

THE BATTALION

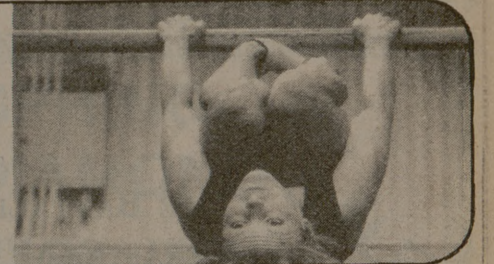
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A turn for the better

John McCarthy, a junior economics major from Houston, takes advantage of recent sunny weather to practice his skateboarding technique. McCarthy finds the sport challenging and a good excuse to get

outdoors. With the weather taking a "better turn," more and more students are seen participating in outdoor activities.

Battalion photo by Steve Lee

Energy producers shackled, prof says

By CHERYL HICKMAN

A chemical engineering professor from the University of Texas says there is no way the United States can be producing enough energy by 1985 to be self-sufficient.

"People have made rules that have shackled energy producers," said Dr. John McKetta, who spoke to an audience of about 60 Tuesday night in Rudder Tower. McKetta's talk was sponsored by Great Issues.

McKetta said restrictive laws set up by Congress and the Environmental Protection Agency must be changed. Environmental standards need to be revised so energy producers can find new sources of fuel, and energy users can get the most benefit out of the available resources, he said.

McKetta suggested that there must be a level of pollution that everyone can live comfortably with. He labeled this level of pollution as the "clean, odorless" level.

At this level there would be about 500 particles of pollution per million particles of air or water. McKetta said this is the approximate pollution level of Austin. He also said that if this was the allowable level of pollution "we could burn 94 percent of the coal in West Virginia" and still be within the 500 parts per million limit.

McKetta said many people still don't believe there is an energy crisis. He said they tend to measure the energy shortage by the amount of time they have to wait in line to buy gasoline.

McKetta blamed this misconception on the federal government saying President Carter and Congress are misinforming the American people that there is plenty of energy.

McKetta presented graphs showing a decline in U.S. oil production from 1973 to 1977. These graphs show that as of February 1, 1973, the U.S. was producing 10.97 million barrels of oil per day. By February 1, 1977, that figure had dropped to 9.63 million barrels per day.

Accordingly, the amount of imported oil increased from 5.86 million barrels per day in 1973 to 10.29 million barrels per day in 1977.

McKetta said importing oil is bad business because the U.S. cannot afford to buy the quantities of oil needed at the present cost of \$13 per barrel. He con-

tended that because the U.S. treasury doesn't have the money on hand they simply print more. This causes a fantastic inflation rate and a rapid devaluation of American currency on the foreign markets, McKetta said.

McKetta was a chairman of the National Energy Policy Committee under the Nixon Administration, and labels himself as a proponent of coal and nuclear power.

He said that in 1970 he recommended to Nixon that the production of coal be doubled and that 1000 nuclear reactors be in operation by the year 2000. Evidently Nixon agreed with this plan, but was unable to get any support from the American people, he said.

McKetta blamed "that great Nobel-Prize winning scientist Ralph Nader" for the lack of nuclear power development. Nader came out opposing nuclear energy because of the possible safety hazards involved. Because of Nader, he said, people withdrew the one time strong support they had shown for nuclear power.

McKetta was not optimistic about the future. He said if the Carter energy plan isn't drastically changed the U.S. won't be producing any more oil by 1985, but consumers will be using more. McKetta predicted that by 1983 the problem of energy could be bad enough to cause "a great social upheaval" and possibly a revolution.

University awarded \$37,800 for airport

Texas A&M University has been awarded a \$37,800 grant by the Federal Aviation Administration to finance completion of a master plan for Easterwood Airport, U.S. Rep. Olin E. (Tiger) Teague announced today.

An updated master plan is a prerequisite in any FAA consideration of request for federal funds for improvements at a local airport, noted Texas A&M officials.

A \$1.3 million expenditure has been proposed for the first phase of improvements at Easterwood, which is owned and operated by the university but serves Bryan, College Station and the surrounding area.

Texas A&M officials expressed belief

that the timely approval of the FAA grant for master planning was prompted by the recent show of financial support for Easterwood improvements by officials of Bryan, College Station and Brazos County.

First-phase improvements include leveling of the alternate runway, sealing of runway surfaces, additional ramp space and improved runway lighting.

The main item in the second phase will be extension of the instrument runway.

Approximately \$2.5 million will be required to cover costs for both phases, Texas A&M officials said. They anticipate that 80 percent of the funds will be provided by the FAA.

Hobby favors zero-based budgeting, 'sunset' law

Texas Lt. Gov. William P. (Bill) Hobby said Tuesday he is strongly in favor of zero-based budgeting and wants to see it continued.

Hobby spoke to approximately 100 Texas A&M University students and faculty at a 30-minute lunch-time session sponsored by the Political Forum Committee of the Memorial Student Center.

"Zero-based budgeting is a great deal more work and paper work," Hobby said. "But, I am firmly convinced the concept is working and saving the people of Texas money."

The way zero-based budgeting works is not too different from a menu in a restaurant, he said.

"On the one side you have the program that is budgeted and on the other is the cost involved in funding it. It makes it very easy to see what the thing costs, and

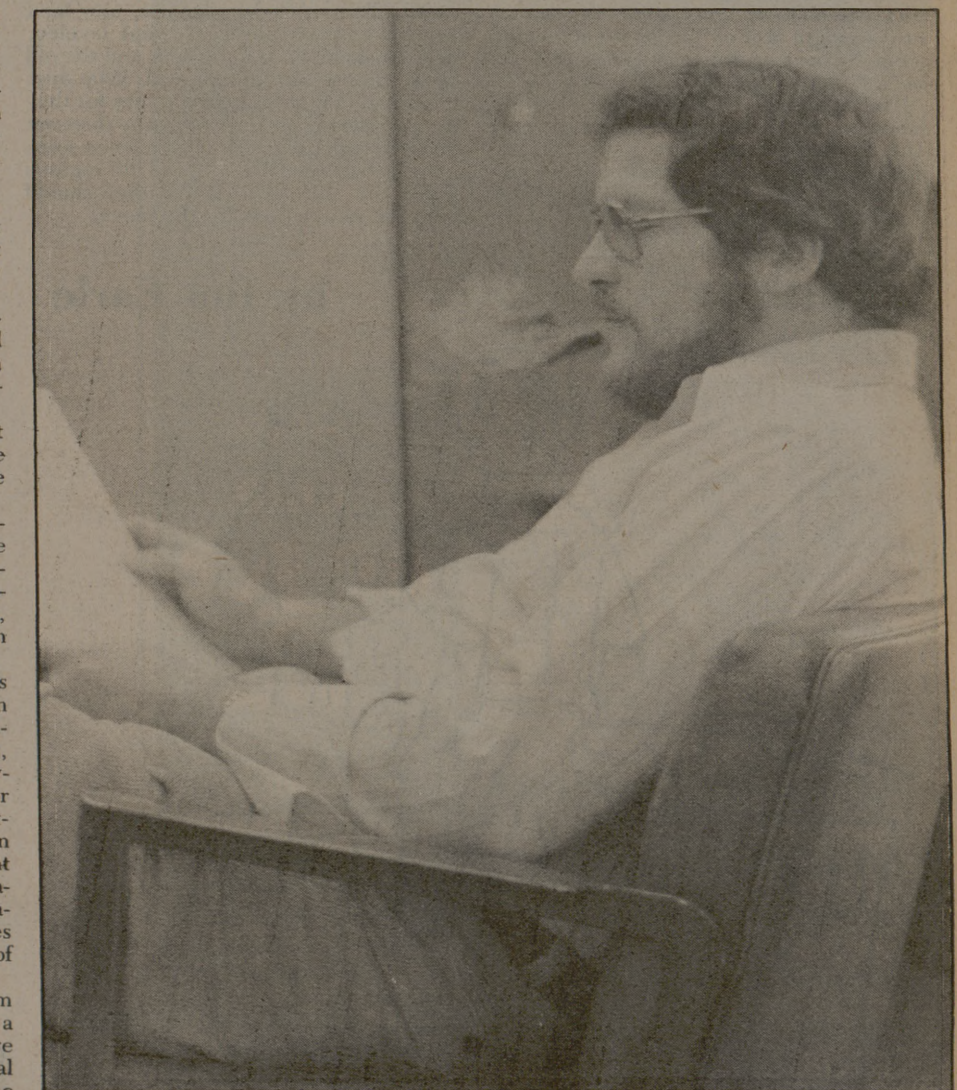
where we can cut costs. It really allows the legislators to be more aware."

On other subjects, Hobby was asked if he would like to see the topic of annual sessions for legislators come back up again.

"Annual sessions would be nice," he admitted. "But I think the people have told us enough times they don't want them. After all, they have voted them down the last four times they have been on the ballot. I think we've learned our lesson," he said.

The Lt. Gov. was asked his views on the new "sunset" law which has recently gone into effect. Under this law, the state mortician's board is being investigated.

"I believe the sunset law is a promising technique and a good way for us to possibly cut some corners. I think it has a bright future and I support its existence very strongly," he said.



No smoking in the library?

Wrong. There's a haven for those who enjoy the pleasure of tobacco and don't choose to chew. A smoking room is located in the southwest corner of the third floor of the Sterling Evans library. George Lenehan, a graduate educational psychology major, takes advantage of the "smokers only" study room. Battalion photo by David Kealey

Case transferred

GSSO lawsuit is before court after year of waiting

By GREG PROPPS

Just over a year ago, on Feb. 28, 1977, the Gay Student Services Organization (GSSO) filed suit in a federal district court against Texas A&M University, in an attempt to become a recognized student organization.

Now, after a year's grind through legal machinery, that suit is before the 5th federal circuit court of appeals in New Orleans. The case was officially transferred from Houston to New Orleans on Jan. 9, 1978, marking the latest development in the GSSO's nearly two-year effort to gain campus recognition.

Their fight began in April of 1976, after two representatives of the then newly formed organization were confronted by

three male students, while posing notices of the GSSO telephone hotline on University bulletin boards. One of the students reportedly brandished a switchblade, and the GSSO representatives were told to stop distributing their flyers and to remove any they had already posted.

Following this incident, the GSSO applied to Carolyn Adair, director of student activities, for official recognition as a student organization. This recognition would have assured the GSSO the right to distribute and post notices on University property. It would have also given them the right to bring speakers on gay lifestyles to the University, as well as provide a place to have the presentations. With official recognition goes the implied right to

have office space on campus. At present, the GSSO is operating out of a rented office space off campus.

Adair withheld a decision and passed the GSSO request on to Dr. John Koldus, vice president for student services. Koldus held their request under advisement for eight months, and then denied it on Nov. 29, 1976. In his letter of rejection, Koldus wrote "Homosexual conduct is illegal in Texas and therefore it would be most inappropriate for a state institution to officially support a student organization which is likely to excite, promote and result in acts contrary to and in violation of the penal code of the state of Texas."

Paragraph 68 of the Texas A&M University Regulations states that "Student or-

ganizations may be officially recognized when formed for purposes which are consistent with the philosophy and goals that have been developed for the creation and existence of Texas A&M University."

Feeling their constitutional rights had been violated by the rejection, three members of the GSSO, Michael Minton (past president), Keith Stewart, and Patricia Woodridge, filed the original suit in federal court in Houston. None of the three are currently enrolled at Texas A&M.

Named in that suit were Texas A&M University, John Koldus, Chancellor Jack K. Williams, executive vice president Clyde Freeman, and each of the Texas A&M regents.

There was no official decision at the district court level, as the case was dismissed by the court on procedural grounds on Nov. 2, 1977. On Nov. 29, 1977, the motion for appeal was filed.

Minton said that he expects to wait three to six months for a decision in the motion for appeal, or for a position on the docket for oral arguments.

The appellate court in New Orleans is reviewing only the legal procedures of the suit and not the actual issues. If the appellate court decides the procedures were inappropriate and there is a cause for action, it will send the case back to the Houston court for a decision on the original issue.

Minton pointed out that the GSSO is strictly a service organization. Its main function is to provide a referral for speakers on gay lifestyles to interested groups, and provide a professional counseling service to deal with gay-related problems or questions. There is also a telephone hotline through which interested persons can get in touch with the GSSO. At present the hotline is being moved to another location, but Minton expects it to be in operation within a few weeks. The GSSO does not sponsor parties or social functions of any type, he said.

Minton also said that although the term "gay" connotes homosexuality, it is also a political label referring to those who are willing to accept another person's sexual or affectual preference, whether it be heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, or asexual. As a political activist, a heterosexual or "straight" person can still be correctly termed a "gay," or can fight for gay liberation. Minton said that several of the 25 GSSO members are heterosexual.

(See GSSO, page 6)

Dean of Business Administration to take teaching position in fall

By MICHELLE SCUDDER

Dr. John E. Pearson, dean of business administration at Texas A&M University, will no longer serve as dean of the college, effective Sept. 1.

In an official letter to his colleagues, Dr. Pearson said, "Last October I initiated a conversation with President Miller about the type of business administration program he wanted, and possible organizational changes. That conversation was concluded Feb. 3 with the mutual agreement that I would no longer serve as dean effective Sept. 1."

Dr. Pearson is currently planning to remain on the faculty as a professor of management.

In an interview Thursday, Texas A&M President Jarvis E. Miller said, "Dr. Pearson had a heart attack last year. With the growth of the college's enrollment it looked like a big work load under those circumstances. We are looking for some real growth in that area so it looked like a change would be in order."

"We would like to see Dr. Pearson's experience and expertise utilized as a member of our faculty," President Miller said. "He is an excellent teacher."

In a separate interview Friday, Dr. Pearson said, "Although I had a heart attack last summer I have completely recovered and this is not a factor in my resignation." Dr. Pearson made no further comment on circumstances concerning his departure.

According to a University News Service press release, Dr. Miller and Vice President for Academic Affairs J.M. Prescott will be meeting soon with department heads in the College of Business Administration to outline a plan for selecting Dean Pearson's successor.

"We intend to seek a dean with national recognition to make the Texas A&M business program pre-eminent in the state," Dr. Miller said.

Dr. Pearson came to Texas A&M in 1963 as professor of business and director of the school of business administration. Because of enrollment increases and curricula expansion, the business administration school was awarded full college status in 1968, and Dr. Pearson was appointed dean.

"The College of Business has made some tremendous progress," Dr. Pearson said. "It has increased greatly in quantity but the biggest strides have been in quality."

"In 1963 the business school was least in academic standards according to the Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores. In 1974 the college was one of the top three of four according to the test scores," Dr. Pearson said.

"Our masters and doctoral students had better Graduate Enrollment Exam (GRE) scores than any of the other colleges," he said.

"According to a recent business magazine survey Texas A&M's business college is rated third in the South Central region of the U.S.," he said.

Dr. Pearson, who considers himself a student-oriented administrator, has received many student awards.

Among these are the Honors Award from the Accounting Society at Texas A&M and the Outstanding Administrator Award from the Business Administration Student Council, both in 1977. He also has received the Distinguished Service Award from the Memorial Student Center Council and Directorship in 1971.

Dr. Pearson has been active in business administration accreditation activities on a national level. He was appointed to the visitation panel of the American Association of Collegiate Schools of Business in 1972. Two years later he was named to that organization's masters accreditation committee. He also was appointed in 1974 to the executive committee of the Southern Business Administration Association, and currently serves that organization as vice president.