

B.S. breakdown

Growth

TAMU needs it so we must accept it

Many people on campus fear the new influx of students that is expected in the next five years. They predict a basic change for the worse in the personality of Texas A&M. Let's look and see what is more likely to occur.

The first issue to be met is that after all, this is a state supported school. The majority of the funding comes annually from the state legislature. So higher education is primarily paid for by the people of this state. For every semester hour sold to students the legislature

chips in a certain amount of money. The amount appropriated depends upon a sliding scale of dollars per hour per particular college at A&M. Thus the College of Liberal Arts gets less than the College of Engineering. So, depending on what college you are enrolled in, you are more or less dependent upon the legislature for your educational life.

Many of the people of this university have gotten used to a sort of elitist attitude which they really haven't had to pay for. The state has paid for the bulk of their education, and now they want to turn to Texas and say, "We have things the way we want them here now, so don't bother us with the responsibility of the rest of the prospective students

in the state." All of this in the name of maintaining a fabled elitism. This is not only an immoral and illegal attitude, an impracticable one as well.

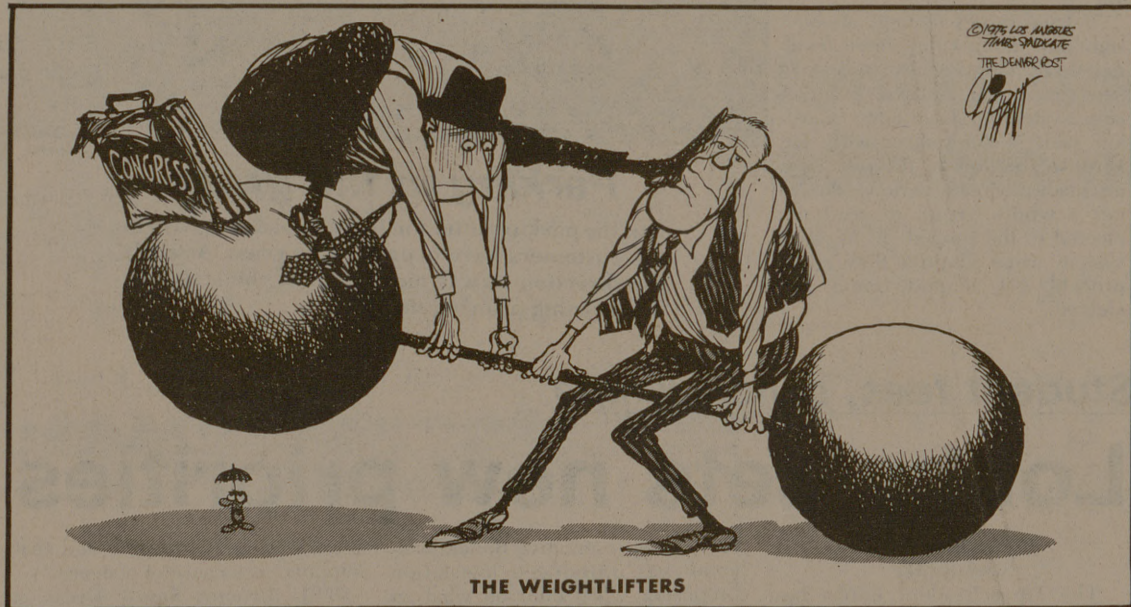
The new students will make things cheaper on all of us in the long run. We will be able to serve more students more efficiently. It will take farsighted planning to assure that we do not overload ourselves and lose this efficiency. But until we begin to lose efficiency we must not disallow people when we can reasonably make a place for them. This is a moral, legal, practical obligation. Indeed we owe it to ourselves.

The goal of the administration is to help the university grow in qual-

ity while at the same time accommodating more of the state's growing college bound population. The new students cannot help but stimulate the achievement of these two goals. If the standards for admission were raised, as some have suggested, some of the people who have made these suggestions wouldn't be going to Texas A&M. So since the new students must exhibit the same amount of quality as today's students, we shouldn't expect any visible decline in student quality. And with their coming we can expect more money, more efficient education, and from these two we can expect our degrees to be worth more when we go out to sell them.

Sure we might lose a few traditions. But if they're worth keeping they naturally will continue of themselves. The useless ones will pass away with the passage of time anyway. So why allow them to stand in the way of our progression?

Another predominant fear is that we will degenerate into the same kind of hurried and disheveled existence led by the typical UT student. The presupposition is, of course, that our way of life is inherently better. It's not. It's just different. Let's stop making excuses. A&M must grow. It must change. It must progress. Otherwise we'll simply stagnate, looking back on the good old days when a university could still be structured the way A&M is today and remain a fine university. If we stay where we are, we never will get anywhere. Don't be so afraid to join the rest of the world. A little progress never hurt anyone.



Listen Up

Band for all Aggies needed

Editor:

I am a transfer student from another major college in Texas. I was very impressed by the spirit and academic level shown here at A&M.

However, out of the top 10 colleges in this state, A&M is the only school that is without any kind of school-supported music program. Sure, there is a university concert band consisting of students, teachers and anybody else who wants to join, but even Tarrant County Junior College has more than that.

Certainly we have one of the finest military marching bands in the nation, but why should a person who is musically talented be made to join a group of soldiers.

There are many former high school all-state musicians at A&M right now who are not playing music and furthering their talent because of this regulation. Much of the music the Corps band is playing right now was played by high school bands five to 10 years ago. All the other major colleges in Texas open their music programs to anybody who is talented enough to make their band, not to who will cut their hair, buy khaki uniforms and live in 40-year-old dorms.

Texas A&M is one of the richest colleges in Texas and yet it is far behind North Texas State, Texas Tech, Baylor, West Texas State and many other universities in music.

I'm not saying girl cadets or nor-

mal students should be allowed, in the military band. I just don't see why there can't be a complete music program (concert band, stage band, chorus, private music teachers and again most junior colleges have these) for civilian students. Is this also breaking that most respected word, "tradition"?

It would cost a fractional amount of money now being spent to set up a normal music program and buy better equipment for the Chemistry, Physics and other departments needing necessities for higher education. It would cost less than it is costing to remodel the MSC, build that beautiful iron curtain or the North side of the campus and the outdoor picnic area by the Chemistry Building, along with other idiotic decorations being built to

beautify this campus for the centennial.

Instead of celebrating A&M's first 100 years with pretty objects for the alumni and board of directors to look at, why not celebrate it with a well-rounded college of higher learning of which all Aggies, young and old, can be extremely proud.

Tommy Duer

Deadline nears

Friday is the deadline for interim editor applications. The interim editor will take responsibility for the issues of March 6 and 7. The Battalion editorial board would prefer an editor from student organizations which deal with The Battalion on a day-to-day basis. Editor will be announced Feb. 17.

The Aggie forum

Land use planning

A good idea only on a local basis

By CAROL MOORE

"God has quit making land, but he hasn't stopped making babies," former Governor McCall of Oregon said in a speech on campus last week. He seems to have made an eloquent summary of the problem of land use planning for America.

Congress attacked the question of nationwide land use planning in a bill sponsored by Rep. Morris Udall (D-Ariz.) last session. The House voted 211-204 in June not to debate the bill. Only four Texans voted to

consider it: Barbara Jordan and Bob Eckhardt (D-Houston), Henry Gonzalez (D-San Antonio) and Alan Steelman (R-Dallas). Steelman will speak Thursday night at 8:00 in a SCONA presentation. He will debate Rep. Sam Steiger (R-Ariz.), a principal opponent of the Udall bill in Congress, on national land use planning.

Provisions in the Udall land use planning bill called for \$800 million to be appropriated over a period of eight years to states having a land use planning agency. Each state would then use the grant to develop and implement "comprehensive land use processes" under federal guidelines as specified in the bill. Those guidelines would require the states to provide for areas of "critical environmental concern," including fragile or historic lands, natural areas of scientific value and shorelands along rivers, lakes and streams. Any land decision having "more than local concern," such as the location of an airport, would also be under the jurisdiction of the state.

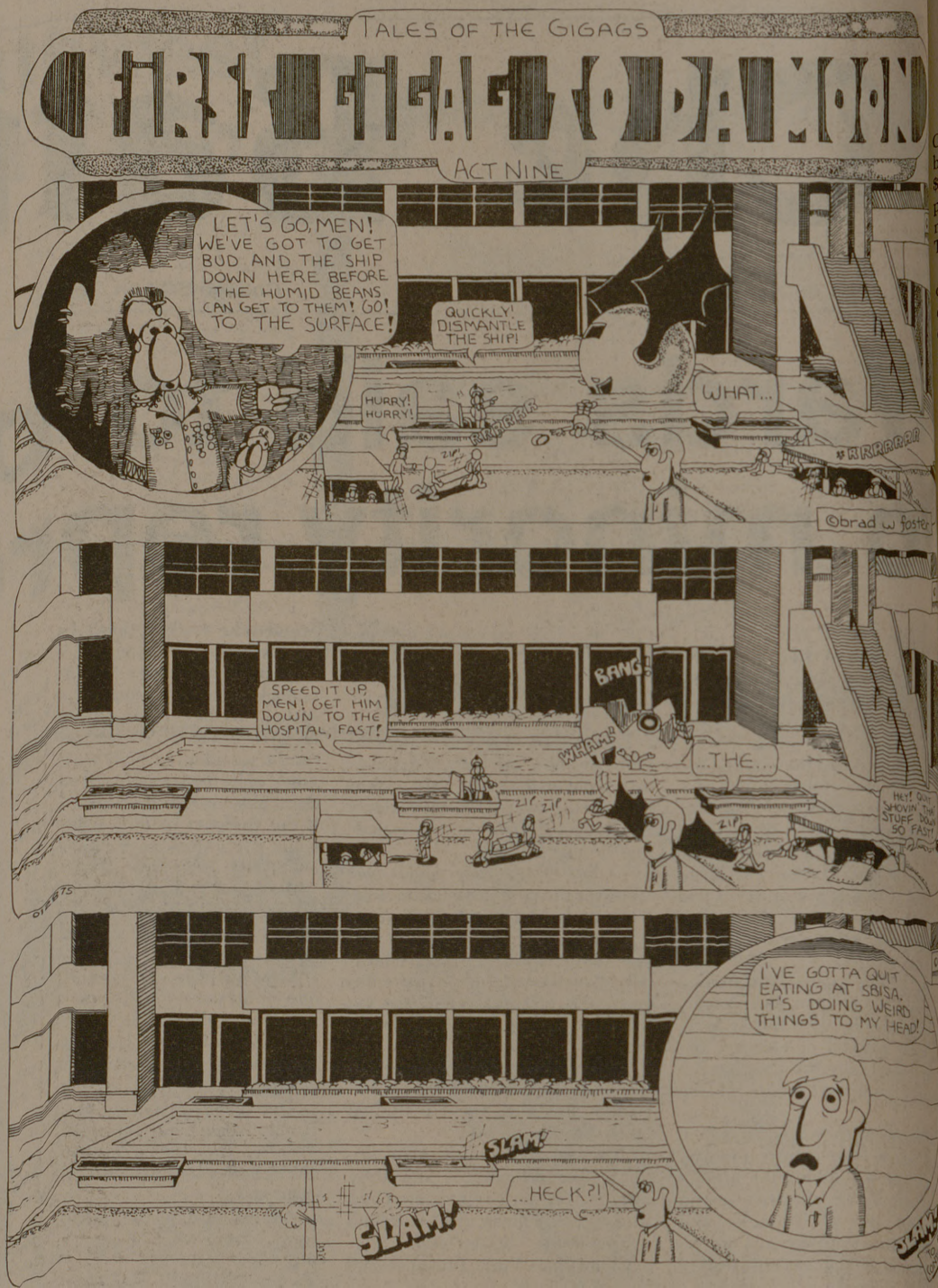
This process of state planning under federal guidelines was criticized in fierce lobbying against the bill last Congress. A loose coalition of some farm groups, the national Chamber of Commerce, real estate developers and conservative action groups opposed it. They said it would result in federal control over private property and could deprive land owners of the use of their land without compensation.

The Udall land use bill will probably be resubmitted in this new session. New liberal strength in the Congress may mean a better chance for passage of the bill.

In Texas, a statewide land use planning bill is in the writing stage. Rep. Fred Agnich (R-Dallas) is working with State Land Commissioner Bob Armstrong to come up with workable legislation.

"A bill such as this must have conservative support in order to pass the legislature," Agnich said in an interview in Austin last Wednesday. He conceded there is at best a "50-50" chance of land use legislation passing this session.

Agnich proposes a commission made of six members: the three



Editorial

Change doesn't just happen

Would you like to put pressure on the local phone company and other local utilities? The College Station City Council can pressure these companies.

Would you like to see more apartments or businesses? Would you like to see growth halted in College Station? The City Council can affect these policies.

Would you like to see better roads? Would you like to see the railroad moved? Would you like to see public transportation so you can shop beyond Northgate and the Skaggs-Albertson center? Would you like to see building codes enforced where you live? You can affect the direction of this community if you register to vote in College Station.

The Battalion urges you to register here for these reasons and more.

A vote in Brazos County gives you a vote which affects three important incumbents on the state and national level: U. S. Congressman Olin E. Teague, Texas Rep. Bill Presnal and Texas Senator William T. (Bill) Moore.

Register to vote in Brazos County — registration deadline is in early March.

state officials most involved in land use decisions — Atty. Gen. John Hill, Agriculture Commissioner John White and Land Commissioner Bob Armstrong — and three others appointed by the governor, lieutenant governor and speaker of the House. The commission would administer three phases: inventory of all state lands, a plan for optimum use of the land and the recommendation of a "plan to implement the plan." The commission would automatically expire January 1, 1979, when the final recommendation would be made.

Prospects for any land use legislation do not look bright in this state legislative session. The Land Use Study Interim Committee held several public hearings last fall in an effort to determine recommendations to be made in a report to the legislature. The chairman of the Intergovernmental Affairs Committee said that there will be no land use legislation passed by the next legislature unless the federal government forces the state to do it. Rep. James Kaster of El Paso said that in November when staff preliminary

recommendations that the state have any control over land use decisions. The final report to the legislature is not yet ready.

Any state or federal land use bill should recognize that the best way is to provide for the greatest amount of local participation, but under broad guidelines.

The location of a feedlot may have more than local significance if it poisons a water supply. And valuable agricultural land not protected by a greenbelt area could be lost to shopping center development because of high tax rates.

The loss of Houston as a seaport would have more than local significance. The Environmental Protection Agency currently has land use control in its "indirect source" regulation of air pollution where large numbers of autos are attracted, such as shopping centers and parking lots.

National land use planning is here to stay, but it should not come without public support and local participation. We need a state plan and we need a comprehensive national plan which will go to the states.

Coasters and Co.



"For once I agree with you, Coasters — I bet with all this construction going on around campus we could make a good case to collect disaster relief funds..."

The Battalion

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the university administration or the Board of Directors. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a university and community newspaper. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsey, chairman; Dr. Tom Adair, Dr. R. A. Albanese, Dr. H. E. Hierth, W. C. Harrison, Steve Eberhard, Don Hegel, and John Nash, Jr.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

MEMBER
The Associated Press, Texas Press Association

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, Monday, and holiday periods. September through May, and once a week during summer school.

Mail subscriptions are \$5.00 per semester; \$9.50 per school year; \$10.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Right of reproduction of all other matter herein also reserved.

Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

Editor: Greg Moses
Assistant Editor: Will Anderson
Managing Editor: LaTonya Perrin
Assistant Managing Editor: Roxie Hearn
Sports Editor: Mike Bruton
Photo Editor: Glen Johnson
City Editor: Rod Speer
News Editors: Barbara West, Douglas Winship

Reporters: T. C. Gallucci, Tony Gallucci, Paul McGrath, Robert Cessna, Gerald Oliver, Ross Mary Traverso, Steve Gray, Judy Buggett, Alan Killingsworth, Sayeef Islam, Mary Jeanne Quebe, Cathryn Clement, Robin Schriver, Cindy Maciel.

Photographers: Douglas Winship, David Kimmel, Gary Baldasari, Jack Holm, Chris Svatek, Steve Krauss, Kevin Fortony.

