Listen Up *the batt forum*

Editor:

I was pleased last Sunday while watching his last post-game television program of this football season, when Coach Gene Stallings announced his intention to evaluate the entire athletic program at Texas A&M to see where problems could be eliminated and improvement made. Upon further consideration, I now question not only Coach Stallings' motives for such an announcement, but also his timetable of action.

Two seasons ago Texas A&M acquired an outstanding, enthusiastic, new coach for its intercollegiate swimming program. Along with the new coach came announcement of intentions to perform much needed renovation on P.L. Downs Natatorium, including the installation of a bulkhead to make the pool a standard length. (If you've ever wondered why the Southwest Conference Swimming Meet is never held at Texas A&M, this is the reason—Downs Natatorium is substandard.) Two years later, P.L. Downs Natatorium stands as it has for years. The much needed improvements don't seem so needed any more.

Is it a question of availability of money? The promises were made during a winning football season (1967) when money was available, and now it's probably not available. The football program though, with high school recruitng wars about to begin, has suddenly developed a desperate need for Astroturf. It's amazing, too, how when backed wholeheartedly by the right people, improvement programs are completed. I'll bet we are fortunate enough to have the new playing surface installed for Spring Training — stadium, practice fields, everywhere. I sincerely hope the Astroturf does improve recruiting. Yet even more, I hope the athletic directors will evaluate their program and once again determine that there are needs in every sport.

Coach Stallings once talked of an athletic program which would boast a NO. 1 rating in every sport. The question is, "Does Coach Stallings just talk a good athletic program?"

Thomas N. Holder

Dr. Carl W. Landiss, head of the Health and Physical Education Department, said today that some plans for the bulkhead have been drawn up, but that no money has been appropriated. He added that other improvements are also and said the entire project is still in the "planning stages."—Ed.

★ ★ ★

Editor:

This Generation Gap—I don't understand! The bonfire finance committee reports to the effect—"Don't buy at the Northgate stores because they gave very little money for the bonfire." (Front page Nov. 21 Daily Eagle) If you would stay in any of these stores for one day and see how many people, organizations, clubs, etc. call on them for donations, you'd be shocked and ashamed.

And why should the bonfire committee expect a "hand-out"?

You are all good, strong, healthy Americans!

Do you know how much a cord of firewood cost? $25.00 and $30.00.

And it's hard to find.

You have the wood and saws available. Why can't you cut up some of those logs and EARN the money you need?

People are tired of these "give me" deals. And you can deliver the first cord of wood to me.

It is not the SIZE of the bonfire that counts—it's the SPIRIT.

I've witnessed a lot more Spirit generate from smaller bonfires than the ones the past few years.

You can't **build** it with one kind of spirit (condemn the Northgate stores because they didn't give you very much money) and expect it to **burn** with the TRUE AGGIE SPIRIT.

But, This Generation Gap—I don't understand!

Good luck and think about this.

Mrs. Helen Pugh
College Station

★ ★ ★

Editor:

My name is Charles Hicks. I am a candidate for the Student Senate seat left vacant by the resgnation of Kent Caperton.

I believe the Senate has a responsibility to represent and support the students at Texas A&M. I feel there are five areas in which we need immediate action:

1. Parking
2. Pass-Fail
3. Non-Compulsory Board
4. Laundry
5. University Hospital

In the past, most candidates have listed these same points in some way. I cannot guarantee positive results, but I can guarantee these will be on the floor of the Senate for action.

I feel, if elected, my primary responsibility is to represent the wants and needs of the Junior Business Majors on all issues presented to the Student Senate. With your support, I will work in these areas for the betterment of the students. Your support is needed and appreciated on Wednesday, December 10 in Room 152 of Francis Hall.

Please elect Charles Hicks Junior Representative from Business to the Student Senate.

Charles Hicks '71

A Senator Speaks

Senate Wants to Serve

By Marc Powell
Public Relations Chairman

Howdy! From the Student Senate.

This column is an attempt by the Student Senate to explain to you, the student body, why the Student Senate exists, what the Student Senate does, and how it goes about accomplishing its goals.

These goals should not be those of another student organization, but those of you—the students.

In the past the Student Senate has had the reputation of expressing only the ideas of its membership. THINGS HAVE CHANGED! We, the senators, were elected by the students to represent them and to express their views to the administration. It is the responsibility of the Public Relations Committee to be the means by which the students can express their ideas to their representatives, the senators.

In an effort to fulfill this mission, the Public Relations Committee has placed Student Senate Suggestion Boxes in the MSC and Library. All students and interested faculty are encouraged to make good use of these boxes to present grievances or suggestions for improvement of campus facilities or student life.

Operation Feedback was an endeavor to acquaint the student with some of their senators and to offer them a personalized invitation to express their ideas to a senator either in writing or verbally. We were very pleased at the response we received from this project. We feel that as a result of this project the Student Senate is better informed as to how the student body feels and in what fields the students want to see their senate emphasize their efforts.

As a further effort to introduce the senators who represent students, the Dec. 2, 1969, issue of The Battalion contained the Student Senate Roster for the current year.

All students are encouraged to save that page and contact their senate representative at any time to secure assistance or to suggest action by the Student Senate.

The Public Relations Committee will keep the students informed in The Battalion on current topics under discussion in the senate. Senate meetings are certainly not held behind closed doors and all students are invited to all of our meetings. The senate convenes on Thursday evenings at 7:30 in the Conference Room of the Library.

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.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced, and must be no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

1969 TPA Award Winner

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsey, chairman; H. F. Eilers, College of Liberal Arts; F. S. White, College of Engineering; Dr. Asa B. Childers, Ja. College of Veterinary Medicine; and Dr. Z. L. Carpenter, College of Agriculture.

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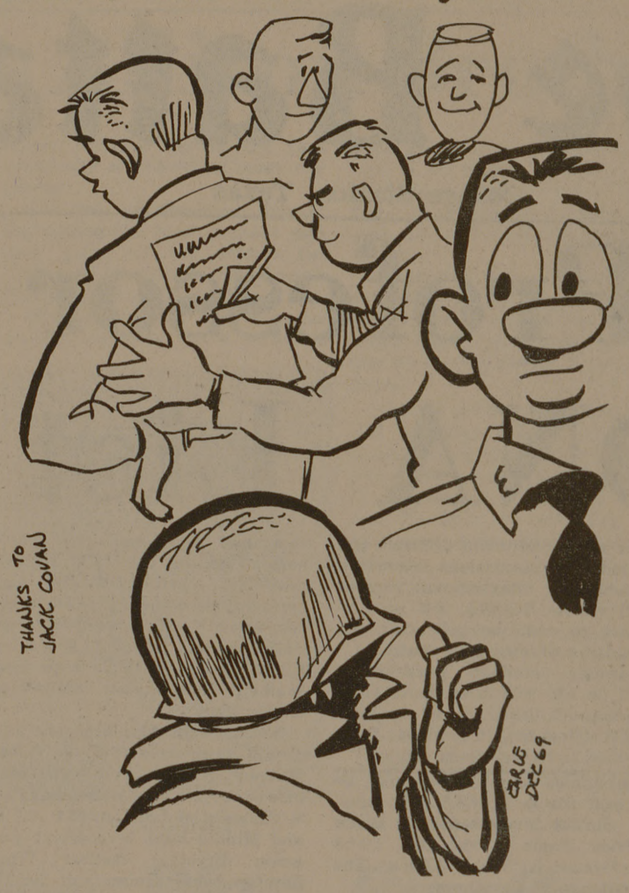

"It's a petition to give us Monday off if Arkansas beats Texas!"

Bulletin Board

TONIGHT

Garland Hometown Club will meet at 7:45 p.m. in the lounge by Dormitory 1.

Society of Automotive Engineers will hear the Humble Oil Co. presentation, "The Northwest Passage Voyage of the U.S.S. Manhatten" at 7:30 p.m. in Room 303, Fermier.

Port Arthur Hometown Club will elect a sweetheart at 8 p.m. in Room 110, Military Science.

THURSDAY

San Angelo-West Texas Hometown Club will discuss holding a Christmas dance at 7:30 p. m. in Room 2B MSC.

El Paso Hometown Club will distribute tickets for the Sun Carnival Basketball Tournament at 7:30 p. m. in Room 2A MSC.

SATURDAY

Organization of Arab Students will meet at 5:30 p.m. in Hensel Park. Arabian dishes will be served at the cost of $1.

3 Medals Awarded Posthumously to Ex

The Oak Leaf Cluster to the Bronze Star Medal, Air Medal and Commendation Medal were presented posthumously to Army Capt. Eugene C. Oates III, Texas A&M graduate killed in a helicopter accident last August in Vietnam.

Receiving the decorations was his wife, the former Sharon Walding of Bryan.

The son of Col. and Mrs. Eugene C. Oates Jr., Jone Bridge Road, was cited for service in the Corps of Engineers.

The three medals were presented in the presence of Oates' parents and Mrs. Oates' mother, Mrs. W. G. Walding, 1008 Antoine, by Army Col. Jim H. McCoy, A&M commandant.

Colonel Oates is residence hall program adviser in the Civilian Student Activities office.

Captain Oates was commissioned at A&M in 1967, when he received the bachelor degree civil engineering. Following at Fort Hood, he attended jump warfare school in Panama, engineer officers basic at Fort Belvoir, Va., and Ranger school Fort Bragg, S. C.

He had served a tour in Germany and had been in Southeast Asia seven months, the latter as a captain.

At A&M, Oates was a member of the Ross Volunteers and Company E-1, of which he was platoon sergeant in 1964-65.

RETIRED

DENVER (AP)—Bill Rice, who estimates he has helped veterans and widows to claim more than $252 million in benefits over the last 21 years, has retired as head of the veterans affairs division of the Colorado Social Services Department.

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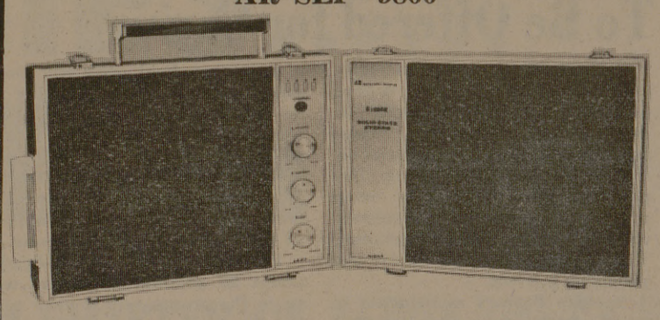

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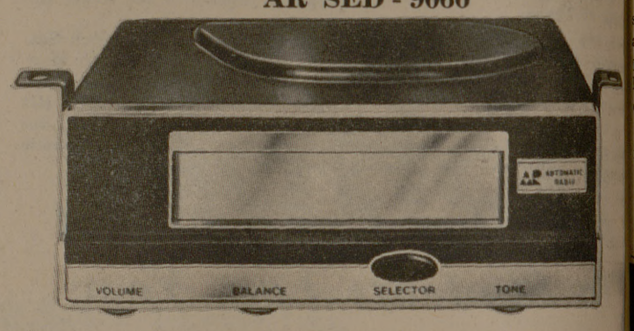

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