a level with a stone; exercise your moral sense and then guided by your conscience, make a judgement. You are not being destroyed, your sacred traditions are not in danger. You are merely being asked to look at the circumstances and possibly recognize your exploitation. A&M should not consider itself an entity existing in itself for itself, but should open up — allow political speakers on campus, encourage opinion and needed change, and above all make room for a variation of students, and not merely the "establishment" Aggie. There's a world outside—wake up, become involved, and care.

Frank Gallant

Editor, *The Battalion*:

Well, I see once again "rightness, God, country, mom and apple pie" have asserted themselves at A&M. I refer to that earth-shattering recommendation Thursday by the Civilian Student Council.

Don't get me wrong. I'm no wild-eyed, Communist extremist bent on destroying democratic (?) processes here. I don't think organizers of the SDS chapter are, either. Just because parts of an organization have caused trouble doesn't mean the whole organization is bad. That would be like saying the U. S. Senate is completely evil, because some members have been corrupt.

Most Council members claimed present campus organizations represent students well enough. But, let's face it. Nearly every Council decision has reflected the administration's viewpoint. What has happened to the students' voice? Representing A&M to the outside world as steadfast and unchanging has seemingly closed the administration's eyes to the fact that this university is changing rapidly. There is a growing liberal element, like it or not.

Regarding Mr. Jones' letter, I wonder where he came into con-

Tonight On KBTX

- 6:00 News, Weather and Sports
- 6:30 Lancer
- 7:30 Red Skelton
- 8:30 Doris Day
- 9:00 That's Life
- 10:00 News, Weather and Sports
- 10:30 A Guide to a Swinging Bachelor
- 11:30 Alfred Hitchcock

tact with SDS. He apparently misread the article in the Dec. 3 Batt. I defy him to find a statement by an SDS member that the organization plans any protests. His suggestion to form the YAF was amusing, considering all present campus organizations are conservative. What purpose would another conservative organization serve?

But, thank goodness for Jan Moulden. His column livens up an otherwise drab, colorless paper.

Black America Seminar speaker Daniel Watts said it was time for the white man to come into the 20th century. A student commented that A&M probably wouldn't get there until the 21st. Let's hope this won't prove true. Maybe it's time conservatives woke up to the fact that, sooner or later, the liberals will assert themselves. I hope it will be peacefully. But the choice belongs to those in power. Maybe they should think about it.

Terry Quinlan '72

Editor, *The Battalion*:

How truly fortunate we Aggies are to have "big brother" CSC decide just how many voices are needed for civilian gripes. How could we ever decide which organizations are "good" and which are "bad"? No one should ever have to use individual discretion—we should just limit the range of choices to two or three or maybe one. CSC is to be given a pat on the back for its truly open-minded approach in judging by the actions of militant SDS groups rather than those that don't disrupt classes or start campus riots. Why should they consider the SDS organization at the university of Houston? It doesn't

get headlines so it can't be worth considering. Think of the terrible calamity if SDS were allowed at A&M—thousands of misguided Aggies would suddenly change from respectable students desiring a good education to a mob of riotous vagrants. And finally shame on Jan Moulden for looking at this issue rationally. Why does someone always have to rock the boat?

Joe Harrison '72

Editor, *The Battalion*:

This letter is to inform you that a civilian body of students at Texas A&M does exist and makes news that is worthy of publication in the Batt.

Why is it that the Corps of Cadets is mainly stressed in the news of A&M? They are a minority of 1,300 out of 13,000 students.

Davis-Gary Hall, as well as other civilian dorms, has also decorated the halls for the coming Christmas season. Yet they receive no publicity.

Civilians played a major role in the work on the Bonfire. Yet the center fold picture story of the Bonfire in the Batt was of Corps members.

Davis-Gary, along with the other dorms, have held contests and have submitted pictures to the Batt for publication. Yet, no pictures of any dorm contest winners has ever been printed.

All I ask is that you publish a Texas A&M student newspaper and not a Corps of Cadet newspaper.

Please take pains to try to print this letter in its entirety. Even though I am a civilian.

James Lawrence '70

For the record, the Cadet Corps numbers approximately 2,800. —Ed.

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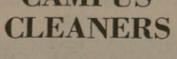
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