

# World-wide Muster prepared

About 71 Aggies in Anchorage, Alaska will gather on April 21 for a muster, as will Aggies in Germany, New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Australia, Korea, Indonesia, and Egypt.

Peggy Cooper and Pat Gersbach, assistants to the field director of the Association of Former Students are in charge of coordinating Aggie Musters all over the world.

Their work began in December when they sent letters requesting information from the muster chairmen

all over the world.

Since then they have contacted former students to tell them where their local musters will be. They have also provided muster chairmen with speakers, information on how to run a muster, a list of all the Aggies who have died during the year, recordings of "Silver Taps" and the "Spirit of Aggieland", and various films about Texas A&M.

This year Cooper and Gersbach are providing a new film called "That Certain Spirit" which is a film about

Texas A&M's history. The film, produced by Leatha Miloy, Director of Educational Information Service, will be broadcasted on statewide television the day of muster, April 21. Aggies in Rotterdam, Netherlands and at the Tiger Club in London, England will be among the groups viewing the new film at their muster.

Jack T. Sloan, class of 1934, planned an informal class reunion in Monterrey, Mexico as well as the muster. Members of the class of 1934

will visit a glass works that morning followed by a banquet and muster ceremony at the Hotel Ancira.

At the Mobile, Ala. muster Marvin Tate, Assistant Athletic Director will speak. Special guests at that muster include former Aggie football player and 1956 Heisman Trophy winner, John David Crowe and his coach from 1956 Paul (Bear) Bryant, now coach at the University of Alabama.

Some of the Aggies in other countries who have planned a muster are located at: Nuremberg, Germany, which will be held by the North Bavarian A&M Club; Berlin, Germany; Bulolo Papu, New Guinea; Dhahran, Saudi Arabia; Singapore; Madrid, Spain; Melbourne and Sydney, Australia; Osan AFB, Korea; Jakarta, Indonesia; Aki Dhaki, Egypt; Bangkok, Thailand; and Yokato AFB, Japan.

In the United States Congressman Olin Teague will speak to the Ft. Worth muster; Tommy Maxwell, a former Aggie and Baltimore Colts football player, will speak to the Orlando, Fla. muster; Henry Dethloff, author of the Centennial History of Texas A&M, will speak at Beaumont; Dr. Jack Williams will speak at Houston; Dr. John Koldus III, Vice-President for Student Services, will speak at Corpus Christi; and Richard (Buck) Weirus, Executive Director of the Association of Former Students, will speak at the National Capitols A&M Club in Washington, D. C.

# Committee's goal to inform students

One of the primary goals of the Rules and Regulations Committee of the Academic Council is to help students understand campus rules, said Dr. John Beckham, chairman of the committee.

He said the committee is trying to put the rules into a language that can be better understood by the students, since one of the biggest problems with rules and regulations is interpretation.

Beckham said that in the past there have been too many house rules printed along with the rules and regulations. "These rules should be carried out and enforced by the respective personnel of these places such as the library and the dining halls," he said.

The regulations governing motor vehicles and parking are being adequately enforced by the University Police Department, he said, and need not be included in the rules and regulations handbook.

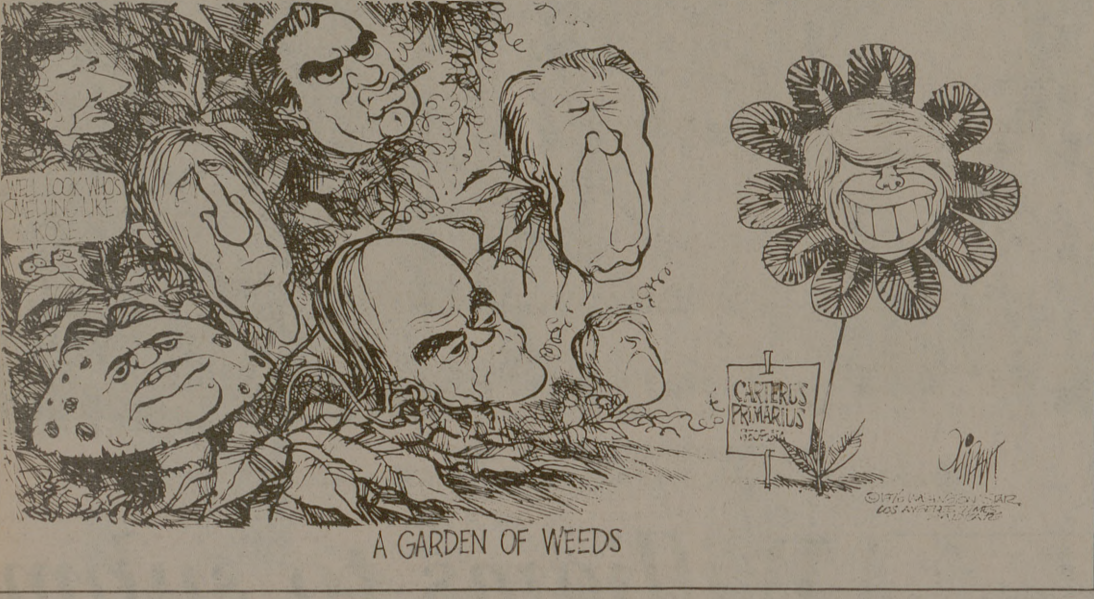
Informing the students of the rules is another of the goals of the committee. Beckham said he hopes the proposed changes can be reviewed by the Academic Council in time to be printed and distributed to incoming students during the summer orientation program.

"Once the revisions leave the committee they must go through several different channels before they are reviewed by the Academic Council," said Beckham. They will

be reviewed by faculty members as well as by members of the Student Government before they go to the council.

In addition to Beckham who is Associate Dean of the College of Science there are representatives from the Dean's Office, the Office of Student Affairs, the Graduate College, and from the Student Government. The student attorney is consulted about the wording of the rules and regulations.

—Randy Dusek



A GARDEN OF WEEDS

# Aggies find smugglers' base

On a warm afternoon in late December, a trio of canoes glided quietly down the Rio Grande River. As the canoeists rounded a bend in the river one of them noticed a makeshift hut between the trees; soon an empty camp became visible, a silent camp containing several huts and a huge pile of mysterious dried plants.

The canoeists stumbled upon a camp usually inhabited by Mexican citizens involved in illegal trade across the Mexican-American border—but they peddle wax, not marijuana.

Two of the students, Texas A&M students Noel Gouldin, 19, and Susan Crabtree, 22, investigated the camp and talked with people familiar with the area to find out how the illegal substance is obtained.

Workers in the camp harvest candelilla wax, a low-grade wax that is an ingredient in many candies and that helps form the covering of many kinds of pills. Wax is obtained from the outer coating of the candelilla plant; a low-growing, light green shrub that grows abundantly in Northern Mexico and in the Southwestern United States.

The candelilla plant in Mexico may be legally harvested by anyone, but since it is a Mexican national product only the government may sell it to foreign countries. Harvest-

ing the wax is hard work and few Mexicans can make a profit by selling it to the government to export. Some harvesters simply cannot afford the traveling expenses involved and others make so little money that they can't justify the expenditure of energy.

Some Mexicans have found direct sales to foreign markets more lucrative and have set up secret camps along the United States border where they collect and process the candelilla plants. The harvesting procedure is simple but tiring. The workers rise early so they can rest during the heat of day. They search the area surrounding the camp and gather armloads of the candelilla plants and toss them, roots and all, into water filled 50-gallon oil drums they have sawed in half. The workers then place the drums into large pits they have dug in the earth, and light fires under the drums. They also add sulfuric acid to the drums, and the combined action of the boiling water and the acid separates the waxy covering from the plant. When the wax begins floating to the surface of the water, the workers rake out the dried plants, lift the boiling vat and pour it into another barrel used to separate the wax and water. The water trickles to the bottom of the barrel and is released through a spout, while the wax remains on the water surface.

Successive batches of the wax-water mixture are poured in until all the water is drained out and the barrel is filled with wax.

Meanwhile, the dried plant skeletons are tossed into a pile that sometimes grows as high as nine feet and as large as 20 feet in diameter. The workers let the plants dry in the sun, then use them to build makeshift huts for shelter and to provide fuel for the melting fires. Using the plants as fuel relieves workers of the difficult chore of finding firewood in a desert area. The candelilla plants, supported by cane stalks, offer some protection from the elements to workers who use them to build small huts. No other shelter is usually needed since workers will spend no more than two or three months in the same area.

They come from as far as 50 miles away, and stay only a short time, until they have depleted the available supply of candelilla. The workers are timid and live in constant fear of capture by authorities. When confronted by visitors to their camps, they pretend not to understand English and sometimes even Spanish. When questioned about their activities they shrug their shoulders and smile.

Although they work in the daylight, the harvesters are seldom detected, since the territories they inhabit are far from border population centers. Occasionally workers are caught in the United States by U.S. Park rangers and are turned over to Mexican authorities, but rarely are they caught by the authorities themselves.

Most of the Mexicans who harvest candelilla are males between 25 and 40 years old who cannot support their families by ranching, mining or other traditional means. Since they are poor, they have few possessions and the candelilla camps are usually littered with worn out old shoes, broken sandals made from scrap tire rubber and rusty Mexican beer cans. In many camps, pictures of Mary and Jesus are prominently displayed and placed on canyon walls or hung from low tree limbs.

# Booze bargain begins

## State comptroller plans sale of property seized for taxes

Items seized by the state comptroller's office Dec. 18 from the Alumni Club and Harry J's at 1502 Texas Ave will be sold in a public auction March 19.

The property was seized for non-payment of state sales taxes of \$47,690 and delinquent city sales taxes of \$11,918. The sale will begin at 10 a.m. on the rear parking lot at 3809 Old College Road in Bryan. The seized property includes bot-

tles of whiskey, scotch, brandy, rum, gin, liqueur, wines, keg and bottled beer. Some of the items will be sold in case lots, half-case lots and the remainder as individual items.

Each purchaser will get a receipt. Buyers must present proof of age at the auction and a cash - only basis is required.

If interested in further information about the property call Don Williams at 846-8878.

# Student architects to sponsor Ecofair '76

Ecofair '76, an open symposium about the relationships between architecture and the environment, will be held in Rudder Tower April 12 through April 16.

The Association Student Chapters (ASC-AIA) will sponsor the symposium and raise funds for it by selling bumper stickers, silk-screen T-shirts and arts and crafts objects.

Ecofair is designed to present "ideas students can't get in an academic environment" within the field of architecture, said student committee spokesman Bill Patch.

According to the ASC-AIA propo-

sal, the topics of discussion will include the relationships between art and architecture and their influences on people and the environment, the psychological factors which should be considered in design, and new advances and applications in building materials.

Speakers for Ecofair '76 will be practicing architects and members from the colleges of Texas A&M University. Other speakers will come from the Visiting Lecture Series, Artist in Residence Series and other universities.

—Gale Kauffman

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

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

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester; \$33.25 per school year; \$35.00 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.

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