

Board wing hits news wire

COLLEGE STATION (AP) — No one is cracking Aggie jokes about the new \$1.4 million facility the Texas A&M University board of directors has built for its meetings. But there is plenty of grumbling from students who hear tales of opulence in the directors' facility while fighting less than ideal conditions in their dormitories.

Meanwhile, students are wondering just what the directors facility — which was built with money from the permanent university fund — is like.

Few of A&M's 21,000 students have seen the facility, because it is kept locked and is opened only on special request.

"I live in a dorm built in the 1920's. The paint is peeling. There are ants everywhere," says Jamie DeWitt, a freshman from Dallas. "If I come in after my roommate is asleep, I wake him up because everything squeaks. And they're spending money like this."

"Like this" takes in much of the furnishings of the board of directors annex, which is used for gatherings of the nine gubernatorial appointees who meet about six times a year. There's a \$9,068 Cloisonne vase dating back to 1740, a 19th Century Chippendale dining table with a \$4,500 price tag and a 17th Century eight-panel Japanese screen which hides a rear view projection screen.

The facility also houses a \$4,200 pair of Italian marble busts of Roman senators, a \$15,000 original painting of "Miles of Bluebonnets" and several custom-designed rugs. In the dining room, guests eat from a \$24,300 Pickard china service and from a set of \$42,615 sterling silver. The settings are for 450, substantially more than the room will hold.

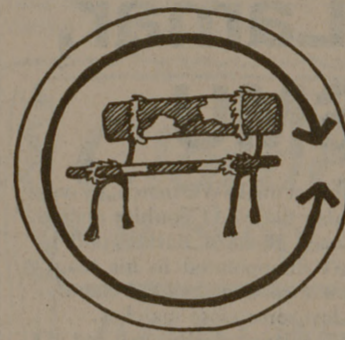
Most of the grumbling has come from students, who have asked their student senate to vote on whether the Texas Legislature should be requested to look into the board's expenditure. Some students have criticized a lack of student voice in the new \$10.5 million student center.

But trustee William Lewie Jr. of Waco defends the directors' facility and the elaborate furnishings.

"In the old one a 1912 mansion, we'd have to spend eight or nine hours a day meeting because there wasn't enough room for all the architects, engineers and projection screens we needed."

And Gen. A. R. Luedecke, vice president for planning and construction at A&M, has taken student complaints about the \$470 hairy cowhide benches with brass feet and a display of mounted animal heads in the new student center, in stride.

"All I hear about is benches and heads," Luedecke said. "There is always someone who doesn't like this bench or that couch. You have to look at the whole thing. This stir is unwarranted."



Engineering students honor top professors

Honors went to three TAMU professors at a banquet last week.

The Student Engineers Council held their Annual Awards Banquet as planned despite part of the membership being snow-bound in Chicago. The engineering students presented the Outstanding Faculty Award for Achievement in Teaching to Drs. Archie R. Burgess and Mike E. James. They also presented Dr. Dwayne A. Suter with the Outstanding Faculty Award for Achievement in Individual Student Relationships.

Students named the Electrical Engineering Department as the outstanding department and Dr. W. B. Jones Jr. accepted the award.

Special plaques were awarded this year to Engineering Dean Fred J. Benson for "Outstanding Leadership in Engineering Education" and to Assistant Dean John McGuire in appreciation of his work with student engineers.



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Shown above are copies of two University purchase vouchers. Vouchers like these were used in determining prices of various MSC furnishings.

1975-76 TOWN HALL SELECTION COMMITTEE QUESTIONNAIRE

The TOWN HALL COMMITTEE is conducting a survey to help schedule performances for the 1975-76 season. This survey is to find out who you are interested in hearing.

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 - Emerson, Lake, & Palmer
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 - Carole King
 - Leo Kottke
 - Gordon Lightfoot
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 - Joni Mitchell
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Please return this survey to the Town Hall Cubicle in the Student Programs Office by April 19. Thank you.

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