

Battle of Prairie View up to legislature

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Public discussion on the Battle of Prairie View A&M came to an official halt Friday when the Capital building.

That was the last day that the public could speak for or against the removal of Prairie View from the TAMU system. The Education Committee of the Constitutional Convention will now weigh all testimony and decide upon the destiny of Prairie View.

President Jack K. Williams of TAMU and Prairie View President Alvin I. Thomas are among those testifying in defense of keeping Prairie View under the TAMU System Board of Directors.

"I'm not here to argue for or against

establishing a separate Board of Directors for Prairie View," Dr. Williams said, although his comments reflected a satisfaction with the present situation. "Dr. Thomas has the Board's full backing in his decisions."

Prairie View Major Eristus Sams and Randolph Strickland, a former student body president at Prairie View A&M, testified at the hearing in support of creating a separate board of directors for Prairie View.

Sams argued that a separate board would allow Prairie View to contribute in its own way without having to rely on the System for funds and guidelines. Strickland said his school is lacking in academic excellence and would be able to progress under a separate board.

State Rep. Craig Washington of Houston proposed that a pro-rated amount of the

Permanent University Fund be allocated to Prairie View, an amount determined by its proportion of the student enrollment in the TAMU System.

The Available University Fund was established in the last century with a land grant of two million acres in West Texas. Mineral rights, land sales and investments have made that initial grant, now called the Permanent University Fund, worth over \$670 million.

Yearly income from that money, which is never spent, is put into the Available University Fund for the University of Texas and TAMU Systems. Last year it was over \$30 million.

Under the present constitution, one-third of that money goes to TAMU.

Rep. Senfronia Thompson, a member of

the Education subcommittee and a '64 graduate of Prairie View, advocates dividing the TAMU System's share equally between TAMU and Prairie View.

Dr. Thomas made no attempt to be neutral but advocated strongly that Prairie View remain under the cloak of the TAMU System. He listed participation in the Permanent University Funds, federal land-grant funds, legal and computer services as key advantages to remaining in the System.

In addition to the loss of funds, Dr. Thomas said separating from the System would destroy "a cooperative relationship which has existed for 95 years." He added that the Centennial Council, a group which included Prairie View alumni, recommended after a 16 month study that the school remain in the system.



THE BEST of several worlds met and introduced themselves to each other Friday night at President Williams' reception for foreign students. Sue Charreu, manning the Thailand display, was one of several foreign students there to exhibit their native crafts and culture. Native dances and music were demonstrated and various foods served in this encounter for communication and understanding. (Photo by Roger Mallison)

The Battalion

Vol. 67 No. 342 College Station, Texas Tuesday, February 5, 1974

Farenthold faces off with Briscoe

AUSTIN (AP) — Another red hot governor's contest was promised Texas voters Monday as former state Rep. Frances Farenthold made a last minute decision to challenge Gov. Dolph Briscoe.

The other big name Democratic office holders escaped competition in the primaries but several will face Republican opponents in the November election.

Briscoe emerged the winner over Mrs. Farenthold, an outspoken liberal leader in the 1971 legislature, in a runoff, then went on to defeat former state Sen. Henry Grover, Houston, and Ramsey Muniz, Raza Unida Party, in the 1972 general election.

Grover also is a gubernatorial candidate this year, facing two other GOP candidates in their party primary.

Muniz joined the battle again Friday when he handed over his filing fee — in 1,000 one-dollar bills — to the Raza Unida headquarters in San Antonio.

The winner next November will become the first Texas governor to serve a four-year term, as approved by voters in 1972. Other top elected officials also will get four-year terms for the first time.

Also in the Democratic governor's race is Steve Alexander, a Waco businessman, and W. H. Posey, Galena Park, who paid last minute filing fees. Alexander made an unsuccessful race for Congress in 1972.

Posey ran for governor in the Democratic primary two years ago.

The three-way GOP contest has Grover, Jim Granberry, former mayor of Lubbock, and Odell McBrayer, Fort Worth attorney.

A committeeman for the American Party, Sam McDonnell, filed as a candidate for governor on the American party ticket.

The only other Democratic primary contest, for the job of comptroller to replace retiring Robert S. Calvert, pits former secretary of state Bob Bullock against Calvert chief assist, Hugh Edburg, Austin, and Buddy Kirk of Houston.

Nick Rowe of McAllen, who spent five years in a Vietnam prison before escaping, and Tom Cole, Houston, are trying for the Republican nomination for comptroller.

In the Republican primary, Troy Skates, Leander, and Gaylord Marshall, will see which one faces Lt. Gov. Bill Hobby, Democrat.

Atty. Gen. John Hill, Democrat, got a last-minute general election foe in Tom Cole, Houston attorney, Republican.

New federal budget walks narrow path

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon sent to Congress Monday a \$304.4-billion budget designed to balance the economy between the pitfalls of persistent inflation and rising unemployment.

Federal spending in fiscal 1975 would be equivalent to about \$1,500 for every man, woman and child in America.

The budget provides for a deficit of \$9.4 billion and includes increased spending for

defense, energy research, transportation and economic-security programs.

"In the face of economic uncertainty," the President told Congress, "my budget recommendations provide for a fiscal policy that would support high employment while restraining inflation."

But if the balancing act fails, whether because of the energy shortage or other reasons, the administration made clear it would

prefer higher prices to sharply higher unemployment.

The administration is prepared to accept a 5.5-per-cent jobless rate, but would resort to contingency spending plans to pump up the economy if unemployment goes much above that.

The proposed budget for the fiscal year beginning July 1 compares with estimated federal spending in the current fiscal year of \$274.7 billion, an increase of \$29.8 billion.

The current year's deficit is projected at \$4.7 billion.

Nixon said about 90 per cent of the increase in 1975 spending would result from mandatory increases, such as for higher Social Security payments.

He said about three-quarters of the entire budget is virtually uncontrollable because of prior spending commitments and current programs already sealed by law.

Nixon said the budget reflects efforts of his administration to "identify and do well those things which the federal government should do."

Band dance honors leader

The Texas Aggie Band turns music making over to someone else Saturday, for the annual Band Dance.

Bandmen will play at the 7:30 p. m. Texas A&M-TCU basketball game. From 9 p. m. to 1 a. m., the music will be produced by the Maynard Gimble Orchestra of Houston.

The dance at the Zachry Engineering Center will honor Maj. Joe Haney and Lt. Joe McMullen. They are in the first year as director and associate director, respectively, of the Aggie Band.

Guests will include retired bandmaster Lt. Col. and Mrs. E. V. Adams, TAMU officials and deans and officers of the Texas Aggie Band Association, according to Dean Kyle, band operations officer.

Kunstler affair reaches Austin

The SCONA decision to not invite William Kunstler has had repercussions as far away as the Constitutional Convention in Austin.

Last Friday, John Nash, planning chairman for the 19th Student Conference on National Affairs testified at the convention using the cancellation of Kunstler as his major point in favor of retaining the Permanent University Fund.

"One of our considerations was the possibility that the advent of Kunstler could be used as a weapon against A&M in the debate over the Permanent University Fund," he said. In a later interview he added that "one of the people high in the administration said there is a chance this could occur."

"SCONA has always attempted to present a broad spectrum of viewpoints, regardless of our personal opinions regarding the speakers," said Nash. The planning chairman also feels that if there were no Permanent University Funds, SCONA and other similar groups in universities across the state would easily be pushed into inviting only those speakers approved by the persons funding the committee.

"Were the university be forced to depend on incremental, yearly financing, this sort of pressure would be continued," said Nash.

According to Nash, the speakers would not represent as broad a spectrum of opinions if yearly funding were a fact.

"I realize, having been affected, that the chilling effect will exist even if there is no reason to believe that the threat of fund cut-off will be exercised. Merely the possibility is sufficient to severely circumscribe activities," Nash said.

Nash also feels that yearly funding is unwise since it could stir up student unrest.

"And I would point out in conclusion that this type of pressure could hardly be effective in controlling certain irresponsible student groups who would be unlikely to be concerned about the funding the university receives; only responsible groups seeking to present a balanced program of speakers on their campus would suffer," he concluded.

Last chance to drop class

Today is the last day to drop a course without penalty to your record or your pocketbook.

Classes dropped by today are eligible for a refund but any later drops will forfeit the fee.

Many problems arise during midterm grades because of confusion from the add-drop period. Revised schedules should be picked up to ensure the process of picking up or deleting classes was accomplished correctly.

William Kunstler to speak at A&M

William Kunstler is coming to TAMU March 3, despite action taken by SCONA chairman Steve Kozub last week.

Kunstler will now appear through the efforts of the Brazos Valley chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union.

Marty Hokanson, president of TAMU ACLU, said, "We read the article in The Battalion about

Kunstler being cancelled. It said something about how he'd still come if some organization sponsored him, and we decided it would be a fine opportunity. Kunstler informed us that he would come for whatever we could raise to support him.

"We've got everything set up," he continued, "including a room in Rudder Tower."

Flicks offer variety

A full length animated film in German with English sub-titles begins this week's offering of cinema entertainment for Aggies.

"Conference of the Animals," written by German writer and humorist Erich Kaestner, concerns a world conference of animals discussing how to keep peace and unity among men. Made in color in 1969, the film shows free in Room 145 of the Physics building, Tuesday at 7:30 p.m.

The Arts Film Series presents the second film in its Ingmar Bergman festival, "Wild Strawberries." For the same \$1 admission, patrons can see the 1930s cartoon short, "Betty Boop's Penthouse." Both films show Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. and 10:00 p.m. in the University Center Theater.

An adolescent love affair that evolves into a young family is the subject of "Friends," with music composed and performed for the movie by Elton John. "Friends," and a companion feature, "Brian's Song," will be presented by the Aggie Cinema Friday and Saturday nights at 8:00 and 9:45, respectively. "Brian's Song" is a popular made-for-TV movie about the career and tragic death of football star Brian Piccolo, and his teammate, Gale Sayers. Both movies show in the University Center Theater for \$1.00.

The Arts Film Series' Mid-night Movie this Friday is "Luminous Procurus," and will be shown for \$1.00 in the University Center Theater.

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Weather

Partly cloudy and warm, high 70° Tuesday. Mostly cloudy to partly cloudy Wednesday at 72°.

University National Bank
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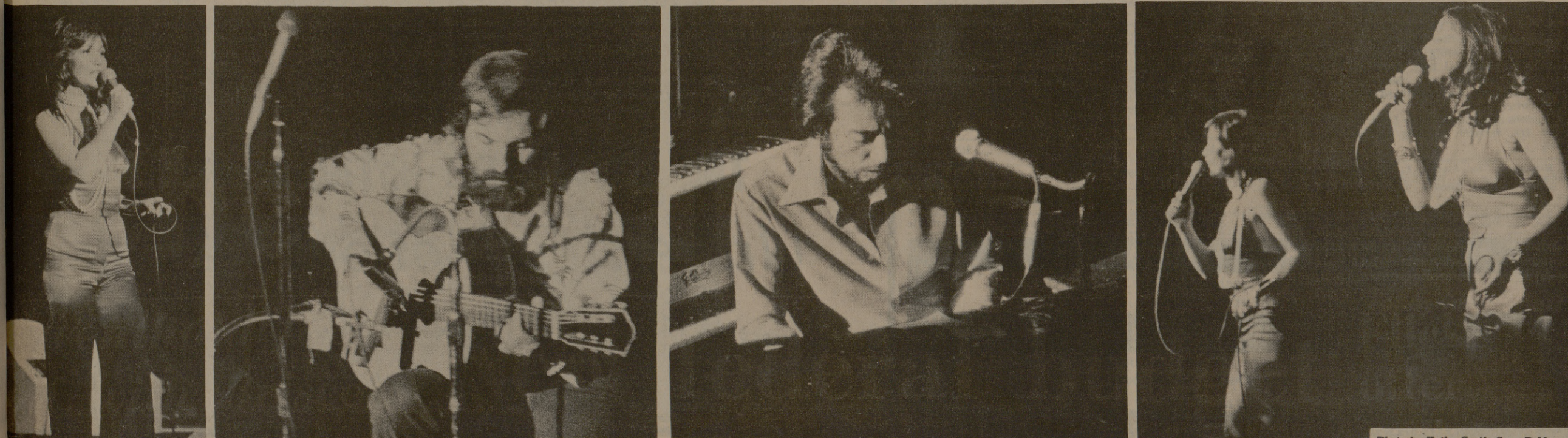


Photo by Kathy Curtis Gary Baldasar