

The Battalion

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Palace stories 'baloney'

A&M needs new image, Presnal says

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas A&M University needs its opulent meeting room for its board of directors to help rid itself of a cow college image, says the chairman of the House Appropriations Committee.

Stories calling attention to the expense of the new meeting facility (Money for the University Center, except for the Former Students Association Wing, came from student fees and state monies. The Former Students wing was paid solely through donations.)

are "a bunch of baloney," Rep. Bill Presnal, D-Bryan, said Monday.

"It's sort of a showplace, no question about that," Presnal said. "A&M is trying to put out a new image, and I don't blame them for that."

"It's no longer a cow college, and people need to recognize this. It's a

full blown university today." Presnal is employed by the Texas A&M Research Foundation as a special assistant. He is in charge of liaison with Congress. His salary is \$14,160 a year.

"I have no comment," said Sen. Bill Moore, D-Bryan, chairman of the Senate State Affairs Committee and also an ex-Aggie. "I'm proud of the institution. I think there're people who would like to see it destroyed, and stories like that aren't going to help."

Several other legislators praised the story, which ran in the Dallas Morning News Sunday. A similar story was published earlier by the Texas Observer.

"I was frankly very disturbed and shocked when I read the story in the Observer," said Sen. Oscar Mauzy, D-Dallas, chairman of the Senate Education Committee.

"It points out again how the Per-

manent and Available University Funds can be abused," Mauzy said. The people who approve such large expenditures should be answerable to the voters, he said.

A&M spent \$1.4 million for the meeting facility, then put \$700,000 worth of furniture, statuary and paintings in it.

"We ought to do away with the Permanent and Available Funds," said Sen. A. R. Schwartz, D-Galveston, who like Moore, got an academic degree at A&M and then a law degree at the University of Texas at Austin. Schwartz said he got to wear the senior Aggie boots one semester before going to law school. "That's the only time the girls loved me for what I really am," he cracked.

While he criticized the opulence of the A&M facility, Schwartz said it pales by comparison with those at UT.

"I think that over the long run it will prove even more expensive in terms of bad reaction in the legislature," said Rep. Neil Caldwell, D-Alvin.

"A&M really is a good school, and it's a shame that, if my fears are realized, the students will suffer because of the bad judgment of the board of directors," Caldwell said, meaning A&M may get less money in future budget requests because of the new facility.

"I think they went a little too far," said Rep. Fred Head, D-Troup, chairman of the House Higher Education Committee.

He said more detailed information by representatives from A&M and other schools will be required in the future when they come to the legislature for money.

Rep. Ray Hutchison, R-Dallas, agreed with Head's idea on greater

control by the legislature through demanding more information on spending proposals. He called for more legislative "controls and priority standards" over all public universities.

Dr. Jack Williams, president of A&M, just happened to be in the Capitol Monday. He said one member of the board of directors has given \$500,000 to the school. And gifts from other current and former members of the board exceeded the cost of the facility, he said.

Editor's Note: The Battalion contacted President Williams concerning the Dallas Morning News and AP stories. "I don't want to be part of your news story," he said.

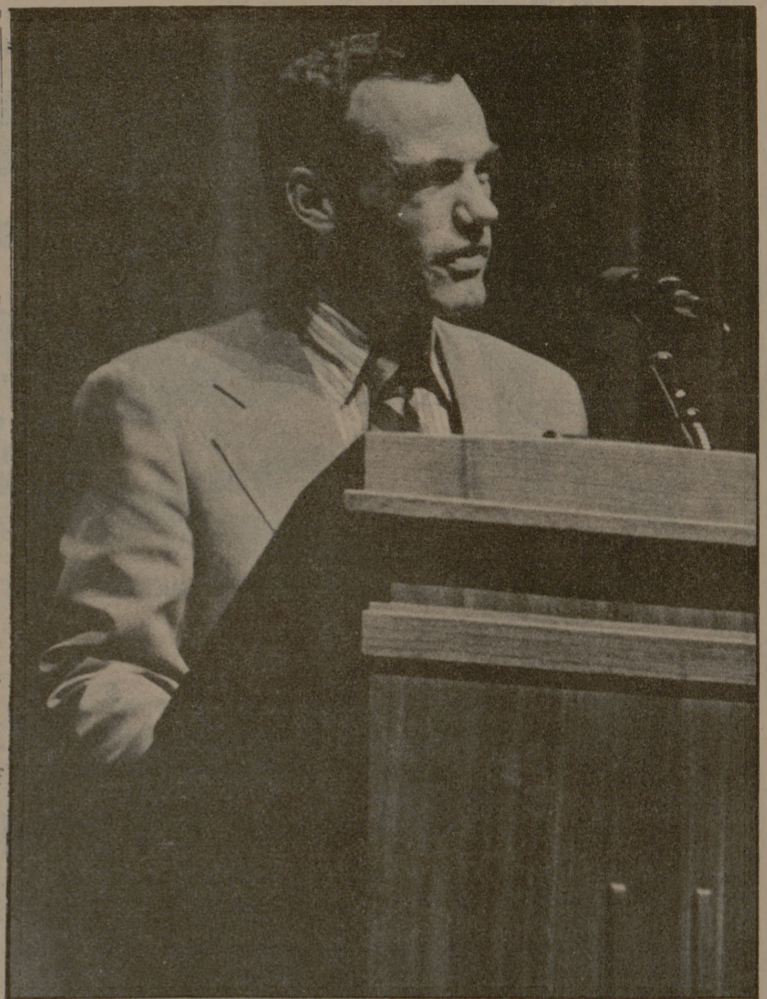


Photo by Jack Holm

Privacy a problem

U.S. Representative Barry Goldwater Jr. spoke at the Political Forum Monday night in Rudder Auditorium. Goldwater discussed the Right to Privacy Act of 1974. He stressed the fact that social security numbers have been used extensively in invading people's privacy.

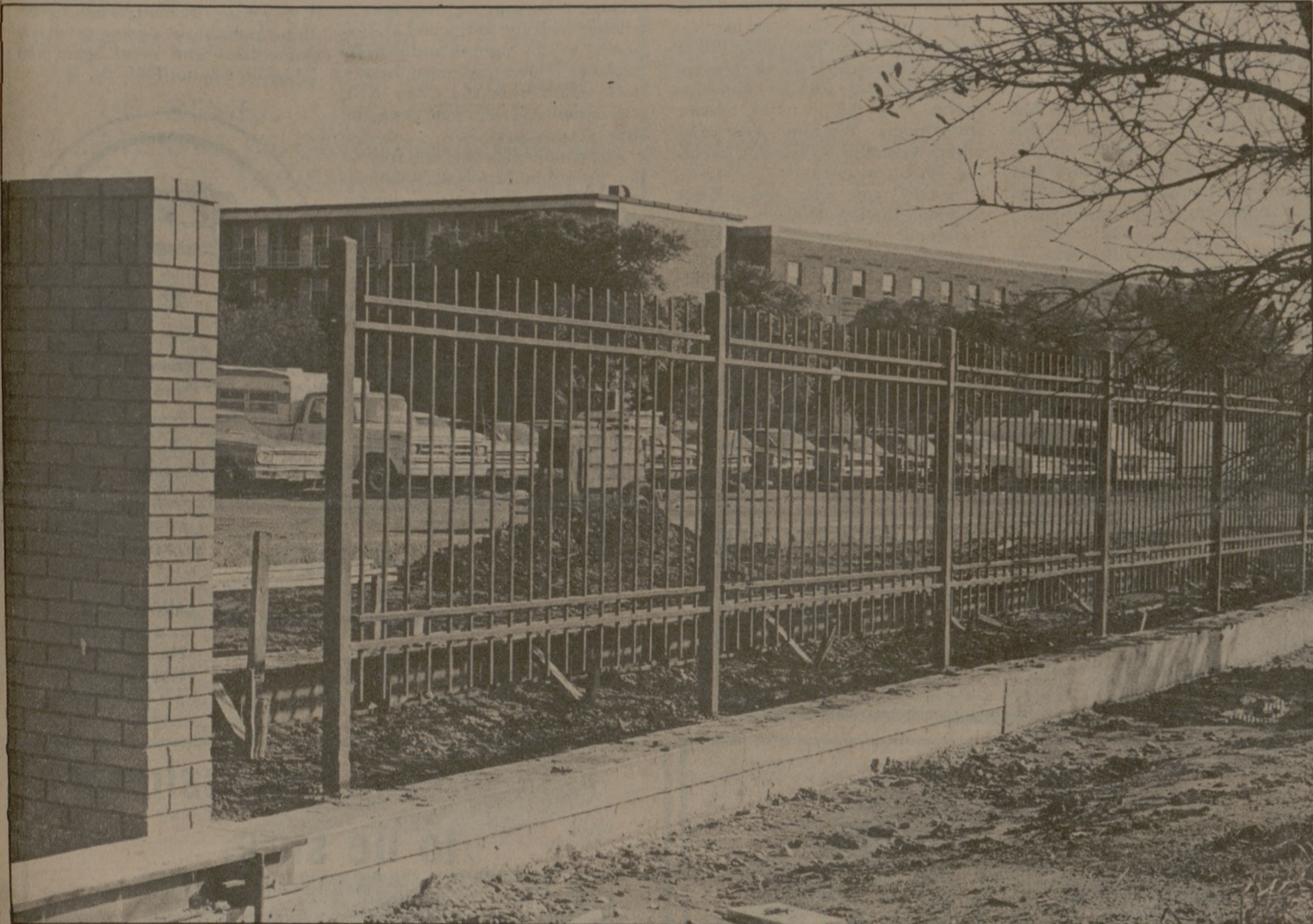


Photo by Glen Johnson

Iron fence in addition to wall

The gap between the brick segments of the four hundred sixty-thousand dollar wall at Northgate is being filled with wrought iron fences. The fences are built

to resemble the ones around Kyle Field, and will likewise be surrounded by beds of vegetation. Construction at Northgate will end in the fall of 1975.

6-1 vote

Student on governing board bill passes committee

By JIM CRAWLEY
Staff Writer

A bill requiring a student on the governing boards of all Texas four-year colleges passed through the Senate Education Committee last Wednesday.

The bill, designated Senate Bill 493, sponsored by State Sen. Bob Gammage, received a six to one approval.

The present form of the bill, if passed by the Legislature and the governor, would require a Texas student of at least sophomore standing, who is registered for at least six

semester hours, to be placed on the board of each senior public college. The student would be required to finish at least one more year at the institution.

Heavy lobbyists for the bill were students from the University of Texas and the Texas Student Lobby, said Margot Gidel, legislative aide for Gammage. Students from TAMU, University of Houston, UT at El Paso and Southwest Texas

State were also present at hearings held for the bill. Opposing the bill was UT lobbyist Frank Erwin.

The bill is dormant at this time. Gammage will probably file a "notice of intent" sometime next week, said Gidel. The notice is necessary before the bill can be read on the Senate floor.

"At this time it doesn't look real favorable, but the senator (Gammage) is lobbying on the floor for the

bill and that's why he is holding off now," said Gidel.

This is the second time Gammage has sponsored a bill trying to get a student on the governing boards. During the last session the Senate defeated his bill. The present bill is similar to the first one.

The House has not introduced a companion bill to Gammage's.

Gidel described the student response to the bill as "just excellent."

J-Board enjoins Martin; campaign violations cited

By JIM CRAWLEY
Staff Writer

An injunction by two Student Government (SG) Judicial Board members has been issued against Mary Ellen Martin, candidate for student vice president of rules and regulations.

The injunction will not keep Martin from running in today's run-off elections.

"There's not going to be a hearing," said Martin in response to the injunction.

Hampe and Hamley stated in the injunction they were "issuing this injunction to stop any future violations of the Election Regulations."

The Judicial Board injunction, is-

sued by members Russell Hamley, junior, and David Hampe, sophomore, stated "you (Martin) have seemingly violated the Election Regulations after being warned and disqualified for the same violations."

Martin's disqualification was thrown out last Monday by the board.

Hampe said that Martin had placed "campaign material on doors in the Corps area. He added that the charges were initiated by Martin's opponent, Duane Thompson, added Hampe.

"I have not witnessed the violations," said Hampe.

Two Corps seniors, Warren Russell and Curt Marsh, student vice

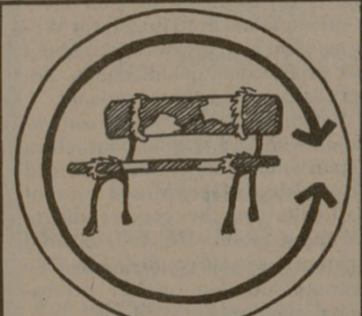
president of finance, were the actual witnesses and complained to Thompson and Hampe, noted Hampe. He added that Hampe had other witnesses to the alleged violations.

All the injunction requires is that Martin will not continue the illegal campaign practices.

"I was quite upset because the injunction did not say what the violations were," said Martin.

This is the second time during the election that Martin has been charged with campaign violations. She was disqualified and then reinstated by the Judicial Board last week for similar campaigning tactics.

Hamley was not available for comment.



Since last November numerous articles and letters have appeared in The Battalion concerning the costs of construction and furnishings in the new University Center. This week we are devoting a series of articles in an attempt at shedding new light on the MSC story. See related stories this issue, pages 6 and 7.



Today

Inside

- Goldwater Jr. p. 3
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Weather

Fair and warm Tuesday with SE winds at 7 mph. High today 79; low tonight 57. Mostly cloudy with fog Wednesday morning becoming fair and warm. High 81.

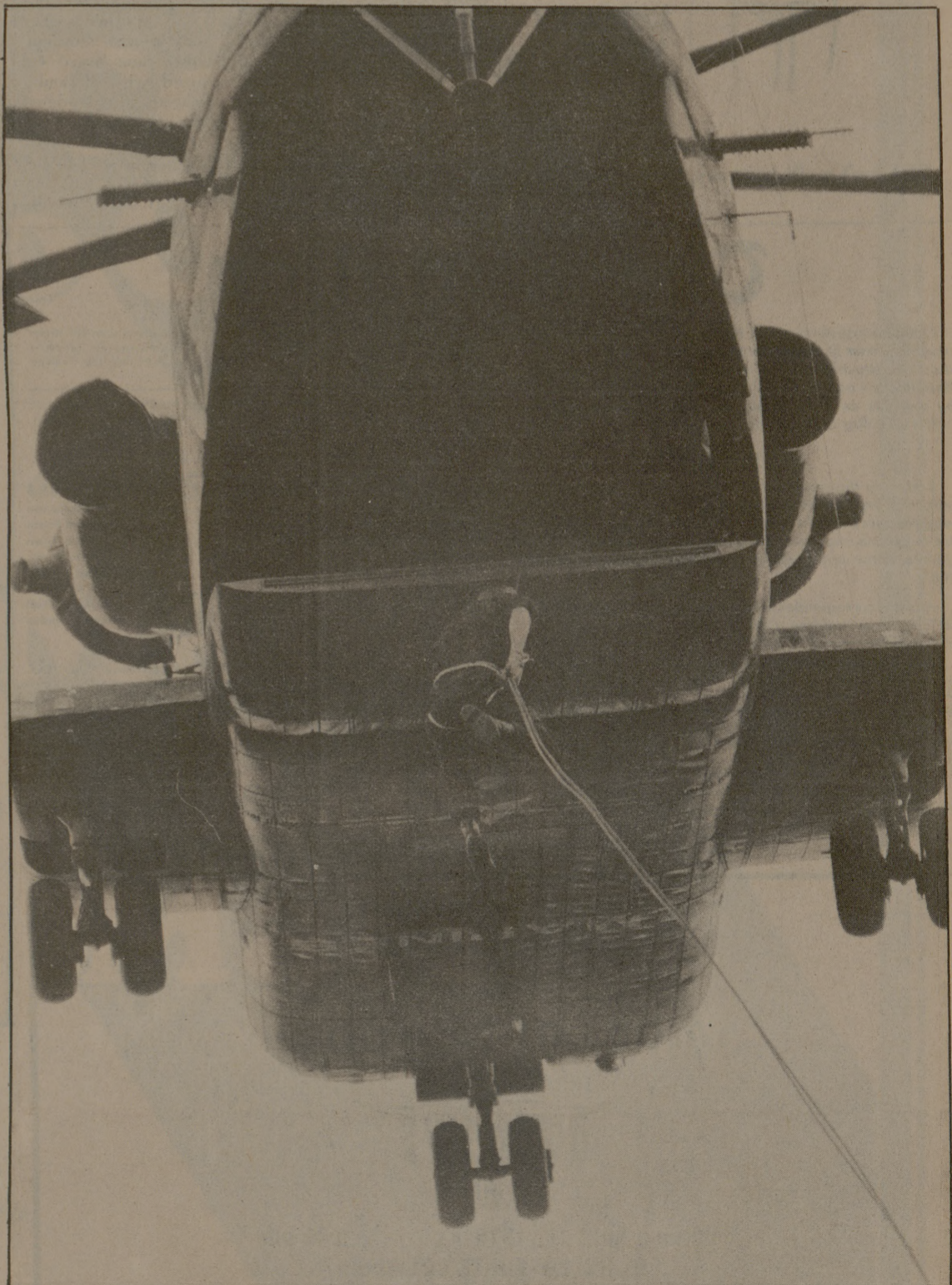


Photo by Ken Stroebel

That last step is a doosie

A drop of approximately one hundred-fifty feet stretches below this member of the Marine Recon Platoon. Sixty such Aggies repelled out of two CH-53 assault transport helicopters Saturday. The copters were provided by HMH-777 "Heavy Haulers" of the

Dallas Naval Air Station. Even after reaching the ground, the Aggies had to contend with fifty mph wind generated by the two turbine engines of the world's largest helicopter.

Run-off election today

Student elections for senators, graduate student council and run-offs for executive positions are today. The polls close at 6 p.m.

The polling places are in the MSC, old Exchange Store, Krueger-Dunn Commons, Corps Guard Room, Fowler Hall lounge and married students' apartment office.

Color-coded paper ballots will be used in the election as opposed to punch card ballots.