

Women Give Political Voice For Members of Both Sexes

The Texas Women's Political Caucus has broken loose from the past and is now a political voice for men and women in Texas. Formed only one and one-half years ago, it is the only one of its kind in the United States which has a fulltime director and lobbyist in the state capital.

It held its second annual convention in San Antonio in August, which was attended by five A&M students representing the Brazos County chapter.

Gillian Parker, Judi Wooten, Betty Oaks, Barbara Benton and

Laura Colunga represented the local chapter which is the fourth largest in the state, behind Harris county, Dallas County and Austin.

The group is composed primarily of students, one-fourth of which is men.

The local group earned the designation of "mavericks" when they supported a controversial proposed by-law granting men full membership in the state organization.

Jane Hickie, a young Austin feminist, was elected as the caucus' chairperson for the next year.

The caucus has begun reject-

ing having "power squabbles among the powerless," says Hickie who promises the caucus will be a factor in next year's election of men and women.

A successful caucus vote to allow men to become voting members took only 20 minutes.

"Until we really sort of narrow our focus from a general feminist group to getting feminists—men or women—elected to office at all levels, we aren't going very far," said Hickie.

The hit of the convention was Sissy Farenthold's speech to the standing-room only crowd on the first day of the convention.

"I am not waiting, but working toward the time when the unqualified woman, the unqualified black, the unqualified Chicano will take their places with the unqualified white male" said Farenthold, head of the National Women's Political Caucus and former candidate for governor of Texas.

Also speaking was Diana Hobby, wife of Texas lieutenant governor Bill Hobby, who said her husband "is a person in his own right. He is the father of our

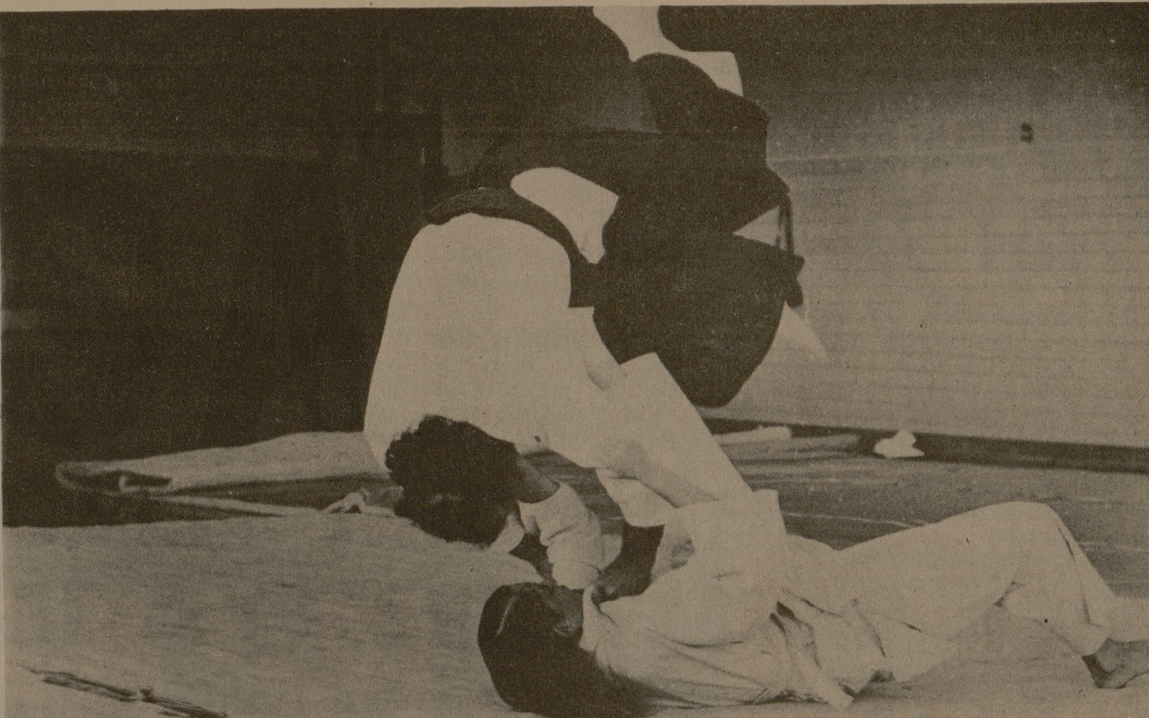
children in addition to being lieutenant governor and a great friend of our legislation."

Among the adopted resolutions was one advocating the making of a "power inventory" of politicians on feminists' issues and how those politicians got elected.

"By December, we are going to know what they said and how they got there in the first place," said Hickie. "By February, we are going to come together and decide where we are going to apply funds and talent to retire some people from wherever their public offices are."

Also approved were resolutions supporting the removal of the Texas constitutional welfare ceiling and of sexual freedom and public funding of clinics to "disseminate information on contraceptive devices . . . and to offer the full range of associated medical services."

Condemned by the caucus were the legal concept of "head of household," humiliating treatment of rape victims and discrimination against single persons wishing to adopt or rear children.



CHRISTINE RUNGE demonstrates how to handle a male attacker and her instructor, Gibbs Dibrell, takes the fall. Judo as a form of self-defense allows a woman to protect herself without really hurting the assailant.

Black Belt Dibrell Offers Suggestions Self-Defense Taught as Art

As a result of two women being assaulted on campus last month, and in an effort to educate women on protecting themselves, Gibbs Dibrell is again offering a course on self-defense.

Dibrell, a Ph.D. candidate, has instructed classes in Judo for the past seven years and feels that self defense is a basic premise for further instruction in the arts of self protection.

"I try to structure the classes around the needs of the women," he explained. "We discuss such things as how to safeguard a home by means of locks, bolts, and dogs; how to defend themselves against the possibility of being attacked in their own cars; and the use of weapons, both firearms and common articles like purses, pencils and nailfiles."

Generally classes are an hour

and a half long with the first half spent in discussion and the last half spent instructing those interested in judo.

"Mild physical exercise with emphasis on flexibility usually starts the program. Women usually don't need strenuous physical activity to use judo. They normally concentrate on technique," Dibrell added.

Sophomore Kim Covar, who took the course last year, said, "I learned ways of self defense I'd never thought of; and by using judo you can get away from a person without really hurting them. Judo also teaches you grace, poise, and coordination. When it's done correctly it's like a dance step."

"I try to show women that judo is a good way to stay in shape and urge them to stay involved.

It is a sport where interest is increasing and women are just getting started. Because of the interest that women tend to show in learning background, I hope to have the girls referee men's meets in Houston and Austin," Dibrell added.

The course costs \$5 to join the U.S. Judo Assn. and another \$16 for the judogy, or suit of clothes worn while learning the sport. For further information on the course call 846-6439.

Concerning campus safety, Gibbs Dibrell passes along these thoughts. "Travel in groups; not by yourself, as this invites trouble. Have a guy walk with you, and if he's only an acquaintance, go with another girl. Finally, walk home on well lit streets. It may take longer, but it's safer."

A COED'S VIEW

By Louie Holzem

Remember that first Aggie football game? The corps was whooping, the stands were wild with "Hullabaloo, Caneck, Caneck!" and you were wondering what in heaven's name was going on!

A lot of us will be experiencing this "Spirit of Aggie" for the first time Saturday. Here's hoping you older Aggies will have patience with those of us newer ones who aren't whooping and just can't seem to "hump it" right. We may be dumb to much of the Aggie traditions, but we're ready to learn!

Although many of us who wish we could won't be able to throw the football around on Kyle Field Saturday nights, we do have the opportunity to coordinate teams and play football in intramural competition this fall. It's a great chance to get to know more people, particularly if you happen to live off-campus. To sign up, contact the Intramural Office in the DeWare Gym.

As an off-campus, or "day," student, I've been caught in a common dilemma—an involuntary lack of student participation. Because of the distance of many apartment complexes from A&M, many off-campus students find it difficult to experience a large number of campus activities and tradition, such as Silver Taps and Yell Practice, as well as some of the more unorthodox activities, such as patty melts and soapuds in the MSC fountain. This is particularly true of those day students who don't have cars and find it difficult to catch the shuttlebus on its one run per hour. Anyone with a friend in such a situation could be really helpful by encouraging them to come onto the campus more often, and by helping them with transportation.

Women Team Members Sought

The Women's Sports Association is inviting all coeds, both graduate students and undergraduates, to join their organization.

According to Kay Don, club director, "The association will fully meet its purpose this year. Not only will we sponsor inter-collegiate competition and intramurals within the club, but there are plans for picnics, lake outings, and other social activities."

A membership drive will be held this week with tables in the Krueger-Dunn complex, G. Rollie White Coliseum and Lounge A-2, where the Add and Drop center was located. Membership dues are three dollars a year or two dollars per semester. The initial meeting for this year will be held Monday, September 17.

Ten sports are offered through the organization. These include badminton, basketball, bowling, golf, gymnastics, softball, swimming, tennis, track and field, and volleyball. In seven of these sports last year girls went to state. In badminton, Debbie Berrier and Diane Bradshaw competed. Debbie also qualified for state in shot put along with Connie Karcher and Jan Wynn in javelin and Debbie Wootan in the low hurdles. A&M was represented in tennis at state by Jane McLaurin, Ellen Buchanan, Meredith Howard and Karen Boerner. Jean Collins went to nationals in swimming, but the other girls who qualified did not compete due to lack of money. Barbara Blake and Ellen Maninaitis competed in golf at state level.

This year the association would like to send everyone who qualifies to state. They would also like to send the teams to more and varied meets. In order to achieve this goal, and increase its revenues, the organization will attempt to sell jersey-type shirts with printed class numbers. The individual teams also have money-making projects. One such activity is the swim team's cleaning

League of Women Voters Plans Membership Party

The League of Women Voters of Brazos County will have its "Membership Happening" Sept. 13 at 7:30 p.m. in the home of Lane Hughey, 1905 Lawyer, College Station. The League encourages all women 18 years and older who are interested in local, state and national issues to attend this event.

The purpose of the League of Women Voters is to promote political responsibility through informed and active participation of all citizens in their government. The League is non-partisan. It endorses or opposes issues but never endorses or opposes political parties or candidates. League members adopt a study program on national, state, and local issues.

For the coming year, the League of Women Voters of Brazos County will study issues such

as the executive and judicial systems of Brazos County, state land use, United States Congress, campaign spending, financing of Texas state government, and state election procedures and voting rights.

In addition to these study programs, the local league provides a voters' service. This consists of a voter registration drive twice a year. A second service is the Voters' Guides prior to each election. These guides provide biographical information about each candidate. Each candidate's replies to questions on his position of current issues are also printed. Another service is the sponsorship of a television candidate's meeting prior to each election.

For further information about the League or for transportation to the Membership Happening, phone 846-2311.

Women Engineers Awarded National Charter

Saturday, September 15, the Society of Women Engineers will be awarded its charter by LeEarl Bryant, a member of the National Executive Committee, at a luncheon to be held at the Crown and Anchor Inn.

A relatively new women's organization at A&M, the Society of Women Engineers (SWE), is open to any woman in engineering or in any related field. Those interested in becoming a member should contact Dr. Francis Bolm at his office in Room 7 of the Engineering Building or Georgie Olsen at 846-1901. Meetings are held the first Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. in the engineering center.

"My interpretation of the purpose of the organization is first, to encourage young students, women students, into entering engineering; second, once they get in the organization, to keep them there," said Georgie Olsen, chairman of the A&M branch of the SWE.

"Ours is not a technical society," Ms. Olsen continued. "It is more of a service organization. We try to help women in engineering, covering things that pertain to all of us as women engineers."

The SWE initiated a big sister-little sister program this fall. An older student was assigned to

each freshman or transfer woman student in the College of Engineering. This program was initiated to help give the new students someone to rely on and to fall back on. The SWE wrote letters of welcome to all these new students before they came to A&M, and held a tea for them on Sept. 2.

The organization is looking for support from any interested faculty women, and welcome all faculty members to its meetings.

Omega Phi Alpha Sponsoring Rush

Omega Phi Alpha, the A&M service sorority, is sponsoring a rush, Thursday at 7 p.m. in Room 510 of the Conference Tower, Memorial Student Center.

Coeds enrolled in 12 or more hours may request pledge status. Pledges will be limited in number in order to retain effectiveness as a service organization.

A girl's concept of OPA and her desire to serve are most highly considered when accepting a girl into the club.

Among OPA's activities is the Aggie Blood Drive, which serves as a guarantee for an A&M donor in times when blood may not be readily available. Another function of the club is the monthly birthday parties held for the three and four year-olds at the Bryan Day Care Center. The girls

also plan to help at the Student Government Day Care Center.

Another important service which the club performs is manning the polls during Student Senate elections, the first of which will be held September 20.

OPA, along with its brother group Alpha Phi Omega, will sell concessions at Bonfire. They also will continue their recreational hours for special education children at the First Presbyterian Church.

"The most important point in approaching OPA is to remember it is a service sorority, not a social club," said Linda Austin, second vice-president. "We want to focus on the campus this year and any suggestions for college services would be greatly appreciated. These can be made to me by calling 846-9081."

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