

THE BATTALION

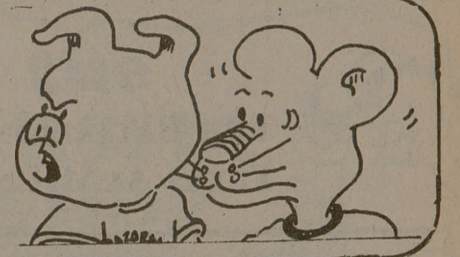
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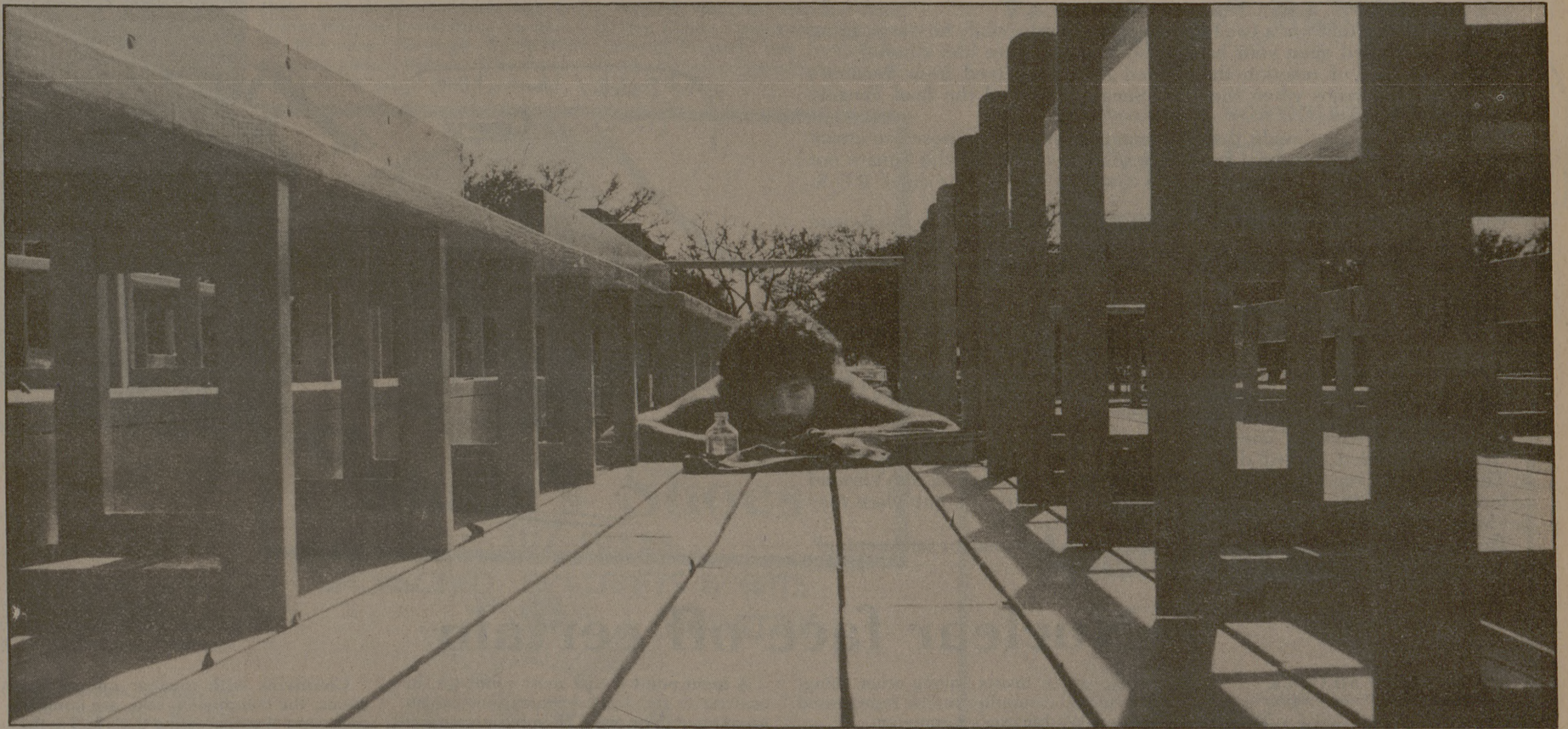
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Panamanian chief vowed intervention

United Press International
PANAMA CITY — Chief of State Gen. Omar Torrijos vowed to "destroy the canal" if U.S. troops ever invade Panama, as his army was poised to "intervene" in the U.S. Canal Zone had the Senate rejected the Panama Canal Treaty. Despite the stern tone of his statement, Torrijos appeared buoyant as he went on nationwide television minutes after the vote in Washington Tuesday. As Torrijos met with reporters later, 600 Panamanians celebrated the treaty's rejection in a downtown Panama City plaza while only blocks away 600 leftist students held a protest rally. "These treaties are going to bring a massacre and blood to our people," chanted the students, who want control of the canal now and not in 1999 as the treaty provides. Torrijos is nothing but a puppet of the garchy. Some Americans living in the Canal Zone expressed anger or resignation over the Senate vote, but others expressed relief because the treaty's adoption defused

fears of violent attacks on U.S. property. Torrijos told reporters there would have been trouble if the Senate had not approved the treaty or amended it in a way unacceptable to Panama. "The armed forces had decided that if the treaty had been rejected or not acceptable to Panama, they would have intervened in the Canal by Wednesday morning," he said. Torrijos also vowed Panama will destroy the strategic 51-mile canal if Washington ever tries to make use of a treaty amendment giving it the right to intervene militarily in Panama to keep the canal open. "If we are invaded, we will destroy the canal," he said. "We are capable of destroying it. The National Guard has the capability of destroying it and we don't intend to lose that capability." "Yes, the U.S. troops can intervene, but when they get here, they'll find that the canal has been destroyed. Therefore, their intervention would not be to defend the canal."



With the sun comes the sunbather, and finding a secluded place to lay out becomes a bit of a problem. Pat Collier, a junior chemical engineering major from Houston, found his place in the

sun at the drill field. With spring fever hitting so many Aggies, classes have become noticeably thinner these last few weeks.

Battalion photo by Jean Henkhaus

Program for gifted students questioned

By ANDREA VALLS
The Curriculum Committee of the A&M Consolidated School Board met Wednesday night to make a recommendation on whether to reinstate the Gifted and Talented Program for students. John Reager said the proposed program would face some obstacles. The major problem would be providing enough space in schools for special classrooms for the gifted students. Because of this limited space, Reager suggested "cluster grouping" the students. Under this method, approximately three to five above average students would be placed in a classroom with 20 to 25 average and below-average students. This would provide a heterogeneous atmosphere and a competitive incentive to learn, pointed out several first-grade teachers. Several teachers from South Knoll Elementary School supported the cluster

method. One parent said that other students would learn more from having a gifted child in the class. Although many people supported the proposed program, several parents expressed concern of a label being placed on children. One parent said that other programs in school would be sacrificed for the Gifted and Talented Program and that well-paid teachers should bring out the best in every student. Dr. H. R. Burnett, assistant superintendent of instruction, said the gifted and talented students will be selected on the basis of a test and teacher recommendations. A suggestion will be made to the Board of Trustees to begin the screening of students for the program after the first six weeks in first grade. The program will include elementary, middle and high school students.

Student senate elects Lane as new speaker

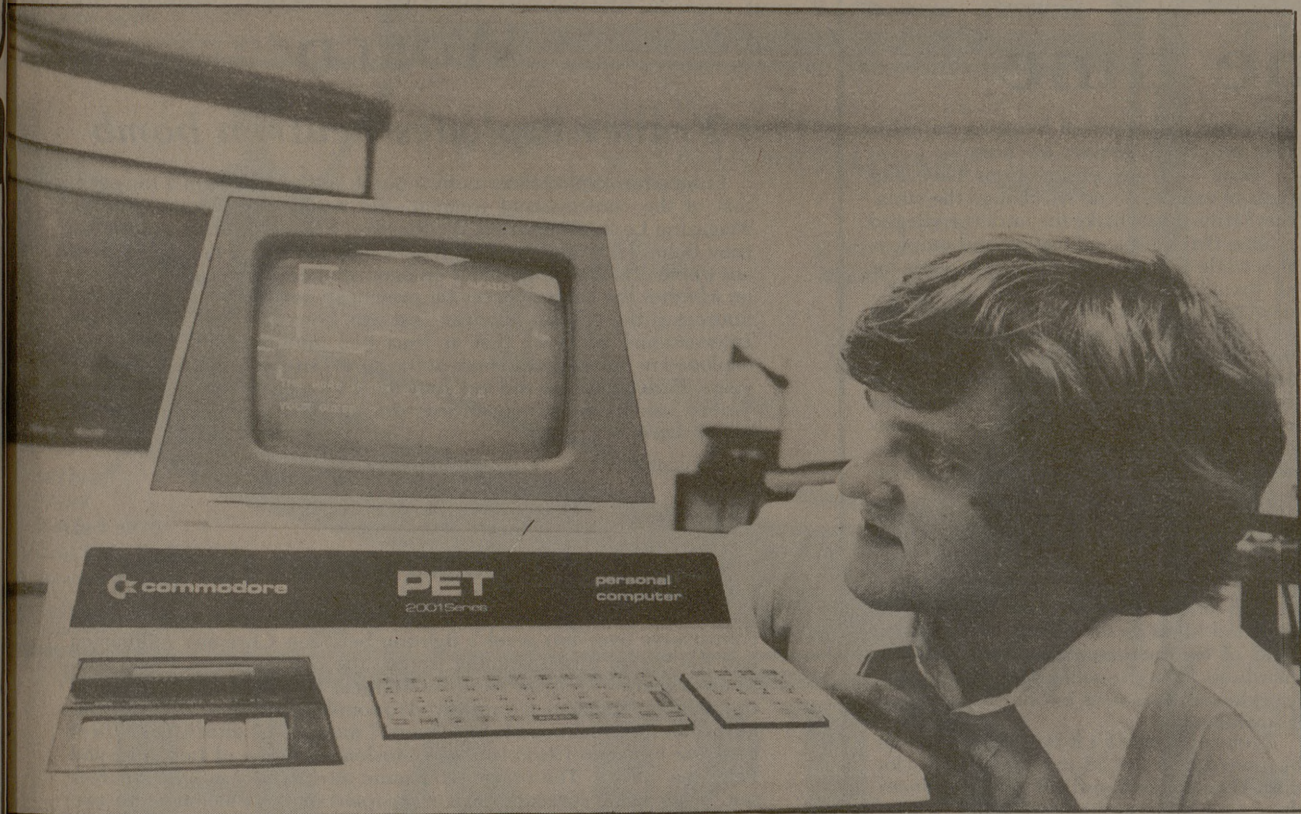
By ANDY WILLIAMS
Battalion Staff
Johnny Lane was elected speaker of the student senate at Wednesday night's meeting of the new senate. Campus elections were held April 5-7. Lane won on the first ballot with 34 votes. The three others who received votes were: Jeb Hensarling (20), Stan Stanfield (5), and Jerry Risner (1). Laura Brockman was elected speaker pro tempore of the senate with 46 votes. Jerry Risner received 6, Jeff Mason, 4, and Scott Farthing, 1.

Lane was president of the Texas A&M class of '79 this school year. Lane spoke against the use of parliamentary procedure by the speaker to sway the senate or delay its action. He also said he would work for a return to "respectability" for the senate in the eyes of the student body. He emphasized his knowledge of parliamentary procedure in his speech to the senate before the vote. Lane assumed the office from previous senate speaker Bobby Tucker just before the election of the speaker pro tempore. First readings were heard on seven bills. George Black introduced a bill which would classify students by the first two digits of their ID cards in drawing for football tickets. These digits are the last two numerals of the year the student entered Texas A&M. Students with the lowest numbers will be allowed to draw earliest. Another bill would require the athletic

department to show on closed circuit television any sporting event at which 100 students or more were denied seats because of a sell-out. Debate will be held on these bills at the May 2 senate meeting. The newly elected student body president and five vice presidents addressed the senate. Bobby Tucker, student body president, said he would be accepting applications for the next two weeks for appointive positions within student government. He said he was purposely "moving slowly" to give everyone who wished to a chance to apply. Kevin Patterson, vice president for student services, said that the problem of whether to continue the intra-campus shuttle bus would be a major issue before his committee next year. J.C. Colton, vice president for academic affairs, said that his committee would study Q-drop policies.



JOHN LANE



Anyone for Hangman?

John Fallisgaard, an undergraduate in electrical engineering plays a game of Hangman with one of the computers to be exhibited in Micro Expo '78 on Saturday. This particular model sells for around \$750. The Expo will feature speakers from all over

the United States to speak on a variety of topics concerning computers. Exhibits of computers for different applications will be on the 6th floor of Rudder Tower from 10-6 Saturday.

Battalion photo by Mara Anna Davis

Pre-registration begins Monday

By BETH DZIKOWSKI
Pre-registration for the fall semester at Texas A&M University will begin at 8 a.m. Monday and will continue through Friday afternoon. Fall class schedules are available at Heaton Hall (the old Exchange Store). Schedules will be available at the Rudder Tower information center after Friday. Registration for the first term of the summer session is set for June 6, and classes begin June 7. Summer class schedules also are available in Heaton Hall. There will be no pre-registration for summer school.

Only students currently enrolled for the 1978 spring semester will be allowed to pre-register next week, said Willis Ritchey, associate director of registration.

Each student must obtain a registration card packet at the office of the head of his major department. He will fill out a course

request card, which must be approved by an adviser in his department.

Once a student's course request card has been approved, he should go to the exhibit hall in Rudder Tower to complete the pre-registration process, Ritchey said.

No fees will be collected for the fall semester during pre-registration. The fiscal department will mail a bill to the student's permanent address in mid-July.

Fees must be paid by August. The fee receipt and class schedule will then be mailed to the student, Ritchey said.

Classes for the fall semester will begin August 28. Ritchey said he expects about 16,000 students to pre-register.

Students with physical disabilities who need help with any phase of pre-registration should contact the Texas Rehabilitation Commission at 845-4781. Pre-registration for these students is scheduled for today.

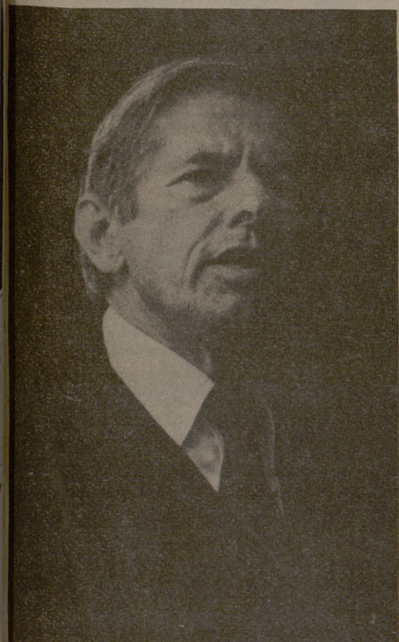
New constitution wins approval in small turnout

The revised student body constitution won approval Wednesday by 32 votes and goes into effect immediately. Only 170 Aggies cast ballots — 0.07 percent of the student body.

The new constitution created a new position. The student body president will select an executive vice president. The vice president, who must be approved by the student senate, will automatically assume the presidency if the office becomes vacant.

The speaker of the senate also has expanded duties. He will appoint and direct the new senate internal affairs committee. This committee will appoint students to fill vacancies in the senate. Under the old constitution, the president recommended students for empty senate seats.

The president and members of the senate must also meet the University Rules and Regulations grade requirements. Those standards state that a student officer must post 2.0 grade point ratio each semester.



JOHN C. CRAVEN

Provides food and energy Expert advises return to sea

By RENE' PEVOTO
Can man ultimately return to the ocean and make it his mode of life? Yes, according to Dr. John P. Craven, Dean of Marine Programs at the University of Hawaii. Craven spoke on the environment of oceans, Wednesday at the Rudder Tower. "The ocean is only a place and everything we do on land, we can do in the ocean," said Craven. He said it is only a question of being able to transform our culture back to a predominantly ocean culture. "We must have ocean law, ocean living, ocean art, ocean poetry and ocean music," said Craven. "Energy costs a lot more on land than it does on the ocean," Craven said. As expensive as energy is, we must change to a low energy society, he said. Craven said, the main debate between

researchers and environmentalists is that the ocean is a fragile environment in danger of dying and that we should stay away from it in order to preserve it. Researchers believe the ocean is a resource vital to our world and should be exploited for the benefit of our nation.

Nuclear fall-out and heavy metal deposits entering into the food chain would be the biggest problem if man were to make the ocean his permanent home, Craven said. He said that the ocean is capable of purifying light waste disposal. The ocean has good opportunity for food, shelter, and clothing, Craven added. Studies on an "Aquapolis," or "water city" are in progress at the University of Hawaii.

Craven said that although the ocean is a main source for food and energy, it should not be exploited for economical and social benefits.

Craven received his bachelor's degree at Cornell University, his master's from California Institute of Technology, and his doctorate from University of Iowa. He also earned a law degree at George Washington University.

Craven is an original member of the National Advisory Council on Oceans and Atmospheres. He also served on President Nixon's Special Advisory Committee on Marine Sciences and as past National President of the Marine Technology Society. Craven is also the Hawaii State Marine Affairs Coordinator, and Director of the Law of Sea Institute. As the chief scientist of the Special Projects Office at the United States Naval Bureau of Weapons, Craven received the "Distinguished Civilian Service Award" for the United States Department of Defense.

Search continues for Italy's ex-premier

United Press International
ROME — Officials searching for kidnapped ex-Premier Aldo Moro today denied a police report that a body had been found in an ice-covered lake where a purported Red Brigades communique said his corpse had been dumped.

An anonymous caller claiming to represent the Red Brigades said the political leader, kidnapped March 16, was "executed" only Wednesday and charged that the earlier message was "false."

Searchers said police jumped the gun on "traces" of something being found at the search site and mistakenly said that a decomposing corpse had been found in Duchess Lake and quoted search officials as denying it was Moro's.

"This is the Red Brigades," the anonymous caller told the Italian news agency ANSA in Rome today. "Communique No. 7 is false. Moro did not die as announced by Rome newspaper Il Mes-

saggero. But he was executed yesterday at 6 p.m. (noon EST). A communique will follow."

ANSA said it had no way of checking whether the message was genuine as the caller hung up immediately.

In Turin, a second message was delivered to ANSA saying that Moro would be freed after the release of "Communist prisoners."

The message, signed by the Red Brigades but not yet authenticated, said the government had exactly 48 hours to make up its mind.

There has been widespread speculation that Tuesday's communique saying Moro's body was in the mountain lake was false. Some of the speculation said Tuesday's communique was aimed at sending police on a wild goose chase while the Red Brigades took some action, such as moving the ex-premier from one hideout to another.