

The Battalion

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... hours of Senate, business incomplete

Non-mandatory midterm grade bill fails

By RAY DANIELS
1:03 a.m.
... discussed alcohol on campus,
... class attendance, and discontinu-
... of midterm grades, the Texas A&M
... Student Senate is adjourning.
... of the hours since 7:30 p.m. roll
... were spent considering University
... revisions by section. Before ad-
... students, most of the bills must be
... by the administration.
... complete deletion of the rule prohibit-
... of, or consumption of liquor
... was requested by Joe Marcello
... (Science). A member of the Senate
... years, he was reinstated to his posi-
... in the evening.
... Marcello said he felt on-campus stu-
... deserved the same rights in their
... in any private residence. During
... Vice president of Rules and Regu-
... Susan Rudd offered an amendment
... liquor only in "non-public areas"
... campus. Although most senators felt
... was already being practiced with re-
... dorms, they felt the rule should
... other bills dealt directly with
... .
... first of these would have deleted
... requirement of midterm grades now in
... book. Rudd quoted a survey
... over 60 per cent of the students
... midterms, did not receive blanket
... then, and got grades based on two
... tests.
... Farthing (Jr.-Science), explained
... enough students had been inter-
... and the poll was not valid for the
... student body. Farthing adminis-
... the poll.

The deletion was defeated, so midterms will continue. Had it passed, the University would have had the option of not sending out the grades.
The other bill requested a non-mandatory class attendance policy. The motion passed.
Grade point requirements for class officers were debated last night.
For several years, according to veterans of the senate, there have been attempts made to set an optimal grade point ratio for class officers. The requirements have ranged from 2.0 to 2.5.
Last night Michael Springer (Soph.-Corps) tried to have it changed to 2.0 from the current 2.5 by amendment. This failed. The section was amended to 2.25.
Motions were made to amend the amendment to 2.0, to 2.15 and to table the point. All were defeated, and the 2.25 amendment passed intact.
Spring elections will be unaffected.
Then came the problem of the vice presidents.
Currently there are five vice presidents in charge of student services, rules and regulations, academic affairs, external affairs, and finance. They chair committees in each area and also help execute legislation.
By this dual function, their actual status as members of the legislative or executive branch of Student Government is vague.
Last night, a bill was considered to take away the Senate voting and bill-sponsorship rights of the vice presidents. The bill, sponsored by Joe Beall (Soph.-Engr.), would have placed them in the executive branch. They are currently members of the executive committee, but

not defined as members of that branch. The bill was defeated, but one section of the rules bill dealt with the same question in another way. That bill was passed, and it officially moved the vice presidents into the legislative branch, but did not change any of their duties.
It was close to 11 p.m. when the alcohol on campus issue came up, and the senators were beginning to thin out. Quorum for the Senate is 39. Forty-five of the Senate's 70 members were still present during an 11:40 p.m. roll call. Most of the members were visibly tired, and some of the formality of the meeting was lost. One senator slept with her head on her desk.
Even though the Senators stayed long enough to finish the rules revision bill, they had to leave behind several other items of business. One bill they did get to was on emergency. A bill on emergency will be read and acted upon in the same meeting. Normally the process involves two meetings.
The bill was to support the muscular dystrophy benefit dance by Omega Phi Alpha. Student Government will sponsor two couples at \$5 each.
Other bills the Senate did not have time to act on included one requesting an extension of the visitation hours, and a keep-off-the-grass resolution for the MSC.
There were several smaller sections to the rules revision bill pertaining to pets, pass/fail grading, and Student Government's description of itself.
John Oeffinger (Grad.-Lib. Arts), asked that Student Government be described in the rules book as "a Student organization

with the responsibility of representing all full- and part-time students." This is a change from a "representative governing body" for all students.
The section on pets suggested that the married student housing manager collect a deposit on pets. Currently, pets are not

allowed in married student housing or any of the other University housing. It was felt the apartments were suitable for pets, and the deposit could ease worries about damage.
A provision for taking required physical education courses on a pass/fail basis was

included in the rules section.
The addition was asked for by Jeb Hensarling (Off-campus-undergrad.), whose bill calling for such a practice was passed by the Senate last week. The bill is awaiting approval by curriculum studies committee of the University.



Battalion photo by Kevin Verner

A nice break for your daily routine

The MSC main lounge was filled with laughter last week as students relaxed in front of one of the Videotape Committee's monitors and watched comedian Robert Klein perform. The committee is in charge of two other monitors which are

located upstairs in the MSC serpentine lounge and downstairs in the snack bar across from the bowling lanes. The monitors are in their third week of operation and feature a tape with the musical group, Beatles, this week.

Electricity may be resold

Renters may pay utilities

By DARRELL LANFORD
City of College Station is looking for a plan that would allow apartment owners to pay their own utility bills while having the complex administered by them.
In response to a number of apartment owner queries, College Station's City Manager, North Bardell, is studying a plan that would circumvent a franchise ordinance forbidding the reselling of electric power.
Apartment projects have master meters that measure electricity bought from transformers, Bardell said. Electricity for each apartment cannot be

computed, he said, so the utility bill is preset, possibly higher than it need be to offset possible electricity price raises.
The plan would allow apartment owners to buy electricity at the transformer and then sell it at the same price to residents with apartments equipped with individual meters.
Apartment owners would have to cover meter installation costs and rewiring expense, Bardell said.
"The cost is prohibitive," Linda Russell, manager of Taos, Scandia I and Royal Gardens apartments, said. Russell said it would cost \$150 to wire and install a meter in each apartment.
"The majority of the people are here

because they don't want to pay for utilities," said Lance Shotwell, manager of Monaco and Posada Del Rey apartments.
"As far as I am concerned, it is the city's expense to install individual meters," he said.
Bardell said the meters would cause some confusion for the city.
"The student body is transient," he said. "We will have to turn the meters on and off and go through problems."
Bardell said 60 per cent of the city's utilities bills sent out each year are affected by population turnover. He estimated the number would jump to 80 per cent if apartment meters were individualized.

Execution by poison injection affirmed

United Press International
OKLAHOMA CITY — Oklahoma would be the first state to execute convicted prisoners by poisonous injection, a bill approved by the Oklahoma Senate.
Bill Dawson, D-Seminole, said his bill would institute a more humane method of capital punishment.
Dawson's bill provides:
"The punishment of death must be inflicted by continuous, intravenous administration of a lethal quantity of an anesthetic-acting barbiturate in combination with a chemical paralytic agent until pronounced by a licensed physician to have accepted standards."
The Senate passed the bill, 25-21, yesterday. The affirmative vote was only one short of a majority, however, and the

measure may be brought up for reconsideration.
Present law, passed last year, provides for death by the gas chamber but permits use of the electric chair until a gas chamber can be built. The state has never built a gas chamber, and prison officials said the electric chair is in such poor condition it needs \$62,000 in repairs. The last execution in Oklahoma was in 1966.
Dawson said the injection method would be less costly, more humane and stand a better chance of Supreme Court approval should there be a test case on the method of execution.
Dawson said the bill leaves details of fulfilling the execution to the corrections department. He said officials had indicated it might be possible to rig an extension of five tubes extending from the con-

demned person through a wall. He said five persons could trigger the start of the solution, but only one tube would carry the lethal dose.
"That way none would know who did it," Dawson said.
Sen. Gene Stipe, D-McAlester, failed to pass an amendment limiting the injection to five minutes.
"If they can't get it done in five minutes, they ought to turn him loose," Stipe said.
Sen. Phil Watson, R-Edmond, said psychiatrists have said some persons commit murders as a route to suicide through execution.
"If we make capital punishment more humane, it might encourage them to commit murder as a means of achieving suicide," Watson said.

Gramm says 'Inflation is theft'

By C.L. HEDRICK
The inflation process in America is theft in its most destructive form because it is not evenly dispersed to all Americans, Dr. Phil Gramm, professor of economics at Texas A&M University, told an audience last night.
Inflation hurts retired persons worst of all, he said, adding that without cutting the budget, inflation can be stopped. If the rate

of growth and spending by government can be slowed down, by 1980 the country could have a balanced budget, he said.
America has a \$180 billion deficit because the money printed and spent was not earned, borrowed, or taxed, Gramm said.
Gramm, who opposed Lloyd Bentsen for a U.S. Senate seat in the last election, gave three reasons for unemployment. He said rapid growth in the number of people seek-

ing employment, due to the post-WWII baby boom and the increasing number of women now working are the primary reasons. Gramm said the investment slowdown in the economy also produced unemployment.
Deregulation of petroleum prices would relieve the energy problem, Gramm said. Deregulation would induce the people to sell their products now instead of waiting until prices go up, he explained.
Asked if he would consider running for the Senate again Gramm said that would be like asking a new mother if she would like to get pregnant again. He added that it would be "awfully sweet to run against Bentsen again."

In his speech, sponsored by Young Americans for Freedom, Gramm said he believes that voters should consider a politician's stand on the issues rather than which party he represents.

Airlines give Hobby \$500

United Press International
AUSTIN — Lt. Gov. William Hobby has acknowledged he received a \$500 campaign contribution from a man identified as Warren Woodward, but says he did not know at the time the money actually came from American Airlines.
American has named Hobby as one of many persons to whom illegal campaign contributions were made from 1964 through 1973. The airline said Woodward, a lobbyist, gave \$500 to Hobby in 1972.
"Certainly, I had no idea these funds may have come from American Airlines,"

Hobby said yesterday. "My records indicate that Warren Woodward, a long-time personal friend who formerly worked for American Airlines, bought five tickets to a fund-raising dinner held in Austin on Aug. 25, 1972.
American officials also reported making illegal contributions to Sen. John Tower, R-Tex., twice in 1971 for a total of \$350.

Juice prices may be higher

USDA predicts record orange crop

United Press International
WASHINGTON — Consumers will expect a record orange harvest this season with juice prices perhaps slightly above a year ago

despite the devastating January freeze in Florida, the U.S. Agriculture Department (USDA) says.
Experts warned, however, the harvest is still in progress. Current

freeze damage estimates may have to be raised later if warm weather in Florida permits dropping and deterioration of freeze-damaged fruit, they indicated.
The department's Crop Reporting Board yesterday announced on the basis of Feb. 1 conditions, the 1976-77 orange crop was estimated at 248.6 million boxes, down 11 per cent from a 278.6-million-box pre-freeze forecast based on Jan. 1 conditions.

Despite that decline, which included a 14 per cent cut from January orange prospects in Florida, the national estimate remained record-high, 3 per cent above the previous peak crop of 242.6 million boxes in 1975-76.
A department economist said after the crop report that it foreshadowed continued adequate to plentiful consumer supplies of orange products at retail prices that may be only slightly higher than a year earlier.

Department experts previously had said that despite some increases in vegetable and citrus prices because of this winter's cold weather, they've made no changes in forecasts of a "moderate" 3 to 4 per cent

1977 food inflation rate. The fruit and vegetable increases will be offset by a bigger-than expected meat supply, they said.
Citrus specialists said orange losses to the freeze so far have been minimized because cool weather in late January damaged fruit on the trees, allowing farmers to harvest it for juice processing. If temperatures climb into the 65 to 75 degree range, more fruit could drop and be lost, they said.
Another survey to update estimates of freeze damage will be made Feb. 15, officials said.
The citrus report said grapefruit production was forecast as of Feb. 1 at 69.9 million boxes, down 11 per cent from a month ago and slightly below last year. Lemon production was estimated at 26.6 million boxes, unchanged from last month and up from last year's 17.8 million boxes.
While Florida orange prospects dropped from 213 million boxes in January to 183 million by Feb. 1—with Valencia orange forecasts slashed 21 per cent and other types 9 per cent—the overall Florida crop remained 1 per cent above a year earlier.

Research donations reach all-time high

Support for research at Texas A&M University reached an all-time high for the first five months of a fiscal year, Dr. Robert R. Berg, university research director said recently.
Aid totaling \$33,924,895 has been awarded A&M projects since Sept. 1, 1976. This is \$3.46 million more than had been awarded this same time last year.

The \$33.9 million exceeds all 12-month grant totals before fiscal year 1973-74. The total was surpassed only in the final two months of 1973-74, in the last two months of 1974-75 and in the closing six months of 1975-76 when research reached a record \$47 million.

During January, College of Geosciences projects received \$602,675. Other aid included \$420,221 shared by the College of Engineering, Texas Engineering Experiment Station and Texas Transportation Institute; \$242,370 shared by the College of Agriculture and Texas Agricultural Experiment Station and \$103,005 for the College of Science.

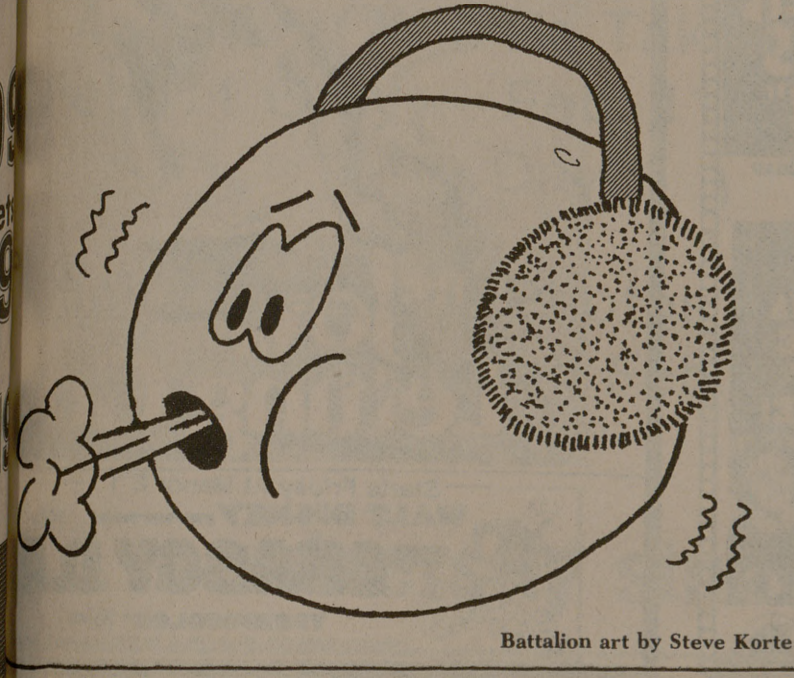
Also received were \$14,000 for projects in the College of Liberal Arts; \$7,000 for the College of Education; \$6,300 for the College of Veterinary Medicine; \$4,200 for the College of Business Administration and \$2,800 each for the College of Architecture-Environmental Design and the College of Medicine.

Texans paying higher prices for Texas gas

AUSTIN—Comptroller Bob Bullock Tuesday said a study of natural gas prices by his office showed that Texans are paying more on the average for their own natural gas than residents of other states.
Bullock said that his Division of Planning and Research found that 68 per cent of the natural gas produced in Texas during fiscal 1976 was sold in Texas, while 32 per cent was sold out of state.
Nearly three-fourths of the interstate sales were for 40 cents per thousand cubic feet or less, while only about 40 per cent of the Texas sales were at these lower prices, Bullock said.
He added that the analysis also showed that while Texas is the major gas producing state, it is also the largest user—consuming more than two and one-half times as much gas as the number two user, California.

Weather

Cloudy with intermittent rain today, tonight and tomorrow. Winds from the southeast at 7 to 10 miles per hour. High today near 61, low tonight near 47, high tomorrow about 65.



Battalion art by Steve Korte