

# Guess who's coming to dinner

## The Board Annex should prepare its finest because a student may be coming to stay

By WILL ANDERSON  
Would you say a Board of Directors that is responsive to students' needs and desires is unlikely? Would you say the chances a student might get on the Board are rotten to nonexistent? Well, read on, Aggies, read on.

Two bills are now before a subcommittee in the Texas House of Representatives that seek to provide students with more input to their university's board of directors.

One was presented by Matt Garcia of San Antonio. It calls for a non-voting student position on all boards. There is a chance that the bill will be amended if it gets out of committee to offer a vote to the student on board decisions. It would seem the combined efforts of the TAMU directors and the t.u. regents could defeat anything, but Garcia is optimistic.

"Mac" McAlister is presenting what appears to be a compromise bill in the same area. His bill specifies that at least one member of each board of directors must be below 32-years-old. He says a great source of intelligence is being overlooked because of the generally accepted practice of appointing only older men and women, and notes that many corporations have people less than 32 in key positions. The bill would also provide links between boards and students, he said.

The bills are before a subcommittee of the Committee on Higher Education. The subcommittee is headed by Bill Caraway of Houston and includes Don Raines of San Marcos and Billy Hall of Laredo.

Caraway impressed me because when he heard I was trying to find him, he left his seat on the floor of the House and he found me. He said if any more public testimony was needed on the bills that he would be in touch with The Battalion to offer students a chance to speak to the representatives.

The Committee on Higher Education is chaired by Fred Head and also includes Jim Clark, John Hostenbach, Abraham Ribak, Frank Gaston, Mrs. Senfronia Thompson and Doyle Willis.

Students may express their opinions of the bills in a letter addressed:

The Honorable Bill Caraway  
Capitol Building  
Austin, Texas 78767

All representatives may be reached through the mail using that address. Letters will probably carry more weight when they're sent to your hometown representatives, but the fates of those bills are in the hands of the committee now and I'm sure those representatives would appreciate some insights.

TAMU President Jack Williams said the bills are unpractical and unneeded. He asked if every part of the university system (Agricultural Extension Service, Tarleton State, etc.) would be represented, also.

Williams asked how McAlister had arrived at 32 as the "magic age" in regard to board membership. He also said student membership was not needed because students already have input to the board at its open business meetings.

As rapidly as the TAMU Board goes through its agenda, it seems that most decisions are already made before the meeting begins. The meetings are only a ritual to formalize decisions, so "student input" in that form is pretty useless.

I'm sorry to say that a student board member would also be pretty useless. Since a student board member would be a political appointment, I suspect he or she would pretty well "tow the line" in regard to board responsiveness but all its

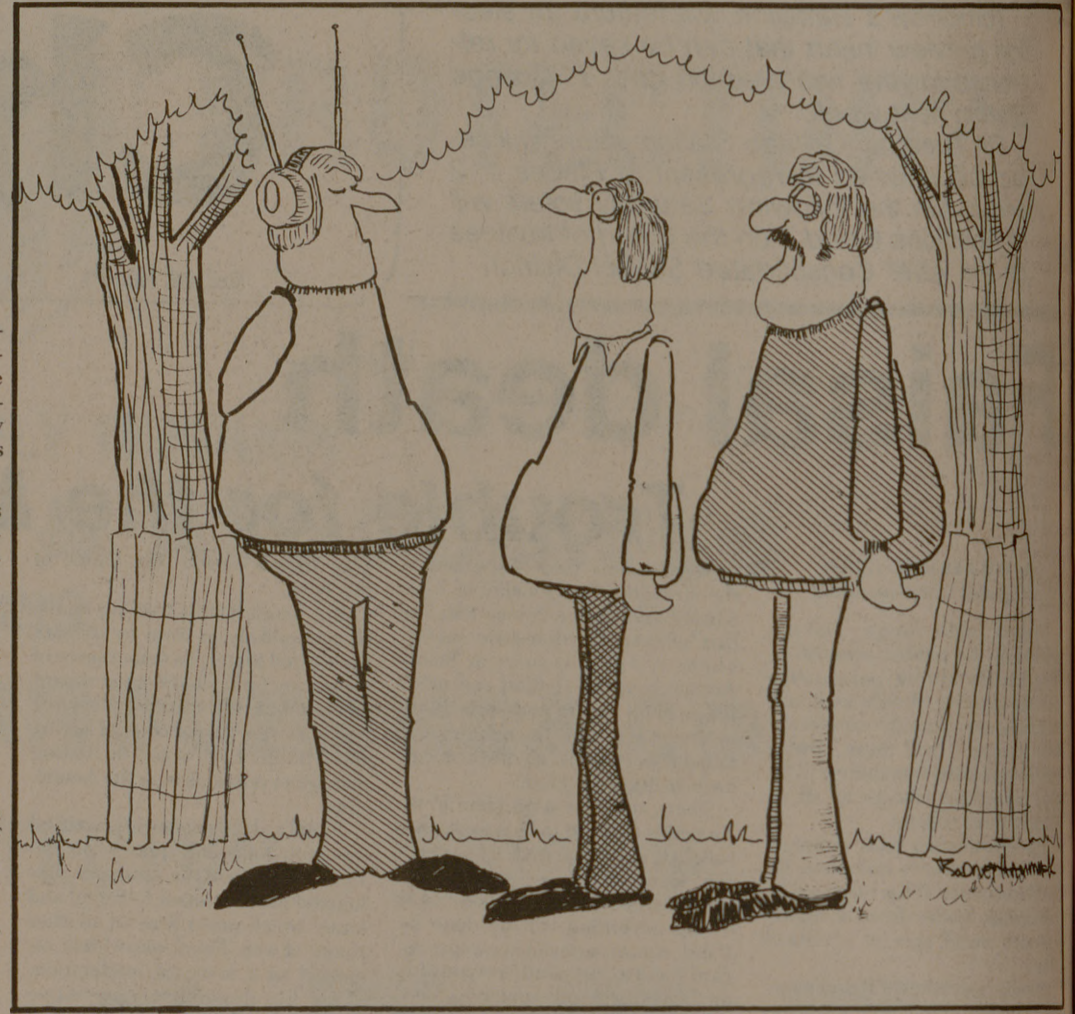
I'm sorry to say that a student board member would also be pretty useless. Since a student board member would be a political appointment, I suspect he or she would pretty well "tow the line" in regard to board decisions. The students' main duty would be to nod approval all the time. Nothing would change in regard to board responsiveness but all its acts would be given a halo because they had "student input."

But something needs to be done. It is obvious to me that the TAMU Board is out of touch with the students. They don't know what students want (for instance, more bowling lanes and fewer cowhide

benches in the MSC) and don't appear to care to find out. While a student on the TAMU Board would be very difficult to arrange and probably fairly ineffective, it's certainly better than nothing. But there's something better than that.

The real opportunity for input is not at the board level, but more participation on university committees. The real planning is in committees and then passed to the Board for approval and adjustment. That is where students should seek membership to offer student ideas and not simply approve someone else's plans. And it could be done on a university level.

But, write your representatives, Aggies, and tell them what you think. If we can make the Board of Directors aware that we exist, that's a step in the right direction. They might get curious as to what we think about the way they spend our money. After all, miracles happen every day and this just might be another one.



# Board investigation urged

Editor:  
There is a need for an investigation and hearing on the actions of the Board of Directors of Texas A&M University. If the Batt will print where to write for action (Board of Directors? Texas Educational System? Governor of Texas?), I'm sure many students will send letters and lists of names of people demanding an investigation and hearing.

Too many things have been happening without any consideration or concern for the student body opinion; the actions of the Board of Directors could be in direct violation of the Basic Policy of the University. A lot of money is being spent, department budgets are being cut, the departments are urged not to fill vacancies (a lot of people are looking for jobs), budgets on assistantships are being cut, fees are raised, an unwanted wall is being built, an owl tower is on campus, a Board of Directors room has been built (\$1.4 million worth) and gaudy art objects are in the MSC. Traditions are being destroyed.

An investigation and hearing is just what is needed to clear up a lot of questions and justify a lot of claims about the Board of Directors' actions here on campus. Also the investigation and hearing could answer a very vital question — is a University supposed to benefit the people attending it or benefit the people running it?

Laura Beall  
An investigation and hearing are

not likely, but there may be other ways to make the Board more responsive. See your man at Batt — Ed.

### Domino theory

Editor:  
As a matter of record I would like to quote some facts I have pieced together from the news in the past few days.

In S. Vietnam, heavy artillery fire pours into Hue as a 75 mile long line of refugees flee south, away from their Communist "liberators". US officials say the drive is bigger than the 1968 Tet Offensive.

The reason for the impending loss

of Hue and the actual loss of 10 provinces to the Communists is that the promised \$1.45 billion in US aid has been cut by Congress to under \$700 million. Well, what can you expect after selling out our obligation to them under the SEATO treaty and the Mekong Delta Resolution? We might as well rescind on our promise to aid and resupply them following our departure in 1973.

The news doesn't stop there. Cambodia is under siege with 65-70 percent of the country in Communist hands and rocket attacks on Phnom Penh. President Lon Nol announced Friday that the Number 1 national priority was to seek

negotiations with the Communists. Thailand is also being forced into a coalition government with the Communists. Once our strongest ally (at one time the US had six air bases in Thailand), they are now asking us to leave the airbases they were once so willing for us to operate. What is the reason for this change in attitude? As a Thai diplomat said, "Our government must look to the dominant power in S.E. Asia." Guess who that is now. I hope the people who laughed at the domino theory will pause now and watch as Laos, Thailand, and Cambodia follow South Vietnam into Communist domination.

Bill Ibbotson

## Editorial

# Our point of view

## City council elections

Two candidates are competing in each of the three races for the College Station City Council and, although this does not offer a large choice for the voter, the personalities and political philosophy are diverse enough to make three interesting races.

Since incumbent Fred Brisson did not seek re-election, the race for Place 1 pits two newcomers to the College Station political scene — a liberal and outspoken political science professor, Gary Halter, and a young up-and-coming local developer, Jim Jett.

Because of his political science training (oriented toward urban government) and intense interest in College Station's government, GARY HALTER is the best choice for the position. Halter has been a regular visitor at council meetings and was chairman of a citizens advisory group which helped the city with its Comprehensive Development plan. He has studied the problems and needs of the city and has data at his fingertips to compare our town with other Texas cities.

Jett's vocation presents an inherent conflict of interest should he be elected to the council. As a councilman, Jett's vote on a rezoning request or the paving of a street could affect the value and use of land in the city. As a realtor, developer and apartment owner, that vote could affect the value of his property. Halter's realty, however, consists only of the lot his home sits on.

Competing for Place 3 is the 32-year-old general manager of KTAM-KORA radio, Bob Bell, against the older establishment man and incumbent Don Dale. BOB BELL would be a refreshing and needed change on the council and earns our endorsement. Bell has committed himself to reflecting the opinions of College Station residents.

Dale, however, has been forced to defend a rezoning request he supported that was petitioned against by 280 Dominik Drive residents. In addition, Dale's ownership of a local construction company creates a situation similar to Jett's. The amount and use of commercial property in the city cannot help but affect local construction. And whether or not this has been a factor in his decisions, Dale has said it's developers that make the city grow and has consistently voted for developers' zone change requests regardless of citizen opposition.

The Place 5 race features incumbent Larry Bravenec, a TAMU accounting professor and local attorney, and a dark-horse candidate, Greg Magruder, a TAMU sophomore and president of the Residence Hall Association.

Although Magruder has good intentions, LARRY BRAVENEC should be re-elected to the council. It's a difficult task to determine what Bravenec's political philosophy is. However, one thing is perfectly clear — Bravenec will bend to citizen opposition, which shows a responsiveness to his constituency. Also, Bravenec has qualifications Magruder can't hope to match. Bravenec has a law degree and can draw upon his experience as an attorney, a professor and as a councilman for a year. Magruder has not yet reached the halfway point in his undergraduate education and has been wrapped up in the problems of dormitory life, not in off-campus affairs.

# 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 Hegi, 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 are 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: Paul McGrath, Robert Cessna, Gerald Oliver, Rosemary Traverso, Steve Gray, Judy Baggett, Alan Killingsworth, Sayeful Islam, Mary Jeanne Quebe, Cathryn Clement, Cindy Maciel, Jim Peters, Mark Schluter, Steve Usery, B. Bahji Singh, Don Middleton, Mike Kinney, Jerry Geary, Chris Askew.

Photographers: Douglas Winship, David Kimmel, Gary Balzsari, Jack Holm, Chris Svatek, Steve Krauss, Kevin Fotorny, Tom Kayser, David McCarroll.

Columnists: Bill Sheen, Mike Perrin, John Vanore, John Tim Cowden

Artists and cartoonists: Dr. James H. Earle, Nguyen Dziem, Brad Foster, Rodney Hammack, Tom Brents, Scott Morgan.

## ROBERT HALSELL TRAVEL SERVICE

AIRLINE SCHEDULE INFORMATION  
FARES AND TICKETS  
DOMESTIC AND INTERNATIONAL

CALL 822-3737

1016 Texas Avenue — Bryan

## PONDEROSA MOTOR INN

South Highway 6  
Original Owner: O. T. Tilley

CLIP THIS AD AND BUY ONE ITEM AND GET ONE HALF PRICE.

- Home Baked Rolls, Pies & Hot Biscuits
- Specially Prepared Noon Lunches
- Friday Night Catfish - The best in town
- Sunday Buffet • Evening a la carte
- Ponderosa Club Happy Hour - 4:30 - 6:00
- Live Music - 7 days a week
- Reasonable prices - Friendly Service

Coupon expires April 15 - Good for breakfast, lunch or dinner. Special rates for Aggie Mothers & Dads.

ALL KNOTTED UP?  
TIE INTO YOGA



FREE UNIVERSITY'S  
NEWEST COURSE OFFERING  
BEGINNING MARCH 27  
TOWER 601 7:30 pm



step into the msc circle



### PEANUTS

