

# The Battalion

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## Senate backs trial on-campus busing

By LIZ NEULIN

**Battalion Staff**  
Trial of an on-campus, internal shuttle system next semester was recommended by the Texas A&M Student Senate Wednesday night.  
The proposal, which could cost \$45,000, was approved by Dr. John Koldus, president for student services. The resolution lists service to the vet school, the campus, three shuttle bus stops, the highway area, parking lots across Alburn Road, and an area near Zachry Engineering Center.  
The trial, if approved, will be funded by student service fees reserve account. Wednesday's bill, under normal senate procedure, could not receive action until the next senate meeting Nov. 16. William Altman, chairman of the subcommittee on internal shuttle service, moved that the bill be placed on emergency, and the senate approved. The senate may vote on the bill on emergency.  
"It is our feeling we need this now," said Albert Harvey, student body president. "The administration had much 'input' on the bill and needed time to prepare for a trial," he said.  
Altman's subcommittee held a public hearing Oct. 24 to determine student interest in the service.  
"Just about everybody who came said they felt a shuttle service would be good," Altman said. His subcommittee report recommends using six shuttle buses from Transportation Enterprises, Inc., at a cost of approximately \$7,500 per semester. The recommendations are not binding on Koldus, he said.  
"We imply a route (in the bill) but we do

not force them to use a certain route," Altman added.  
The project began last spring when an ad hoc committee, appointed by then-President Jack Williams, investigated the feasibility of an internal shuttle system and recommended next semester as "an opportune time for a trial."  
Koldus recommended further study by Student Government because the trial would probably be funded by student service fees.  
Several senators objected to both receiving and voting on the bill Wednesday because of the short time period and amount involved. The resolution passed on a roll call vote 55 to 9.  
Senators also approved the \$44,919.96 Student Government budget for 1977-1978.  
The grass around the Memorial Student Center is the central subject of two resolutions before the Student Senate which were introduced during the three-and-a-half-hour session. "Keep off the grass resolution II," recommends "at least two appropriately-worded signs be placed at advantageous locations asking for protection of the grass surrounding the Memorial Student Center..." It cites "unsightly worn spots" in front of the MSC and the need for "more attention in landscape protection" as reasons for the signs.  
The "Dedication of MSC grass resolution" requests "that the grounds surrounding the Memorial Student Center be formally dedicated as a memorial to those Aggies who have given their lives in the defense of the country..." and that signs be placed in appropriate locations to inform students, faculty, and visitors of the

memorial status of the grounds.  
"The grass around the Memorial Student Center has for many years been considered a memorial to these former students, and... this grass has never been officially dedicated," the resolution states.  
A move to place the dedication resolution on emergency status failed.  
"If we do it tonight, it'll look like an emotional response (to the MSC Council's rejection of a similar bill last week)," student senator Richard David said. "I want it to look like we thought about it."  
The Student Senate passed a similar bill last year to memorialize the grass around the University Center. Last week the MSC Council rejected the bill and approved a policy that use of MSC grounds "will not be discouraged."  
Discussion of the "Keep off the grass resolution II" came earlier in the meeting.  
"The main objective is to keep the landscape looking nice," said student senator Gail Jolly, who introduced the bill.  
Senator Ben Schrader asked why the resolution calls only for signs around the MSC if the object is to protect the landscape.  
"Why don't we put up signs for all the grass? ... If it's for a memorial, why not state it?" he asked.  
Action on the resolution is set for the next senate session.  
Letters to professors asking them to participate in the Student Government professor evaluation program are set to go out this week, said Mike Humphrey, vice president for academic affairs. The evaluation is scheduled for the last week in November and first week in December, he said.

"We almost had to get a new questionnaire," Humphrey said, because the old form contained "meaningless questions." His committee evaluated the old form with help from the Liberal Arts Department, which conducts its own professor evaluation. The new forms cost \$200.  
Edwin Cooper, dean of admissions and records, asked the Academic Affairs Committee to investigate and report on Academic Counseling procedures, Humphrey said.  
Campus Chest revision also received a first reading. The bill proposes "that the Campus Chest Fund be considered an

emergency fund; emergency situation being defined as one that occurs unexpectedly, so that money cannot be obtained from the Financial Aid office in time."  
Proposed terms for loans, director Fred Pfeiffer said, are any amount for 60 days. After 60 days, a late payment charge of 50 cents per month will be assessed unless the borrower contacts the Campus Chest and asks for more time.  
Pfeiffer may also block students' registration or transcripts until full payment is made.  
The fund claims about \$3,600 in outstanding loans. An audit by a professor in

the accounting department is underway, Pfeiffer said. About \$300 is in the fund now, he added.  
In other action, senators approved polling places for today's runoff elections for freshman class officers. They also heard first readings of resolutions on a University Committee structure study, By-Laws and Constitution effective date, status of legislation, parliamentarian and ballot election, a budget amendment, a blood drive research committee and three election procedure charges.  
The meeting marked the first attended by five newly-elected freshmen senators.

## Old College View apartments to be razed this fiscal year

BY DONNA SCHLABACH

Four Texas A&M University married-student apartment buildings will be torn down during the current fiscal year, says apartment manager F. Ken Nicolas.  
The Old College View apartments, located on Avenue B across from the Texas A&M campus University Drive are military-style barracks. Nicolas said last week that the buildings, constructed in 1942, have become so deteriorated that they are impractical to maintain.  
No definite date has been set for tearing down the buildings, said Jerry Smith, assistant director of management services. Smith could not estimate the cost of razing the apartments, but said it will depend on whether the job is done by apartment employees or by a commercial firm. The job will be paid by the student apartments office, Smith said.  
Since 1969, 26 of the original 58 buildings have been torn down, Nicolas said.  
Never intended as a permanent facil-

ity, the barracks will be razed over the coming years as directed by the board of regents," he added.  
Nicolas said the buildings were torn down in 1969 to provide space for construction of the College View brick apartments on University Drive.  
The barracks were dismantled at air bases in Texas and transported to the campus in 1946 to accommodate the influx of married veterans enrolling in the college, Nicolas said.  
"Each barrack was transported in eight sections, re-erected on campus, and remodeled into eight two-bedroom apartments."  
Though they cannot compare with the more modern apartments, rental rates for the barracks are very cheap. Monthly rent is \$70 for an unfurnished two-bedroom and \$84 for a furnished two-bedroom apartment. Each apartment is equipped with a space heater and may be air conditioned with window units operated from

metered lines.  
Smith said tenants will not be forced to move out of the buildings, because student apartment personnel have allowed normal turnover rates to vacate the buildings.  
A study concerning the necessity and cost of new apartment buildings is being conducted, Smith said. The results will be presented to the board of regents for a final decision.  
School property tax rate rises



**Haven't we met before?**  
Student Center. The dog's master at left, appears otherwise occupied.  
Battalion photo by Liz Bailey

## ANH-HR-H3CPJ: mummy is oldest man on campus

By KYLE CREWS

Who is the oldest man on campus?  
This was a favorite "campusology question" at Texas A&M University since early in the century. Freshmen in the Corps of Cadets were required to memorize and write the man's name when asked by an upperclassman.  
The gentleman's name is ANH-HR-H3CPJ. He resided behind the Systems Administration Building, in a small structure once used as a University museum. ANH-HR-H3CPJ is a mummy.  
According to the inscription on the lid of his sarcophagus, or coffin, the mummy is the remains of a tax collector who worked for Pharaoh Rameses II approximately 4,000 years ago. This was before the time of King Tutankhamun, whose treasures are currently on tour in this country and have stirred up much interest in ancient Egyptian artifacts.  
The "Aggie Mummy," more commonly referred to as the Tax Collector, was moved to the Houston Museum of Natural Science in June, 1970.  
The inscription also included a formula for the offering of the dead. It said that the deceased who was lord of... districts, that he was to receive, by the grace of a local god, food, drink and clothing for ever and ever. This local god was to have been in good favor with Amon-Re, the chief God of Egypt. But the name of the Tax Collector's district could not be deciphered.  
Carl Aiken, associate director of the museum, said Wednesday that in addition to the mummy, the museum has a skull, some fossil plants and other artifacts once belonging to the Texas A&M museum.  
"The Museum Committee, which governed the use of the building, asked us to come and get these things so that they might be kept in a safe place," Aiken said. "Some graduate students were using the museum as office space, and most of the things on display were in bad condition. In fact, some wasps had built a nest in the mummy's skull."  
Aiken said that the mummy was not on display to the public because of its poor condition.  
A major portion of the remaining artifacts housed in the University museum were divided among the various departments on campus. Some of the relics, along their with display cases were given to the museum in Bryan, now known as the Brazos Valley Museum of Natural Science.  
No one seems to know how A&M inherited the remains of the Tax Collector. According to Frank Tolbert, columnist for The Dallas Morning News, the mummy was turned over to the University early this century when the side show it belonged to went broke while in the College Station area.

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cost during the 1950's without any increase for rising land values or inflation.  
"Many people don't even know what they are paying in property taxes," said Dr. O. D. Butler, POA president. "Most banks or savings companies that have a mortgage on the property require the owners to pay into an escrow account and then they pay the taxes from it." That means monthly payments for land owners so they won't default on their taxes and lose the property to the state.  
Butler was one of the first organizers of the College Station POA. He is also the head of the animal science department at Texas A&M University and has land holdings to the south and west of College Station. According to the constitution of the group, their purpose and objective is "to insist on effective and conservative public school and government operation." The POA was formed in November 1976 and has 163 members.  
The POA has for some time threatened to file a lawsuit against the school district for unfair assessment of open land. "It is our contention that Mr. Ellis didn't use any income analysis in the rural land assessment," said Butler. The income analysis formula would lower the assessment value of any land that earns money.  
According to the tax office, land value is determined by sales comparison, income analysis and if possible, replacement costs. Properties are supposed to be cross-checked to eliminate abnormally high and low sales prices. Contrary to what some of the land owners are saying, the tax office says one isolated sale does not establish the market value of the land in the area.  
In response to Butler's charges, Ellis said, "Sure, we use the sales and income analysis formula in the computation of the tax rolls."  
"We're dealing with mass appraisal of the rural land here," Ellis said, "and we just didn't have the time to use all the methods to assess each piece of property."  
It's the owners of the large tracts of rural land that have been hit hardest by the revaluation. This open-space land makes up some 35,360 acres, or about 55 square miles of the district. If the POA had its way, this land would be taxed on the estimated productivity value instead of the current market value. This would mean a tremendous loss of revenue to the district because the average estimated productivity value per acre is \$71.71, while the average market value per acre is \$1,719.99, according to a Governor's Office of Education Resources report.  
And it is very possible that they might have their way. The state Legislature recently passed House Bill 22 which allows open-space land to be valued on its productivity. But the bill faces many obstacles before it becomes law. An amendment to the state constitution that would make the valuation legal failed to garner the necessary votes. Gov. Dolph Briscoe, House speaker Bill Clayton and Comptroller Bob Bullock are still pushing ahead with plans to implement the new tax break on Jan. 1. Most legislators feel the state courts will declare the bill unconstitutional before it can go into effect.  
"We'll just have to wait and see what happens," said Ellis. "But until then, we are going ahead with our market value assessment."  
Currently there are five exemptions or reductions available for people who live in the district. Those age 65 and over are eligible for a homestead exemption of  
(See School, page 3)

## Tax reevaluation causes troubles

By J. KARL JACKSON  
A tax increase usually means more penny pinching and budget cutting by taxpayers. But in College Station it also means lawsuits and hard feelings.  
The school district spent \$30,000 to reassess all of the 3,700 properties within the 97 square miles that make up the district. The total assessed value went from \$167,061,192 in 1976 to \$270,611,665 in 1977, representing a 62 percent increase in one year.  
Tax Assessor-Collector Jewell Ellis said that in some instances the property evaluation was almost 200 percent.  
"In 1965 the tax ratio was raised from 40 to 80 percent and the property taxes were just doubled," Ellis said. "In most cases, the assessment value of the property wasn't changed at all." Many of the properties were still valued at their original

with South Africa in the development of nuclear weapons.  
In Washington, Secretary of State Cyrus Vance said the Carter administration had taken a further step in protesting South Africa's Oct. 19 crackdown on black dissent by recalling the naval attaché from Pretoria and the commercial officer from Johannesburg.  
The Security Council is expected to formally adopt the historic resolution Friday. It would be the first time it has imposed mandatory sanctions against a U.N. member.  
The compromise resolution directs all states to halt the sale or transfer to South Africa of weapons, ammunition, military vehicles, equipment for the manufacturing of weaponry and spare parts.

Security Council agrees to embargo  
Runoff election scheduled today  
Runoff elections for Freshman Class vice president and social secretary are set today at the Commons, Sbisa, Corps Guard Room and the MSC. Polls will close at 6 p.m. Candidates for vice president are Jess Mason and Brenda Kallina. Candidates for social secretary are Kay Whitcombe and Tammi Dodson.

3.49  
1.99  
2.99  
2.59