



# The Battalion



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## Five Finalists Announced In Band Sweetheart Contest

Five finalists have been announced for the Texas Aggie Band Sweetheart to be chosen Feb. 8 at the annual band dance.

Belton High senior Miss Valeria Anderson; Sam Houston State freshman Miss Roxie Ash of Dayton; Mrs. Linda Day of Lake Jackson; Miss Linda de Masters, Bellaire High senior, and Miss Nancy Whitman, Sam Houston State junior of Dayton, were named finalists by a 10-man band selection committee.

Band commander William R. Howell of Brenham said the 1968-69 band sweetheart will be selected by secret ballot of students and their dates at the Feb. 8 dance in the Memorial Student Center Ballroom.

MAYNARD Gimble's Orchestra will play for the 8 p.m. to midnight dance. The ballroom will be decorated in a San Francisco theme and the entrance way will feature the band.

Sweetheart selection committee chairman Richard Eads of San Francisco said about 300 guests, band members and their dates are expected. The guest list includes President and Mrs. Earl Rudder, Dean and Mrs. James P. Hannigan, Col. and Mrs. Jim H. McCoy, Coaches Gene Stallings and Shelby Metcalf and their wives, Mr.

and Mrs. A. M. Waldrop, college deans and the Texas Aggie Band Association executive committee.

Miss Whitman and Miss Ash will be escorted by brothers John and Jim Otto of Dayton, band junior and freshman, respectively.

A 5-3 brunette, Miss Whitman is a junior business major at SHSC. Miss Ash, 18, is 5-5 and a freshman home economics major at the Huntsville school.

Miss de Masters is a 5-7, 17-year-old brunette and will be escorted by band freshman Herbert S. Hilburn of Northbrook, Ill.

A 5-4 blonde who works in the MSC director's office, Mrs. Day is the wife of band senior Mike Day of Freeport.

Miss Anderson, to be escorted by freshman Craig H. Pearson of Belton, is a 5-5, 17-year-old blonde.

## Architecture Wins College Designation

Formation of a College of Architecture and Environmental Design here has been authorized by the Texas College and University System Coordinating Board.

The School of Architecture is currently within the College of Engineering.

The Coordinating Board also approved an A&M request for a master's degree in modern languages and a master's and Ph.D. in veterinary toxicology.

In other action affecting A&M, the board approved establishment

of the 30-county Southeast Texas Information Network Association, in which A&M will participate.

SETINA, headquartered at the University of Houston, will operate a multi-channel, two-way communications system, including closed-circuit television, linking classrooms, libraries, computer facilities and information retrieval systems at its member institutions. Initial membership includes 16 junior and senior colleges.

Prof. E. J. Romieniec, chairman of the School of Architecture, said formal designation as a college "will bring on broader challenges toward development of our programs in environmental studies."

The facility offers courses of study in architecture, architectural construction and landscape architecture. It also conducts graduate and research programs, specializing in such fields as urban planning and health facilities. Romieniec noted the architecture will rank with engineering, agriculture, liberal arts, business administration, science, geosciences and veterinary medicine as major divisions of the university.

## Coordinating Board Defers Action On A&M-STCL Merger

The Texas College and University System Coordinating Board has deferred any action on the proposed merger between Texas A&M and South Texas College of Law until at least Feb. 10.

The board officially received the merger request at its meeting Monday in Austin.

Board Chairman Tom Sealy of Midland, noting both the importance of the presentation and the fact the board has several new members, indicated the group should take additional time to study the proposal before attempting to reach a decision.

TOP OFFICIALS from both Texas A&M and the Houston night law school appeared before the board in support of the merger.

Dean G. R. Walker of the law college emphasized the merger would not create any duplication in state-supported law programs, since the private Houston institution offers evening classes exclusively.

Walker also countered contentions against having more than one state-supported law school in Houston by pointing out the San Francisco area, comparable to Houston and vicinity, has several law schools, two of which are state supported.

A&M President Earl Rudder

said A&M is "ready for this merger and welcomes it."

"IT IS OBVIOUS that there is a need for a state-supported night law school for those students who have no other opportunity to obtain such a degree," he noted.

Rudder pointed out that Texas A&M has a long history of serving students who are not from the highest economic brackets and observed that South Texas College of Law has a similar background.

Also appearing before the Coordinating Board were L. F. Peterson of Fort Worth, president of the Texas A&M University System Board of Directors, and Judge Spurgeon Bell of Houston, chairman of the law school's Board of Trustees.

"We on the Texas A&M Board of Directors have taken a good hard look at this proposal and endorse it wholeheartedly," Peterson testified. "We feel it fits in with Texas A&M's current, past and future programs."

SOUTH TEXAS College of Law has a 33,000-volume library valued at approximately \$500,000. Law school officials also noted the institution has approximately \$500,000 in cash and no liabilities except current expenditures.

Plans to seek a merger between the 46-year-old private law school and 92-year-old Texas A&M, the state's oldest public institution of higher learning, were initiated last November by South Texas College of Law officials.

Dean Walker said he thinks an association between his school and Texas A&M would be ideal because both institutions are "student oriented."

## Singing Cadets To Appear In 9 Texas Cities

Stirring strains of spiritual, religious and patriotic songs and the swinging sound of old and new vocal favorites will ring through Central and East Texas Jan. 25-Feb. 1 during the annual tour of the Singing Cadets.

The 48-voice, all-male gleeb club will make 15 appearances at nine cities in eight days during the semester break between classes.

Accompanied by pianist Mrs. June Biering and Director Robert L. Boone, the cadets will perform Jan. 25 in Gatesville, Jan. 26, Waco; Jan. 27, Hillsboro and Fort Worth; Jan. 28, Sherman; Jan. 29, Paris; Jan. 30, Wylie; Jan. 31, Tyler, and Feb. 1-2, Longview.

THE SINGING Cadets will be sponsored by various organizations in the different cities.

Travel for the Miss Teenage America Pageant national TV performers will be by charter bus.

"This will be the most strenuous tour the Singing Cadets have made in my nine years with the group," stated Boone. "We've covered more miles, but never planned to be on the road so long and singing so much." They will cover about 800 miles.

The 50-member tour company will return to College Station Sunday for the Feb. 3 start of spring semester classes.

"Favorites and Music of Today" will be the cadets' concert tour theme. Boone said half of each concert will feature audience and Singing Cadet favorites of the last eight years. Included will be spirituals such as "Wade in the Water," a dramatic religious piece "The Creation," a medley of "Porgy and Bess" selections and the group's popular rendition of "There Is Nothing Like A Dame" from "South Pacific."

"The 'music of today' portion will include numbers that have something to say, not the noisy oh-yeah stuff to which some parents object," Boone said. He mentioned "Love Is Blue," a fun number "Music To Watch Girls By," "I Will Wait for You" and "Going Outta My Head."

## WEATHER

Friday — Cloudy. Wind Northerly 10 to 20 mph. High 43, low 34.

Saturday — Partly cloudy to cloudy. Wind Northerly 10 to 20 mph. High 44, low 26.



HONOR GUARD

Gov. and Mrs. Preston Smith walk through a gleaming archway of swords held aloft by the Ross Volunteers at inaugural ceremonies in Austin Tuesday. The A&M unit, official honor guard of the governor, is commanded by Bob Foley. (Photo by Mike Wright)

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## \$5 Million Dorm Complex Plan Explained To Student Senate

By JOHN W. FULLER  
Battalion Editor

Plans for the proposed \$5 million dormitory-commons construction project near the Duncan area were presented Wednesday to members of the Student Senate.

Robert White, representing the architectural firm of Pitts, Phelps, White and Saxe, showed floor plans and conceptual drawings of the complex, which could be completed and ready for occupation by the fall of 1971.

The complex would consist of two four-story dormitories, each in a "square doughnut" shape bounding a central courtyard, and a two-story commons with many of the features of the present Memorial Student Center.

EVENTUALLY, White said, the firm would build another two dormitories on the same specifications to the south of the original construction at the corner of Lubbock and Bizzell streets.

"We will present these plans to the Board of Directors at their meeting next month," White told the Senators, "but we agreed to brief the Student Senate on the plans first to see what changes you would suggest."

The original two dormitories would house 952 students, two to a room, White noted. Rooms would be 13x14 feet, with a bathroom between each two rooms. Additional features would include a sauna bath, study carrels and four lounges in each dormitory.

"THESE ROOMS will be considerably larger than those in the new dormitories at Lamar Tech and the University of Houston and slightly larger than the new ones at Texas Tech and the University of Texas at Austin," White added.

Features of the commons would include five television rooms, a laundry station, vending machine areas, public rest rooms, a room for storage of students' luggage, post-office boxes for individual mail delivery to students and a dining area.

"This commons area represents a new concept in student housing," White said. "This is to be a living center, not just a place for sleep and study." The firm has designed four other such complexes, he noted.

"We visited 27 colleges, coast to coast," he went on, "and we think we've combined the best features of all the student housing arrangements."



TAKES OATH

Preston Smith becomes governor of Texas Tuesday as he takes the oath of office administered by Robert W. Calvert, chief justice of the Texas Supreme Court. (Photo by Mike Wright)

## A&M Librarian Remembers Days With Fidel Castro

By DAVE MAYES  
Battalion Managing Editor

To Frederico Marin, Fidel Castro is more than just another Latin American dictator made real only by a face on a television screen or a voice from a radio speaker.

He was once a friend. But, as Marin will quickly point out, "Fidel was friends with me—I was not friends with him." "He is only friends with those people he needs, for as long as he needs them—and he once needed me."

The time when Castro, a man who has become one of the most powerful rulers in Cuban history, needed Marin, currently a librarian at Texas A&M University, relates back to when both were attending the Havana Law School in the 1940's.

"I REMEMBER the first day I met him," Marin recalled. "Fidel, a freshman, was on a platform delivering a fiery speech to the university students. He impressed me as being very anxious to become a politician."

Marin was a sophomore and president of the Federation of Students, one of the most powerful organizations in the school. According to Marin, power structures such as his reached beyond the realm of sports and social activities to influence school policies, the selection of the faculty and even national affairs.

Castro sought Marin out, promised loyalty in return for support in the freshman elections, and the two formed an alliance. Castro and Marin teamed together for two more election victories, Castro contributing his rancher

father's wealth and Marin his oratory.

IN THE 1946 elections, however, Castro believed he was strong enough to win against Marin alone. When Castro found himself outmaneuvered, bitter disappointment followed defeat. Within two years, he became a leader in the smoldering revolution against the Batista regime and Marin never saw him again.

Running his fingers through his silver-streaked black hair, Frederico Marin tried to recall the Castro he knew 20 years ago. "You know, he hadn't always had that beard," Marin said. "Without it, he'd look just like Robert Mitchum," he chuckled.

Fidel was always very ambitious, and he would do anything to get what he wanted—from bribing to killing.

"I DON'T mean that he was a desperate man. He only took risks when he had a good chance of winning. Fidel never bluffed. "And, if it could be done," Marin continued, "Fidel would never put his own life in danger. Although he was a big man—more than six feet tall—and a good enough athlete to be offered a pitching contract by the Washington Senators baseball team, he was not much of a fighter at close quarters."

"That's probably why he always carried a rifle with a telescope mount throughout the revolution. He could kill a man at 200 yards and never have to face him. Fidel has been a crack shot since he was a boy."

"FIDEL GREW up in the revolution—he has a keen instinct for survival. He never drinks be-

cause it slows down his reflexes. He never laughs or jokes—he is always alert."

Castro, Marin noted, is a man of little more than normal intelligence, yet he includes in his circle of close friends only those who are less intelligent or less cultured than he.

"Fidel wants to be admired," Marin explained.

He noted that Castro was not a communist at the Havana Law School and that he had never seen him with communist people.

"I believe Fidel became a communist," Marin continued, "when he learned of invasion preparations being made by the United States. He needed a friend, and the Soviet Union seemed the safest."

The dark eyes of the man who had volunteered twice for the U. S. Armed Services to be turned down because he was not a citizen clouded and then glowed as he said:

"Someday Castro will die and then Cuba must become part of the Americas again!"

## 13 East Asian Students Here For 4-Day Experiment Visit

By TONY HUDDLESTON  
Battalion Staff Writer

Thirteen East Asian student leaders will be guests for a four-day visit here Jan. 27-31, according to J. Wayne Stark, director of the Memorial Student Center. The students' visit to A&M will be a part of a cross-country trip across the United States, sponsored by the Experiment in International Living, noted Stark.

During their stay at A&M, the students will attend a Bryan City Commission meeting Monday night, tour the A&M campus Tuesday, and visit the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston Wednesday.

Other places in Houston the group will visit are the Astrodome, Jones Hall, Market Square, and will attend a play that night at the Alley Theatre. Other plans include a visit to local agricultural areas, and a barbecue at the home of Dr. and Mrs. George F. Carter.

"These student leaders are very knowledgeable about politics, government, economics, and foreign policy and provide a real challenge in discussion groups, Stark remarked.

They include: Geoffery Robertson, experimenter from Australia, visiting with Asst. Professor of History and Mrs. David R. Woodward, of Bryan.

Wai-Chei Leung, experimenter from Hong Kong, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Walter H. Parsons Jr.,

A&M physical plants director.

Sarwono Kusumaatmadja from Indonesia, visiting with Dr. and Mrs. Randall Stelly, associate professor of agricultural economics. Shigekazu Sonoda, Kyoto, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Gay, YMCA coordinator.

Miss Chandra Singharaj, Laos, visiting with Mr. and Mrs. J. E. Loupot of College Station.

Zakariah bin Md Sohor, Malaysia, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Logan Weston, YMCA Coordinator.

William Brown, New Zealand, visiting with Dr. and Mrs. Robert Brown, professor of agricultural economics.

Bertram Ocon, the Philippines, hosted by Mr. and Mrs. Howard Hooks, systems analyst, A&M Data Processing Center.

Sim Kay Wee, Singapore, visiting with Professor of Civil Engineering and Mrs. Robert Holcomb.

Francis Saemala, the Solomon Islands, visiting with sophomore Kent Caperton of Bryan.

Preepra Prapertchob, Thailand, visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Robert Fiske of College Station.

Miss Ho Lucy Ya-Chai, China, visiting with the Rev. and Mrs. J. Phil Kirby of College Station.

Miss Le thi Hien, South Vietnam, visiting with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Conlee of Bryan.

University National Bank

"On the side of Texas A&M. —Adv.



REMEMBERS HIM WELL

A&M librarian Frederico Marin, once a classmate of Fidel Castro, remembers the time he defeated the Cuban Prime Minister for the presidency of Havana Law School. (Photo by Mike Wright)