

The Battalion

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Senator ousted from office Judicial Board creates 8-1 precedent

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Staff Writer

The Student Government Judicial Board debated over the wee hours of the night Tuesday over the fate of Mary Ellen Martin, sophomore senator from the College of Education.

The appeal was filed against Martin by one of her constituents, Virginia Stiles, a sophomore from the College of Education. Martin was charged with violating Article III,

Section II (c) of the Student Body Constitution, which states "Senators must at all times be members of the constituency they represent."

Martin, an Education major, had adopted a double degree plan in psychology and education, and transferred her records from the College of Education to the College of Liberal Arts.

Curt Marsh, student vice president of finance and counsel for the

plaintiff, argued that by transferring her records to the College of Liberal Arts, she no longer represented her constituency in the College of Education.

John Tyler, student vice president of rules and regulations and counsel for the defense, replied that Martin was still taking the same curriculum as she had when her records resided in the College of Education.

Long lines of questioning filled

the session. Sharp debate ensued between both counsels and the Judicial Board over the relevance of much of the questioning, especially the cross examination of the defendant, Martin.

Tyler charged Marsh with leading and badgering the defendant during his cross-examination. Marsh continued his cross-examination until the Board declared it irrelevant to the case. The Board recessed briefly to allow Martin time to get her

mid-semester grade report. The grade report showed Martin to still be enrolled in the College of Liberal Arts after she allegedly had switched back to the College of Education.

Both summations were an effort to clear the confusion surrounding the case. The Board recessed for deliberation for approximately 20 minutes before deciding to uphold Stile's appeal against Martin by a vote of 8 to 1.



Photo by Douglas Winship

Mary Ellen Martin answers questions thrown at her by the Judicial Board before her removal from the position of sophomore senator from the College of Education.

Congress outvotes Ford vet bill veto

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress overrode by solid margins Tuesday President Ford's veto of a 22.7 per cent increase in most GI education benefits for seven-million Vietnam-era and four-million post-Korea veterans.

The House voted first 394 to 10. The Senate then voted 90 to 1, with only Assistant Republican Leader Robert P. Griffin of Michigan supporting the veto. Both margins were far over the required two-thirds majority.

It was the fourth time Congress has overridden a veto by Ford since he became President.

However, in another vote Tuesday, the House failed to override Ford's veto of the disaster relief bill. It was the fourth time his veto has been upheld of 15 bills he has vetoed. Congress did not contest seven of the vetoes.

And a Twentieth Century Fund task force recommended that veterans benefits be eliminated for peacetime veterans. The fund proposed that an individual fund be created for each eligible veteran so he could draw on it as needed rather than be tied to the limits of a monthly check.

The higher veterans payments are retroactive to September and

Veterans Administration officials said the back payments probably would be in the hands of the veterans now in school in about 15 days. The first regular check with the increase will go out Jan. 1, they said.

Ford vetoed the bill, saying it was inflationary and suggesting an 18.2 per cent raise. He also objected to a new \$600-a-year loan program for veterans and an increase in entitlement for undergraduate study from 36 months to 45 months.

Ford had predicted his veto would be overridden.

The bill increases monthly payments for fulltime institutional training from \$220 to \$270 for a single veteran, from \$261 to \$321 for a veteran with one dependent and from \$298 to \$336 with two dependents. The rate for each dependent over two is raised from \$18 to \$22.

The loan program will be established in the Treasury as a revolving fund to be administered by the VA. The loans will be available to veterans who can't get help from other federal programs.

The bill allows Reservists and National Guardsmen to get credit for education benefits for their six months initial active duty for training if they later serve on active duty for 12 months or more.



Photo by Steve Krauss

Yell leader Steve Taylor leads the War Hymn one-handed after recently finding out he had broken it several weeks ago. He slipped while playing table tennis in his senior boots.

Building use fees increase to pay for campus projects

Building use fees will increase 200 per cent next semester to help fund a construction program on campus, W. C. Freeman, executive vice president for administration, confirmed Tuesday.

Fees will go from \$2 to \$6 per hour to support a \$25 million bond issue for the next 30 years. The Battalion erroneously stated on Nov. 26 that the fees had previously been \$2.50.

The \$25 million bond issue was awarded to First National Bank in Dallas and its associates in investment. Five bids were received.

Also financing the construction is money from the available fund and money left over from previous bond issues.

The available fund is money from the permanent university fund. The permanent university fund is an endowment fund set up by the Texas constitution. The fund receives income from West Texas land it owns. Oil and gas royalties from the land also go into the fund. The land is leased for cattle grazing.

One third of the available university fund is given to Texas A&M and two-thirds is given to the University of Texas.

Bonds pledged by the university can't exceed six and two-thirds per cent of the permanent fund. The limit was reached last semester.

Fees had to be raised because the university reached the limit and ran out of money, Freeman said.

The construction program includes plans for a soil and crop science building and an animal science building on the west campus.

Seventy cents of the current \$2 building use fee is pledged to other bond issues, such as the library and the student fees bond issued in 1972. Allan Schlandt, systems controller, said.

Thursday, 8 a.m.-6 p.m.

Run-off set for freshmen

A freshman president, vice president and secretary-treasurer will be selected in a run-off election Dec. 5.

Students with an I. D. and activity card can vote from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Thursday at the MSC, the Academic Building or the new stand in front of Sbis Hall.

In the run-off for president will be

Mark Toppert and Brandon Coleman.

Chris Southworth will be in the run-off for vice president.

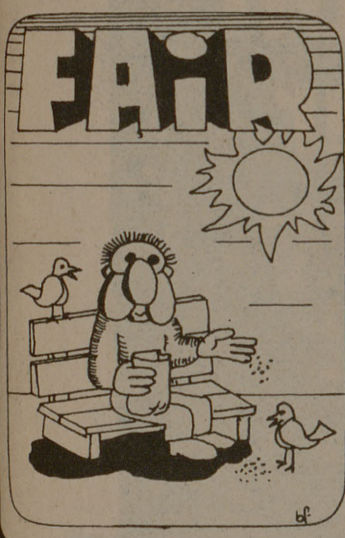
The secretary-treasurer run-off will be between Susan Kelly and Charlie Brown.

Included in the election will be a referendum ballot on six proposed

amendments to the Student Government constitution. Five of the amendments involve minor changes in wording and the other amendment concerns changing the

minimum grade point ratio (GPR) of all student government officials and appointees, except senators, to 2.5. The minimum GPR for senators will remain 2.25.

Today



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Weather

Partly cloudy and mild Wednesday and Thursday. Southeasterly winds 7-12 mph. High today 63°; low tonight 39°; high tomorrow 67°.

Powers cut... Rep. Mills losing control

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Democrats dealt another strong blow Tuesday to the powers of Ways and Means Chairman Wilbur D. Mills just hours before he was hospitalized with an undisclosed ailment. There were indications he might be removed from the post entirely.

The Democratic caucus voted to increase membership on the panel from 25 to 37, with 12 of the new total to be assigned to Republicans. The increase could shift control of the committee, under fire for not moving faster on tax reform and health insurance, to liberals.

Mills whose conservative leadership of the tax-writing committee had made him an institution unto himself, was admitted to Bethesda Naval Medical Center later in the day. He had not attended the

caucus meeting. Sources close to the hospital said they understood that doctors had not yet diagnosed Mills' condition but that he appeared tired.

A day earlier, the caucus had ended the role of Ways and Means Democrats as nominators of members of other committees. Instead, they put the caucus steering committee in charge of that function.

Tuesday's action was followed by an announcement from Rep. Richard Fulton, D-Tenn., a member of the Ways and Means and steering committees, that he will push for replacement of Mills as Ways and Means chairman by Rep. Al Ullman, D-Ore. Fulton said he was confident the move would succeed.

"I do this with great reluctance," said Fulton. "Wilbur Mills is a good

friend, and whatever his behavior has been in recent weeks, it should not be forgotten that for 34 years he was a most able and valuable member of Congress."

Mills, of Kensett, Ark., stirred a new furor over the weekend by renewing his public friendship with Annabel Battistella, a stripper who performs under the name Fanne Foxe.

Mrs. Battistella said she will fly to Washington on Wednesday to visit Mills.

"If the doctor says it is okay, then I will go see him," she said Tuesday night in New York.

She said Mills called her Monday night and told her "he was feeling lousy."

But backers of some of the changes over the last two days insisted they were based more on

political reasons than Mills' personal behavior.

The new Democratic caucus chairman, Rep. Phillip Burton of California, said he hoped the expansion of the Ways and Means membership would bring "decent and comprehensive tax reform and a decent health bill."

Burton said he would not vote for ousting Mills from the chairman's job. And a spokesman for Ullman said he was not actively seeking the post but "would certainly like to be chairman" if Mills fails to retain enough support to stay on.

Speaker Carl Albert turned away questions at a news conference about possible action by the Democratic leadership on Mills' role.

He said, however, Mills has been "sick a lot" and continued: "I don't think Wilbur Mills has fully reco-

vered... I am not talking about anything else, just his physical condition."

The caucus voted that Democratic members of Ways and Means will be nominated by the steering committee for ratification by the caucus, with provision for additional nominations by the membership at large.

It directed Democratic leaders to provide on all committees a party ratio giving Democrats control by two to one plus one member over Republicans. An exception is the House Ethics Committee, which under its charter is evenly divided.

Moving to provide more opportunities for junior members, the caucus strengthened limitations on the number of subcommittees on which a single member may serve.

Inquiring Battman

Is the furniture in the MSC brown bag area a wise choice?

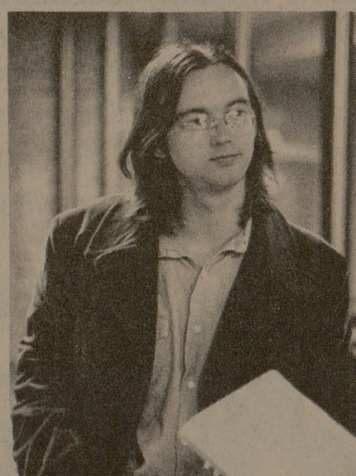
Survey taken in MSC brown bag area

Photos by Douglas Winship, Survey by Jim Crawley



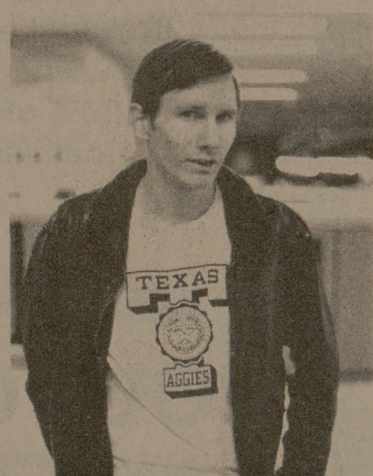
Rosine Mills
Senior

"In a way it isn't because it's not as sturdy as the ones before. Also, they're pretty comfortable."



Paul Walters
Graduate

"It might be OK, but it won't last very long. It looks like a nouveau riche. A&M is a grand nouveau riche. They'll buy anything."



Dan Bruce
Freshman

"It was an improvement over the old furniture, but it's not very comfortable. No one really minds because it's a rec room and it's casual."



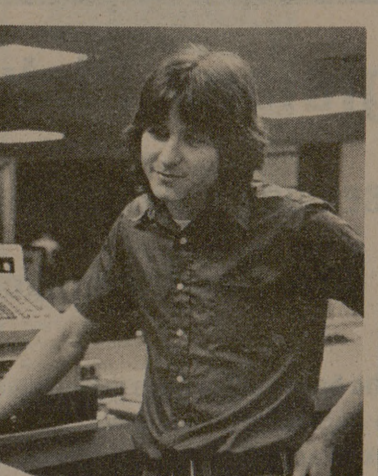
Susie Hammond
Senior

"No, it's hideous and it certainly doesn't seem to fulfill the function it's supposed to. It's supposed to be furniture to go with the students. The colors are outrageous."



Robert Long
Freshman

"The furniture is rather ungainly and not well constructed. Some of the chairs look comfortable, but it's a rough, coarse material and it's hard."



Tom Shula
Senior

"No, I don't like it. I think they went overboard. I liked the old chairs and tables better."



Leo Tucker
Freshman

"I think so, it's a relaxing type atmosphere. It's a hassle going through school most of the time, so you want to relax some. I think this sets it up."