



Residents of Dunn Hall were under the impression that they had challenged residents of the north area dorms to a water fight. A letter to the editor from Dunn Hall residents prompted several men's dorms from the north side of campus to group and plan an attack on Dunn Wednesday night. So, Dunn residents, left, prepared to hold down the fort.

arming himself with buckets of water and water balloons. After a briefing from superiors, the stage was set for the battle. But the troops from the north had a few surprises for their challengers. With garbage cans containing dung, center, and a collection of rotten fruit. What followed was a confrontation that left the grounds around Dunn Hall

cluttered with debris, some of which was tracked inside the dorm. Residents walked away from the battle soaking wet and caked with mud and other material. At right, a few Dunn residents attempt to clean up after the fight. See the editorial on page 2.

Battalion photos by Steve Lee

# THE BATTALION

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**Students may pay for medicine**  
Rising costs may force the Beutel Health Center to charge students for medication that is now included in the \$15 health service fee. It is still unapproved, but change is in the wind. See page 4.  
Fire prevention at Texas A&M can be a hot issue. See page 7.  
Student senate gets its budget after debate and deletions. See page 6.

## Owens nomination stands; GOP county head resigns

By JAMIE AITKEN  
Battalion City Editor

A heated meeting of the Brazos County Republican Executive ended unexpectedly Wednesday with the resignation of County Chairman Dr. Charles Squire and the committee's refusal to reconsider the nomination of candidate W.R. "Bill" Owens for the office of sheriff.

The hastily called meeting was sought by Squire, who advised committee members that Owens had misled the nominating committee as to his qualifications for office during the nominating procedure Sept. 18.

The committee nominated Owens at that meeting for the Republican candidacy on a 4-1 vote.

In a notice to committee members Monday, Squire said Owens' remarks at the Sept. 18 meeting were either false or based on hearsay. He said one committee member considered changing his vote after learning of Squire's charges, and Squire called the meeting to reconsider Owens' nomination.

However, he met stiff opposition at the Wednesday meeting from two committee members who advised him that the meeting was in violation of the Open Meetings Law and that under parliamentary rules Owens' nomination cannot be revoked.

The committee members voted to adjourn the meeting before any action could be taken to reconsider Owens, despite Squire's protest that the meeting should proceed under the "rules of common sense."

Squire reminded the committee that today is the last day a candidate can be submitted for inclusion on the Nov. 7 ballot.

He said it was necessary to act on Owens' qualifications before the deadline expires and added that a rule of common sense should dictate that they accomplish the task during the meeting.

But committee member Dr. Paul Van Riper told the gathering that notice of the meeting was not posted in the County Clerk's office and that even under emergency conditions not enough prior notice was given.

Van Riper moved that the meeting be adjourned after hearing a second objection by committee member Richard Stadelmann. The motion carried.

Stadelmann said he had contacted the Secretary of State Election Division and was told that Owens could not be reconsidered for nomination.

Stadelmann said a spokesman with the office contended that Owens' nomination could not be revoked and that he must be certified as the party's nominee.

Squire has not certified Owens' nomination.

Stadelmann said he was also told that the party chairman did not have veto power to block a candidate's nomination. Squire said in his meeting notice to the committee that "the Chairman may use his veto power" to keep Owens off the ballot.

After the adjournment, Squire announced his resignation as county chairman and said he would contact co-chairman Annett McMullen concerning a replacement.

The committee member that Squire said wished to change his vote was not present at the meeting.

Owens' son Leo, a member of the executive committee, said in an interview after the meeting that Owens planned to take legal action to have his name placed on the November ballot. Leo Owens also said his father would sue for damages incurred and take action against Squire for slander.

Squire said Monday that Owens led committee members to believe he is presently a certified investigator, and that Owens unfairly charged sheriff's deputies with drinking on the job.

Owens responded that no license was needed at the time he practiced private investigation prior to 1954 and that his remarks concerning the deputies were in answer to loaded questions.

Squire said the issue of Owens' name appearing on the ballot is now up to officials with the party's state office in Austin, who are expected to decide on the question today.

## Grain endangered Striking clerks keep trains still

United Press International

Striking rail clerks — ignoring back-to-work orders — held the country's trains at a standstill again today, imperiling the nation's grain harvest, raising the spectre of widespread industrial layoffs and opening the prospect of government intervention.

At dawn today in the East, the situation remained virtually the same as Tuesday's first day of the expanded 2-month-old strike by the Brotherhood of Railway, Airline and Steamship Clerks against the Norfolk & Western Railway Co. The issues in that dispute involve job protection.

Labor Secretary Ray Marshall called a news conference for mid-morning for what he called a "major announcement" on the administration's efforts to restore service.

Marshall met throughout Tuesday with labor and railroad officials including clerks' president Fred Kroll, officials of the National Railway Labor Conference, and the United Transportation Union.

Industry sources said they expected Marshall to unveil a new plan to get BRAC and the N&W back to the bargaining table. Formal talks broke off last Thursday.

Much of the Northeast — including the Boston-New York-Washington corridor — was spared because those lines are owned by Amtrak or Conrail, the government-operated passenger and freight carriers.

Elsewhere, Amtrak said the situation remains virtually unchanged from Tuesday.

Where trains were moving — and they were moving almost normally on the West coast — supervisory personnel were running them. The Norfolk & Western runs trains as far west as Kansas City, Mo.

"The vast majority of freight is being held up," a spokesman for the American Association of Railroads said early today. "Within two weeks, if the strike continues on this scale," he said, "economic losses to the nation would represent 5.8 percent of the Gross National Product" — a multi-billion dollar impact.

The AAR said a two-week strike of this size would double unemployment — boosting it as high as 12 to 14 percent. About 350,000 railroad workers are directly affected by the walkout, but the ripple effect would prompt tens of thousands of layoffs. The automobile industry pointed out that production could halt by week's end if shipments do not resume.

General Motors Corp. and Ford Motor Co. officials said they already had cut back operations and laid off workers at some facilities where parts shipments had not arrived.

And right now, the AAR spokesman said, 70 percent of the grain movement in

the country has "stopped." Virtually all movement of industrial products — 70 percent of coal production — ground to a halt.

Chicago appeared to be the hardest hit city with tens of thousands of commuters forced to find other means of transportation. Mayor Michael Bilandic placed police on emergency standby to help move traffic. One commuter line, the Milwaukee Road, had resumed normal operations into Chicago, however.

As for court action, federal judges across the country granted railroad requests for new temporary restraining orders to get the clerks back to work. But the carriers "have reported difficulties in serving those notices on union chairmen in their areas," the AAR disclosed.

On Tuesday, several hours after the expanded strike was under way, Chief Justice Warren Burger gave the clerks further leeway, lifting an earlier injunction that had prevented picketing against other railroads that helped N&W financially during their strike, which has been going on since July 10.

## Israeli parliament to vote on accords

United Press International

JERUSALEM — Police carrying clubs guarded Israel's parliament today during the most momentous decision in the Jewish state's 30 year history, a vote to accept the Camp David accords that could lead to Israel's first treaty with an Arab nation.

The Knesset gathered to decide in one package vote whether to withdraw from the Sinai and Jewish settlements there in exchange for a peace treaty with Egypt and whether to accept the framework for peace on the West Bank of the Jordan River.

A yes vote backing Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin and the U.S.-sponsored accords appeared certain with polls showing that 90 of the 120 Knesset members would back the government.

The start of the debate on the accords was delayed 30 minutes because of a last-minute cabinet meeting called by Prime Minister Menachem Begin on whether Israel would have to make further territorial concessions, possibly in the occupied West Bank of Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

Police and border police reinforcements, armed with clubs and carrying shields, were sent to the Knesset in anticipation of demonstrations by ultra-nationalists who are against giving up settlements.

Roadblocks sealed off access to the modern Knesset building.

"To remove settlements is an unprecedented demand between two civilized countries in modern times," Moshe Arens, chairman of the powerful Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, said in kicking off the debate.

Begin emerged from the cabinet meeting smiling and appeared optimistic at the outcome of the debate.

"The Knesset will decide," Begin said. "The Knesset is king."

He said the session could run beyond midnight into Thursday. "What's the matter?" he joked. "Don't you have the patience to wait?"

"At Camp David we sat until four in the morning in that deluxe concentration camp."

## Food key to world power, expert says

By DIANE BLAKE  
Battalion Reporter

America's high food production has given it a strong potential for promoting peaceful world relations, a former U.S. Secretary of Agriculture said here Wednesday.

Dr. Clifford M. Hardin, who was secretary 1969-71, spoke at a Department of Agricultural Economics seminar.

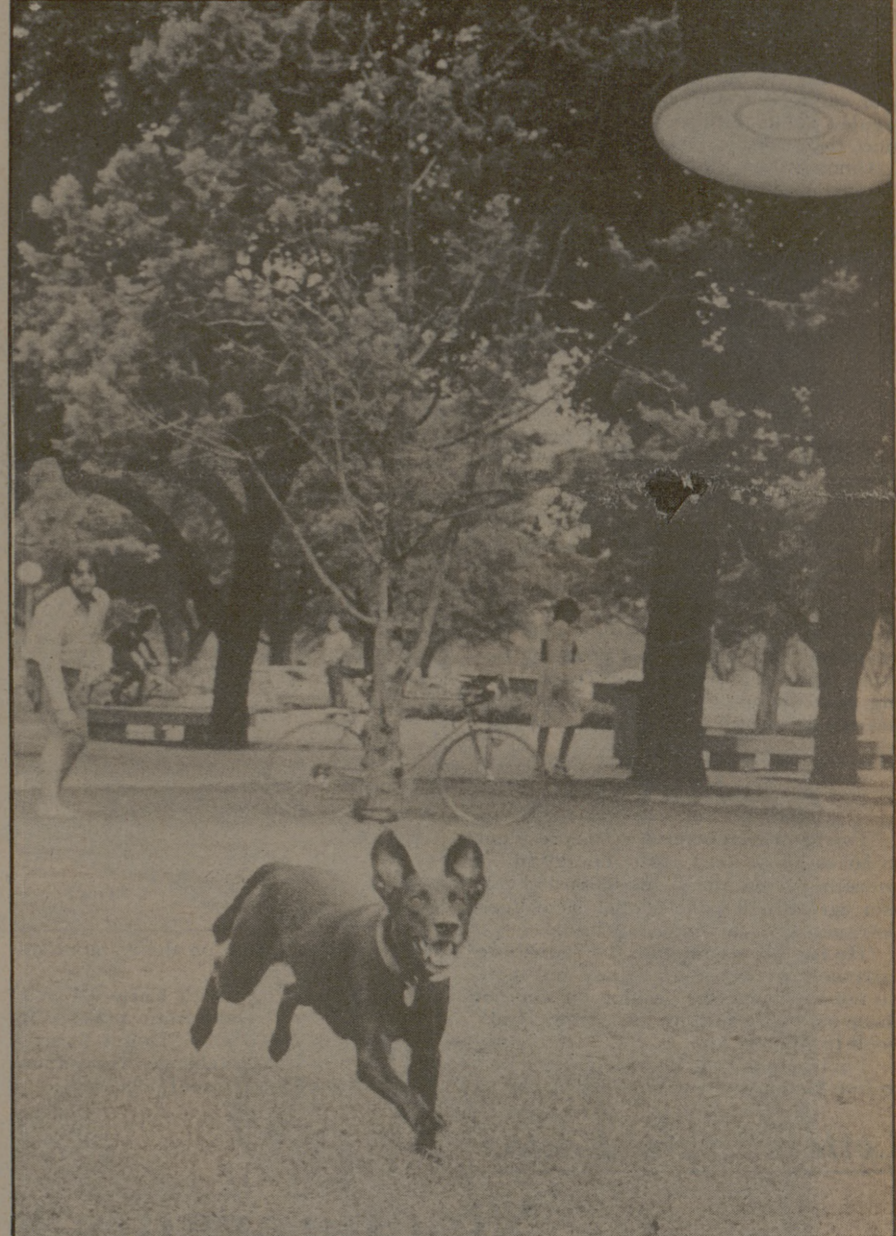
"We are in a position of strong leadership in world peace, not to use food as a gun like the OPEC nations did with oil, but to use it peacefully, subtly, and intelligently, he said.

"Food in the past four or five years has been in the spotlight like never before," Hardin said the problems of creating and maintaining prosperity for farmers and maximizing agricultural exports have been responsible for this increased focus on food.

"What happens to the weather in Texas or in the Midwest is noted with concern by people all over the world."

"The concern in this field is a top-level, front-burner issue," he said.

Although the reduction in numbers of farmers has decreased their political muscle to some extent, Hardin said that "high efficiency and high productivity have



'Heads up!' James Morris, a junior sociology major and "Doc" were playing frisbee in front of the Academic Building Wednesday. "Doc" is a female Labrador, German shepherd mix. Morris said he wets the dog's tongue every five throws or so from a wine bag because "it's the only way dogs have to cool off."

Battalion photo by Ed Cunniff

made this country the breadbasket of the world."

He predicted that individual agricultural production will continue to increase if restrictive agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration do not interfere.

Hardin said that worldwide commercial food demand has been rising at the rate of 5 percent a year for the last 20 years, but will increase to 6 or 7 percent.

This increase is due in part to population growth, he said, but the major force will be increasing affluence.

"As income rises there is an immediate demand for more and better food. People begin to climb the food ladder," he said.

People at the bottom of the food ladder eat mainly starches such as corn and rice. Then, as they can afford it, they demand vegetable oils, then proteins and finally luxury items such as fresh fruits and leafy vegetables out of season.

"This pattern of food preference spans all ethnic, regional, and economic backgrounds," Hardin said. He gave the example of Japan beginning to import more and more vegetable oils after World War II. Then the Japanese began demanding more proteins and have since continued to climb the food ladder.

Hardin sees the same rising demand in Russia, Mexico and the Middle East countries.

Hardin also predicted that "by the year 2000 the People's Republic of China could be our largest customer."

"With 750 million people, in the years ahead China must use whatever foreign exchange it's got to buy food."

"Malnutrition is rampant," he said. "The gap between the haves and have-nots is still large and rising in some areas."

But American farmers in the 1980s will be able to produce enough to meet the rising commercial demand.

"By the end of the 1980s, however, we will be straining production capabilities," he said.

Whether farmers can increase yields depends on research, land usage, the cost of energy and the general availability of water, Hardin said.

He said that the United States must teach developing countries better techniques of storing and distributing food to reduce spoilage.

Hardin serves as vice chairman of the board for the Ralston-Purina Corp.