

The Battalion

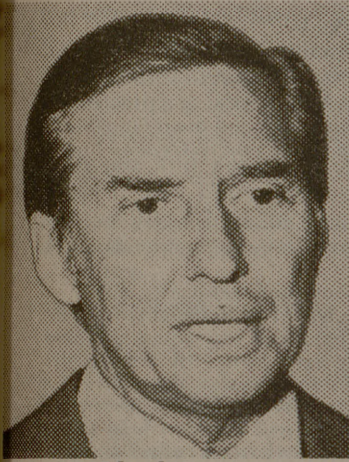
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Senatorial visit

'Government must be pruned to make it effective'



Lloyd Bentsen

Confidently telling Texas A&M student leaders that his polls show him ahead of his opponent, U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen spent Monday morning and afternoon in College Station.

Bentsen's opponent is Dr. Phil Gramm, a Texas A&M economics professor on a leave of absence during his campaign.

For 45 minutes the senator answered questions from 22 students. Most of the questions were aimed at Bentsen's views on current bills in the Senate and his ideas

about the Democratic presidential nomination campaigns.

(See related editorials, page 2)

Bentsen said he is touring the state answering people's questions instead of speaking in formal engagements.

When asked about the Democratic primaries and his recent withdrawal from the primaries, Bentsen said, "It has turned into a personality contest with no real is-

ues being discussed." He added that no one will be elected on the first ballot in the convention this summer.

Asked about Hubert Humphrey getting the Democratic nomination, Bentsen replied, "Of course he has a chance. I don't think you can ignore any possibility. There's a kind of warmth about Mr. Humphrey."

Senate Bill No. 1, which is a revision of the U.S. criminal laws into a Code of Criminal Statutes, was favored by Bentsen if there are changes in the section dealing with the removal of certain "civil rights".

Bentsen rebuked the use of the term "bail-out", in reference to his bill to help relieve the New York City financial problems. He said he didn't favor giving them money, only short-term loans.

One student asked the one-term senator about his feelings on the Kennedy National Health Insurance Bill and if he would vote in favor of it. This received a quick response from the otherwise thoughtful Bentsen. He said the only insurance plan he favors is a plan of catastrophic illness coverage.

"The people don't want a bigger government, they want a more effective government," Bentsen said, referring to what he has observed during his campaign. Using an analogy, he said "Government should be pruned, like my citrus trees, so it can be more effective."

—Jim Crawley

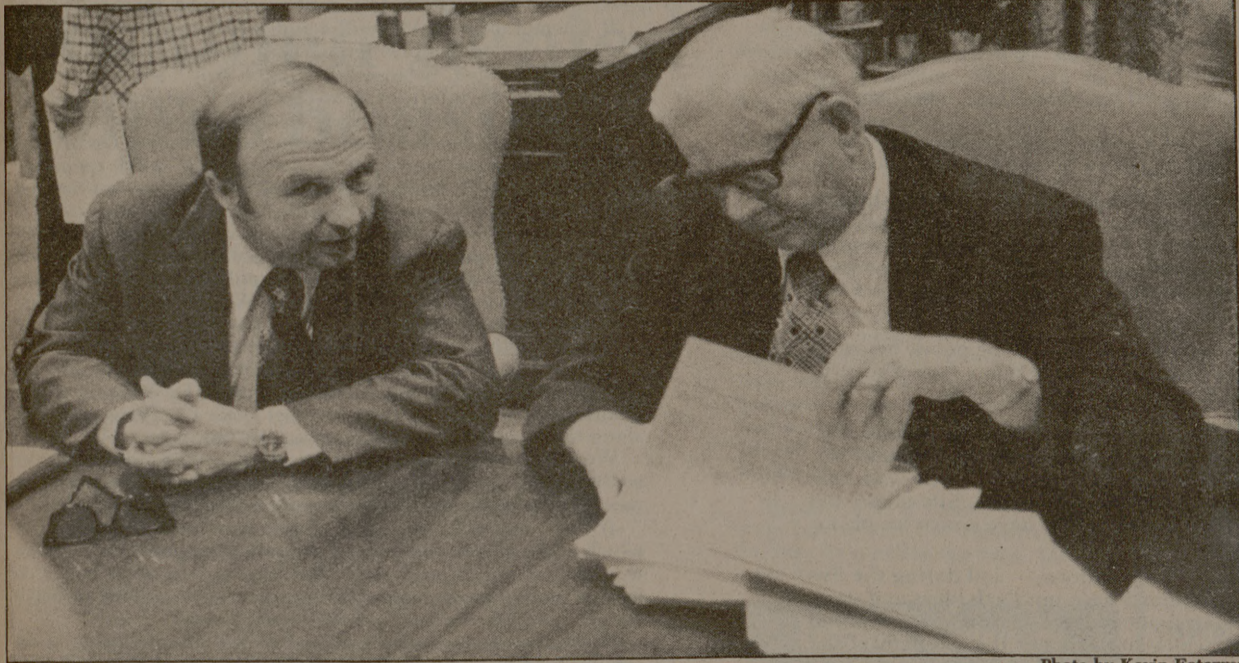


Photo by Kevin Fotorny

BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

A&M Regent William Lewie and W. C. Freeman, v.p. for administration discuss details

1976-77 election files open

Filing opens today for positions to be filled in the Student Government election April 7-8. Candidates must file for the election in the Student Programs Office.

Class officers, yell leaders, and Student Government president and vice-presidents for 1976-77 will be voted in.

Candidates are required to attend a campaign procedures meeting before they start campaigning. Three such meetings will be held at 7 p.m. tonight, March 25 and 29 in the Student Programs Office.

Filing for election closes March 29.

Absentee deadline

Voters who will be out-of-town on Election Day, Saturday, April 3, should cast an absentee ballot before March 30 at city hall. College Station residents will select five city council members, a mayor, and three school board trustees in the elections.

Those who have not yet registered to vote have until April 3 to register for the May 4 elections.

Candidate for well-informed constituency

By JAMIE AITKEN

Anne Hazen, the only woman running in the April 3 city council elections, said College Station residents are the victims of ill-planned development projects in the city.

Hazen, 44, is unopposed in her bid for Place 5 on the council. The vacancy was created when Larry Bravencoc resigned to run for mayor.

Hazen said residents are poorly informed of proposed construction and its impact on the neighborhood. She said developers do not want the property owners to know the extent of development, thus facilitating approval by the city council.

"As long as (a development complex) fits in with zoning the developers don't notify the homeowners," Hazen said. "And yet, the homeowners might very much want to know what's going to happen with the water run-off and which way traffic is going to enter and exit. These are important to people in a residential neighborhood."

The mother of three children at 1205 Munson Ave., Hazen is a member of the College Station Safety Committee, the Brazos County League of Women Voters, the Environmental Action Council, and the Bryan Child Development Program.

She also was co-chairman of the League of Women Voters Walkway and Bikeway Committee which helped prepare a master

bike path system for Bryan-College Station.

Hazen cited the difficulties of children traveling through heavy traffic to area schools, flooding in low sections of the city, and insufficient fire exits in apartment complexes are some problems caused by the city's rapid expansion. She also emphasized that parkland allocations by developers should be checked to assure their capacity for recreational facilities.

A four-year resident of College Station, Hazen finds communication with the community the key to successful city government and endorses the present at-large system of electing council members.

"There was a time when I first moved here that we had one councilman from this side of town and five from the other," Hazen said, "and I felt perfectly free to call somebody on the other side of town to discuss a problem."

"With the rapid growth of the town the size of a ward could change in one or two years," she added.

Hazen said her presence on the council may improve community input.

"I am free during the day and more available to listen to the people in the community," she said, "so they will feel freer to contact me."

Hazen said this time will enable her to research council actions thoroughly.



Regents lower fees for student services

Student Service fees were reduced to a maximum of \$19 by the Texas A&M System Board of Regents this morning.

In other action, the regents approved a life insurance program for dependents of university employees, agreed to settle a law suit out of court and approved expenditures on a number of construction projects.

University President Jack K. Williams told the board the student service fee reduction was possible because less money was needed for service programs than had been earlier projected.

Service fees had been \$19.80 and \$9.90 maximum for regular and summer sessions, respectively. The reduction brings fees down to \$19 and \$9.50 for those sessions.

Williams said good management of service fee funds this year by Student Government also made it possible for the board to reduce service fees.

The optional life insurance program approved by the board provides a special pol-

icy for dependents of University employees. The program is an addition to the present university employee program with Southwestern Life Insurance Co.

The law suit which the Board acted on—Poole and United States v Williams, et al— involves an employee promotion grievance.

"For a long time we've had a pending case relating to a gentleman in Galveston who brought suit against the University and the State because of a promotion problem," Williams told the board.

Texas Attorney General John Hill has recommended that the University settle the case by consent decree out of court, Williams said. The board approved Will-

iams' recommendation to do as Hill suggested.

The board approved 15 recommendations relating to construction. The recommendations include additional renovation for Sbis Dining Hall and bids on streets for the west campus.

The regents also made additions to the revolving bank accounts for the Texas Forest Service and Prairie View A&M University. Clyde Freeman, executive vice-president for administration, said a large number of recent forest fires has reduced the Forest Service's available funds. Prairie View has had unexpected increases in payroll costs which reduced its funds.

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Senatorial candidates Lloyd Bentsen and Phil Gramm state their campaign platforms. Page 2.

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Memorial services set for history professor. Page 5.

Housing situation bleak

By STEVE GRAY and SUZANNE DEATHERAGE

Remember the nursery tale about the old woman who lived in a shoe and had so many children she didn't know what to do?

There is a similar situation here at Texas A&M where housing officials have notified at least 2,500 incoming freshmen that no on-campus housing will be available for them this fall.

It's no nursery tale: the campus housing situation at A&M this fall looks bleak.

University officials have predicted an enrollment this fall of 27,500 students, an increase of more than 12 per cent over 1975 figures. About 7,900 of the 24,300 students now enrolled live in the 33 dormitories on campus.

With enrollment increasing rapidly, university administrators have expressed growing concern over whether the university and College Station can accommodate the influx of new students, particularly those wishing to live on campus.

And the waiting list is long for those wanting to get into a dormitory.

Ed Davis, assistant director of management services at A&M, said he expects each dormitory to be filled to capacity this fall. There were 706 individual student vacancies as of March 2. Dorm 3, in the Corps area, was closed temporarily last December because of a decline in the

number of Corps members. Davis said the few remaining Corps members in Dorm 3 were transferred to fill vacancies in other Corps dormitories, thereby saving money on utilities.

Dorm 3 is presently being renovated as part of the university's \$250,000 dormitory remodeling program for this year.

Davis said there are presently no plans to construct additional on-campus housing. The newest dormitories, Aston and Mosher Halls, were completed last summer at a cost of \$10 million.

"One of the reasons that we aren't planning to build anymore dormitories," Davis said, "is that the city has seen its role as satisfying part of the housing demand. The trend seems to be that students are living off-campus more these days."

In spring 1973, the university relaxed its regulations to allow more undergraduate men to move off campus and to make room for women wishing to live on campus. Students are still required to receive permission from the university to live off campus, according to university regulations but this rule is seldom enforced.

Davis, however, did not completely rule out the possibility of constructing more dormitories on campus.

"If there is a decrease in local building activity and a corresponding increase in enrollment then we would probably look at

that possibility, depending on the desires of the A&M Board of Regents."

Students wishing to live on campus are confronted with still another problem: rising utility and maintenance costs.

Dormitory room rent has jumped nearly 30 per cent since late 1972. Davis said the biggest jump was a 15 per cent increase during 1972-73 when the country was beginning to feel the effects of the fuel crisis. The Board of Regents in January approved a 6.3 per cent increase in rent. Laundry and board plans, which are optional, were also increased.

Room rent for this fall ranges from \$135 a semester (for a non-air conditioned room without phone) to \$390 a semester (for an air-conditioned room with phone in the Krueger-Dunn and Aston-Mosher complex).

"One thing that has increased the room, board and laundry fees is the rising costs of utilities," Davis said. "Right now the university pays the industrial rate of \$1.40 per thousand cubic feet of natural gas. The rates are not like they used to be."

Lone Star Gas Company, which serves the university and the Bryan-College Station area, is asking for a rate increase that would amount to an additional monthly charge of about 80 cents for residential users.

"If that rate increase is granted it could (See housing, page 3)



Staff Photo By Douglas Winship

A THIRD OF A&M STUDENTS LIVE ON CAMPUS
There's a long waiting list for dorms and officials say no new dorms are planned.



First of a 4-part series dealing with the housing situation for students in Bryan-College Station