



The Battalion



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'Creative Thinking' Basis For Poli Sci's New Look

Creative political thinking is a new science based on one of man's oldest disciplines.

Its adherent, Dr. William C. Gibbons, professor and chairman of A&M's Political Science Department, at 41, is a veteran of American foreign policy decision-making, international politics, Congress and methods of political analysis.

"We think this is where things are happening," said Gibbons, who readily predicts "if the trend con-

tinues, it looks as if we'll be the biggest social science department in the university, both in quantity and quality."

GIBBONS also gives reasons for his conclusions.

"Political science as it is taught at A&M," said the former deputy director of the Congressional Liaison Staff of the Agency for International Development in the Department of State, "is really a fascinating area of study." He admits it is now taught "entirely

different" than it was a few years ago as a branch of history, or law.

Gibbons stressed that political science is now "concerned with human behavior rather than dry institutionalism and law."

Students are taking closer looks at the basic political structure including who gets power and why, and how, for example, it is maintained. Also military aspects of foreign policy are being evaluated.

Gibbons added that students also get the latest approaches to comparative political systems, including a study of the various political systems around the world and are presented an interdisciplinary approach to political behavior, plus using the computer. The computer is used for election returns, community surveys and voting behavior studies.

THE STUDY of political is one of the oldest of the learned disciplines," said Gibbons. "Since ancient times men have sought to understand how governments have been formed, how politicians behave, how political power is wielded."

"But political science is also as new as the race for the moon, and as relevant to life today as the latest in scientific technology," he continued. "To study political science is to study Plato and Aristotle, but it is also to study such immediately important questions as who hold power in a community, why men run for office, what is involved in political modernization in the less-developed countries."

Gibbons and his faculty, only one-fifth of whom will be over 30 next fall, seek to combine the old with the new, and to blend practical and theoretical approaches to the study of politics.

A&M, THROUGH GIBBONS, is now a participating member in the Inter-university Consortium for Political Research at the University of Michigan, which studies general national elections. Recorded on tape and made in application to the community, it "opens a whole new field with quantitative approaches to politics," Gibbons stressed.

The department's new curriculum reflects the progressive Gibbons who once served as professional staff member of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee and assistant to majority leaders Lyndon Johnson and Mike Mansfield.

"Modern political science is directly related to other social concepts and techniques, especially sociology and psychology. It's more scientific, more behavioral and more quantitative, and more less legal and institutional in emphasis," said Gibbons.

The department, which has jumped from 75 undergraduate students last year when it was separated from the history department and Gibbons was named head, to 149 currently enrolled, attests to the changes.

TEACHING has taken on new meaning. The old way was one of facts and figures of how political institutes operate. The new way at A&M is "to try to teach how to analyze politics," Gibbons said.

The number of undergraduate courses has "almost tripled" in the brief period of time Gibbons has been head, and the number of graduate courses have doubled.

A senior seminar "helps seniors capture their whole training by giving them an opportunity to intergrate their learning," he added.

PERHAPS one of the most popular changes, Gibbons emphasized, is trying to give individual attention to students. Lecture-type sessions are on their way out.

"We don't think that is the way to do it," he said, calling attention to the university "getting so large and impersonal."

Already underway are seminar sessions in advance courses with varying lengths and times of sessions. Some are held at night.

"Our students are not just sitting in the room listening," Gibbons said. "They are really blossoming."

"No professor ever uses the same notes a second year," noted Gibbons, who feels most departments should follow the example.

Rudder Names Panel To Study Autoreg

By TOM CURL
Battalion Staff Writer

A university committee to study the problems of automated registration has been created by A&M President Earl Rudder.

The committee will consist of two students each from the Civilian Student Council, Student Senate and Corps of Cadets, the assistant dean and a faculty member from each college.

Chairman will be Albert Reinert, a junior who has been in charge of a study of the new registration system for the Student Senate.

"I LOOK for some broad improvements in the (automated registration) system," Reinert said Wednesday night.

Reinert has been chairman of a Senate subcommittee that polled students and discussed the registration problems with representatives of the registrar's office and the computer programmers.

Reinert said his conferences with Elliot Bray, one of the computer programmers, has shown that many of the difficulties encountered with the initial registration last fall will be solved before the next pre-registration this spring.

"The computer will give preference to those students who turn in their pre-registration forms early," Reinert commented.

HE EXPLAINED that last semester, the student was put in the section that had the least enrollment at the time the schedule was run through the computer.

He added that the add-drop procedure that drew so much criticism will be started earlier next time.

Reinert reported that there were more than 11,000 forms processed in the initial pre-registration last fall; of these there were 890 rejects. However, 364 were "lunch-hour" conflicts.

"The computer was programmed to reject any schedule where the student would have to miss his lunch on any day," he said.

MANY STUDENTS complained that their whole schedule was rearranged when they went through the add-drop procedure even though the courses retained should not have been affected. Reinert explained that it costs about one-fourth as much to completely reschedule the student as it does to block out the courses already being taken.

He remarked that many people blame the computer for mistakes that it had no control over.

Reinert said he thought the committee results would show that most of the blame for mistakes should be placed on the departmental level rather than on the automated registration system.

"If the committee can impress upon the administration that the departments must work more closely with the computer people, the problems can be solved pretty easily," he said.

"I think the people in the departments were poorly educated on the whole system," he said. "We'll be able to utilize the results (of the study) to see which departments had the least problems; and pattern future procedure after them," he concluded.

Senator Names 4 Committee Heads

Chairmen of four subcommittees of the Student Senate Committee on Educational Procedure and Excellence have been appointed by Vice President David Maddox.

The subcommittees, each with a specific field of study, are open to any student who is interested in the particular subject. The subcommittees, chairmen, and their telephone numbers are:

1. Pass-Fail, Garry Mauro, 845-5780.
2. Professor and Course Evaluation, John Allen, 846-3968.
3. Curriculum Reforms, Al Reinert, 845-1050.
4. Experimental Teaching Methods, Phil Morley, 846-8348.



THE CAMERAS ROLL

Three members of a National Broadcasting Company camera crew film the Cadet Corps' evening formation from atop Duncan Dining Hall. The filmed report, which is expected to appear early next week on the Huntley-Brinkley newscast, is to be part of an examination of the problems of ROTC on the nation's college campuses. Related picture, page 3. (Photo by W. R. Wright)

Civilian Committee Favors Joining National Dorm Group

Three student residence hall observers to the annual National Association of College and University Residence Halls conference in Long Beach will recommend Friday that A&M apply for membership, according to Pampa senior David Wilks.

Wilks, president of the Civilian Student Council, attended NACURH with Earyl Roddy of Lancaster, president of Davis-Gary Hall, and Andy Scott, Childress, president of Walton Hall. They were accompanied by Ed Cooper, civilian student activities director.

"We will present a resolution to council members asking that we proceed towards becoming members of the national organization," said Wilks, who added that "the program was real good for us." Sessions were held at California State College.

Wilks added that the group, attending for the first time, was "able to see other residence hall programs at work."

ALTHOUGH the A&M residence hall program is a new one, having started September, 1968, in three of 18 civilian dormitories, Wilks said the students agree, "We can't think of anyone ahead of us."

The three halls—Walton, Davis-Gary and Leggett—have been involved in the special pilot program. The halls are operating as "clubs" with their own elected officers including disciplinary committees for minor offenses. Similar programs are expected to start soon in other halls, Cooper said.

Reflecting on their trip, Wilks said it was evident that Texas universities are "very conservative" in relation to hall visitation and student influence on campus as well as in the selection of curriculums.

"STUDENTS in the east and west are much more influential," added Wilks, "but their schools have more problems." By comparison, A&M has relatively few problems, he noted.

Wilks said the group also agreed that A&M has "more of a general philosophy of what a residence hall can do, which has resulted in a sound, livable en-

WEATHER

Friday — Cloudy. Rainshowers. Winds Southerly 10 to 20 mph. High 71, low 62.
Saturday — Cloudy, southerly rainshowers. Winds Southerly 10 to 20 mph. High 73, low 62.



COMBAT COMBO

"The Clique," a Houston-based rock group, will provide music for the Army cadets' Combat Ball Feb. 28 in Sbis Hall. Theme of the annual ball, a highlight of Spring Military Weekend, will be "Midnight Patrol of the DMZ."

Application Blanks Available For 1969 Combat Cutie Contest

By JANIE WALLACE
Battalion Staff Writer

Applications are now available for any Army cadet desiring to enter the name of his date in the 1969 Combat Cutie contest, according to Arthur Stites, publicity chairman for the Combat Ball. A photograph must accompany the completed application. Cadets may pick up applications in Room 123 of Dorm 2 or from each company's first sergeant. All applications should be turned into Room 123 by next Thurs-

day. The selection of the Combat Cutie will highlight the Feb. 28 Combat Ball.

"All cadets are urged to enter the names of their dates in the contest," said Stites.

The Combat Cutie will be selected from finalists chosen by a photograph elimination committee.

Starting at 9 and lasting until 1, the dance in Sbis Dining Hall will feature "The Clique" from Houston. Since the theme is a "midnight patrol of the DMZ," Stites suggests to dates that they dress, if possible, in an Oriental fashion. If not, semi-formals or party dresses are acceptable. Dress for Army cadets and Air Force seniors is class C with ascots.

Invitations for Army cadets are available through each company's first sergeant. Air Force seniors may pick up their invitations and tickets in Room 123 of dorm 2 beginning Monday.

Stage Center Cast To Give 'Crucible'

One of the strangest, most awful chapters in American history will be dramatized beginning Friday by StageCenter, the community theater group. It will present Arthur Miller's "The Crucible" in the Old Bryan Country Club.

The play centers around the 17th century Salem witch hunt and trials where hysterical teenage girls accused Puritan townspeople of witchcraft. Miller wrote "The Crucible" in 1952 and paralleled the witch hunt to McCarthy's hunt for communists.

Directed by Dr. Lee J. Martin, head of the English Department, the drama will run Friday, Saturday and Sunday at 8 p. m.

The cast features 20 local participants. Tickets, \$2, will be sold at the door.

Spring 'Festival' Opens Saturday With Italian Film

"Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow," an award-winning Italian film, will be shown at 8 p. m. Saturday in the Memorial Student Center ballroom. Film Committee chairman Carlos Almaguer announced Tuesday.

"We have 10 films scheduled for the spring series, from seven different countries," Almaguer said. "Each is a recognized classic, and several were recipients of awards from the Motion Picture Academy or Cannes Film Festival."

Tickets for the Festival can be purchased from the MSC Student Programs Office or the Contemporary Arts Committee.

"As in the past, only season tickets are available," Almaguer said. Student tickets are \$3, and date tickets going for \$5. There are no single admission tickets.

"Only 400 seats will be available in the ballroom," Almaguer noted. "Each season we have sold all available tickets within the second week."

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JOE BUSH

1966 Yell Leader Killed In Vietnam

Capt. Joseph Bush, Jr. of Temple, 1965-66 head yell leader, was killed in Vietnam Monday from hostile enemy fire. The Battalion learned this week.

Funeral arrangements pend at the Harper-Talasek Funeral Home in Temple.

A distinguished military student, Bush was a first lieutenant in Company H-2 of the Cadet Corps. Before he married, Bush belonged to Company A-1. He was an accounting major and graduated in 1966 with an Army Reserve commission in artillery.

Survivors include the widow; a son, Robin, and the parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph K. Bush, all of Temple.