



# The Battalion



VOLUME 64 Number 57

COLLEGE STATION, TEXAS FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 1969

Telephone 845-2226

## 'Student Forum' Creation Suggested By Civilians

### Students' Mistakes Blamed For Computer Rejections

By TONY HUDDLESTON  
Battalion Staff Writer

Students' own mistakes in registering have been the main causes of rejections by the computer thus far, Registrar R. A. Lacey said Thursday.

Lacey said that an estimated 80 to 85 percent of the 10,500 students who submitted registration packets have been processed and received their next semester's schedule.

Lacey explained that out of 436 rejections, 295 could have been prevented if the student had taken the time to make a trial schedule to make sure that at least one schedule was possible.

The other 141 students were rejected because the course was already full when they registered.

The computer puts out a rejection analysis schedule if there is a conflict in a student's schedule, Lacey noted.

The schedule goes to the student's adviser who reschedules the student. The student then submits the schedule after the conflict has been resolved back to registration headquarters. The new schedule is then fed back into the computer which makes a new schedule and issues a new fee assessment.

The drop period, at which time students may add and drop courses from their schedule, will start Jan. 27 and end Feb. 7, Lacey noted.

"Thursday 101 students still had conflicts in their schedules and could not be registered until their schedules were worked out," he remarked.

To add or drop a course a student must first pay his fees, Lacey said. After paying his assessment, he then goes to his adviser for approval of the course

in question.

The major advantage of computer registration is that it cuts registration down from an average of four hours to 20 minutes, Dean of Admissions H. L. Heaton said. Another advantage, Heaton pointed out, was that it will give students two extra days in the semester break.

Many students have complained that there was no choice in selections of courses and instructors.

"The computer gives every student an equal opportunity to choose instructors and times for taking courses because it is impartial in its selections," Heaton countered.

"We will explore all possibilities to the best interest of the students, staff, and the proper use of facilities, Heaton said about the future plans of the computer registration program.

"We expect more colleges and universities to go computer registration in the future," Heaton said.

The University of Texas at Austin, Sam Houston State College and other colleges are now studying A&M's system of registration, Lacey added.

### Spring Moves Explained By Housing Chief

Students moving to different residence halls and dormitories are required to follow a definite procedure according to Alan Madeley, housing manager.

Students now living in civilian halls who will move to the Corps of Cadets for the spring semester will report to Room 105 in the Military Science Building Monday through Wednesday. Friday students will report to the same room for the room change which shows unit assignment and residence.

In order to complete procedure, students should bring room change slips to the Housing Office by Jan. 24. Also, students must move to their new rooms in the Corps by 6 p.m., Jan. 25.

Students now living in a Corps dormitory who will move to a civilian residence hall may reserve rooms at the Housing Office in a first-come, first-served basis between 8 a.m., Monday, Jan. 13 and 5 p.m., Wednesday, Jan. 15.

Students that did not pre-register who live in a Corps dorm moving to a civilian residence hall will come between 8 a.m., Thursday, and 5 p.m. Friday.

Each student must present a room change in duplicate signed by his unit commander and his Civilian Corps adviser before he will be permitted to reserve a room.

Also, students moving to a civilian hall must turn in a "Clearance from the Corps of Cadets" form to the Housing Office by Feb. 7.

Madeley warned that rooms cancelled after Wednesday will result in a forfeit of the room deposit regardless of when the room was reserved or by what method.

### Senate Will Hear Proposal By Holt

By DAVID MIDDLEBROOKE  
Battalion Staff Writer

"A student forum at A&M would be beneficial to the entire student body, and could result in a more effective student government."

That was the opinion expressed Thursday night by Civilian Student Vice-President Bill Holt during a Council meeting.

ACCORDING TO Holt, the forums could possibly take place once or twice a month with members of the CSC, Corps Staff, and the Student Senate present to answer questions by students on a general topic announced beforehand.

Hotard Hall President Andy Walne said that the membership of the forum panel should not only be mixed, but rotated regularly. Holt agreed that this could be done, with possible objections from Senate President Bill Carter.

"I think the forum itself is a great idea," Carter said in a later interview. "I believe, though, that it should be a Senate-sponsored project."

"If anyone is going to answer questions, the Senate should. It is definitely the governing body on the campus."

After hearing all opinions and suggestions from the Council, Holt

said that he would take the idea before the Senate at its next meeting.

PRESIDENT David Wilks told the Council that they had an opportunity to send representatives to two conferences on residence hall programs.

The first of these, he said, would be at Texas Tech during the weekend following final exams. The second one, the National Association of College and University Residence Halls (NACURH) would take place in Long Beach, California, the weekend of Feb. 7.

"This would be a great chance for us to get some new ideas, both for individual halls and for the Council itself," Wilks told the group.

WILKS NEXT told the Council that a retreat had been planned for the weekend of Feb. 15. The retreat will take place at Camp Hudson, a Boy Scout camp in Houston.

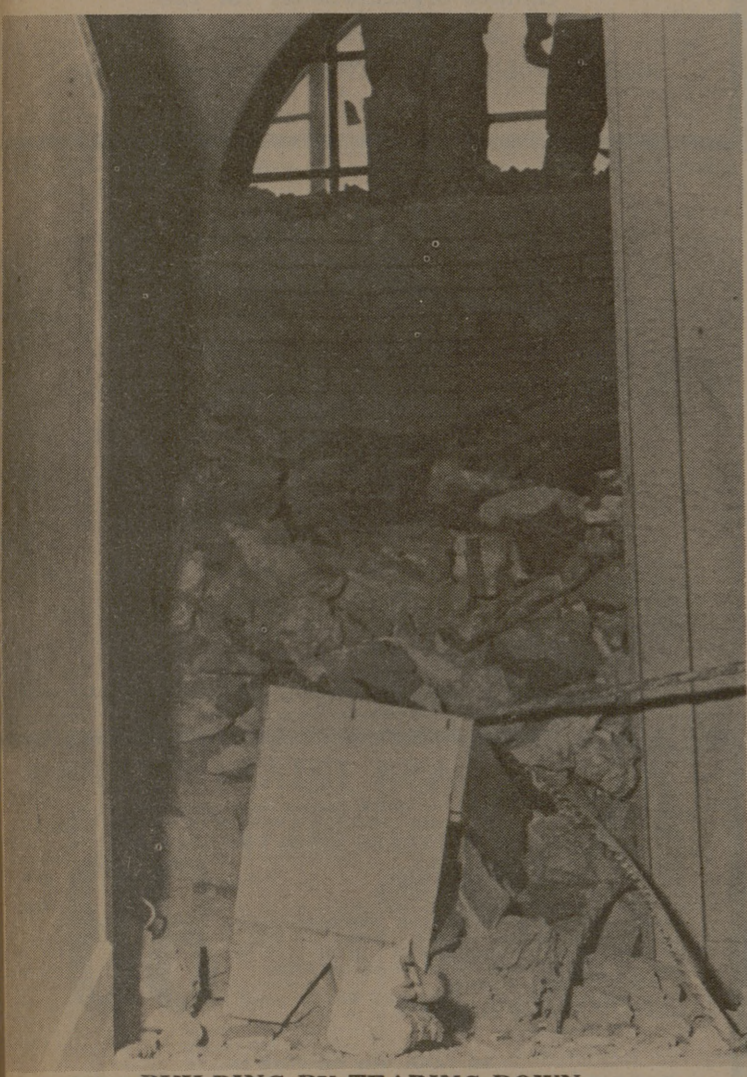
"The weekend will give us a chance to get away from the campus and look at what we've done so far," Wilks told the Council, "and talk about what we want to do in the coming months."

RALEIGH LANE, Moses Hall president, asked about rumors among students that next fall the semester will be arranged to facilitate completion of finals by Christmas.

Ed Cooper, civilian student activities director, said that the University Executive Committee had considered the idea, but felt that too many complications existed to begin next semester.

THIS DOES not rule out the possibility, Cooper noted, that the plan will not become reality in the near future.

Freshman Representative Dudley Vickers reported to the councilmen that a Freshman Council had been formed, with one representative for every 50 freshmen. (See Forum, Page 2)



BUILDING BY TEARING DOWN

Doorways are heaped with rubble as workmen continue ripping out walls and adding new ones to the first floor of the YMCA. The 55-year-old building is beginning a 3-phase, \$367,000 renovation scheduled to be completed in October. (Photo by Mike Wright)

### Good Young Poets Are Few, Danforth Lecturer Asserts

The youth of America are writing poems in volumes—although the quality does not equal the quantity, according to Theodore Weiss, Danforth lecturer and poet, in the second University Lecture Series presentation.

"The good poets are few. As in nature's law of the jungle, only three minnows survive in a million," Weiss said here Thursday. "Poetry, on the other hand, is more prolific than it has ever been before," noted Weiss. "This is an amazingly rich period of American literature."

Weiss termed the modern poetry of today as "confessional poetry" since the poet turns to his own experience in the troubled times of today.

Another facet of "confessional poetry" is the concern, the despair, and the desparateness of the poems, as in the poems of Robert Lowell and John Barryman.

"The poets expose the savagery

in themselves when they write," Weiss continued. "They tear off the skins of good behavior."

To change the atmosphere of the "confessional" poets, Weiss read three of his own poems with a short explanation of each.

"Yes, poets are born, but no one knows when they will be born—some poets are born at 20, some at 30," Weiss added.

### Parks Official To Visit Here

A National Park Service official will be here Monday through Wednesday to discuss a new type trainee program with students in the Recreation and Parks Department.

The official is Ivan Parker of Washington, D. C., personnel director for the National Park Service.

Dr. L. M. Reid, head of the A&M Recreation and Parks Department, said Parker will describe the intern-like student trainee program which can lead to permanent employment in the NPS.

"These are not temporary jobs," Reid said. "Students who are selected receive career-conditional appointments and are promoted to professional positions upon graduation."

The department head empha-

sized that there are 187 colleges and universities in the United States which offer recreational courses. Of these, Texas A&M is one of only 11 selected by the NPS to participate in the new trainee program.

He said 48 positions have been created for the first year of the program, six of which will be filled by A&M students.

"Only those students majoring in recreation and parks, who will have completed their junior year by May, 1969, and who are recommended by the department, will be considered," Reid said.

He added that six national parks have been selected for the A&M trainee program. They are Everglades, Shenandoah, Glen Canyon, Rock Mountains, Grand Canyon and Yellowstone National Parks.

### In Chess Showdown

## Ags Challenge MIT Computer

Can A&M's Schach dethrone MIT's Mac Hack Six as the world champion chess-playing computer program?

Will the Easterner's tournament experience again carry the day against the upstart challenger from the Southwest? Does this business about an irresistible force and an immovable object have any meaning when both parties are computers?

These and other pertinent questions will be decided Sunday when the two highly trained machines square off at 7 a.m. (Such an encounter would best be staged at high noon. But a chess match completely dominates a computer's operation for approximately two hours as the moves are telephoned back and forth, so such engagements are usually scheduled at some ungodly hour.) SCHACH IS the brainchild of two computer science graduate students, Air Force Captains Rolf

C. Smith Jr. of Escondido, Calif., and Franklin D. Ceruti of New York City. They are studying here through the Air Force Institute of Technology and are scheduled to receive their master's degrees Jan. 18.

While programming a computer to play chess may seem like fun and games, it is serious business for the two men. Schach is roughly the equivalent of their theses. They have devoted more than 1,200 man-hours to the project during the past 10 months. Their program contains approximately 110,000 characters and is stored on 3,000 data processing cards, giving Schach a large capacity for analyzing and making moves.

SMITH AND Ceruti chose the name Schach very carefully. It means chess in German. It also stands for Smith Ceruti Heuristic Algorithmic Chess.

The big question, however, is not what Schach stands for, but whether it can beat Mac Hack Six. It tried two months ago and was trounced.

"We've got lots of excuses for that," noted Smith. He said the major difficulty was that Schach was developed on a small computer and then had to be switched over to A&M's powerful new third-generation IBM 360/65.

"MOST OF THE problems stemmed from modifications which had not been fully checked out," Ceruti added.

"It's the type program which will never be finished," Smith observed. "It can always be made better."

Ceruti and Smith plan to correspond and continue working on Schach when they leave A&M. Ceruti is going to Vietnam and Smith to Thailand.

They are confident they have removed several of the "bugs" since the drubbing by MIT's PDP-6, a second-generation computer which has been playing chess since 1966. Mac Hack Six holds an honorary membership in the American Chess Federation and won a trophy in its first tournament.

"WE HAVEN'T had a really big

win yet," Smith confessed.

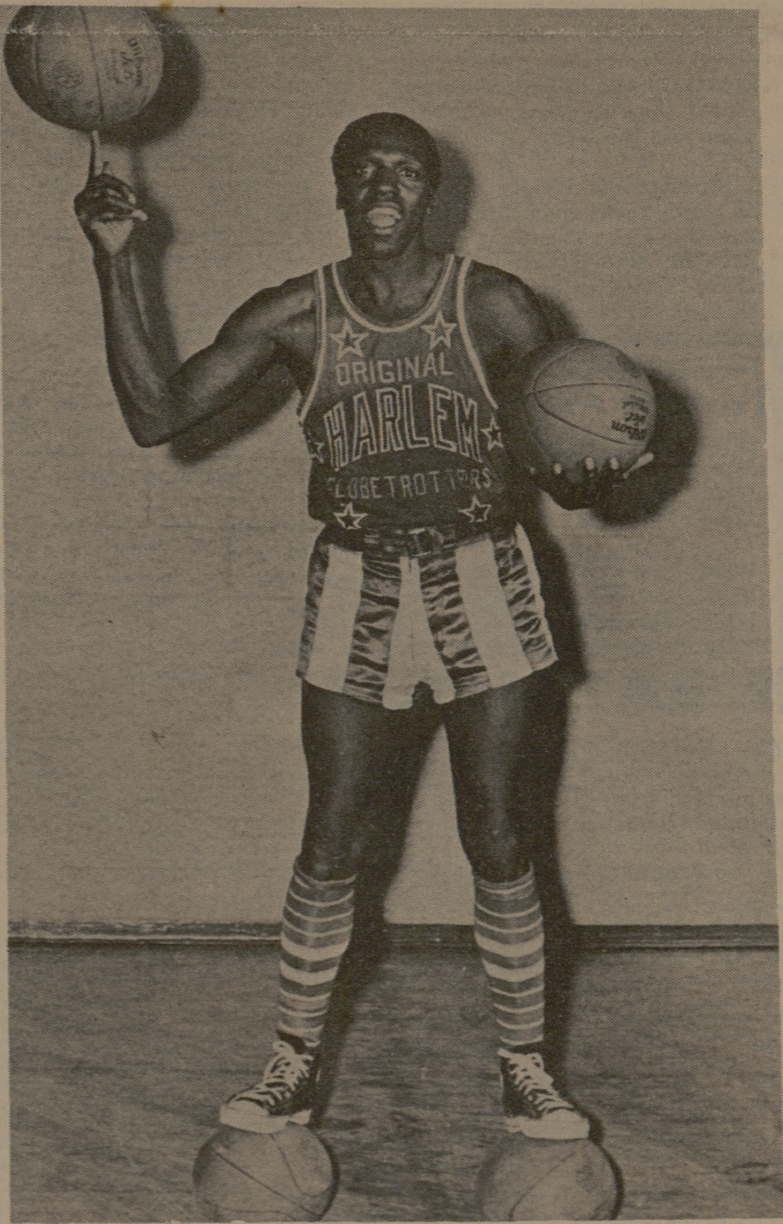
Schach has a 5-14-1 record, but the two graduate students pointed out most wins came at the expense of relatively inexperienced players (human type).

Ceruti played Schach to a draw and Smith came out on top in three of four matches. Both men have been playing chess about 20 years.

Schach received its sternest tests when it took on Dr. Dusan Djuric, an A&M meteorology professor generally considered to be the best chess player on campus and of high tournament caliber. Schach has lost all the matches, but in the last encounter Djuric said Schach played well—right up until the time it bit the dust.

As they continue the de-bugging and refining process, Smith and Ceruti express guarded optimism Schach may now have what it takes to unseat old Mac Hack Six.

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MEADOWLARK LEMON

### Ticket Sales Begin Monday For Globetrotters Show

Tickets for the famed Harlem Globetrotters' Feb. 4 romp at G. Rollie White Coliseum will go on sale Monday, Town Hall Chairman Louis Adams announced.

The Globetrotters, who've played here to packed houses in past seasons, will take on the Washington Generals in the 8 p. m. performance.

Known as the "Magicians of Basketball," the razzle dazzle Trotters will provide only part of the night's top bill of entertainment however. Backing up Abe Saperstein's court wizards will be pre-game and between-halves acrobatic, baton twirling, equili-

### Veterinary Clinic For Small Animals Nearly Completed

If the old saying, "The world is going to the dogs," is true, then many people might prefer to be dogs—at Texas A&M, anyway.

A walk through the nearly completed surgical area of the College of Veterinary Medicine's small animal clinic is most impressive!

Animals were moved into the new area last month, according to clinic head Dr. E. W. Ellett. The animals will really "live it up," as another old saying goes, in a world all their own.

Pens, referred to as inside runs, come complete with a "soft" floor which "both insulates and cushions," Ellett pointed out.

The new facilities will provide clinic personnel with six new offices for surgeons and three surgery rooms. Two of the rooms will contain single surgical units with the third and larger room containing dual surgical units.

Facilities also include preparation and treatment areas. An intensive care unit and food preparation room will come later. Two wards provide the inside runs.

Ellett noted the increased facilities will "raise the number of animals we can house at one time from about 168 to 200."

### WEATHER

Saturday—Cloudy, intermittent light rain afternoon. Wind Easterly 10 to 15 mph. High 48, low 37.  
Sunday — Cloudy, occasional light rain. Wind Easterly 10 to 15 mph. High 53, low 41.

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