

from a back-row seat

By Monty Stanley

Until this year, I always thought Student Senate meetings were held in the MSC ballroom (I've been here four years and one long, gruelling summer, and everything I've ever gone to was in the MSC ballroom, so naturally, I just assumed . . .). Well, they're not. They're held in a somewhat more plush conference room on the second floor of the library.

Now that I've got that down, all I've got to do is figure out the formula with which they choose which Thursday nights the meetings will be on. The schedule has been, to say the least, sporadic, as both of you who regularly read this column can attest. Seems like an announcement might appear in the Batt or something, but hell, even our editor didn't find out about



the meeting till 20 minutes before it started — and he's a voting member (Bet you didn't know that, did you?). So how did I find out beforehand, you slyly query? I didn't. I just go every Thursday night, and come home if they don't have a meeting. That's the only sure way I've figured out so far. Anyway, to refresh your mid-term examination-frazzled memories, this column is about the covert goings on of that secret underground brotherhood, the A&M Student Senate. The "back-row" bit in the title is a nauseatingly clever little reference to the fact that spectators — that's right, spectators — at Senate meetings sit in a gallery at the very back of the conference room. Just like in Washington.

To get down to the few brief notes about the actual subject at hand, this last week's meeting was worth seeing. As the more literary Battalion fans may have already read in last Friday's

Batt, commanders in our Corps of Cadets have actually requested a raise in salary for the duties they perform as the Corps counterparts of the civilian house-masters. Their case was a good one, since they presently get a third of what civilian dormitory housemasters get for doing the same exact administrative duties. No one present seemed really sure what these duties actually are, but whatever they are, civilians get \$60 per month doing them, while commanders get a little under \$10.

But the entertainment came in the form of suggestions from senators, such as, "If the commanders get paid, then why shouldn't the sophomores get a cut of the coinage, since they generally wind up doing the real work in the end?"

One senator even suggested that we were talking about the wrong down-trodden workers, and that, if anyone got paid, it should be each company or squadron clerk (the sophomore selected out of each outfit to keep track of passes, money collections, housing arrangements, etc.). The answer to this approach came from a fellow sophomore, who grimacedly said, "His coporal stripes should be enough for him," which brought forth a chuckle, from me, at least.

Let's face it — that extra stripe is worth about as much prestige and self-satisfaction as a record of perfect attendance at chemistry lab.

In any case, the motion, supported by adviser Malon Southerland, among others, carried, and the Student Senate has thus pledged its support for the commanders' plea for pay.

It looks like Operation Feedback is going really well from all preliminary reports. As of the Senate meeting, the data had not been completely compiled or analyzed, but at least a wealth of comment had been gathered from

the students by the senators. And that's a start.

And this week, before that next intimate conversation with your elected representative, here are some questions with which you might quiz yourself or your friends.

Questions like: How many committees are there in the Student Senate? How many commissions are there? What's the difference between the two? Do you have to be elected to help with student government at A&M? What is the MSC Council? How is it connected to the Student Senate? Do you have to be elected to help with it?

Of course, anyone can find the answers to these questions, with a little searching. Maybe get a copy of the constitution, and wade through it for a few afternoons or so — the answers are all there, in so, so many words.

But these are things one shouldn't HAVE to search for. This is all basic information which should be common knowledge among the students — in particular the part about just how you can help out with our student government. But they're not common knowledge, not by a long shot.

Why not have a pamphlet on just these types of questions? A pamphlet about student government. In other words, if you want to know, but you just don't feel like getting the run-around

and going through all that hassle, then tell somebody, help find a solution. Perhaps suggest a way the answers to such questions could become common knowledge. Student government is interesting, as anyone could see who attended a Senate meeting, and it's full of guys who would like to think they're doing a good job. But the job they do can be only as good as the interest you show in it. This time don't wait for your Student Senate representative to come to you. Go find him.

A Senator Speaks

Geistweidt Defines Senate

By..Gerald..Geistweidt...
Senate..President....

Excellence through achievement! This has been and will continue to be the goal of student government at Texas A&M. And, for a dramatic change in 1969-70, this dream is becoming a reality. Equally important, student government is becoming a reality. This evolution is due, in no small part, to the efforts of a concerned Student Senate.

Aggieland is a thriving, pulsating college community. Growing in population, reputation, and sophistication, Texas A&M is caught up in a mainstream of social interest and political activism. The Student Senate, as the arm of the people, ramrods this bustle of activity. Through numerous standing and special committees, this 75-man representation has a hand in almost every aspect of student life. The Senate acts as:

- 1) the governing body of all students. Senators are elected democratically, and the opinions, decisions, and legislation which they enact should, theoretically coincide with the will of the majority of the students.

The Senate is the policy-maker and law-maker in the realm of student government.

- 2) an agent striving to uncover and resolve problems plaguing the students. Here, the Senate's role is as a service element, a tool to be frequently employed by the individual in eliminating his problems.
- 3) the open ear for student discontent.
- 4) the student voice for administrative arbitration.

While the Student Senate envisions itself as an instrument for constructive and progressive change, the Senate is proud of its traditional dedication to sanity and maturity . . . of working with its administration for continued progress and mutual goals rather than against it for nominal autonomy . . . of always hav-

ing the welfare of the students foremost in mind.

In short, the Senate is where the action is!!! Yet, many students have recently confirmed a fear that the Senate seems isolated from the student and that Senate actions often go unnoticed. The Senate and its Public Relations Committee are taking powerful strides to alleviate this inadequacy. Operation Feedback is the first of a series of drives to puncture the communications vacuum. In Feedback, we tried to inform the student about available problem-solving channels and to extract and accumulate student opinions. Read The Battalion closely for the next few weeks, and you will learn of many more attempts that the Senate is making to reach the individual student. Also you will learn what your Senate has done for you these past months, so that you can voice your approval or disapproval to your Senator. Participation in student government, whether first hand or more remote, can be one of the most exciting and rewarding experiences of a college. Participate!

Listen Up

Editor:
Remember, bonfires prevent forests.
Johnnie B. Linn III
Graduate Student

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.

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Ski Trip Deposits Due Wednesday

Deposits for the "Ski the Alps" between-semester holiday for Texas A&M students, faculty and staff will be taken through Wednesday announced Memorial Student Center Travel Committee chairman Paul Scopel.

The Jan. 23-Feb. 1 trip will be by chartered jet to Geneva and bus to Courchevel, France, where skiing instruction and facilities and accommodations are arranged.

Non-skiers have a rent-car option through which they may see part of Europe on the 10-day trip. The round-trip price for one person is \$308, including Swiss and French tax. Scopel said 120 have signed on so far.

Information and registration forms are available at the student finance office in the MSC, next door to the director's office.

Esten to Speak At A&M-UT Fete

C. K. Esten, director of the Aggie Players, will be the principal speaker at the annual Texas A&M-University of Texas banquet in San Antonio tonight.

The two hometown clubs alternate each year giving a banquet before the A&M-Texas football game, with each one inviting the other as their guests, Esten said.

"This year's banquet is sponsored by the A&M hometown club," he said.

Physics Colloquium Scheduled Wednesday

A physics colloquium will be held at 3 p.m. Wednesday in Room 146 of the Physics Build-

BONFIRE

(Continued from page 1)
the guard stepped in front of him.

"No, it isn't," he said. "I'll have to see your ID card."

The student finally relented, showed his ID card, and was admitted.

The centerpole still loomed high in the floodlights and the base seemed just a little wider.



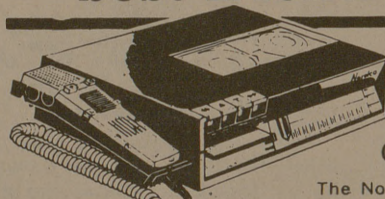
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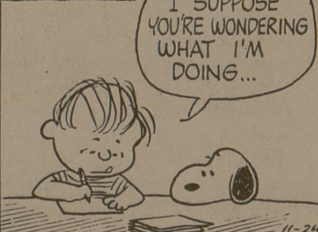
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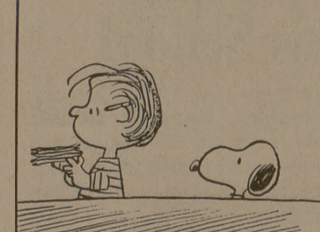
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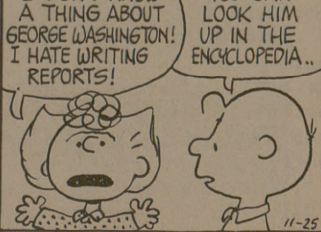
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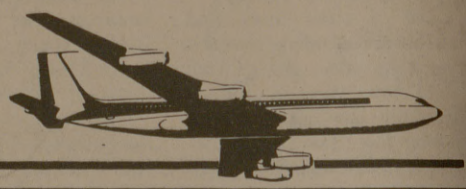
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