

THE BATTALION

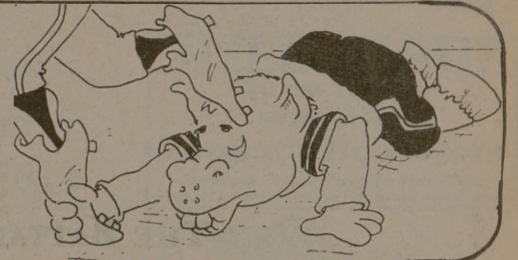
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Special weekend honors parents

By CONNIE BURKE

Parents overran the campus this weekend. Cars and campers packed the parking lots and some drivers were forced to park on the sidewalks or blocks away from the campus.

Cadets wearing red carnations were posing for pictures with smiling parents. Groups sat in the shade drinking beer. Girls with burned shoulders in sunbathers handed food from picnic baskets to their families.

One cadet held a little boy who was dressed in a Corps uniform like his own. The little boy plopped his head on his mother's shoulder, exhausted after watching the Fish Drill Team exhibition and the Corps Review.

While many of the events honored parents, some of them honored students for outstanding achievements.

The Thomas S. Gathright Awards were presented at the Student Government Parents' Day Program, Sunday. The top sophomore, junior and senior in each college were honored. Deans of the colleges selected the winners on the basis of the highest grade point ratios and involvement in the University.

Major awards for the Corps of Cadets are also presented at the Parents' Day program. The Gen. Bruno Hochmuth award for military achievements was awarded to Company D-2. The George J. Jouine Flag for scholastic excellence went to Squadron 12. The Gen. George F. Moore Award for the overall outstanding cadet was awarded to Company F-2.

The day's activities began at 7:30 a.m. with a flower pinning ceremony in the Corps dorm area and lasted into the evening with picnics and barbecues.

The School of Military Science also announced the following awards at the program:

Cadet Colonel of the Corps awards: Michael Gentry

Outstanding Major Unit Commander award: Steven Kolb

Outstanding Battalion award: Rodney Cochran

Outstanding Company-Squadron Commander award: Michael Macmanus

Outstanding Cadet Officer (Staff) award: Gene McAnelly

Outstanding Second Classman Cadet selected for Corps Commander: Robert Wensky

Outstanding Second Classman Cadet selected for Deputy Corps Commander: Scott Patton

Outstanding First Sergeant award: Jere Swartzell

Outstanding Freshman Cadet award: Billy Jones

Best drilled sophomore: Michael De La Carza

Best drilled freshman: Joel Malone

The President's award for the Battalion with the highest scholastic standing: Third Group, commanded by Lt. Col. Charles D. Nutt

Veterans of Foreign Wars ROTC awards to an outstanding ROTC Cadet in each service: Bryan Foy, Andrew Herrman and Edward Franza

Richard Hanes award presented to the newly designated advisor to the Fish Drill Team: Lloyd Walker

Around noon, the Ross Volunteers performed at Kyle Field. Their drill demonstrated excellent precision. The women's drill team, small in number but great in accuracy, performed next.

In Kyle Field, the Corps review and the Fish Drill Team exhibition was accompanied by the presentation of more awards:

Outstanding Color Award: First Brigade

Battered Boot award: Company P-2

Overall participation for March to the Brazos: Squadron 12

Parson's Mounted cavalry rode in its final review Sunday and transferred command to juniors. Members of cavalry began their ceremony by riding their horses around the field once and then again at a canter.

Next, the cavalry presented their fancy serpentine drill. The men rode their horses in spiral inwards and outwards. They also ran figure eights. After the seniors rode the horses, the junior members took the seniors' place to symbolize filling the senior positions.

Harry Wallace is the new commanding officer of Parson's Mounted Cavalry.

The Ross Volunteer Company awards ceremony ended the day's events.

The RV's are divided into three platoons according to height. There are the trees, the tallest members of the company; the meatballs, the medium height members; and the squats, the shortest members.

Outstanding member of the company: Peter Robredo

Outstanding member of the first platoon (the trees): Herbert Vanderberry

Outstanding member of the second platoon (the meatballs): Mark Tilton

Outstanding member of the third platoon (the squats): John Versteegen



Smoking 'fire'

Battalion photo by Ben Po

The Ohio Players presented their talents before a crowd in G. Rollie White Coliseum Friday night. The group played loud, funky

music — including their hit "Fire" — amid smoke and flashing lights. Comedian Larry Breezer opened the show.

Off-campus housing Apartment surplus forecast for fall

By PAM ABBE

"We took two surveys of apartments this school year, one during October and another in January and found there were vacancies in many apartments," Anderson said.

Anderson said the bulk of the lease-signing for next school term will take place during the summer. "Many students look for roommates first so they won't be stuck with an apartment and have no roommates to help pay the rent," she added.

The Hassle Free office, which handles off-campus housing, provides services to help students find apartments and roommates. "The students can come in between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday through

Friday and let us know what they need," Anderson said.

The office keeps cards on file of available housing and prospective roommates. Roommate preference cards indicate the student's personality type and what type of person they want to live with.

"We also do counseling if roommates are having problems getting along. Sometimes we encourage students to participate in a roommate swap in order to match up personalities," Anderson said.

During the summer a list of all the roommate cards is compiled and sent to

each student seeking a roommate. The lists are also handed out at orientation periods for freshmen and transfer students.

Another problem off-campus students face is living expenses and rising utility rates. "Out of the 74 larger apartment complexes only about 20 still pay all the electricity and other utilities," Anderson said.

"This could easily end up costing the students quite a lot of money if the aren't aware of the utility system, especially the younger students who haven't had to deal with utility companies before," Anderson said.

The Hassle Free office sponsors a Free University course in "How to Live on Less." "We teach students about wise buying techniques, decorating, utilities, and other ways to save money," Anderson said.

The housing office also trains Hassle Free representatives who are volunteers to work at the various apartment complexes. These volunteers are available to students who have problems with apartment management, maintenance or roommates.

"We put them through an intensive training session at the beginning of the fall semester and shorter back up sessions during the year," Anderson said.

Anderson encourages all students who are looking for off-campus housing next year to come to the Hassle Free office in the YMCA building and pick up a copy of the Survival Manual. The manual has maps, information about apartments, houses, duplexes, and mobile homes, and tips on finding roommates.

Robeck elected in school board run-off race

Bruce Robeck, 38, of 117 Berkley, was re-elected to Position 6 of the A&M Consolidated School Board in a run-off election on Saturday.

Robeck was opposed by Ann Jones, a homemaker, of 901 Glade.

Robeck was re-elected by a nine-vote margin.

Of a possible 1,981 votes, Robeck received 995, and Jones received 986.

Robeck is currently serving as president of the A&M Consolidated School Board, and is an associate professor of political science at Texas A&M University.

A run-off was necessary because neither Jones nor Robeck received 50 percent of the vote in the April 1 election.

Candidate waits tables to meet district voters

By ANDREA VALLS
Battalion Staff

Clearing dishes, wiping tables, and filling water glasses is a new method of "serving the public."

Chet Edwards, Democratic candidate for 6th Congressional District, catered to his constituency Friday at Ramada Inn as a busboy. Edwards also has served as a construction worker, a hospital aide, and a ranch-hand in recent months. "This is my way of meeting the people in my district and becoming familiar with their needs and their problems," said Edwards.

Although young, 26, Edwards said his age will allow him to better serve his district. "We need to elect 'em young and keep 'em there," he said.

Edwards found time between clearing tables to express his views on some of the campaign issues.

The policy Edwards advocates for the energy problem calls for (1.) encouraged production of domestic oil and gas; (2.) energy conservation; and (3.) the development of alternate energy sources, starting with coal and then planning ahead to the use of nuclear and solar energy. We need to develop these new technologies now because the energy crisis won't go away just because we don't like to think about it, Edwards said.

Edwards offered his views on the nation's farmer problems.

He said the country's future, as well as that of the farmers and ranchers, depends

on a fair, consistent policy that will prevent unreasonable surpluses and enable farmers to earn a decent living. He added the policy should encourage the preservation and growth of small farms to prevent American agriculture from becoming dominated by large impersonal corporations.

"Our farmers have a right to be upset. They have serious problems and several of these have been caused by the federal government," said Edwards. Congress needs to look at a long-range program for the farmers, he said. "It's not fair for farmers to feed and subsidize this nation for the prices they have to accept."

Turning to the recent controversy of the neutron-bomb, Edwards said that it was a mistake for the Carter administration to silence it with out getting something in return from the SALT talks.

"I'm not the candidate who pretends to have an answer in this race. There just aren't any simple answers," he said. He added that he would be limited, as would the five other Congressional candidates, because they would be Freshman Congressmen.

Edwards served as a Legislative Aide to Congressman Olin Teague in Washington, and as a district administrative assistant to Teague. Edwards said that this knowledge of the legislative process gave him an ability to deal with people. It also gave him an "open mind" to have a reasonable approach to issues and the problems of people in his district," he said.

More than 50 prizes awarded

Gambling, showgirls highlight casino

By KAREN CORNELISON

Would you bid \$71 million at an auction for a bicycle? You would if you had won that much in play money at the Resident Housing Association casino last Friday night. An evening of gambling was followed by an auction of more than 50 prizes donated by local merchants.

More than 2,000 people crowded into the casino at the Memorial Student Center to try their luck at games of chance. A \$2.50 ticket entitled each person to \$3,000 in play money and an evening of cards, dice, horseracing, and a floor show.

Brian Eck, casino chairman, said \$5,200 was collected from tickets and concessions.

"We have not figured our expenses, yet," Eck said.

"We cleared \$1,000 in advance ticket sales," said Bill Hill, ticket chairman and president of Hotard Hall.

Joe Nixon, RHA president, said that last year the RHA made about \$1,000 profit from casino. The money is used for RHA projects.

Winning money at casino was not difficult. Several people became "multi-millionaires" in one evening. "The house is favored (in the odds)," Nixon said, "but we make sure that everyone wins and has a good time."

Later in the evening some dealers were giving players 5-1 odds. The house ran out of money and had to issue certificates for millions of dollars.

Entertainment for the evening featured such acts as "Love Me Avenue," a rock group; the Kappa Pickers, who sang a few "hillbilly" tunes; and Kim Moore and Mala Farmer, better known as Maxine and Gertie, who sang such classics as "You're the Hangnail of My Life" accompanied by guitar and kazoo.

Kent Crank, recently voted as the "most wild and crazy guy" on campus, also entertained casino goers with an imitation of a chicken laying an egg and other antics.

"Casino is a good chance for everyone to get away from the routine of studying," Crank said. "People seem to be into the gambling and the entertainment."

All the entertainers were performing for free. Carolyn Brothers,



RHA casino girls do a can-can routine to "Staying Alive," by the Bee Gees, for the entertainment of the "gamblers." They were chosen from the 120

girls who assisted the dealers at RHA casino Friday night.

entertainment chairman, chose the acts from all those who responded to her newspaper ad looking for talent.

One of the most popular acts was a group of nine cancan girls. They drew a large crowd at all three performances.

Tim Wessel, a sophomore pre-med student and ventriloquist, introduced the acts with his "partner" Andy.

Most people who attended casino seemed to enjoy it, even those who lost all of their money.

"I think casino is worth the money to get in," said Phil Walters, a junior accounting major. "It's better than last year." Walters said this was the first time in three years he had won enough money to bid on something. He looked at the wad of bills he was holding and said, "I might have enough to buy a burger."

Items up for bid at the auction ranged from "burgers" and fish dinners to a bicycle and a television.

John Buckwalter and Bill Schlafer, both sophomores, accumulated \$15.4 million between them. They won most of it playing blackjack.

"We lost about one hand to every ten we played," Schlafer said. They had hoped to win the television, but the bidding went up to \$42 million.

"Definitely, we will be here next year," Schlafer said.

Phil Naughton, a blackjack dealer for casino, was not as positive about the evening.

"I still think they need a lot more work in organization," he said. "They run out of money every year." Naughton has worked at casino for five years. "The auction is not run very well," he said. "The

sound system is terrible."

The bicycle went for the most money — \$71 million. It was purchased by about 25 residents of Dunn Hall's first floor, organized by Tony Lagalant.

"We'll probably have some kind of decision between us to see who gets the bike," Lagalant said. "A lot of people put their money in towards the bike 'cause they couldn't buy anything with it by themselves."

It seems many people realized — too late — that the thousands of dollars they had won at casino would not be enough to win any of the prizes being auctioned. The crowd gathered before the auction block was constantly rained on by showers of pink and white casino money as people threw wads of it over the balcony or up in the air.