

The Battalion



Vol. 65 No. 4

College Station, Texas Thursday, September 18, 1969

Telephone 845-2226



"LET ME SAY RIGHT AT THE START . . ." Gerry Geistweidt, Student Senate president, addresses the largest senate ever at its first meeting of the school year. (Photo by Mike Wright)

'Legal Commission' Proposed To Senate

By Dave Mayes
Battalion Editor

A Legal Rights Commission that would aid A&M students in trouble with the law and check into reports of student "harrassment" by local police was proposed to the Student Senate Wednesday by Gerry Geistweidt, president.

Geistweidt told the 75-member body, largest Senate in the history of the school, that because this was the first meeting of the school year he was not asking for any action on his proposal that night. He indicated, however, that he would appoint a committee later to study the need for such a commission.

The student body president himself believed there is a "real need" at A&M for the legal counsel the commission could provide.

"Every weekend, about 15 or 20 students are arrested in Bryan-College Station on charges of either minor consuming or minor in possession of alcohol," he began.

Though many of these students were arrested legally, Geistweidt continued, there are cases where they are not, and all, regardless, should have a chance to confer with a lawyer or get some kind of advice before they go to court.

The Senate president noted, however, that most students charged with offenses don't even go to trial because either they have to attend classes that conflict with the time court is in session or they have no money to pay a lawyer to represent them.

"So they usually wind up forfeiting a cash bond that is converted to a fine when they fail to appear," Geistweidt explained.

"A Legal Rights Commission composed of professors, students and others who have a knowledge of the law, could give students legal advice or provide loans to pay lawyer fees."

Geistweidt criticized Bryan-College Station businessmen for "making money off the lack of recreational facilities for students."

He said that students did not have much else to do on weekends but head for the nearest carry-out store to buy beer.

And he wondered if this situation were not created on purpose. Geistweidt said he knew of instances where police arrested students outside carry-out stores with beer they had just bought, yet did nothing to the store clerks who sold it to them.

"Selling beer to a minor is just as much against the law as a minor buying it," he said.

"A Legal Right Commission could assure that students get equal protection under the law."

Geistweidt added that he has received several complaints that Campus Security officers stopped students in their cars for no other reason than for the way they looked.

He told the Senate that several students who had made this complaint believed that they were stopped because of their race.

"This is no gossip, either," the president said. "A good friend of mine rode in a car one day with one who had complained about this and they were stopped twice by Campus Security for questioning because they looked suspicious."

He cited another time when an A&M student was fined \$50 after he was arrested by a Bryan policeman for "suspected attempted burglary." Geistweidt said the officer apprehended the student as he was trying to get the attention of a clerk inside a carry-out store that had just closed.

He said a Legal Rights Commission could look into incidents such as these also.

Geistweidt urged senators to think about his proposal and to look into the need for such a commission.

In other business, the Senate

passed a resolution requesting A&M President Earl Rudder to take \$5,400 from the student activity reserve funds to pay for the Aggie Band trip to the A&M-Texas Tech game in Lubbock Oct. 11.

Head Yell Leader Sam Torn introduced the measure, explaining that plans for the band to attend the West Point game Oct. 4 had fallen through and that the band members, head football coach Gene Stallings and the Aggie Exes in Lubbock all wanted the band to be there for A&M's first Southwest Conference game.

Several senators objected, saying that the request was for more money than that of the entire Senate budget, which Rick Reese, first treasurer of the Senate had reported earlier at \$4,500.

Torn said that about \$100,000 was coming into the activities fee fund and that the money taken out for the band would be put back into the fund later.

Geistweidt reported that President Rudder seemed to be in favor of spending the money on the trip, if the Senate requested him to.

A spokesman for the band said the money would be used only for transportation expenses incurred

by eight 39-passenger buses.

Torn's resolution passed by a vote of 35-8.

Nokomis (Butch) Jackson, chairman of the reorganized 9-man Election Commission, reported that the commission will meet Monday to attempt to set a date for the election of a Senate vice president.

The office became vacant last spring when Geistweidt, elected vice president in an earlier race, was voted in as president after the first presidential election was tossed out due to the scholastic ineligibility of the winner, Al Reinert. Kent Caperton (vp-MS) is serving as interim vice president until another is elected.

Jackson noted that other offices to be filled are Senate seats from the newly formed College of Education and another Senate post from the College of Agriculture. Senators heard introductory reports from permanent committee chairmen to help him decide by next Senate meeting which committees they want to join.

Committee chairmen include Lee Crawley, Issues; Jerry Bramlett, Welfare; Collier (Doc) Watson, Student Life, and Marc Powell, Public Relations.

Room Squeeze Eases; 75 Now Await Space

By P. Harrison
Battalion Staff Writer

The number of students without a room has dwindled to between 50 and 75, according to Housing Manager Allan M. Madeley, and more rooms are gradually becoming available.

Students who reserved a room this fall but failed to pay their fees and have not shown up are the primary source for additional space, Madeley said Wednesday.

He added that more should crop up in the next few days. People who have paid their fees

but have not shown up constitute another source of rooms, but Madeley expressed his reluctance to fill these until the housing office learns the whereabouts of the persons who reserved them.

According to Associate Dean of Students Don R. Stafford, 169 people have not claimed their rooms. Of these, 33 are known to have not paid their fees and will not be returning to school, which leaves 136 still in doubt.

Stafford said the decision on what to do with these remaining "no-shows" will be made today.

He commented that the main concern right now is moving the 40 people in Hotard Hall who are presently tripled up into the 33 remaining vacancies as quickly as possible.

In addition to the initial housing shortage, almost 125 students showed up this fall without reserving a room, and many of these were also put on the waiting list, Madeley said.

In the meantime, 50 to 75 students are running up bills at local motels, hunting apartments and imposing on relatives while they wait for their room key.

University Women to Meet, Discuss Plans For Year

The University Women of Texas A&M have set Oct. 7 in the Memorial Student Center Assembly room as the date and place for their first meeting of the year, announced Coordinator Gloria Shone.

It will be primarily an organizational meeting, Miss Shone explained. She went on to say that suggestions for activities during the coming year will be submitted to the girls for their comments and consideration.

Presently the University Women have tentative plans for a faculty-student tea so the coeds may become acquainted with some of the outstanding women of College Station such as the wives of the deans and board of directors members, as well as the members of the A&M Mother's Club. Also planned is the girls'

traditional help with the bonfire built prior to the Thanksgiving Football game with the University of Texas, Austin.

Earlier in the month the organization sponsored an orientation session for the new girls on campus and followed it with an informal get-together last Sunday to answer questions the girls had and provide an opportunity for them to get to know each other.

Another project in the offing for the coeds this year will be the organization of a woman's intramural program with the help of Raymond L. Fletcher, intramural director.

Members of the University Women have also volunteered to assist the MSC Fashion Committee in planning and presenting their upcoming fall fashion show.

Officers for the year in addition to Miss Shone are Dianna Hanna, new programs; Mary Hanak, old programs; Judy Guogh, communications; and Nancy Stone, secretary-treasurer.

WEATHER

Friday—Cloudy with afternoon rainshowers. Easterly winds 5 - 10 m.p.h. High 84, low 68.

Saturday—Partly cloudy, easterly winds 10 - 15 m.p.h. High 82, low 66.

Baton Rouge Kickoff—Cloudy, easterly winds 10 m.p.h., temperature 77, 60 per cent relative humidity.

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Sec. Hardin Notes Needs Of Farm Programs of 70's

Farm programs must be developed in the 1970's that will effectively serve the farmer's needs and still be acceptable to nonfarm people, Secretary of Agriculture Clifford M. Hardin said here today.

The secretary made the statement in opening a "listening conference" with farm and rural leaders from five states meeting in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

"Future programs must recognize the need for farm producers to increase their net incomes to the end that they will be able to share more equitably in the nation's economic progress," Hardin said.

"They must enable U. S. farm products to compete effectively in export markets.

"And, they must reduce the costs of production adjustment.

"Next week my staff and I will begin presenting recommendations to the Congress on a long-range resource adjustment policy, as well as on modifications of existing commodity programs," he continued.

"Because at this point in time we believe there is more than one way the overall objectives can be served, our recommendations will take the form of a series of possible courses of action.

"There is still time for you here in the Southwest, as well as for people in all other regions, to contribute ideas," Hardin added. Gov. Preston Smith and A&M President Earl Rudder also made brief remarks this morning to open the conference.

Hardin was scheduled to hear at least 32 speakers on agricultural topics that ranged from farm credit and policy to crop-land problems and human resources. In addition, he was to hear numerous unscheduled speakers from the floor in the one-day session.

Dr. Kunkel said the conference is open to any person who has an interest in agriculture and its economic well-being.

In a news conference before the listening session began, Hardin said that food prices had not risen as fast as the increase in the consumer's disposable income. He said that consumers this year are spending 17 per cent of their income on food, the same percentage they spent as last year. The secretary added that this percentage of income spent on food was the lowest ever for persons living in the United States, or in the world.

The A&M conference was the fifth in a series of regional farm policy meetings designed to obtain the viewpoints of agricultural and rural leaders. It was attended by representatives from Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Louisiana, and Arkansas. Dr. H. O. Kunkle, dean of the College of Agriculture, Texas A&M University, presided.

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Singing Cadet Tryouts Now Being Held

Singing Cadets tryouts will be held in G. Rollie White Coliseum, Room 119, from 2:00 to 4:30 p.m. this Thursday and Friday and all of next week, announced John Roby, public relations officer.

Roby said there will be 30 applicants chosen. Any student who has a schedule conflict for the tryouts should contact Robert L. Boone, director of the Singing Cadets, in the Memorial Student Center Student Programs Office, Roby added.

The Singing Cadets have been asked for the sixth time to sing at the Miss Teen-Age America Pageant in Fort Worth on Nov. 15, he said, noting that CBS television network will televise the pageant.



HARDIN ARRIVES

Secretary of Agriculture Clifford Hardin, center, talks with A&M President Earl Rudder, left, and Dr. H. O. Kunkle, dean of the College of Agriculture, at the Briarcrest Country Club. The secretary arrived here last night for a "listening conference" today.

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