

The Battalion

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Students dissatisfied with appeals ruling

By RAY DANIELS

Leroy Mahaney has wrestled with the academic appeals process of Texas A&M University for almost three months. He still is not satisfied with the results. He, along with five other students that include the academic president of student government, were appealing their grades for a Spanish course last semester. "The appeals system is a farce," Mahaney said Monday. In this case, the first levels of appeal, the department head and the dean, took no action on his grade. When the six students appealed their grades to the University Academic Appeals Panel they got a ruling finding the professor innocent, but allowing the students to make up the major exams they missed. Missed exam scores would be added to their averages and their final grades recalculated. "No one ever addressed the charges we made," Mahaney said. His charges included documents demonstrating capricious grading of major exams, lack of a syllabus for the class and arbitrary proportionate weights for the midterm and final exams. The appeals panel ruling was a one-page letter to the six students involved. It stated: No arbitrary, capricious or prejudicial action on the part of the professor was discovered. The other two sections of the letter dealt with allowing make-up exams to be taken and averaged into the grades.

The chairman of the appeals panel, Dr. William P. Fife, explained: "The panel doesn't analyze the reason for accepting or rejecting the appeal. We consider all the material presented by both sides and give an answer without going into all the detailed reasoning that we did."

"At the hearing we thought we would present our beef and there would be a rebuttal," said appellant Stan Stanfield. Mahaney was presenting the case for the group and was interrupted at every stop, Stanfield added.

"He had no opportunity to set up a coherent line of thought, and anything that Fife did not want said did not get out," said Stanfield.

Fife explained that the written statements of the students had already been examined by the panel and the oral session was mostly to clear up the facts.

"If Mahaney thought we were interfering with his train of thought I would have been glad for him to mention it," said Fife. "Now is a hell of a time for him to say it," Mahaney said

Monday. "A double standard operated in that proceeding. If I made a statement, I had to corroborate it. If the prof or the department head made a statement it was taken as fact and they didn't have to corroborate it."

When the students filed their appeal, they were required to turn in the forms Wednesday before classes started this semester. After this they were to receive copies of statements by the professor and the department head pertaining to the case. Mahaney said he received those statements on the day before the appeal. The faculty had copies of his material for several weeks.

Guidelines given to all students in the appeal process indicate that the hearing may be delayed until the students are ready, Fife said yesterday. "In this case, the students asked to have the meeting," he said.

"I am committed to making sure everybody gets a fair shake," said Fife. "I'm too old and too far down the road to have any vested interests. I'm not afraid of anybody, and I'm not trying to sweep anything under the carpet."

"It began to look like we would lose the appeal, so we decided to try and drop Spanish 206 from our degree plans," said Mahaney. He and Stanfield said that during the appeal

they felt none of the instructors could fairly teach them Spanish 206.

The students had heard the department head had read the appeals to the faculty and mentioned their names.

Dr. Anne M. Elmquist, head of the modern languages department, said she did have the appeal documents with her at a faculty meeting and did describe the case to the faculty.

By doing so, she said she hoped to avoid any future problems. She said she mentioned at least some of the students names.

Because of these events, the students said they felt that the department as a whole was prejudiced against them.

Mahaney said he did not feel that way any longer.

When the students presented their petition to drop, it was stopped by Dean William D. Maxwell of liberal arts. "He said we couldn't prove that the instructors were prejudiced," Mahaney said.

The students appealed the grade to Academic Vice President John C. Calhoun. According to Mahaney, a proposal that the

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Representatives adopt strict ethics code

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Stung by sex, payroll and expense account scandals, the House has adopted its first strict code of ethics to force members to reveal their finances, abolish "slush funds" and limit certain outside earnings.

Final approval of the reform package came last night after more than eight hours of debate that included strong opposition from Republicans and some Democrats and ended with an appeal for passage by Speaker Thomas P. O'Neill Jr., Mass. The vote was 402 to 22.

If the Senate approves much the same package next week, as expected, a special ethics committee will be created to estab-

lish ways to enforce the new codes and to draft federal laws providing penalties for violations.

The ethics code was passed despite opposition.

Vigorous criticism was leveled at the provision requiring congressmen to limit "outside earned income" to 15 per cent of the official \$57,500 salary — or \$8,625 a year — as of 1979.

Yet the restriction was okayed by a surprisingly large 344 to 79 margin after O'Neill called it "the heart and soul of this package." Many members indicated they were afraid to vote against it after the recent 29 per cent raise which boosted congressional salaries \$12,900.

Hit hardest will be an estimated 50 members still in private law practice. Republicans and Democrats alike called it unconstitutional and unfair because the code carried no restrictions at all on "unearned income" from investments, such as stock dividends, family-owned farms and businesses.

"I know some of you will be called on to give up more than others," O'Neill said in one of the first tests of his leadership.

"But this House requires discipline and discretion on the part of its members and it is a sacrifice we must make. America demands a strong code of ethics."

Democrats overrode a Republican-backed effort to strike down the prohibition on privately financed unofficial office accounts, called "slush funds," which are kept by an estimated 40 per cent of the members.

Rep. Bill Frenzel, R-Minn., said he favored the ban but opposed the "wasteful" addition of \$5,000 to the current \$2,000 taxpayer-funded allowance for official expenses.

Almost all members favored the financial disclosure provisions.

Other provisions of the code bar gifts worth more than \$100 from lobbyists or foreign nationals; prohibit use of official funds to pay for post-election foreign travel and use of the congressional mailing privilege.

House reinvestigation underway

Author links conspiracy to JFK death

By JOHN TYNES and DEBBIE LIGHTFOOT

There is strong evidence indicating a massive conspiracy in the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, author Carl Oglesby said yesterday during a three-day seminar at Texas A&M University.

"We have never been closer to finding out who killed Kennedy than we are today," Oglesby said, "but we also have never been closer to losing that opportunity."

In a speech sponsored by the Political Forum Committee of the Memorial Student Center, Oglesby said the Kennedy assassination should be reinvestigated in depth to consider evidence that has been uncovered since the last study done by the Warren Commission.

He said he was encouraged by the establishment of a new investigating committee by the U.S. House of Representatives in 1976. He added, however, that the committee is facing a crisis because of internal dissension and that the whole study may come to an end.

Oglesby is author of "The Yankee Cowboy War: Conspiracies from Dallas to Watergate." He spoke on the "Politics of Conspiracy."

Oglesby showed a series of slides illustrating evidence of a conspiracy to kill the President as opposed the presently accepted theory of a single assassin.

The evidence included a detailed study of the trajectory of a particular bullet that, according to the Warren Commission's report, passed through Kennedy and hit Texas Gov. John Connally.

Oglesby showed that it would have been extremely difficult for the bullet to follow the path necessary for the injuries it inflicted to both men.

Also among the evidence was a short movie including part of the Zapruder film, taken by Abraham Zapruder as the presidential motorcade passed through the area of downtown Dallas where Kennedy was shot.

The film seems to indicate that Kennedy was shot from some point in front of the car instead of from behind the car, as the single assassin theory requires.

Oglesby also showed slides indicating that Lee Harvey Oswald, who is believed to have shot Kennedy, may have been framed.

One photo shows Oswald standing in front of a house holding the weapons that were supposedly used to kill Kennedy.

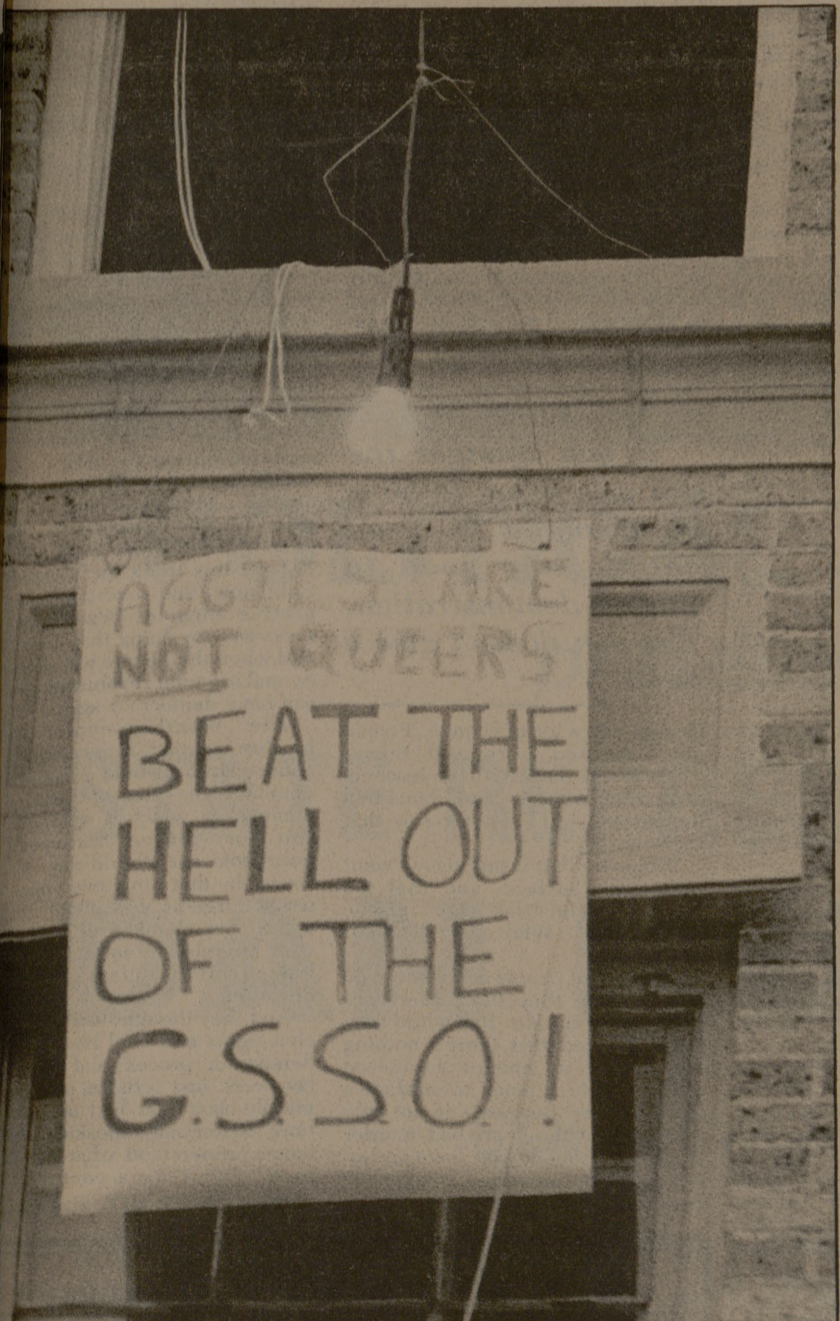


Battalion photo by Richard Wallace

Spring rapidly approaches

Blossoms on the peach trees near Texas A&M President Jack Williams's house are one of the first signs that spring is on its way. The peach blossoms

and daffodils which are beginning to dot the campus bring with them an outlook of warm temperatures and fair weather for the weekend.



Battalion photo by Steve Reis

Strong feelings expressed

Several residents in Hart Hall got together to express their feelings on the issue of gay student recognition by the University, which has come under controversy. The sign is hanging from the third floor of Hart Hall.

Weather

Cloudy and mild with a 70 per cent chance of showers today decreasing to 50 per cent tonight. Winds southeasterly at 15 m.p.h. gusting to 28 m.p.h. and becoming northwesterly tonight. High today in the mid-60s. Low tonight in the mid-50s and high tomorrow in the low 70s. Wind warnings in effect for area lakes.

Election filing ends; three unopposed

Filing ended yesterday for College Station City Council and the A&M Consolidated School Board elections, April 2.

Incumbents Anne Hazen, Larry Ringer and Gary Halter are running unopposed for the three council seats.

Rodney Hill and Johnnie Junek have filed for place 2 of the school board election; incumbent Elliot Bray and James Bassett for place 3; incumbent W. D. Fitch for place 4; and William B. Lancaster, John Reager and incumbent Elizabeth Naugle for place 5.



Carl Oglesby and Jim Kostman gave a presentation on the question of the John F. Kennedy murder of 1963 in Dallas. The program, sponsored by Political Forum, highlighted the errors and flaws of the Warren Report.

Battalion photo by Betsy Kelley