

The Battalion

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Campus loan fund missing \$3,000

By GLENNA WHITLEY
Battalion Staff

A shortage of \$3,000 in the Campus Chest student loan fund was discovered this week during a Battalion study of a long list of unpaid loans.

Fred Pfeiffer, the fund's director, says he can find records for \$1,200 in unpaid loans. But an additional \$3,000 — presumably also in unpaid loans — cannot be accounted for in the fund's books.

"I don't know what went on in the past, and I don't know what happened to the money," Pfeiffer said Monday. He became director in November 1976.

Campus Chest is a student government fund designed for emergency student loans and the purchase of flowers for families of students honored in Silver Taps ceremonies. Before fall 1976, grants were also given from the fund.

"It was a neglected fund," Pfeiffer said. He said he is now attempting to revamp Campus Chest system of loaning and collecting, which apparently led to the loss of money.

In the past, student administrators of the loan program were allowed to take out loans themselves, while they were active directors of the fund.

William Flores, Mary Ellen Martin and Susan Price, all directors of the fund at some time in the last three years, each took out at least three loans from the Campus Chest.

Now, a director and his assistants cannot take out loans. "I never took out a loan when I was on the executive committee," said Price, director in the 1976-77 school year. She did, however, take out loans before and after she was director.

"I've always paid them back," she said. The fund's records substantiate her statement.

She said the rule forbidding these loans was adopted when she was director because a previous director, Mary Ellen Martin, "was a little late in paying loans back."

Price said Martin would sign the deposit checks with one date and actually pay the loan back at a later date. "I don't think people with that type of power should sign their own loans," Price said.

Records also show that Martin took out a \$125 loan on Oct. 10, 1975, and it was never marked paid.

Martin, who has since graduated and moved to San Antonio, said Wednesday that she paid back the loan but doesn't remember when.

She said the restriction on directors getting loans was imposed when she held the office and that there was even discussion of making the fund off limits to senators.

Martin said all loans had to be signed by three people: the director and two other members of the student government executive committee.

"I think the records are so inaccurate they can't tell how much is missing," she said when told of the unaccounted \$3,000.

Flores, director in 1974-75, repaid his loans totaling \$300 according to the records. He signed all the deposit slips for his loan repayments in his capacity as director.

Before 1974-75, loans were granted for as much as \$400 at a time. The loan application was not a legally binding contract, and only required the student's name and identification number. Loans were due in six months, and no interest was charged.

In 1975-76, length of loans was shortened to 60 days, because students tend to move frequently and were difficult to locate after a six-month period.

The loan request was a legally binding agreement, and could be collected in small claims court if necessary. This form requested the applicant's present and permanent address, telephone number and reason for requesting the loan. One-and-a-half percent interest per month (18 percent per year) was charged for overdue loans.

Currently, delinquent loans can only be collected through small claims court. But Pfeiffer wants the Univer-

sity to withhold student's transcripts and grades and to block registration if loans are not paid.

"I've never had any capability of making them repay," Pfeiffer said. He also plans to limit loans to \$50. This should enable more loans to be given out, and make it easier for people to repay the entire amount.

Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services, said he didn't like the idea of withholding enrollment in the University, but that it could be done.

"The students on one hand have created a fund to help other students, and then want to keep them from enrolling," he said. "I didn't like the fund to begin with. The financial aid office already provides loan services and does a good job." He said the idea of collecting funds for emergency loans was commendable, but that the dispersal system would operate better if the services were in one office.

Money collected for Campus Chest at football games is put into a deposit bag after the game and dropped into the night depository of the Student Finance Center. It is usually counted by the Campus Chest director Monday morning, then redeposited in the Finance Center. The Center functions as a bank for many student organizations.

In fall 1976, receipts from the football games were usually more than \$500 and at times more than \$1,000. Donations have diminished in the last two years, according to the fund's records. Many receipts from football games are as low as \$60.

Price said the fund hasn't been doing as well because the fund's presence and purpose wasn't broadcast during the home football games, even though they requested such announcements.

Pfeiffer said the fund did poorly because people were tired of being asked to donate game after game. He plans to solicit money from student government for Campus Chest this year because donations are so low.

Partial eclipse seen Wednesday

Around 4 p.m. Wednesday the moon cruised into position to partially block the sun. The degree of the eclipse varied in the Western Hemisphere and was a total in a section of the Pacific Ocean.

City, school wait for tax research

By KAREN ROGERS

No contact has been made between the College Station City Council and the A&M Consolidated School District since they agreed to consider merging their tax offices next week, school district officials said Wednesday.

But the city and the school district say they are waiting for their attorneys to research the proposed merger.

Last week, the school board directed superintendent Fred Hopson to discuss the merger with City Manager North Bar-

But Hopson has no immediate plans to speak with Bardell, said Peggy Crittenden, Wednesday. Crittenden is the school's public information officer. She said the superintendent is waiting for the school district's attorney to study the matter and report to him.

School District attorney, Jack Woods, declined to specify what would be considered in his research.

"I was just told to look at it a little bit," he said.

Woods said he was not aware Hopson

was waiting for the information he is gathering.

Neeley Lewis, attorney for College Station, said he is studying two major obstacles to the merger.

"The first question is whether it can be legally done in light of the fact that the school district covers the whole southern county, while College Station only goes to the city limits," he said.

Presently, the school and city tax offices are assessing the same land, an exception being some rural land which only the school district taxes.

Lewis questions what would happen to the rural land.

The College Station city charter (constitution) will also play an important part in the merger, Lewis said.

Lewis said because the way the charter is set up, it may be necessary for College Station to amend its charter before the merger.

The merger situation is very complicated and will require study of these two problems before details such as personnel and cost could be worked out, Lewis said.

Neither Lewis nor Woods could estimate when his study would be completed.

'Old safe to tough' burglary attempt fails

By ROBIN LINN

A burglar who broke into the Student Financial Aid Office last weekend took no money but did encounter a tough old safe.

R.M. Logan, director of student financial aid, notified University Police that three safes were ransacked before the burglar "went to work" on the safe.

The burglar used a sledge hammer to crack off the safe's handle and combination dial, then tried to take the hinges apart and pry the safe open. But the old safe resisted his efforts. "Patent 9-12, 1912. Others reading," is written on the back of the safe in elaborate script.

"That old safe was made tough," Logan said. "What the burglar didn't know was that the safe had a built-in weapon waiting for anyone who managed to break through its steel walls. Methods of stopping safe-crackers in the past were more direct than today. Instead of silent electronic alarms and hidden cameras they used tear gas.

Coiled through the walls of the safe is a long copper tube containing tear gas. The tear gas worked so well that attempts to pry the safe by a locksmith Tuesday in the Financial Aid Office failed. The safe had to be removed to the locksmith's shop for another half day of work before it finally was opened.

According to Logan, the locksmith said he opened a similar safe for a church and found the tear gas kept parishioners out of the building for more than a week. "The locksmith hit a copper tube while he was trying to open it here and he came to a screeching halt when he hit the safe," Logan said.

The safe was wiped clean of fingerprints and University Police investigators are working with some fingerprints taken off the safe in the office. Tom Parsons, director of University traffic and safety, says Wednesday that police were working with some

The safe contained a small amount of money for the "Little Loan" program and student release forms for the Hinson-

Hazlewood Loan program, forms which are not negotiable.

Logan said the only thing stolen was a check protector machine which imprints the amount of money on checks given to students.

The future of the safe looks bleak. "I'm afraid it's ready for the trash heap," Logan said.

Euthanasia law protects family privacy

By LINDA NORMAN

"I, John Doe, being of sound mind, willfully and voluntarily make known my desire that my life shall not be artificially prolonged under the circumstances set forth below, and do hereby declare..."

The Texas Natural Death Act, passed in August, removes the need for guardian consent to refuse medical treatment if the individual is unable to.

A three-member panel discussed their opinions on the law at a seminar Wednesday at noon entitled "Euthanasia: The Medical Aspects." The Great Issues committee sponsored the event.

The bill is designed to protect the privacy of the family and the patient, and also to protect the physician-patient relation-

ship, said Dr. Larry McCullough, head of the department of humanities in medicine at the Texas A&M University Medical School. He is also an assistant professor in philosophy.

The Texas law stemmed from the Karen Ann Quinlan case, in which the right to refuse medical treatment was extended to the guardian, and was based on a similar law in California, McCullough said.

"The law does resolve some conflicts in minds of some doctors and hospital personnel," said Dr. Phil Davis, head of the department of family and community medicine in the College of Medicine here.

Davis cited as an example the dilemma hospital staff sometimes face on whether to issue an emergency code when a terminally ill patient quits breathing. He feels the act has created a mechanism whereby it is legal for a doctor to say not to use mechanical procedures if they have prior consent from the patient.

"In a way it does complicate matters," Davis said. The law deals with "intervention of mechanical and artificial means," but does not define what constitutes artificial means.

Davis said he interpreted the law to mean it was illegal to withhold antibiotics from patients when they could possibly tide a terminally ill patient over, but that each

physician has to deal personally with that situation and resolve it.

"If a physician has the right relationship with the patient and the patient's family, he shouldn't have any repercussions," Davis said.

The document relieves the guilt of the family, said Dr. Michael Jamail, a psychologist and associate director of Personal Counseling Services.

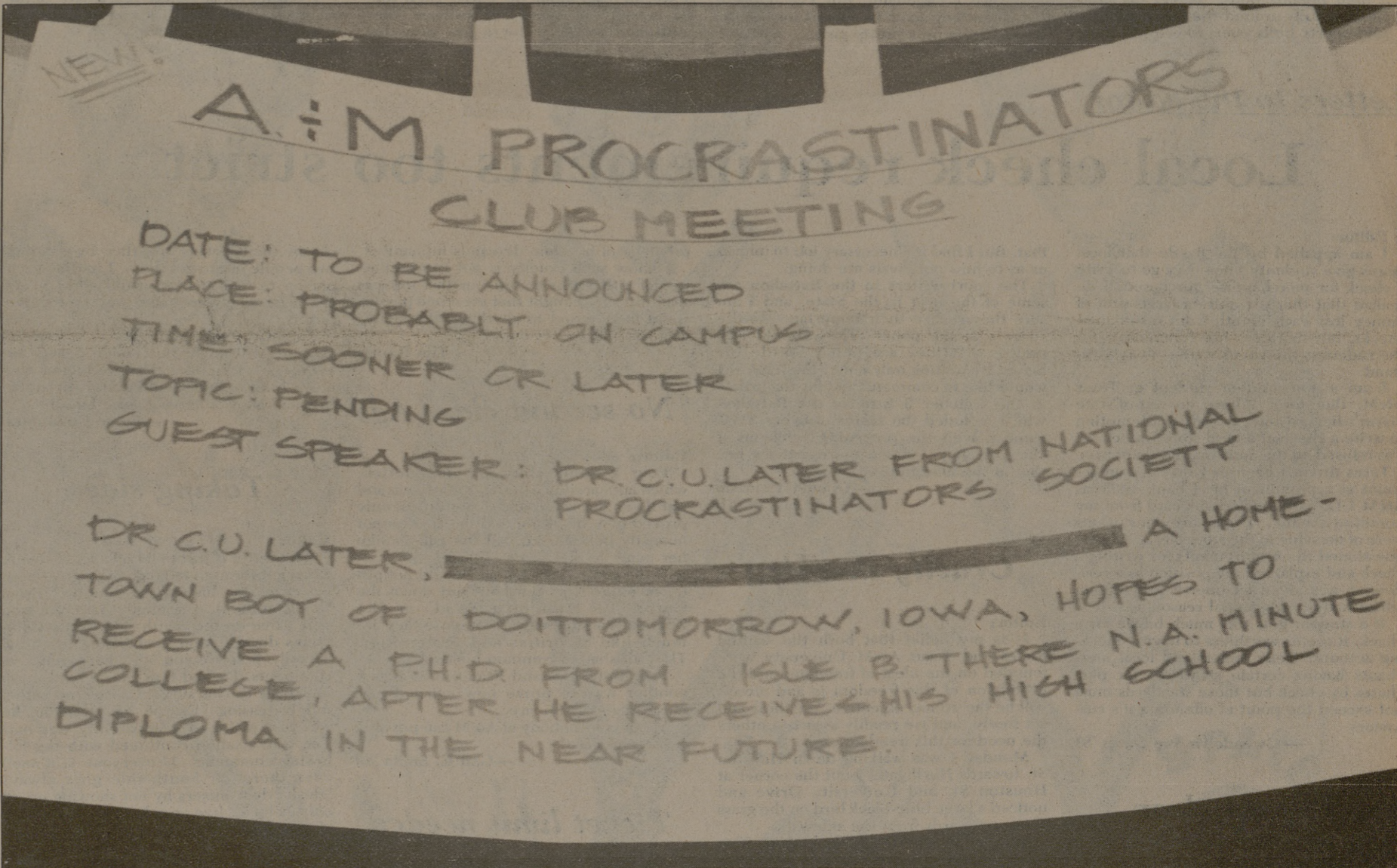
It also permits a person to do now what he cannot do later, affords an opportunity not to wreck a family financially, and injects a note of realism about death, he said.

"You can't be sure what you do now is what you want to do in the future," Jamail said. There is also a problem of the application of the law in other states, when the document was written in Texas.

Jamail raised the question of whether the state should be involved.

The state becomes involved in the sensitive area of the doctor-patient relationship with the passage of this act.

"At some point we have to realize that we cannot deal with everything by legislation," Jamail said. "Physicians have a code of ethics, and those ethics are going to have to be relied on to some point or else we completely erode trust, which is the basis for all social interaction."

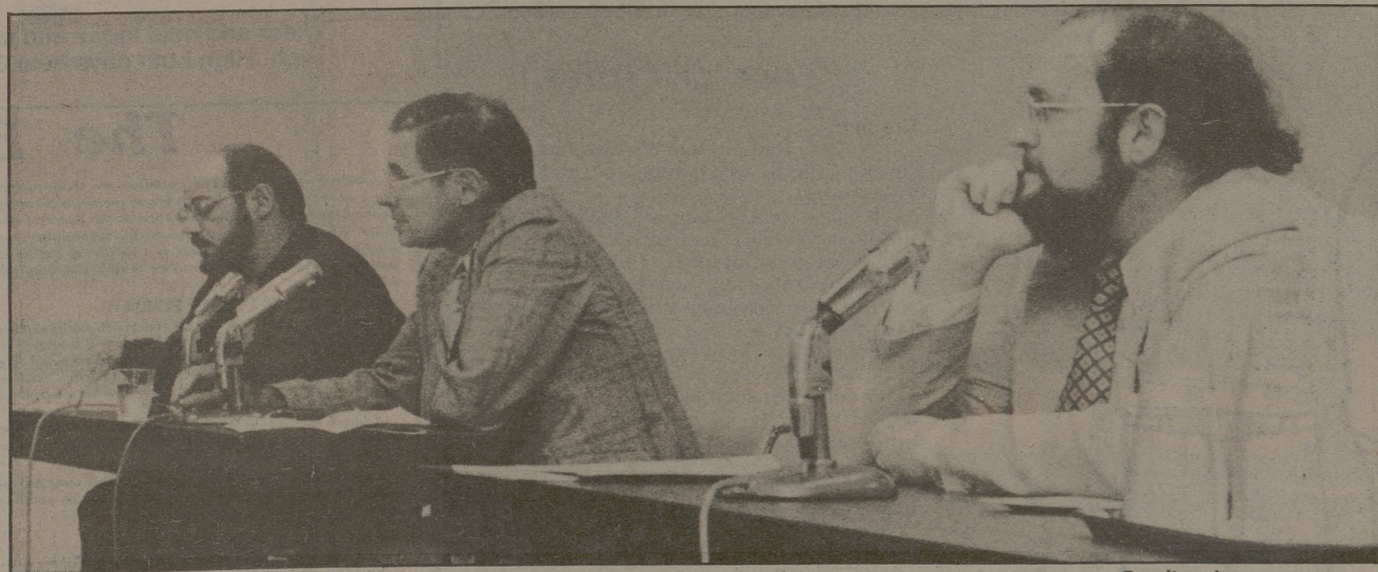


Battalion photo by Ken Herrera

Procrastinators put it off

If most professors had their way, attendance in the fictitious Procrastinators club would be mandatory for their students. If most students had

their way, they would put it off as long as possible. This sign appeared at the entrance to the Commons cafeteria Wednesday.



Battalion photo by Dick Wells

From left to right at Euthanasia seminar, Dr. Michael Jamail, Dr. Phil Davis and Dr. Larry McCullough.