

SCONA XVIII: Programmed Involvement For Everyone

By MIKE RICE

Editor
SCONA — what is it, who is it and why is it held each year at A&M?

These and other questions will probably be arising shortly as over 160 students from schools across the nation prepare to begin the eighteenth Student Conference on National Affairs.

SCONA is a student-planned and operated conference which has been presented at A&M for the last seventeen years. Accordingly, the conference has come to be very well-known to a wide diversity of people, ranging from professors to high-level administrators in Washington, D.C.

What is it?
"It is an attempt to take education learned in the classroom and apply this knowledge to a kind of education impossible to

get from the classroom situation," says SCONA Chairman, Chet Edwards.

"We are trying to bring students from across the country to discuss issues of important national concern with the objective of creating a better awareness and understanding of society."

This year's topic, "The Controlled Society," promises to provide one of the most stimulating and controversial conferences in the program's history.

"The premise of SCONA XVIII's topic is that controls are pervasive in today's America. Consequently, three questions will be central to the discussion of SCONA's theme among delegates:

1. What is the nature and extent of present controls?
2. Should these controls be increased, decreased, or abolished?

3. What are the alternatives to control?

"The creation of the mass man, a unit or mechanism in a societal network and subject to ever-increasing regulation and control" is a creation on which SCONA XVIII is based. Individuals across the country are expressing alarm at the many ways in which a person is becoming an object to be "manipulated, whether for his own good or for the benefit of another."

So where do non-delegates fit in to SCONA's objectives?

"All students should have an interest in attending," says Phil Smith, SCONA co-chairman. "For their own peace of mind and desire to be current with the times in thinking."

"A point frequently overlooked by most students at A&M is that they (all 15,000 of them) are

welcome to attend any phase of the conference. The more, the better," says Smith.

The format of the conference is organized about roundtable discussion groups, with delegates assigned to each group. Roundtables are presided over by two people whose field of interest or expertise falls within the limits of the topic.

Co-chairmen range from the minister of the Polish Embassy (Communist) in Washington, D. C. to A&M's Dr. Vaughn M. Bryant, an assistant professor in Sociology and Anthropology. Since a balance of ideas is considered vital to the success of the conference, diversity of viewpoint and background were important criteria in selecting all 16 co-chairmen.

In addition, outstanding in-

dividuals from areas relating to the conference topic will participate as keynote speakers at major plenary sessions. As a result, delegates and the general public have the opportunity to be exposed to a variety of opinions.

While only delegates will take part in the round-table discussions, non-students and non-delegates may sit in on these as well as ask questions of the major speakers after their addresses.

Edwards considers SCONA XVIII's major speakers to be among the best and currently most controversial in today's news. Such noted individuals as the FBI's Acting Director, Patrick Gray, Minnesota Senator Walter F. Mondale and maverick Federal Communications Commissioner Nicholas Johnson will go public record with their views

and criticisms of current issues.

As added attractions to the conference, all students will be able to view movies such as '1984' and 'Fahrenheit 451' with SCONA delegates. 'Reefer Madness,' a 1939 film production striking out against the use of marijuana will also be shown to the general public.

"In all this, students should keep an open mind," says Edwards. "Delegates and non-delegates should gather in other viewpoints, question their own values and then decide whether their own need to be changed or kept stable."

"With students coming from so many perspectives of life, it should be difficult for them to keep all their views just as intact as before the conference," he added.

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TOWING CARS away is a frequent happening at A&M nowadays, says University Police Chief O. L. Luther. Luther said cars which receive six or more unpaid tickets are generally susceptible to the occurrence, no matter if they are parked legally at the time of the tow-off.

Crime Rate At A&M Shows Reverse Trend

Although crime is still a thriving business at Texas A&M, the rate of criminal acts being committed has decreased by 25 per cent, announced University Police Chief O. L. Luther Tuesday.

He said that whereas most universities were experiencing a 100 per cent increase in "crime on campus," it was surprising to see A&M following the opposite trend.

Luther said that this semester's criminal incidents total of 357 was a decrease over the fall semester of 1971. Of these 275 incidents were cleared either by further investigation or at the scene.

Highlighting the number of criminal acts reported to the University Police, one finds that burglary led the field with 60 cases reported while felony theft followed close behind with 50 cases.

In other types of incidents there were 11 narcotics cases, 45 misdemeanor theft reports, two indecent exposure incidents and 22 nuisance and obscene phone call cases.

Luther also reported that his

department issued 4,095 traffic violation notices over the four-month period, 3,337 of which were first-time (\$2) non-moving offenses. There were 63 five-dollar moving violation notices issued.

He added that 2,117 notices were excused while \$10,606 was collected for violation notices and penalties. Property recovered and returned to owners during the semester was valued at \$9,980.46.

In recent activities, Luther said his officers are continuing investigations into two large thefts which occurred over the weekend.

Three autos of almost identical make were stolen from university parking lots Friday and police are still searching for clues.

Missing are three 1966 Chevrolet Chevelles, one of them the 'SS' model type. One was maroon, with Texas license GPN

786; the second was red with Texas license SST 607; and the third was white with black vinyl top and Texas license MBC 142. All had 396 cu. in. engines.

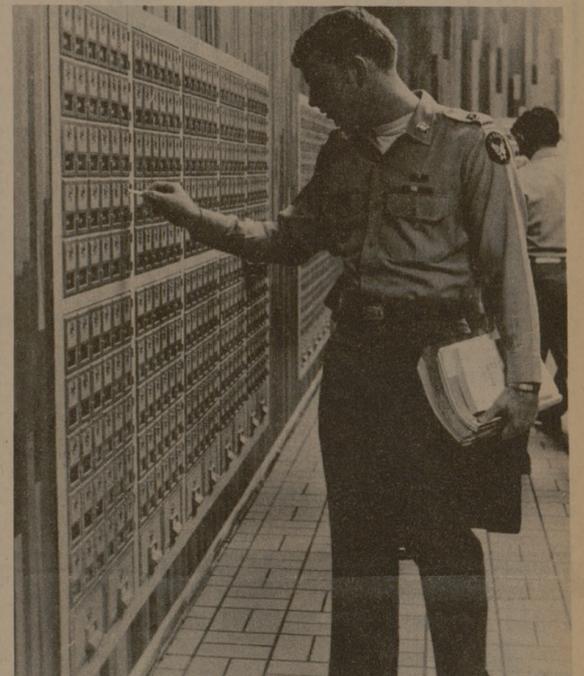
Also disappearing was electronic equipment scheduled to be installed in the new Memorial Student Center Tower. John Koenig of the Taft Broadcasting Co. reported that an AM-FM tuner, amplifier, speakers, microphone and patch cords were taken from the fourth floor of the new building.

Also stolen was soldering equipment.

Police are still searching for two men who "kidnapped" two Aggies last weekend, allegedly forcing them at gunpoint to drive them to Houston.

Dana Reese and Mike Morris were abducted at the U-Tot-M located at the corner of Meadowland and University Dr. and forced to drive Reese's car to Houston. The two were then forced afoot while the suspects still have possession of the car, a gold American Motors Gremlin.

The Aggie duo said they believe the suspects were carrying three suitcases of marijuana.



A NEW HOME for A&M's on-campus postal facilities opened Tuesday at the back end of the Memorial Student Center on Joell Route Blvd. Here an Aggie opens his new box for the first time with the Postal Department's new method of safeguarding mail, the key. (Photo by Gary Baldasari)

Andujar To Speak Friday

State Sen. Betty Andujar of Fort Worth, one of the new crop of Texas legislators, will speak Friday at A&M in the Political Forum noon series.

Sen. Andujar will be here to

address a local group Thursday.

Her Political Forum topic will be "Chapter 1 of the 1973 Legislature," announced the Memorial Student Center committee chairman Mike Lindsey. The public-

free presentation will be in Rooms 2A and B of the MSC.

The first woman and first Republican elected from Tarrant County to the Texas Senate, Mrs. Andujar defeated a veteran legislator for the District 12 seat.

She recently introduced Senate Bill 24, which provides for lower penalties for possession of marijuana. SB 24 goes before its first hearing Tuesday.

A graduate of Wilson College in Chambersburg, Pa., Mrs. Andujar has resided in Fort Worth 34 years. The freshman senator is vice chairman of the Senate nominations subcommittee and serves on State Affairs, Natural Resources and Human Resources Committees.

Among numerous activities, she is a board member and education committee chairman of the Planned Parenthood Association of Fort Worth.

GSC Considers Retirement Bill

The Graduate Student Council will vote on a resolution voicing support for a Texas Legislative bill concerning a change in mandatory retirement programs for graduate students at a meeting Thursday night.

The present policy states a mandatory retirement program for graduate students and does not let them choose the one best suited to their needs, said Ray Skowronski. Passage of the resolution will show the GSC support for the bill, he said.

The Input committee will report on the response to the Suggestion Box in the Library. "The majority of the suggestions deal with the Library, and we turn them over to the Library Director, Jack Smith. The others are passed on for further activity to the appropriate people," Skowronski stated.

A tax seminar will be considered for students. The proposal, submitted by Paul Boatwright, concerns a session with a member of the Internal Revenue Service to aid students with their problems.

A&M Vice-President Named To Governor's Committee

Tom D. Cherry, vice president for business affairs at A&M, has been named by Gov. Dolph Briscoe to serve on a task force to study operation of the information service branch of the governor's office.

Cherry will be joined on the panel by Rex Stallings of Austin, Foster Parker of Houston and Robert Olson and Henry Wendler, both of Dallas.

"I have asked the task force members to study the functions

and operations of the Office of Information Service in the governor's office and to recommend any changes necessary to initiate and maintain the most efficient and economic procedures," Governor Briscoe noted.

In addition to reviewing current operation of the information services, the group will interview executives from business and government agencies to establish priorities and eliminate duplicate functions, the governor added.

4 Marijuana Reform Bills Before Texas Legislature

AUSTIN, Tex. (AP) — "I have traveled a long way on my road to an understanding of marijuana," Sen. Betty Andujar, R-Fort Worth, said Tuesday in explaining one of four bills to lessen the penalties for possession of the drug.

"I feel that what we are facing here is a change of social practices which in no way is a criminal practice," she told the Senate Jurisprudence Committee. Dozens of witnesses crammed into the small room to recite their views.

Her bill would make it a misdemeanor to possess two ounces

or less of marijuana with felony provisions for more than that.

Other bills were introduced by Sen. Bill Meier, D-Eules, Sen. Raul Longoria, D-Edinburg, and Sen. Bob Gammage, D-Houston.

All four bills were referred to subcommittees.

Meier's bill, which was endorsed by Travis County Dist. Atty. Bob Smith, categorized several different stages of possession. Four ounces or less would be a class B misdemeanor with a maximum six month jail sentence; 4-8 ounces would be a more serious misdemeanor, and

over 8 ounces, or sale, would constitute a felony.

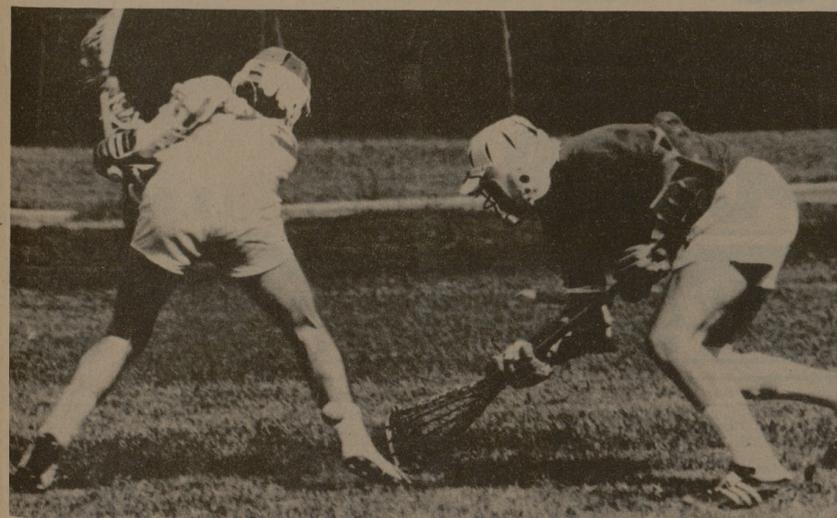
Longoria's measure would make 8 ounces or less a misdemeanor punishable by a \$5-500 fine and/or 60 days in jail.

The bill by Sen. Gammage would allow possession of up to 10 ounces of marijuana with a misdemeanor charge.

Nearly all the testimony before the committee favored reduction of marijuana penalties.

"If an 18-year-old boy is caught with a six-pack of beer in his car, it's a misdemeanor," said Gammage. "If he's caught with a joint, it's a felony."

(See 4 Marijuana, page 5)



AN A&M LACROSSE MEMBER battles a Dallas player for possession of the ball. Once he gets the ball, he can run with it, pass it or shoot it at a six by six foot goal. The first match of the season is here against Dallas.

Lacrosse: At A&M To Stay

By ROD SPEER

Lacrosse, a game that has undergone considerable refinement since the days the Indians played it for blood, is trying to make a name for itself at A&M.

The Texas A&M Lacrosse Association, in its second official season, began last spring in a sand lot by the Casa Del Sol apartments with a handful of students and a former high school lacrosse coach from Long Island.

The club grew to include about a dozen people and graduated from the sand lot to organized practices on the A&M Polo Field. Through the conniving of its coach, David Gruber, the team managed to get \$400 from the university to purchase equipment. Before the year was out, the A&M Lacrosse Association had competed against both the Dallas and Houston Lacrosse Clubs.

This year the club is starting out with 30 members who have

began practice for a four-game schedule against the Dallas and Houston teams, who proved to be too strong for the Aggies last year. The team has received \$500 through the Exchange Store profits in addition to the \$3 membership dues it collects.

Lacrosse is played with a leather-webbed wooden or fiberglass stick and is known for its body contact and speed. Bumper stickers acclaim it as "the fastest game on foot." The goals are six feet square and netted and are surrounded by a nine foot radius circle or "crease" in which opposing players cannot enter. The ball, smaller in size than a baseball and similar in texture to a "superball," is advanced by running or passing with the stick. One point is scored by shooting the ball into the opponent's goal.

The game is similar to hockey in that penalties result in a player spending time in a "penalty box" off the playing field. Also,

as in hockey, the goals are set apart from the endlines so that play can continue behind them.

Each team consists of a goalkeeper, three defensemen, three midfielders and three attack men. They play on a rectangular field, 110 yards long and 60 yards wide. The game is divided into 15-minute quarters, and, in event of a tie game, a 10-minute overtime period is added.

The players wear masked helmets, shorts, heavy gloves and optional body protectors. Wyatt's Sporting Goods Store at Northgate now carries lacrosse sticks and has become the first store in Texas to carry lacrosse equipment.

Coach Gruber, a graduate student in biology, essentially created the A&M Lacrosse Association and was largely responsible for the formation of the Houston Club. He played four years of varsity lacrosse in high school and two years with the Long

Island Club before coaching a year in Long Island. He considers the Toustou and Dallas players as better "stick-handlers" than the Aggies (many of them are lacrosse veterans that played on Eastern teams), but says A&M can beat the older men by being better conditioned.

The American Indians originated lacrosse and played it with a savage intensity which included crippling or even killing the opponents. Indian medicine men served as referees on a field which was several miles long. The French Canadians refined the game into the national sport of Canada. The word "crosse" is French for stick.

The Lacrosse Association currently has an exhibit and slides on display on the first floor of the Memorial Student Center.

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