

THE BATTALION

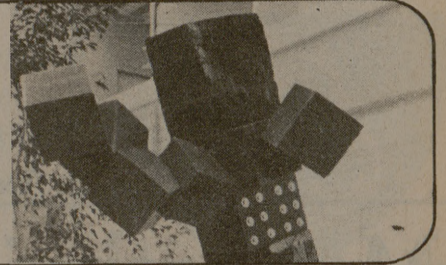
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Inside Wednesday

Sculpture on display in Langford Architecture Center, p. 5.
Waggies to form two Corps units, p. 9.
Baseball team opens season this weekend, p. 10



Student senate elects Humphrey as president

By LIZ NEWLIN
Battalion Staff

Mike Humphrey was unanimously elected student "There are a lot of problems and problems we need to solve right now," Humphrey told the senate "I want this body to take an aggressive stand — not one that will be one to maintain the status quo.

He pointed to the apparent ambiguity surrounding grade requirements for elected student officials and undefined powers of the student senate judicial board.

Humphrey, a graduating senior, called for a constitutional convention to suggest ideas to solve the problems. The convention is scheduled for 1 p.m. Feb. 25. The site has not been confirmed.

The senate elected Humphrey after they accepted the resignations of Robert Harvey, student body president, and Vicki Young, vice president for student services. Under the student body constitution, the senate had to choose the new president from among the vice presidents.

In a secret ballot vote of 31-27, senators accepted the resignations after a 45-minute closed session. One member abstained and 16 senators were absent.

The senate requested their resignations last week, voting 26-24 that student government members who posted less than a 2,000 grade point should resign "according to regulations as stated."

Harvey and Young posted below 2,000 GPRs for last semester, and their cumulative or overall GPRs are 2.94 and 3.23, respectively.

After Tuesday's three-hour session, Humphrey said he plans to solicit inter-

views for vice presidents of student services and academic affairs, seats vacated by he and Young. He is expected to submit his nominations for senate approval at the meeting next Wednesday. Nominations will also be opened to the floor before the senate fill the seats by majority votes.

Members of the executive committee and the judicial board chairman resigned Tuesday night, and those positions also must be filled by the new president.

"It's very possible to have reappointments across the board, but I'm not in a position to say right now," Humphrey said.

"More than anything else I need to familiarize myself with what Robert has done."

He said he has been talking with Harvey for the past month about the matter and plans for a "very smooth transition."

Humphrey said he will have ample time to fulfill the post. He explained that job interviews, which took up much of his time last semester, are finished and that his most time-consuming duty as Corps scholastic officer will be fulfilled by someone else. He said he was responsible for inspecting scholastic credentials, which took about two to three hours on two nights a week.

Before submitting their resignations, Harvey and Young each addressed the senate.

Harvey told them that the senate's primary legislative duty is to be a watchdog of University actions and policies.

"The senate needs to consider having stronger committees," he said. "Many other legislatures have done this."

"Instead, we've wasted every other

Wednesday night in long drawn out meetings." He added that more executive functions, like the student purchase program and professor evaluations, should be removed from the senate's jurisdiction and placed under the executive.

He said his reforms of the executive branch have "come a long way," but he said the student body president needs to continue improving the structure.

Harvey said the judicial board has become more outspoken than ever before and now requires a clearer definition of its duties.

"The judicial board should not decide its powers on the night of a hearing," he told senators. "If you give it that power without restraint, you give up the power to legislate."

In her remarks, Young stressed the need for stronger committee organization. She reviewed her committee's projects and praised the leadership within her student services committee.

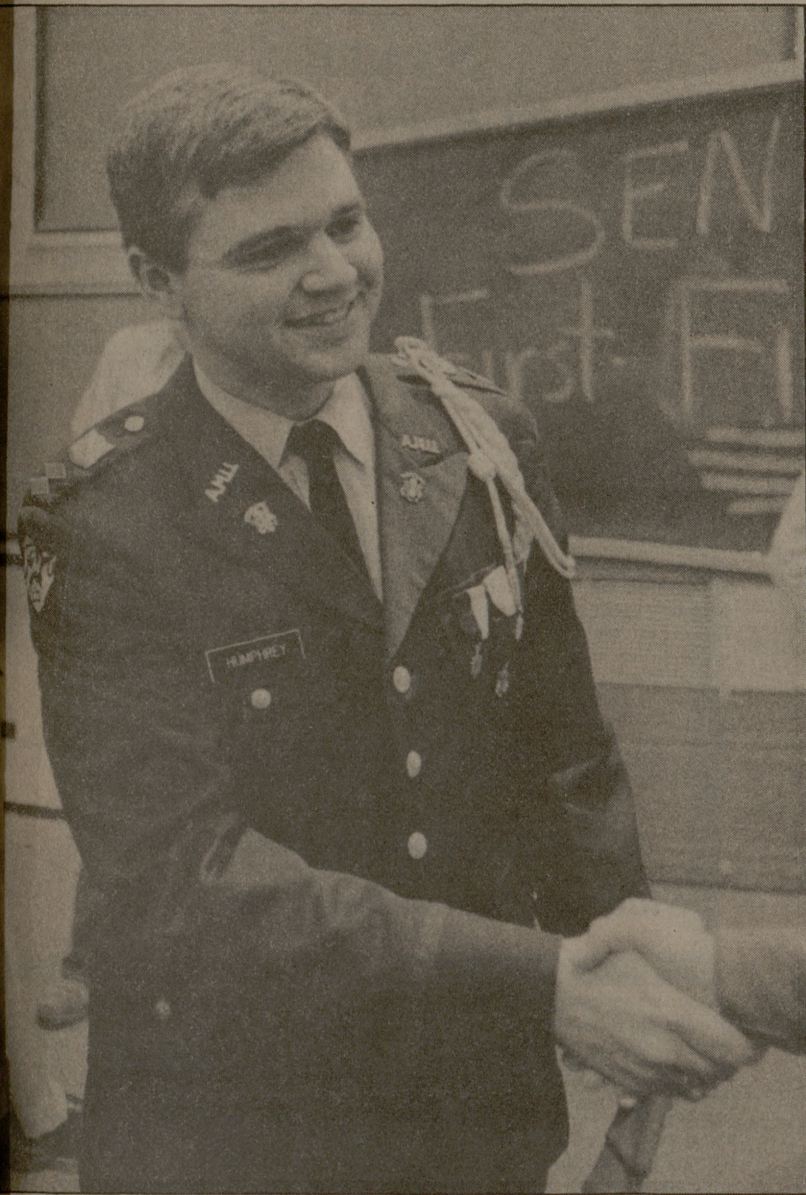
"It's vital to get continuity," she said, adding that committee structure was the way to do it.

"I've been disappointed with my interactions with the senate this year," Young said. Senators did not route bills through committees, she said, and the senate generally was forced to rely on the author of the legislation for information about it.

"My committee will stand intact," Young said just before submitting her resignation.

The senate did not immediately accept the resignations. Senator Susan Rudd presented a petition that she said was signed Tuesday by 700 students. The petition said the resignations were not in the best interest of the students and recommended that the senate reject the resignations.

After a short debate, the senate went into closed session for 45 minutes and then voted to accept the resignations.



Mike Humphrey

Collecting energy: key to survival

By KAREN CORNELISON

While doomsday prophets are predicting the end of the world, Dr. Harlan J. Smith sees a much brighter future for the human race. Smith, director of McDonald observatory at the University of Texas, spoke Tuesday evening at an Associated General Contractors meeting about possible means of collecting solar energy in space stations and converting it to useable energy on earth.

"The key to the material problems of the human race is energy," Smith said. "The visible light of the sun radiates 10,000 times as much energy as the human race uses. It is an effectively infinite source."

Smith said conditions on earth, such as weather, make large-scale solar energy converting devices impractical because of their high maintenance costs. But in space, he said, there is no atmosphere, no dirt, and sunlight can be used 24 hours a day.

Smith showed slides illustrating two possible solar space stations now being developed. One possibility, he said, is to build large networks of reflectors, perhaps five to ten miles in length. Another possibility is paving structures with miles of solar cells. With either of these structures, sunlight could be concentrated and converted into a microwave beam, which would travel

to earth and be converted to electricity.

"The point is that all this is not just Buck Rogers stuff," Smith said. "Things like that are going to be up there, roughly beginning in the 1980s."

Cost is a major problem with these proposed space structures, Smith said. Most of the cost involved is in getting materials into space. Some ways to avoid cost which Smith said scientists are working on include using materials from the moon, and even capturing asteroids and "towing" them to where they are needed.

Construction of the space stations could be accomplished by machines in space that would "squeeze out building beams like toothpaste," Smith said.

Smith also discussed possibilities of future societies living in space stations, such as man does on earth, with houses and shopping centers. "Systems of this kind, I believe, will come to pass — assuming we get over the next 30 years or so. It doesn't have to end as doomsday prophets say. The human race's future could go on for millions or billions of years."

Harlan J. Smith earned his doctorate from Harvard University, and has served on the faculty of Yale University and on the astronomy panel for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Dorm students using illegal means to fend off hunger

By KAREN CORNELISON

Although the food services at Texas A&M University recently won two national awards, there are many residence hall students who do not eat in the cafeteria on campus. Their reasons are as varied as the ways they cope with their situation.

The number of students who eat in the cafeteria has stayed fairly constant in the last few years, said Thomas Awbrey, administrative services officer for food services. This semester, about 1,300 on-campus students must provide their own meals.

Some students go off the board plan so they do not have to pay for missed meals. Others also said it is sometimes difficult to pay the board fee in one lump sum, or in installments.

Many female students said they did not want to eat in the cafeteria because the food was too fattening.

"You can't find the steak under the heading," said Lori Kessler, a Mosher Hall resident.

Other students complained of too much starch and grease in the cafeteria food, particularly in Sbsa.

"It's OK the first week," said Anne O'Connor, who was on the board plan for two semesters, "but then afterwards everything tastes the same."

Other students complained about unappetizing names on menus (such as "pre-cooked pork patties") and about gelatin salads with "anything from last week's menu mixed with gelatin."

Some dorm students fend off starvation by breaking the rules. According to University regulations, cooking in the dormitory rooms is not permitted. Only four appliances are allowed: popcorn poppers (used only for popcorn), blenders, "hot pots" (used only for boiling water) and coffee pots.

"We have a few illegal appliances," said one student. "We have a toaster, a pizza maker and a slow cooker."

"We cook in the bathroom," another student said. "We turn on the shower, and put damp towels under the doors so it doesn't smell. It's easier than you'd think."

Unusual ways of dorm cooking include hanging a deep fryer out the window so that it's not "inside" the dorm, "ironing" steaks wrapped in foil, and cooking nachos in the sauna.

Dr. Charles Powell, director of student

affairs, gave some reasons for the cooking rules.

"Cooking in the dorms is a definite health and safety hazard," he said. "We're trying to avoid anything to do with grease and anything that attracts ants and roaches. One of the basic problems is the fire hazard — there's no ventilation."

Powell also mentioned the danger of overloading circuits in the dorms, which are not geared to take the load of cooking appliances.

Although students cook in dorms, very few are caught. Richard Kreuz, judicial board chairman for Moore Hall, said there has not been a cooking violation in Moore for two years. Larry Crowley, judicial board chairman for Puryear Hall, said the last case of cooking he remembers was one and a half years ago.

Cindy Wetsel, judicial board chairman

for Krueger hall, said only 20 percent of the cases brought before the board are for illegal cooking. This semester there have been fewer cooking violations than usual, she said.

"That's not a good indication of how many are actually cooking," Wetsel said. "Most just don't get caught."

Penalties for cooking violations differ, depending on the case. But Wetsel said she knows of no one who has been asked to leave the dorm because of cooking.

Kim Castillo, a resident adviser for Mosher Hall, said she thinks the board plan should be mandatory for dorm students.

"The food's not that bad," she said. "The dorm is not made for cooking, and I don't believe you can get a balanced meal without cooking (if you are off the board plan)."

All employees must have one

Physicals: hastily completed exams

By TERESA HUDDLESTON

A prerequisite for becoming an employee of Texas A&M University is receiving a physical from Beutel Health Center. The only pain involved in the physical is the waiting time.

It usually takes from two to three hours to see a doctor. The physical takes about 10 minutes.

The physicals are not supposed to be thorough or complete.

"There is not enough time in a day to do a complete physical. Therefore it is a cursory exam," said Dr. Claude Goswick, director of the center.

Webster's Dictionary defines cursory as "hastily, hence often superficially, done, or passing rapidly over something without giving enough attention to details."

Why would a physical that is done hastily be a requirement for employment? The University carries its own workman's compensation insurance. The Health Center screens prospective employees and rejects them if they have a serious problem that would keep them from doing their job. For example, the Health Center expects to find problems such as hernias, back trouble, or contagious diseases through the exam.

The University Personnel Department pays the Health Center \$15 for each physical given. This money comes from an assessment on each department of the University's total payroll.

Goswick said the personnel department feels that they "save enough money in claims to warrant the money spent on the physicals."

John Honea of the personnel department said the physicals are useful to the prospective employee and to the current employees.

"We protect our employees by keeping out any contagious diseases and we have picked up useful information to prospec-

tive employees such as high blood pressure," he said.

Honea said there are around 1,000 workman's compensation claims per year at A&M. He said he does not feel that any claims are related to something that the Health Center might have missed in the exam.

One student employee of the Data Processing Center said she did not even get a cursory exam at the Health Center. The

day that she received her physical the Health Center was crowded and busy.

"When the doctor finally got to me, he signed my yellow sheet and said 'You didn't see me not examine you,'" she said.

Goswick said he was not aware that this had occurred.

"They should be right or not at all. I will do something about it," he said.

At one time people were asked to tell

their weight and height for them. "I have asked that they weight the person now," Dr. Goswick said.

The physicals are required of each employee for each separate employment. The only exception is for someone whose religious beliefs do not allow them to see a doctor. In this case, the person would release all responsibility and not receive workman's compensation in case of an accident, Honea said.



Battalion photo by Jan Williams

Migrant farmworkers panel

The status of Texas migrant farmers was the subject of a panel discussion sponsored Tuesday by The Committee for Awareness of Mexican-American Culture and Great Issues. Panelists were (left to right) Jose Gomez of the United

Farmworkers Union; Joaquin Avila, of the Mexican-American Legal Defense Educational Fund; State Sen. Carlos Truan, and Antonio Orendain of the Texas Farmworkers Union. Please see story, page 9.

Food services conducting study on cost of waste

By MARILYN BROWN

Aggies are supposed to feed the world, right?

Right. But first they've got to feed themselves. And as efficiently as possible.

The Department of Food Services is now doing a study on plate wastes in Sbsa, Duncan, and the Commons dining halls. The study will determine how much food is left on plates each day in the three dining halls.

Food services initiated the study to see how much we're losing in dollar amounts," said Lloyd Smith, assistant director of food services. It should be completed in two to three weeks.

Since the beginning of this semester, the edible plate wastes have been weighed after each meal. Three students and the food services dietician are carrying out the study as a food technology problems course. The weights will be related back to food costs.

"We hope the results will make people more conscious of eating what they take," Smith said. "In a

world short of food it's a waste to throw any away."

Smith said unserved leftovers are served "in one form or another" such as soups or stews.

At present plate wastes are sent down garbage disposals. In the past they were sold to individuals to feed livestock, and before they were used at the University swine center.

The pork industry discourages garbage feeding because of the "image of filth" it conveys to the public, said Thomas D. Tanksley, professor and Agricultural Extension Service swine specialist. He said he thinks the need for food will eventually outweigh the cooking energy and the work involved in recycling for swine feed.

Smith said he did not expect the handling of plate wastes to change as a result of the food services study. The main goal is for students to waste less and consider their capacities before they go back for seconds.

For the Aggies, that would be one more step toward feeding the world.