

THE BATTALION

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Singing away

The Singing Cadets are performing in Dallas today. See page 7.
The student senate passed a budget, revising it to include restoration of funds for Muster and Parents' Day. See page 6.



"Sweet, sad, gentle — jazz"

The Preservation Hall Jazz Band of New Orleans performed in Rudder Auditorium Wednesday night as a special attraction of the Memorial Student Center Town Hall Committee. The musicians are Frank Demond, trombone; "Cie" Frazier, drums;

Percy G. Humphrey, trumpet; Allan Jaffee, tuba; Willie J. Humphrey Jr., clarinet; "Sing" Miller, piano; and Narvin Henry Kimball, banjo. See the review page 5.

Battalion photo by Paige Beasley

Prison head calls for media blackout

United Press International

HUNTSVILLE — A spokesman for the Texas Department of Corrections says a day-old news blackout is necessary to "ensure institutional order" but would not describe the "problems or potential for problems" that brought it about.

Prisoners in the 15 units that comprise the nation's largest prison system have staged work stoppages, hunger strikes and disturbances to focus attention on a class action suit concerning prisoners' rights, according to a prepared statement authorized by TDC Director W.J. Estelle, Jr.

A spokesman for the director Wednesday declined to comment on reports of a new hunger strike in the Ellis Unit in Huntsville.

Ron Taylor, Estelle's administrative assistant, said the director had "authorized" the news blackout Wednesday.

Taylor said the situation has "substantially diminished" by the beginning of the news blackout, but said he could not

comment on whether that was still the case today.

The state prison system has drawn national attention since its announcement Monday that prison officials would force-feed condemned murderer David Lee Powell of Austin rather than let him starve himself to death.

"We're force-feeding him again," Taylor said Wednesday. "We force-fed him Monday. We thought he would eat voluntarily from then on, but today he refused to take in solids. So, we are now force-feeding solids."

Taylor said Powell, who had refused food for two weeks, had been transferred from death row at the maximum security Ellis Unit to the hospital section at the Walls Unit in Huntsville.

Other inmates have been protesting conditions at various units, particularly Ellis, and have staged strikes in support of a federal suit alleging poor working conditions, denying constitutional rights, brutality and other institutional complaints.

Before the blackout, it had appeared that all inmates involved in a systemwide sitdown strike — except for eight at the

Ellis Unit — had returned to their cells. Taylor said all prisoners who participated in the five-day strike would be charged with failure to work.

But in his statement, Taylor declined to say exactly what the current situation was.

"The actions of inmates over the past several days to focus attention on the case in litigation, Ruiz v. Estelle, have been substantially diminished. While there remain problems and potential for problems, the situation appears to be easing and significantly improving."

"Throughout this time the department has attempted to show its concern for the public's right to know by actively responding to press inquiries," he said. "However, it is the department's feeling that our primary responsibility to ensure institutional order and the safety of inmates and staff has not been aided by our willingness to respond in detail to the various inquiries that have been made."

"Heretofore, the department will make no further statements regarding attempts by inmates to disrupt the programs and institutions until such a time that those actions have been curtailed."

Criticism forces revision of freshman dorm guarantee

By HARVEY LAAS

Battalion Reporter
Because of concern expressed by students, Ron Blatchley, director of student affairs, says, major changes will be made in the proposal to guarantee dorm space for incoming freshmen.

The original proposal would have guaranteed all freshmen a room on campus for one year. Under it, any freshman who accepted a room was to be told that he might have to move off campus after his freshman year.

Due to the opposition by students, Blatchley said the proposal would be changed in favor of modifying current policy.

Currently, freshmen receive 70 percent of the available space each fall. Blatchley indicated that giving freshmen about 85 percent of available space would be a reasonable compromise.

Blatchley and Ron Sasse, associate director of student affairs, spoke to about 50 Commons residents Tuesday night to explain their proposal for guaranteeing freshmen dorm space. After a short explanation by Blatchley the rest of the meeting was devoted to questions and suggestions by students.

Blatchley said the proposal was not a fixed policy change, but a means to discuss the freshmen housing situation.

Sasse had said previously that current policy neglects the needs of freshmen. He said freshmen who wish to be able to live on campus. He said many freshmen have a difficult time making the transition from high school to college, and that living on campus makes the change easier, because they do not have to worry about such things as apartment leases and shuttle bus routes.

A majority of the audience agreed there is a problem with lack of dorm space for freshmen. However, most students were concerned that dorms inhabited mainly by freshmen would lack the "role models" provided by upperclassmen.

One student said, "I came to Texas

A&M for its traditions and Aggie friendliness and upperclassmen are important for this."

Despite Blatchley's statements to the contrary, most students expressed the feeling that the proposal would lead to dorms made up almost entirely of freshmen. Roger Ferguson, Dunn Hall head resident, said, "Despite what you say, most students are afraid of all-freshmen dorms. And this could be due to a loss of faith because of 400 over-assignments made this fall."

Other students said they did not see a reasonable solution for determining which upperclassmen will live on campus. Blatchley said no method has been decided, although possibilities mentioned were a lottery, percentage of each class or a merit system based on need and grades.

The possibility of the University constructing more dorms was also raised. Blatchley said costs would make more dorms prohibitive. He said a study indi-

cated a new complex like the Commons would cost residents \$1,000 a semester.

Blatchley said he believed the Board of Regents will reject plans for any more dorms other than the two female dorms already scheduled for construction when they learn the cost. He said rents would be so high that the University runs the risk of being stuck with "white elephants" in which no one will live.

He said he expects the regents to reject the idea of building a 100-bed dorm for which a feasibility study is being conducted.

After listening to the students, Blatchley said, the proposal will definitely be revised.

Blatchley said they would be submitting whatever proposal they devised to Dr. John J. Koldus, vice president for student services, around Nov. 1.

The problem will be discussed with residents of the North dorm area Monday at 7:30 p.m. in lounge A-1 near Keathley, Fowler and Hughes.

Gays say law would start witch hunt

United Press International

SAN ANTONIO — A group of five national gay leaders, beginning a four-day publicity tour of Texas, says a proposed California law banning homosexuals from teaching school could be detrimental for heterosexuals.

The group, including former professional football player Dave Kopay and Troy Perry, author of "The Lord is My Shepherd, and He Knows I'm Gay," held a news conference Wednesday to gain support for its fund-raising tour of six Texas cities.

They are trying to raise \$50,000, half of which would be used to combat California's Briggs Amendment — also known as Proposition 6 — with the rest going to establish an Austin lobbying office for the Texas Gay Rights Task Force.

There are plenty of laws on the books if there is misconduct of teachers, whether

they are heterosexual or homosexual," said Del Martin, who has authored books on lesbianism and battered women. "This (Proposition 6) is the danger of the witch-hunt. Already the witch-hunt has started and it started with heterosexual teachers. All you have to do is point your finger and say, 'you're gay.' That kind of thing is as damaging to heterosexuals as to homosexuals."

The Californians maintained many conservatives in California, such as former Gov. Ronald Reagan and the major teacher groups, were opposing the Briggs Amendment because of its implications for false accusations against heterosexuals.

Kopay likened the California law to a football "cheap shot."

"When I played for the Washington Redskins, Coach (Vince) Lombardi had a play known as the 'bootsie play' to take care of

cheap shots," he said. "That's where you'd send 11 guys after the guy who committed the cheap shot. That's what John Briggs's amendment is — a cheap shot."

"If we lose in California, then it's going to slow us up 10 or 15 years," said Troy Perry, founder of the Metropolitan Community Churches which accepts homosexuals as active members.

Perry said the group hoped to raise \$1.2 million nationwide for television and other advertising to "educate" the public against such amendments as the one proposed in California.

Kathy Deitsch, moderator of the Texas Gay Task Force, said, "we believe we can expect a similar measure aimed at gays in the next Texas legislative session."

Deitsch said a bill was passed in the most recent session banning gay rights organizations from the state's college campuses.

Five conditions must be met for death to be labeled euthanasia, professor says

By BECKY DOBSON

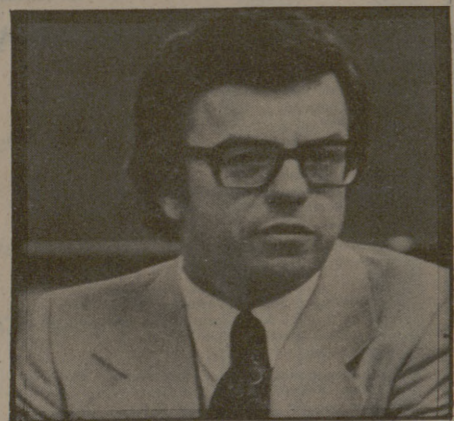
Battalion Reporter
While debate on the morality of euthanasia has increased recently, no one has yet adequately defined the word, Dr. Tom L. Beauchamp said at a colloquium Wednesday.

At the session, sponsored by Texas A&M University's college of Medicine and philosophy department, Beauchamp presented a paper he co-authored which challenges previous definitions as being deficient and offers an alternate one.

The assistant professor of philosophy at Georgetown University outlined five conditions in his paper entitled "What is Euthanasia?", which he said are necessary and sufficient to describe the concept of euthanasia.

The first condition that must be met involves the intention of the person causing the death. The term "killer" cannot be used because it infers malice. Rather, the person who inflicts death on another is referred to as the "person who 'causes' another's death."

The second condition that must exist involves the amount of suffering by a patient. The whole point of euthanasia, says



Dr. Tom L. Beauchamp

Beauchamp, is to relieve suffering, that is why it is considered a merciful action. Therefore, an instance of euthanasia occurs when there is good evidence that acute suffering or an irreversible state of coma is present. Beauchamp defines suffering as conscious pain, mental anguish or self-burdening.

Beauchamp's third requirement calls for an acceptable motive for causing death. The primary reason for causing death must be one of ceasing the suffering. There must also be good evidence on the part of the person who intends to relieve the suffering that he does not produce more suffering than would have prevailed had he never intervened.

Other requirements are that euthanasia be painless as well as merciful. Beauchamp contends that causing the death of a human being is euthanasia only if the means of death is as painless as possible, unless there were some other overriding reason for not choosing the least painful means.

The fifth and final condition Beauchamp requires excludes abortion. According to the previous conditions it would not be possible to distinguish an abortion case. Therefore death of the humanee nua, says Beauchamp, only if he is a non-fetal organism.

Beauchamp's paper contends that if all five conditions are satisfied, then the death is euthanasia. If any one condition is lacking, the death cannot accurately be called euthanasia.

Kid Stuff

Squealing piglets and fluffly lambs entertained hordes of bouncing youngsters Wednesday at the Children's Barnyard.

The annual event is sponsored by the Saddle and Sirlon Club and the Dairy Club and the Collegiate Horsemen's Association, all of Texas A&M University. It is an opportunity for kindergartners and first graders to see and touch several types of farm animals.

Children from College Station, Bryan and many surrounding school districts arrived on buses.

They toured the Horse, Swine, Dairy and Sheep and Goat Centers. They also paid a visit to the Texas A&M Creamery to consume ice cream donated by a local company.

At each animal center, the children were told about the animals housed there and how they are cared for. They were also allowed to hold and pet some of the animals.

Fritz Steiger, a Dairy Center employee, said when the children milked a cow, they wanted to know where the milk was coming from.

Children's Barnyard continues today from 8:30 a.m. until 3 p.m. When it ends, over 2,000 youngsters will have petted and held breeds of animals some of them had never seen before.



First graders from South knoll Elementary School in College Station observe and pet a goat at the Texas A&M University Sheep Center during the Saddle and Sirlon-sponsored Children's Barnyard. John Fisher, president of the club, is holding the goat.

Battalion photo by Martha Hollida