

SCONA's Controlled Society: Panacea Or Path To Hell?

By MIKE RICE
Editor

To control a computer and its output, a person is required to put in the necessary information for it to be useful and controls to guide and tell it what it can and can't do.

Much of the same thing is happening to humans today from the minute they enter grade school (possibly pre-school) to the day they leave college to use what has been "indoctrinated" into their very existence.

If it is true that knowledge is being controlled, the first question which should arise is to what extent is it being controlled and for what purpose. A second ques-

tion, even more important, would be, "How can the strength of the controller be broken?"

Although there is no single answer to these complex and perhaps confusing questions, students fortunate enough and interested enough in them will take the time to investigate "The Controlled Society" issue facing the eighteenth Student Conference on National Affairs at A&M starting Wednesday.

The flow of information between all parts of society must be sustained if people living in a fast-paced civilization are to be able to successfully confront the pressure and problems of the times. Today's civilization does

face problems of enormous scope and complexity.

Some problems are in areas where our expertise and technology can be applied with easily recognizable results such as in aerospace and military actions. In others, the benefits are not so easily realizable.

Leadership is the broad answer to these problems and those attending SCONA XVIII will, in all probability, be the leaders of tomorrow, at least that's what SCONA workers hope.

"Students attending SCONA should be asking themselves what they are looking for in the world around them," says SCONA XVIII Chairman Chet Edwards.

"This is a question that can only be answered by the individual. SCONA XVIII will hopefully provide the fuel or drive to make that decision."

The speakers delivering addresses desire in some way to influence their way of thinking (control?) while at the same time making room for the divergent thoughts of others.

Such men as Nicholas Johnson, commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission, will warn of governmental controls and holds on information in order to keep the masses in check.

On the other side of the coin, Minnesota Senator Walter F. Mondale, the much-talked about

possible Democratic nominee for the President's office in '76, will share his views on controls within society.

Remembering that information is necessary to control a computer, SCONA delegates will also have to take note of the amount of information government agencies have on each individual in order to control his behavior.

Arthur R. Miller, law professor at Harvard will lecture on the government's assault on privacy, how it is done, and how obtained information is retained for future controls.

Patrick Gray III, acting director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, will probably stand on the other side of the fence

with Miller, since the control of crime in a "free" society sometimes requires privacy invasion of seemingly innocent individuals.

Psychologically and biologically Dr. Jack Michael, Dr. Paul Saltman and Dr. Rollo May should provide better insights into what society is doing to itself by shaping behavior and "programming" information for predicted actions and thinking.

These speakers will be food for thought and consumption. Persons attending SCONA XVIII will have to determine for themselves how much information is usable and how much is worthless for the "free" advance of society.

The Battalion

Vol. 67 No. 213

College Station, Texas Friday, February 9, 1973

845-2226

'Miles For Mankind' Endorsed

Senate Tables Buses; Passes Housing

By VICKIE ASHWILL
Staff Writer

Following more than an hour of debate the Student Senate tabled the shuttle bus issue 41 to 24 with one abstention Thursday

night. Senators were expected to either accept the proposal as is, accept it with amendments or to completely reject the issue. Senators produced arguments concern-

ing the \$66,000 to be extracted from the student service fees and the \$18 user fee versus the parking fee.

Discussion over two buses on an inner-periphery route created a conflict among the senators and it was suggested that the two buses be disposed with completely.

"I don't think you're going to get \$24,000 worth of benefit from two buses when you could be using the money somewhere else," said Layne Kruse, Student Government president.

"When I see \$42,000 (excluding two on-campus buses) coming from the student service fees, I also see 16,000 students paying for a service only 3,000 students use," said Fred Campbell, chairman of the rules and regulations committee. "I do not see how these figures can possibly justify the entire program."

Senators endorsed the resolution asking A&M President Jack K. Williams to do all he can to open up lower-cost housing for women on the civilian side of the campus for the fall semester 1973.

Also included on the proposal to be sent to the administration is a friendly amendment presented by Tom Locke (Keathley-Hughes). This amendment states that "be it further resolved that the Student Senate recommend the policy of coeducational housing in dormitories as an alternative to the eviction of the students involved."

The Resident Hall Association and White, Utay, Davis-Gary, Hart, Walton, Krueger, Law, Puryear, Dunn, Keathley and Hughes have approved the resolution.

"The remaining dorms have not yet been formally contacted, but there are no negative votes from any dorm council thus far," said Campbell. "The remaining dorms will be contacted as soon as possible for the consideration."

The resolution concerning the hiring of a pre-law student advisor to be available to pre-law students was accepted by the Senate after much debate.

The resolution requests that

the academic vice president of A&M publicly and officially designate in the University catalogue a University official to provide academic counseling every semester, service as a clearing house for LSAT and LSDAS information, service as an informative clearing house for current law school announcements, maintenance of an up-to-date collection of law school catalogues, and fulfilling other duties deemed necessary.

In other action the Senate endorsed the Student 'Y' Association and community project "Miles For Mankind." The 'Y' is working toward a total contribution of \$10,000 with 50 percent for world

service, 30 percent for the Bryan College Station area for a teenage workshop and 20 percent for university projects such as renovating Hensel Park.

Kruse made two appointments at the meeting. Videll Gonzalez is now an off-campus graduate senator and Sam Bays is a senator for graduate agriculture.

The Senate supported a copy of the Texas bill permitting graduate students to choose their own retirement plan, rather than having mandatorily join the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS).

A referendum will now be held to decide whether or not the State (See Senate, page 2)

Ticketing Starts Monday For Unregistered Bicycles

For those still avoiding the "rush" to register bicycles, University Police Chief O. L. Luther announced Thursday that his department will begin fining bicyclists Monday for riding bikes without having them registered.

Luther said he would like to remind students that the registration fee has been reduced to \$1.50 from \$3. Anyone having paid the latter fee earlier in the year may get his refund by contacting the University Police in the YMCA Bldg.

University Police officers began issuing tickets for bicyclists committing moving violations two weeks ago while at the same time ticketing the same who also didn't have bikes registered.

Luther said tickets were voided for both violations if students registered their bikes after receiving tickets.

Students are reminded that all bicycles operated or parked on the campus at any time must be registered with the University Police within 48 hours after arrival on the campus.

Rudder's Rangers Sponsor Special Running Program

By BURT OWENS

Rudder's Rangers are sponsoring a physical fitness program called "Run for Your Life."

Completion of the requirements set up in this program results in a special physical achievement ribbon for corps members to wear on their uniform.

Developed by the Army, this program was adapted for the Aggie ranger company by Sgt. Maj. John McDonald. It is being offered corps-wide on either an individual basis or can be entered by whole outfits. It is stressed that participation be strictly voluntary.

The purpose of the "aerobics", or running, program is to develop the heart, lungs and circulatory vessels, and thus reduce the chances of coronary attack.

There are three stages of development in the program set up according to degree of physical fitness. The preparatory phase is for people who have been leading an inactive life. The conditioning phase is for those who have been in an active program but cannot walk/run a mile in 8 1/2 minutes.

Anyone who can run a mile in 8 1/2 minutes without undue fatigue is in the sustaining phase. The goal of the sustaining phase is to run a minimum of seven to ten miles a week.

In order to receive the physical achievement award, the participant must complete 50 miles within the time limits set up for each phase and pass the basic physical fitness test. When he completes 100, 200, 300 miles, an Arabic numeral 1, 2, 3, etc., is awarded to put on ribbons. A

Phone System Aiding Student Info Center

Students having complaints or needing information can now call the campus operator to find out who can help.

The operator (dial '7' from campus or 845-3211) has a list of Student Government committees with brief descriptions of each and how to reach them.

"Instead of asking the guy across the hall who may not know, students can now get straight information," said Bill Darkoch, who compiled the list.

"I started the project around the middle of last semester," said Darkoch. "It took three weeks to make up the list and another three weeks to coordinate the service with the campus operators."

The Student Government Information Center, as the list is called, is very comprehensive with 40 committees that cover a wide range of services to the students.

A list of the committees is located on page 240 of the student directory.



ALMOST TWO INCHES of snow provided Aggies with fun and excitement Thursday night, capping off what started to be a sloppy day in the rain. A Friday high of 49 was expected to melt most of the snow followed by a chilling temperature of 23 overnight.

47 Making Spring Leader's Journey This Weekend

A&M students will make a culturally-enriching visit to Houston this weekend through the Memorial Student Center's Spring Leadership Trip '73.

The two-day program will involve 47 students, Liberal Arts Associate Dean and Mrs. Charles McCandless and J. Wayne Stark, MSC director.

They will attend performances at the Alley Theater, American Ballet Theatre and the Houston Symphony Orchestra, among others, through efforts of former student families interested in TAMU students gaining a broader outlook on life.

More than half of the cost for the weekend will be covered by contributions from the former student families, noted the trip chairman, Mark Cuelic of Houston.

The agenda includes a fashion show at Neiman-Marcus, a visit to the Museum of Fine Arts, the Alley presentation of "The Hostage" by Brendan Behan and the American Ballet Theatre's production of "Les Sylphides," "Sea Change," "Unfinished Symphony" and "Fancy Free."

Sunday they will tour the Hyatt Regency Hotel and attend the Lawrence Foster-conducted Houston Symphony concert and Windmill Dinner Theatre production of "The Owl and the Pussy Cat." The concert will feature the world's No. 1 violinist, Isaac Stern.

Meals will be at the Melange, Warwick Club and Galleria Side-walk Cafe.

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

Participants will include members of the Student Senate, Graduate Student Council, MSC Council and Directorate, Residence Halls Association, Corps of Cadets, Student Y Association, International Student Association and four representatives from each college.

McCreary Explains Tax Crisis

County governments can't ignore the political realities of coping with the ad valorem tax crisis or developing land use policies if they want some voice in future decisions.

Jack McCreary, board chairman and general counsel of Southwestern Appraisal Co., Austin, and Dr. A. B. Wooten, director of the Texas Real Estate Center at A&M, gave this advice Wednesday during the 15th annual County Judges and Commissioners Conference here at the Ramada Inn.

McCreary explained that the hassle over ad valorem taxes involved more than the financing of public schools. In predicting a system of uniform and equal taxation of property, he pointed out that some county officials might tend to discount their roles in determining exactly what kind of revisions will be made. If this would happen, federal guidelines might be set down.

Besides Texas, 39 other states have committees studying the problem of revision. McCreary noted that the Rodriguez Deci-

Annual Sophomore Events Topped By '50s Frolic'

A&M Sophomores have a party weekend planned Friday and Saturday around the annual Sophomore Ball.

The Class of 1975 has scheduled two events for its members, announced President Louis Gohmert of Mt. Pleasant.

A Friday night "50s Frolic" and the formal Saturday ball were planned around the Saturday afternoon SWC basketball game between A&M and Arkansas.

A Friday party at Indian Lake will feature four hours of recorded music of the 1950s and early '60s. It will be highlighted by several contests, such as dancing, best-dressed and sardine-swallowing, a collegiate pastime of that period. Attire will be dress of the '50s.

The Saturday Sophomore Ball at Duncan Hall will be highlighted by the crowning of the Sophomore Sweetheart, to be voted by class members from five finalists. "Krystal Blue" of Houston will furnish music.

Couples can attend both events for \$8, Gohmert said. Arrangements were coordinated through the Sophomore Council.

sion of 1971 didn't declare ad valorem taxes unconstitutional themselves. Rather, the actual unconstitutionality dealt with distribution of wealth.

The lawyer described a case involving the Ft. Worth Independent School District which showed disparities of taxable values ranging from three to 100 per cent of fair market value. In Alabama a federal court found variations in taxation values running from 6 to 26 per cent. The court ordered that all assessments be made uniform within one year.

"If Texas is to continue to use property taxes for local government, there must be a uniform and equal system of taxation," he remarked. "The cost of government has gone up. It costs more to do business now and somebody has to pay for it. Last year in Texas 53 per cent of the bond elections concerning taxation were defeated."

McCreary said that ad valorem taxes are here to stay because there doesn't seem to be any suitable alternatives. He described revenue sharing as at best a

means of easing money tightness but not a cure-all.

"Sit in on meetings of the legislative property tax committee and see what's going on," he urged more than 600 county officials in attendance. The five-member committee is studying possible alternatives to property taxes.

Closely linked with the taxation and valuation of property is the rising costs of land and the departures from traditional land use.

Wooten reminded the judges and commissioners that there is no longer any relationship between the price of land and the net agricultural income that can be realized from that land.

"We are in an era of recreational use and rural living," commented the director of the Texas Real Estate Center. "More and more of our land is being diverted into these uses."

A piece of federal legislation called the Jackson Bill calls for each state to have a plan for land resource management. Among the things to be outlined are locations of facilities such as major

