

## Registration hassle

Students—they're the ones the school is established for. Without them, there is no university. The faculty teaches the students. Everything is for the students.

We're not insulting your intelligence with the simple statements above; we're just trying to refresh your memories. It seems some people have forgotten—the faculty, for instance.

First session registration was a hassle. So, H.L. Heaton, the dean of admissions and records, called a group of involved people together to propose a solution. Students were included. The solution was drawn up—extend the period to eight hours, enforce alphabetical admission to Duncan Dining Hall for registration, have more people handing out card packets, and try to better inform everyone.

All this was done two weeks ago. Well, Monday the Academic Programs Committee had a meeting and decided that the Registrar's Office didn't know what it was talking about where registration was concerned.

So, this group, composed of the academic deans, forced its own plan on the students. It just so happens, naturally, that this plan's primary purpose is to release the faculty members from registration as soon as possible. The students? Well, no more lines—or so they say.

Those of us without amnesia remember first session registration. Lines, lines, lines. This time it'll be different. Instead of waiting in line, that time will be taken up walking from Duncan to G. Rollie White Coliseum.

But, that's okay, because as soon as somebody's through, they can leave. That statement applies to some of the students, but it applies to every single faculty member there. And not all of them are there.

Since the faculty can complete its super-complicated job of writing names on a sheet of paper and handing a student a card, then registration will last only four hours instead of a leisurely eight. Complicated tuition and residency laws for the fee assessors don't have anything to do with it.

Don't blame the Registrar's Office; it isn't their fault this time and it wasn't last time. Since the faculty is so overworked, the registrar must submit to the academic demands of a shorter time period, regardless of the outcome. That's called not being able to see past the nose on your face. Students are what is beyond the faculty noses.

The registrar tries to serve the students. That's called doing your job. The faculty is trying to find the easiest possible solution for the faculty. That's called being selfish.

All the possibilities of problems are better seen than heard, and if you hang around long enough, you can see them all. What if it rains? What if people leave after going through only the Duncan phase? What if they're refinishing the floor in G. Rollie, which they will be? What if 600 people try to register late, like they did last time, and all crowd into the lobby of the Coke Building? In which building should the people from the Registrar's Office locate themselves to best answer questions and help solve problems?

For the answer to these and other troubles July 13, ask your local faculty member—he probably had more to do with it than the registrar.

# Highway program in trouble

CORPUS CHRISTI—Members of the Texas Bays Association were told Friday that the State's entire highway program is in jeopardy.

Charles Simons, a member of the Texas Highway Commission, discussed problems confronting the State Highway Department in its responsibility to construct and maintain a highway system to serve all the people of Texas.

Simons warned that the highway program is threatened by proposed environmental controls, raids on the Federal Highway Trust Fund, government reorganization, Federal revenue sharing and bureaucratic red tape.

"We propose that the Federal government finish the Interstate system as pledged, then release to the states responsibility for collection of the special highway user taxes invoked in 1956 to establish the Highway Trust Fund."

Prior to 1956 the states collected most of the highway user tax revenues. Since then the federal government has collected specially imposed taxes on gasoline and other motor-related products to match state funds for Interstate and Primary system highway construction.

"Congress established the Highway Trust Fund with a solemn pledge that it would be used

exclusively for the construction of the Interstate system and other primary highways," Simons said. "Now schemes to divert Trust Fund revenues to build rail mass transit systems in Eastern Seaboard and Midwest cities have been bounding around Washington like a basketball."

Simons explained that the Texas Highway Commission fully supports mass transit systems and pointed out that Texas has built one of the best networks of rubber-tired mass transit in the United States, which he described as most economical, most flexible and most practical for all but about 10 cities in the U.S.

"Texans have paid for their own mass transit system with their own highway user taxes," Simons said. "We on the Commission believe riders on other mass transit systems in other states should pay for their own systems from the fare box or self-imposed general tax revenues. It is as simple as that."

Another cause for concern to the Highway Commission outlined by Simons is the Administration proposal for governmental reorganization. In this proposal is a plan to merge elements of the Department of Transportation (DOT) with the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), the Office of Economic

Opportunity (OEO), elements of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) in a Department of Community Affairs.

"Highways are not a community affair. They are a state concern," Simons said. "This is a ridiculous grouping of non-related government organizations. It should be recognized for exactly what it is: a move to dominate the highway program and to divert highway user tax revenues to wild-eyed welfare and other socialistic schemes."

Simons blamed withholding of distribution from the Highway Trust Fund for hampering highway construction.

"More than \$5 billion a year flows to the fund," Simons said. "This is a prime attraction to bureaucrats and political opportunists who see it as the greatest potential plush fund for financing pork barrel projects in the entire history of the country."

Manipulated balances of the Highway Trust Fund have resulted in the delayed completion of the Interstate System. Originally planned for completion in 1972, the system is now only about three-fourths complete. Simons expressed doubt that the system will be completed until the 1980's.

"We are enmeshed in a bureau-

cratic stranglehold of red tape and directives that have stretched the time necessary to get a highway project ready for contract from 34 months to 78 months," Simons said. "Congress is at long last looking at this very threatening problem. Rep. Jim Wright (Dem.-Tex.) is chairman of a House subcommittee whose members recently were appalled to learn of bureaucratic interpretation and red tape imposed on cotton and red tape imposed on congressionally approved legislation."

Simons pointed out that Congress now is considering legislation known as the "Transportation Revenue Sharing Plan." It provides that special taxes invoked on motor vehicle users would be returned to local governments.

Under the proposed legislation Texas would receive a much smaller share of federal highway user taxes, and far less than Texas vehicle owners pay into the Highway Trust Fund. In effect the Highway Department would be reduced to an agency dealing only with rural roads on drastically reduced finances while the cities' portion of the "shared" funds would be "sliced so thin that you could read a newspaper through it," Simons said.

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## Yarborough dinner here Thursday night

A Ralph Yarborough Appreciation Dinner will be held Thursday night at 7:30 to help raise money to pay campaign debts for the defeated United States senatorial candidate.

A group of local citizens is sponsoring the dinner tabbed as a "poor man's supper" menu, at the Knights of Columbus Hall on Leonard Road.

Among the distinguished speakers who will accent Yarborough's contributions in education, veterans' affairs and agriculture will be Cong. Bob Eckhardt, Cong. Barbara Jordan, Leonel Castillo, Houston city comptroller, and Ronnie Dugger, editor-at-large of the Texas Observer. Also expected to attend is Chief Bat-

tle of the Alabama-Coushatta Indian tribe. Yarborough and his wife will attend the dinner. Tickets are \$5 each, and they may be purchased at the door or from Mike Beal, 823-5469.

### Grad announcements now on sale at MSC

Graduation announcements are now on sale at the Memorial Student Center for A&M students graduating in July or August.

The announcement sales will continue through Friday, July 7, at the Cashier's Window in the MSC Ground Floor. Window hours are 9 a.m. to noon and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

## Classes closed for July 4th

A&M summer session classes will meet on Monday, July 3, with only Tuesday, July 4, scheduled as a holiday, Registrar Robert A. Lacey announced.

He noted that this Independence Holiday arrangement applies to all students except those in the College of Veterinary Medicine professional course.

TAMU faculty and staff members also will have the Tuesday holiday.

Vet medicine, which began the summer trimester April 24, will have a July 1-4 class break. Other summer students will have only a week of classes remaining after the holiday, with first term final examinations July 11 and 12.

### Bulletin Board

Tonight Sports Car Club meets at 7:30 in the old College Station City Hall.

Thursday July 6 Cepheid Variables Science Fiction Club meets in Room 101 of the Physics Building at 7:30 p.m.

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# The Battalion

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the student writers only. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting educational enterprise edited and operated by students at a university and community newspaper.

### LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, and 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.

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