

The Battalion

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Dr. Williams wants A&M out of airport operations

By GARY WELCH

Texas A&M University should get out of the airport business, Chancellor Jack Williams said Wednesday. Texas A&M sponsors Easterwood Airport and provides funds for maintenance and construction, but Williams said he would like more local support for the airport.

"The airport is important to A&M, but I've always thought it was a community airport," Williams said. "Any money coming out of A&M's budget for the airport benefits the entire community."

Williams expressed his views to the Texas Aeronautics Commission (TAC) at a Texas Airport System Plan (TASP) regional planning meeting held Wednesday at Texas A&M to discuss the airport development needs of Brazos, Leon, Madison and Robertson counties.

Williams said the University cannot fund the airport from state money or from restricted university funds (those designated only for specific university purposes). Only money from certain grant funds and aviation fuel sales and hanger rentals can be used by A&M to help fund Easterwood.

"When we use grant money," he said, "it is lost for any other purposes."

TAC airport planner Jim McCausland said Easterwood is one of the few airports in Texas not sponsored by a city or county. A sponsor's funds are matched with state or federal funds to build and maintain airport facilities, he said, and if the sponsor has a limited money supply the airport will suffer.

"I would like to make Easterwood a regional airport to provide for a wider financial base," Williams said. Possibly the counties in this region (Brazos, Leon, Madison and Robertson) could sponsor the airport, he said.

Under the TASP, state funds (limited to \$75,000 in any given year) are matched one-to-one with local funds to provide for airport upkeep. Under the federal government's Planning Grant Program (PGP) and Airport Development Aid Program (ADAP), 80 percent federal funds are matched with 20 percent local funds for the same purpose.

"We badly need to get some consensus of local support," McCausland said. "We want the community to pick up the damn ball and carry it. We would like very much to get A&M out of the airport business and let them concentrate on education."

Ed Davis, Texas A&M's director of management services, said that in the past the community has been content to let Texas A&M run Easterwood. An airport taxing authority (proposed in the late 1960s but never formed) did not earmark any funds for Easterwood, he added.

Williams said he would like to see enough money made available to keep Easterwood a first-class airport. Since Davis Airlines (the sole passenger airline operating out of Easterwood) was recently sold to Rio Airlines, Williams said he expects an accompanying fare reduction to double commercial traffic.

George Dresser, of the Texas Transportation Institute (TTI), said two improvement projects funded under ADAP are pending at Easterwood.

He said one of Easterwood's three runways is being considered for reconstruction because it is starting to crack.

He added that an airport master plan study is being carried out with an emphasis on possible runway expansion to accommodate larger jets.

Williams said, "I think there is no alternative to upgrading Easterwood Airport. The airport is essential to the operations of

the University. With the research we are conducting (approaching \$50 million per year), we absolutely must have access to an airport."

Easterwood Airport Manager Truett Smitt said one way to raise more money for the airport would be to build more hangers to rent to private users. However, he said, the airport has no land on which to put these hangers because the FAA requires any buildings to be at least 750 feet from the edge of a runway, and the remaining land that meets these requirements includes a 20 to 30-foot drop-off and is unfit for construction.

"I will be perfectly willing to present to the A&M Board of Regents whatever request the airport makes for extra property," Williams said. "Plans for upgrading are no problem because the board can try to provide any land for expansion."

"The best, cleanest way to meet the needs of the airport is to get community support."

According to TAC figures, about one-half million dollars of local money matched with federal funds will be needed to meet Easterwood's building and maintenance needs over the next five years.

Students participate but many don't pay

By GLENNA WHITLEY

Though many Texas A&M University students enjoy worship services and religious activities sponsored by local churches, most don't contribute significantly to the churches' financial support.

Of the 11 churches in College Station, eight are self-supporting. They operate solely on members' offerings. Others receive funds from their respective diocese, synod or conference.

Most students who attend church at college retain membership in their home town churches. At some of the local churches, attendance is greater than that by members who live here permanently.

For instance, College Heights Assembly of God has an average attendance of 250, but only 90 members. The Grace Bible Church has an average attendance of 450, but only 80 members.

Every local church has services or activities geared specifically toward college students. Organizations like the A&M Methodist Wesley Foundation and the A&M Baptist Student Union provide a full range of classes, fellowships and activities for A&M students.

But who supports these activities financially? In most instances, the permanent local members provide the funds for activities, not the students who attend them.

In at least one case, a College Station church is having financial problems and is attempting to get students to contribute more money. St. Mary's Catholic Church has about 500 students who attend regularly. At a recent Mass, the Rev. Tom Hanus explained the problems and said the church would have difficulty paying its bills for the rest of the year. He said that if each person who came to the services would donate one dollar per week, the problems would be alleviated. He declined to comment on the problem after the Mass, however.

Rev. Andrew Seidel of the Grace Bible Church said he didn't have figures about financial support from students. "We don't break it down. I'd rather not know who gives what," he said.

"I would expect most of the financial support would come from the family members because they have the resources," he said.

Pastor Hugh Beck of the University Lutheran Church said his church is supported by the three Lutheran synods in Texas. A synod is a church governing body.

"We are only here for the university. We are placed here by the District (synod) and they support our work," he said. "Offerings are really quite meager. It's not the

fault of the students. They are not wage earners."

"When their parents support the church back home, that in turn supports us," Beck said. "If we asked them to give more, that would be like asking them to give twice. I'm thankful we don't have to worry about finances."

Our Saviour's Lutheran Church, across the street from University Lutheran, is self-supporting. Our Saviour's is family oriented, while University is student oriented.

The two churches have a symbiotic relationship. They share a secretary and a nursery, and various activities are planned in which members of both groups participate. Our Saviour's contributes money directly to University Lutheran.

"When their parents support the church back home, that in turn supports us," Beck said. "If we asked them to give more, that would be like asking them to give twice."

"We haven't taken a survey as to the student dollar against the family dollar," said Rev. David Rowland, First Baptist Church of College Station. The amount of money given by each member "is very private."

There is an extensive program for college students at First Baptist. Across the street, but not directly affiliated, is the Baptist Student Union, an organization founded strictly to serve university students.

BSU programming is supported by more than 42 area churches and associations. Staff salaries and the buildings are provided by the General Baptist Convention of Texas.

Another student union, the A&M Methodist Wesley Foundation, has about one-fourth of its \$45,000 annual budget contributed by students. The 250 members give \$10-11,200 per year.

"Most of that comes out of their pockets," said Pastor W.C. Hall, director of the foundation. Members are now attempting to raise money to remodel and expand their present facilities.

The Texas Conference of the United Methodist Church contributed \$75,000 of the \$300,000 needed for the expansion. Through fund raising activities like barbecues, garage sales and a Halloween spook house, the students have raised an additional \$75,000. The rest should be raised by January 1978, Hall said.

(See Students, page 10.)



Battalion photo by Ouina Cochran

A spider's view

Some A&M students find the lack of mail discouraging — hence, the myth of the spider-in-the-mailbox. Beth Scott and Lynne Andrus of 285 Mosher have gone one step further by hanging their own plastic spider inside their Commons-area mailbox. "We started out joking about never having any mail for the spiders in our mailbox to eat," Scott said. Wilbur, the plastic spider, has been hanging in the lonely mailbox for almost three weeks. Wilbur's photograph was taken from inside the box. Don't ask how.

Isolation not cure for blues

Professor has different idea

By PHYLIS WEST

Isolation gives a person the same feeling that comes with listening to the blues, says Dr. Manuel Davenport, professor of philosophy at Texas A&M.

Davenport, speaking at Rudder Tower Wednesday night, presented his lecture "Post-Existential Blues," dealing with the trend away from existentialism. His speech was part of the Texas A&M lecture series.

Existentialism which stresses alienation, seeks to find a solution for the so-called blues.

The philosopher Sartre first realized that isolation results in "a sort of sloppy suffering," said Davenport. The American blues music best expressed this feeling.

"The feeling of being isolated from our world, alienated from our bodies, incapable of love or even friendship, abandoned by God, if there is a God...to be aware of the human condition as such is to be in a state of despair," he told a crowd of about 150 students and faculty members.

Our bodies belong to a world of things — bits of consciousness — trapped within ourselves according to the fore-runners of existentialism, said Davenport. But Davenport pointed out that later philosophers found they couldn't identify friendship in physical relationships.

Sartre presented the problem as such "to be free, we must destroy all relationships with the world," said Davenport. But the A&M professor contended that man's relationships with the world are important.

People often ask "What will it cost me to change?" rather than "How will my response affect others," he said. People are afraid of being the only one to change.

"If I gave up all my idle belongings and joy, I'm afraid that I might be the only one," said Davenport.

Someone must step forward to give a moral example, even if there's a chance that no one follows it.

"At least when someone provides an example, there's a chance that others will respond," he said.

also must be made if the nation turns again to non-volunteer military service, he said.

"I think we are talking about two years... because if the reserve components are as important as I think they are, we just can't continue to postpone this problem if we don't find a solution," Rogers said.

The deadline for a decision, he said, would be Oct. 1, 1979.

The draft ended officially in early 1973. The last draftee was inducted in December, 1972.

Volunteers for military service are plentiful enough to fill the ranks of the active Army for the foreseeable future, he said.

Conscription for weekend training military reserve units would cause some problems, he conceded, because "you can't draft from Buffalo for somebody to serve in Birmingham."

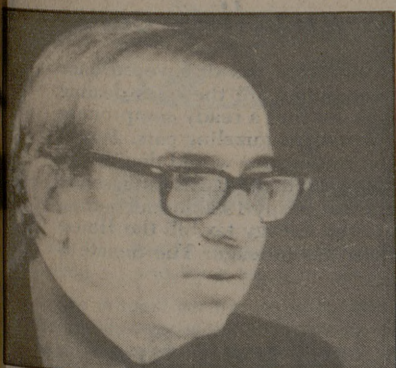
Resumption of the draft might be a solution, Rogers said, in the standby pool known as the individual ready reserve — trained soldiers that do not attend regular meetings but are on hand to provide replacements for combat losses in time of war.

The pool is short more than 400,000 men and is expected to fall more than half a million men short of its required strength of 679,000 five years from now.

The Army already has taken steps to increase reserve recruiting. Other steps are planned during the next two years, he said.

"After we've done all the things we can think of, some consideration has to be given to another solution," Rogers said.

Rogers said the Selective Service system, now in "deep standby" inactivity, should again register potential draftees because starting from scratch in a national emergency would take at least 110 days to get the first man into basic training. That time should be reduced to 30 days, he said.



Manuel Davenport... post-existential blues

Draft may be resumed to bolster army reserves

WASHINGTON — The United States must decide by the end of 1979 whether to resume the draft to provide adequate manpower for the dwindling military reserves, says Gen. Bernard W. Rogers, the Army's top commander.

The Army chief of staff said in an interview that draft machinery should be reactivated immediately "to register, classify, physically examine and keep track of" manpower. A decision on drafting women

Committee hears bill for amendment of marijuana law

WASHINGTON — The senator reached casually into a packet of materials on a bill to revise the federal criminal code and tossed four very suspicious looking plastic bags onto the table.

Two contained a substance that looked very much like marijuana, and two more contained some hand-rolled cigarettes.

Sen. James Eastland, D-Miss., crusty chairman of the Judiciary Committee, spoke not a word. He just puffed his cigar and glared at Sen. Birch Bayh, D-Ind.

Sens. James Abourek, D-S.D., and Joseph Biden, D-S.D., asked Bayh if he wanted to share a smoke later, while Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., chuckled.

Others in the jammed committee room laughed.

Finally Bayh said, "It's only oregano." Bayh's demonstration came Wednesday as the committee considered his amendment to remove criminal penalties and substitute a \$100 fine for possession of up to one ounce of marijuana — an amendment tentatively approved on a 6-4 vote.



Battalion photo by Ken Herrera

Signs of the time

Freshman class candidates' campaign signs in front of the Commons remind voters of today's election. Offices to be filled include class of '81 officers and Student Government senators, as well as Off Campus Student Association representatives from all classes. Voting is taking place

at the Memorial Student Center, the Corps guard room, the Throckmorton St. bus stop, and the Ireland St. bus stop next to the Reed McDonald building. Student activity cards and ID cards are required and polls close at 6 p.m.