

The Battalion

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Public prayers still allowed; 27-31 decision settles issue

By TERESA COSLETT
Staff Writer

A resolution replacing public prayer before university functions with a minute of silent meditation was defeated at Thursday night's student senate meeting.

The roll call vote was 31 no, 27 yes, 2 abstentions and 2 absentee votes.

Jeff Dunn, student vice president of academic affairs, who wrote the resolution, said its scope was limited to public prayer not private Bible studies or activities in the All Faiths Chapel.

Debate centered on whether public prayer at a public institution impinges on minority rights.

Student President Steve Eberhard compared the resolution to the academic freedom resolution recently passed by the senate supporting production of Marat-Sade.

"We have to protect minority rights," he said.

Dunn said, "The resolution is not a threat to religion or tradition. It guarantees self determination. 'Nobody's being persecuted,'" said Tony Pelletier, senior senator from the Corps living area.

John Nash, student vice president of external affairs, said the issue was supporting a philosophical underpinning of separation of church and state.

Senator Susan Fontaine said, "Nobility is being denied anything. A person doesn't have to listen to the prayers."

Senator Troie Pruett said she didn't see how forbidding prayer could be called religious freedom. Senator Rajesh Kent said, "Yes, the majority rules, but we're talking about minority rights."

Senator Cecil Albrecht said to be consistent the bill should eliminate silent prayer also since it would be aiding religion. He said, "a prayer is a prayer."

Also at the meeting the senate passed by voice vote a resolution calling for the Student Service Fee Allocation Committee to consider an athletic "user fee" proposal.

Such a user fee would mean football and basketball would be partially financed by home game tickets. This could make possible a reduction in student service fees which now support men's intercollegiate athletics.

Author of the bill, Curt Marsh, student vice president of finance said he envisioned a system like shuttle bus which is partly financed by student service fees and partly by the students using it.

Marsh's Student Service Fee Allocation Committee will recommend its user fee proposal to the senate next semester.

Also carried by voice vote was a resolution committing the senate to financially back the coming Mike Murphy concert co-sponsored by Student Government Radio and Town Hall.

The resolution commits the senate to back student government radio for up to 60 percent losses in case the concert loses money.

Student Government Radio will receive 60 percent of the profit for station improvements.

A third resolution passing by voice vote provided for setting up a student government book exchange next semester.

The exchange will be funded out of senate savings and refrigerator profits. It will buy texts back at 60 percent of original retail and resell them at 65 percent.

The University Book Exchange buys used books at 50 percent cost and resells them for 75 percent.

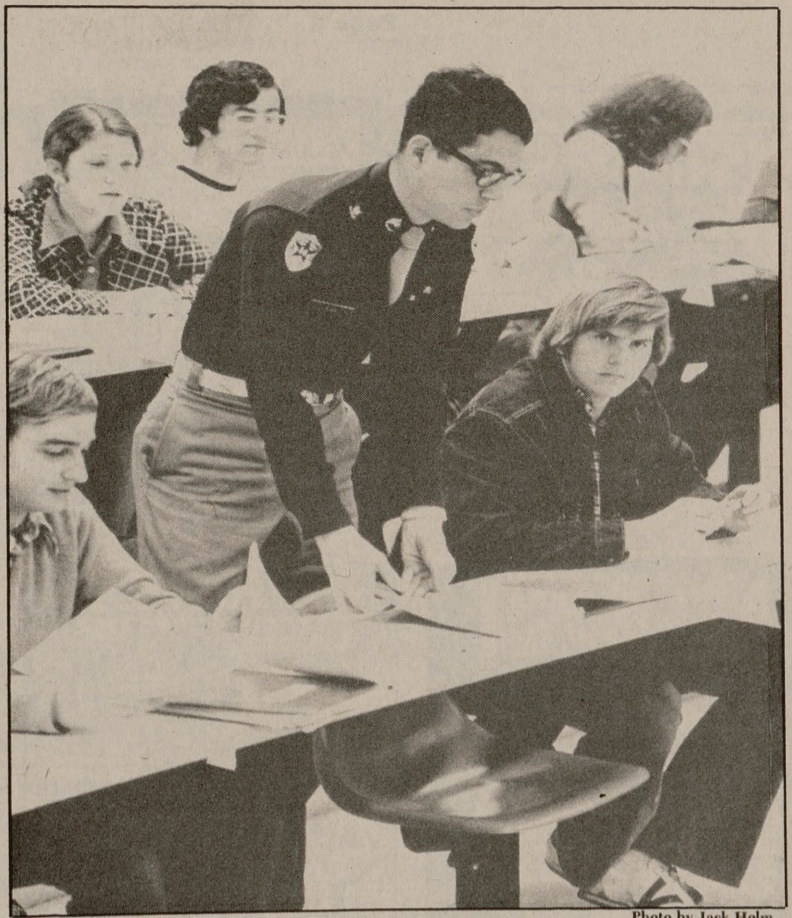
In another resolution carried by voice vote, the senate decided to purchase a non-pay phone for the library due to the long lines at the one non-pay phone now available.

The phone will cost \$8.50 for installation, \$5.00 per month and be paid for from the Refrigerator Account.

Also at the meeting, the senate approved Eberhard's appointment of Beverly Barns as a senior senator from the College of Agriculture.

Eberhard announced vacancies in the following senate seats, sophomore Education; junior, Corps; graduate, Agriculture; junior, Liberal Arts; undergraduate, off-campus; and University-Owned Apts.

Applications for these senate positions will be open until Dec. 20.



Jeff Dunn presents prayer bill

Freshman officers elected; results clouded by appeals

A freshman president, vice president and secretary-treasurer were selected in fish run off Dec. 5.

Elected president was Mark Toppert with 347 votes running against Brandon Coleman with 176.

Elected vice president was Mark Sicilio with 277 votes running against Chris Southworth with 244.

Elected secretary-treasurer was Susan Kelly with 251 votes running against Charlie Brown with 227.

The election was held despite an injunction issued to halt it.

Judicial Board member Mike Perrin issued the injunction because of complaints from Jim Crawley and Douglas Winship about lack of notification in The Battalion.

Perrin said the judicial board will hear appeals by Winship, Crawley and Susan Warren, election commission chairman, concerning the election results Monday, December 9, at 7:30 p.m. in the student government conference room.

Credibility questioned

Sirica says Nixon not needed at trial

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Watergate cover-up trial will end without the testimony of former President Richard M. Nixon, U.S. District Judge John J. Sirica ruled on Thursday.

Declaring that Nixon's testimony is not indispensable or necessary, Sirica said much of what Nixon knows has been or can be obtained from other witnesses, including the five defendants.

Beyond that, the judge said, Nixon's testimony is not required because the former president's credibility as a witness is in doubt.

Noting that Nixon is among 20 indicted co-conspirators in the case, Sirica said the former president "has been accused, in effect, of being an accomplice of the defendants."

"Certainly... his testimony would be subject to the instruction to the jury that it should be received with caution and scrutinized with care," Sirica said.

The 61-year-old Nixon, recovering at his San Clemente, Calif., estate from complications of a chronic phlebitis condition, was subpoenaed last September by trial defendant and former White House aide John D. Ehrlichman.

Ehrlichman opened his case Thursday, and among the first witnesses called by his lawyer was former White House special counsel Charles W. Colson.

Colson, also an unindicted co-conspirator in the cover-up case, is currently serving a prison term for a related Watergate offense.

Although a defense witness, Colson provided damaging testimony against three of the defendants. When he had finished, Associate Prosecutor James F. Neal declared to Ehrlichman's lawyer: "If you're gonna call more witnesses like that we'll take 'em all."

In late January 1973, Colson said he refused a request from former White House counsel John W. Dean III that he talk with William

O. Bittman, then Watergate conspirator E. Howard Hunt's lawyer. Colson said he sounded out the lawyer on Hunt's status only after Dean obtained word from Ehrlichman that it was all right to see Bittman.

Hunt was then standing trial for the original Watergate break-in and was demanding hundreds of thousands of dollars for the Watergate defendants. Previous testimony has shown that high-ranking Nixon administration officials believed Hunt was about to tell federal prosecutors about links from the break-in to the White House.

Assistant Prosecutor Richard Ben-Veniste said Colson, Ehrlichman and Dean were all "afraid Hunt would be so distraught he might make the best deal he could by telling what he knew."

The prosecutor asked Colson the purpose of meeting with Bittman. Colson, who got Hunt his first White House job, said Dean and Ehrlichman "wanted Hunt to know I was still his friend."

Colson said that while Ehrlichman wanted him to meet with Hunt's lawyer, he cautioned Colson not to make any commitments to Hunt, a retired CIA agent.

Under questioning by Mitchell's lawyer, William G. Hundley, Colson said he urged that the guilty persons in the Watergate scandal should turn themselves in.

Initially, in his six-page order, Sirica granted a request from Nixon's lawyer, Herbert J. Miller, that subpoenas for his client's testimony be dismissed.

The order also ruled out the possibility that Nixon might answer written questions about his party in the cover-up.

Three court-appointed cardiovascular specialists recommended on Nov. 29 that Nixon not be required to provide even limited testimony before Jan. 6 — about two weeks after the trial now is expected to end.



Photo by Glen Johnson

Fender bender

Rain and heavy mist made the Bryan-College Station roads hazardous yesterday. There were several minor accidents reported. This one at West Gate was a little different. The driver's father owns a body shop.

Murder trial results in Maddox acquittal

By STEVE GRAY
Staff Writer

A verdict of not guilty was returned Thursday afternoon in the murder trial of Bob Maddox in 85th District Court in Bryan.

A seven-woman, five-man jury acquitted Maddox, 20, of Navasota, after deliberating for about two hours. He had been charged in the stabbing death of Charles Greer of Bryan April 27 in the parking lot outside of the Zipper Lounge on Highway 6 across from the Texas World Speedway.

Maddox had been on trial since Tuesday afternoon when testimony began. The case was presided over by visiting 20th District Court Judge W. C. Wallace of Cameron.

Greer died during a fight involving his brothers, his cousins, Maddox and some of his friends. Maddox

voluntarily turned himself in the following day to Grimes County Sheriff John Darby.

Maddox testified Wednesday that he stabbed Greer in self-defense after Greer had swung at him twice and hit him once while the two were scuffling on the ground. He said he did not report the incident to police because he became afraid and was unable to think coherently.

Maddox's testimony was the last before his attorneys, Richard Fields of Conroe and Neeley Lewis of College Station, rested their case for the defense. District Attorney Tom McDonald and his assistant, Bradley Smith, questioned the final witness for the prosecution Wednesday morning.

Both sides presented final arguments Thursday before the case went to the jury about 11 a.m.

Puryear asks longer dorm visitation hours

By JUDY BAGGETT
Staff Writer

Extension of Puryear's visitation hours was requested by Ed Minnich, Puryear resident advisor (RA), at Thursday night's Residence Hall Association (RHA) meeting.

The RA staff of Puryear agreed unanimously to ask for visitation to start at 10 a.m. instead of noon during the week. Picking up dates for lunch, returning class notes and study materials would be easier, he explained.

Also, the RA staff wants hours extended during the week from 9 p.m. to 10 p.m. because many people watch television in their rooms and the movies are not over until 10 p.m.

Ron Blatchley, RHA advisor, said

that minor changes such as this could be done in his office.

RHA decided to take the proposal to the visitation hours committee whose purpose is to get 24-hour visitation in the dorms.

In addition to the visitation hours committee, plans have been made to form liquor on campus and dorm spirit committees.

The main objective of the dorm spirit committee is to run a civilian for yell leader. A civilian yell leader promotes spirit among the civilian dorms, one member said.

Also at the meeting Tim Jordan, casino chairman, told plans for obtaining a group for the RHA weekend concert. Among suggestions were the Beach Boys and Bachman Turner Overdrive.

Today

FAIR

Inside

County Commissioners .p. 3
Art salep. 3
Basketballp. 6

Weather

Gradually clearing Friday, becoming partly cloudy and mild. Fair and mild throughout the weekend. High today 73°; low tonight 45°; high Saturday 68°.

Tax reform coming?

Mills' expected replacement promises bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Al Ullman, the probable next chief of the House Ways and Means Committee, predicted Thursday that "we're going to get a tax reform bill next year and it will be a good one."

The Oregon Democrat who is expected to succeed the hospitalized Rep. Wilbur Mills, D-Ark., as chairman of the tax-writing committee, also told reporters that new kinds of taxes are possible. Furthermore, he said, "next year we have to produce a national health plan." Ullman's comments came as Mills remained in Bethesda Naval Hospital,

reportedly under sedation for an undisclosed illness. He entered the hospital Tuesday following a weekend journey to Boston where he visited stripper Fanne Foxe. Hospital authorities said Mills would be allowed no visitors except his wife.

Along with making his first extensive comments on his plans, Ullman predicted Congress in the final weeks of this year will pass the committee-approved, multibillion-dollar package of oil tax hikes and some tax cuts for millions of average Americans.

"I want to get that behind us," Ullman said at an informal news conference. "It is a good bill, it solves a lot of problems."

The bill would eventually end petroleum producers' major tax-saving depletion allowance, impose a temporary new levy on windfall profits of oilmen, give individual Americans who do not itemize their tax returns a boost in minimum and maximum standard deductions, and hike the investment tax credit for public utilities from 4 per cent to 7 per cent.

With passage of this, Ullman said,

"then, we've got a tremendous lot of work to do" on taxes, health and welfare issues. He indicated a look must be made at the basic tax system itself and the ways the government raises its revenue.

On health insurance, he said, "I don't believe in payroll taxes... but we'd have to find some other financial mechanism. I think it would be a disaster to dip into general revenues."

In addition, Ullman said, the committee must look into Social Security issues "and I think we've got to go to welfare reform. We may

not get a welfare reform bill next year but we've got to begin it" for action the following year.

As for the tax bill, he said "our goal" is action by July. Asked about chances for any across-the-board income tax cut, Ullman said he does not favor it and "I see no possibility of that."

Furthermore, he said he is "not a great believer in the surtax" as recently proposed by President Ford because it would underscore "inequity of the income tax." He said an "overreliance on the income tax... brings a shelter problem."