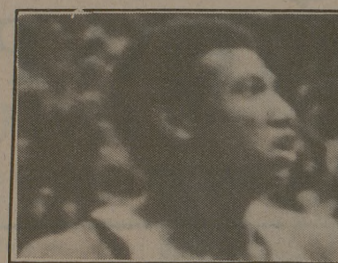


THE BATTALION

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Ag cagers win

The Aggie basketball team Monday night beat the Oral Roberts Titans, a team that Coach Shelby Metcalf says is "better than we are." The 85-79 victory gives the Ags a 4-1 pre-season record. See page 9.

Farmers gain entry to summit

United Press International
COLLEGE STATION — Texas Agriculture Commissioner Reagan Brown said he was disappointed more farmers were not participating in the National Farm Summit. The 200 farmers who brought tractors and trucks to protest their plight could not have agreed more.

The dissenting farmers, members of the American Agriculture Movement, crashed the opening day of the meeting on the Texas A&M University campus, entered an auditorium where former Treasury Secretary John Connally was speaking and cheered and whistled at remarks critical of the conference's first report on international trade.

Later in the day, the farmers had their own organizers decided to allow them to participate in the conference.

"We made every effort to get them involved and now that they are involved we think it's great," said Allen Paul, president of the Agriculture Council of America. "I think it ended up on a positive note. There are some strong feelings to here that need to be aired."

Gerald McCathern, an AAM leader here, spoke at an afternoon session on nutrition.

"I'd like for you people to understand these farmers may sound a little different from the people you are used to talking to. We are going broke whether your statistics show it or not. Our bank statements show it," he said.

The protesting farmers had contended that forces that prepared five reports presented to the conference were dominated by economists and businessmen, and had little input from farmers.

"This is a national farm conference and

we're farmers," said Jerome Friemel an AAM member from Hereford. "Ninety percent of the people here are not farmers, have never operated a farm, have never been forced to take a loss on a farm, and I'm not sure they are qualified to set the future direction when they don't understand the seriousness of the problem."

"Only 1 out of 10 people on these task forces are farmers and the farmers had absolutely no input. If they made any suggestions, they were overruled by a 9-1 margin."

The task force report on international trade advocated a free world market in which prices and supplies could adjust to world market conditions.

National Farmers Union President Tony Dechant drew applause from the protesting farmers, saying the task force report on international trade ignored the importance of prices for American farm products.

"And when it refers to them at all, it seems concerned principally about keeping prices low," Dechant said.

"The paper seems to assume that there is something fair, logical and perhaps even sacred about low grain prices in the world markets."

Brown concurred with the farmers on their non-involvement and said the \$90 registration fee and other expenses may have deterred some farmers.

"I'm a little disappointed that there are not more grass roots agriculture people here," he said. "I understand there are some farmers here and I hope they will have an opportunity to have some input."

The three-day meeting is sponsored by Texas A&M and the Agriculture Council of America.



Farmers from all over the United States came to Texas A&M to air their disapproval of National Farm Summit Conference presently being held on

campus. Monday, the farmers blocked several streets on campus. They were also lined up in the middle section of Wellborn Road.

Battalion photo by Becky Meyer

Plane lost in Rockies

United Press International
DENVER — Ground teams searched in a blizzard late Monday for a twin-engine plane with 22 persons aboard believed crashed in the Colorado Rockies on a flight from Steamboat Springs to Denver, federal officials said.

Gary Mucho of the National Transportation Safety Board in Denver said the pilot of Rocky Mountain Airlines Flight 217 had radioed to Stapleton International Airport in Denver that he was icing up and was returning to Steamboat Springs.

The twin-engine Otter had taken off from Steamboat Springs at 6:55 p.m. Monday with 19 passengers, two crew members and another person whose status was not immediately clear.

Mucho said officials reported receiving a transmission from an emergency locator transmitter, which planes carry to allow location in the event of a crash, about 15 miles east of Steamboat Springs.

Maj. Steve Blucher of the Colorado Civil Air Patrol said the Federal Aviation Administration had diverted an Air Force C-130 plane that was in the area and had picked up the E.L.T. signal tracking the signal to a point south of Walden, Colo. Monday night, then lost it.

Mucho said a main NTSB team from Washington, D.C., would arrive in Colorado Tuesday morning.

The Jackson County Sheriff's office, the Route County Sheriff's Department and the Colorado State Patrol said all available officers were searching in an area near Highway 14 south of Walden, Colo.

The FAA office in Denver said it lost radio contact with the plane shortly after it left Steamboat Springs, and the plane had been flying too low for radar contact.

Clean-up begins in blighted states

United Press International
Hotels opened free rooms for the homeless and Civil Defense workers who collected estimates of damages today to back Gov. Edwin Edwards' plan to help clean up an 8-mile strip of Bossier City flattened by a weekend storm.

The bodies have been recovered from Louisiana, Arkansas and Mississippi left by violent winds that raged through the area following a cold front.

Waters burst open homes, flattened fences and tossed cars and uprooted trees Sunday night.

Clean-up crews in Bossier City worked through cold Monday picking up the debris. Mayor Marvin Anding lifted a curfew Monday, but warned potential looters to stay away from the debris area.

"We're just not going to put up with anarchy and looting and hood-ism," he said.

Two arrests for looting were reported Sunday night.

John J. Bennett Johnston, D-La., said the city Monday and said victims probably will be eligible for low-interest disaster loans.

"I think we will have no difficulty in getting Bossier City designated as a federal disaster area," the senator said.

Damage tentatively was estimated at

\$100 million in the Bossier City area.

The tornadoes struck northeast Louisiana and south central Arkansas before dawn Sunday, spawned by a strong cold weather system mixing with unseasonably warm late autumn air. Temperatures dropped to freezing by dawn Monday compared with weekend temperatures near 70.

National Guardsmen, hurriedly scrounging parkas and heavy gloves to supplement their standard-issue tropical uniforms, moved into the area to help the clean-up and guard against looters.

"Nobody figured it'd be 32 degrees and they're predicting 28 degrees," said Maj. Gen. O.J. Daigle Jr. "So we're having to buy civilian-type clothing to put them in."

Some of the 1,500 homeless found shelter at several area motels, many offering empty rooms free-of-charge to tornado victims.

"We've got some victims here and we're putting up the National Guard," said a room clerk at the Chateau Motel Hotel in Shreveport.

Reservations at several small hotels destroyed or damaged were honored at the Shreveport Hilton Hotel.

In Bossier City, utility crews worked to restore power to an estimated 1,500 to 2,000 customers without service. Southwestern Electric Power Co. said some of its main transmission cables were blown away by the Bossier City storm.

Connally says farmers need help from U.S. to enter world market

By STEVE LEE
Battalion Campus Editor
Former Texas Gov. John Connally called for government to take a strong stand in helping the farmer to get his surplus commodities into the world's markets. Connally made the remarks in a speech to about 500 people at the National Farm Summit Monday in the Memorial Student Center.

"We can't get the attention of the American people and thus the Congress of the United States long enough to say that we have to have some resolution of how to deal with the surplus commodities that we produce in order to feed a hungry world," Connally said.

He emphasized that the world market today is a controlled market and not a free enterprise market. For this reason, he said, the farmer shouldn't assume the duty to overproduce and the United States, alone, shouldn't bear the responsibility to help feed the world.

"How is a Kansas wheat farmer or a Colorado livestock producer going to be able to negotiate with the Soviet Union? He can't," Connally said.

He said that although Americans want to be free of government intervention, the government owes the farmers and other citizens some assistance. Government needs to assure that "American commodities have a greater access to the markets of the world," Connally said.

"Instead of coming and telling us that

we can't build a 5-acre pond on our farm or ranch without our permission," he said, "the Congress of the United States ought to be concerning itself on how do they bring about international agreements with respect to the utilization of surplus commodities in this country and other countries of the world, in order to make them available to a hungry world."

Connally said that "it makes no sense" for the United States to feed the world when the country is not energy self-sufficient itself. He said that alternate forms of energy, such as nuclear power, coal and gas, are not being developed — energy that is vital to crop production.

He identified the post-World War II era as a beginning of America's trend toward foreign dependency. He said that at that time the United States had the best military, a full economic regime and the belief that resources would always be plentiful. And Americans became wasteful, Connally said.

This changed when Arab nations imposed the oil embargo in 1973, the former secretary of the treasury said.

"The Arab nations showed us and the rest of the industrial world that they could bring the industrialized nations of the world to its knees in 30 days," Connally said. "And up to this point, we have made no real effort to become more self-sufficient in the energy resources, and this is nothing short of criminal in this country."

Connally said the United States tries too hard to please other countries to win their respect. He said the only way for the country to gain respect is to become self-sufficient.

Please see related story page 5.

Connally also identified America's \$30 billion trade deficit last year as a major problem. He said the deficit, which is nearing another record \$30 billion figure, means the country is buying more than it is selling. This causes the American dollar to decrease in value on the world money market, he said.

Connally said that one reason for the deficit is that the United States has to buy 50 percent of its crude oil from other countries. However, he said the United States

fails to get more agricultural commodities into the market because of the devaluation of the dollar. He said these goods should be sold for twice what they receive now.

Aside from a stronger governmental stand, Connally called for more basic research and development in agriculture. He said the tendency is wrong for people to assume "there are no new horizons to conquer."

At the outset of his speech, Connally said he was glad the American Agriculture Movement (AAM) was present at the summit. Although he doesn't agree with all its demands, he said the AAM is helping to alert the public to problems facing the farmer. He said the movement will continue to play an important role as long as the problems are there.

'Good-ole-boy' to cut live album tonight

By LYLE LOVETT
Battalion Reporter
Austin-based singer-songwriter Good-ole-boy Mike Williams will record a live album tonight at a local club parlor.

He has performed there before and is returning to do the album because of the "great audience precipitation." Grins Beer Garden and Chili Parlor is located at 4410 College Main.

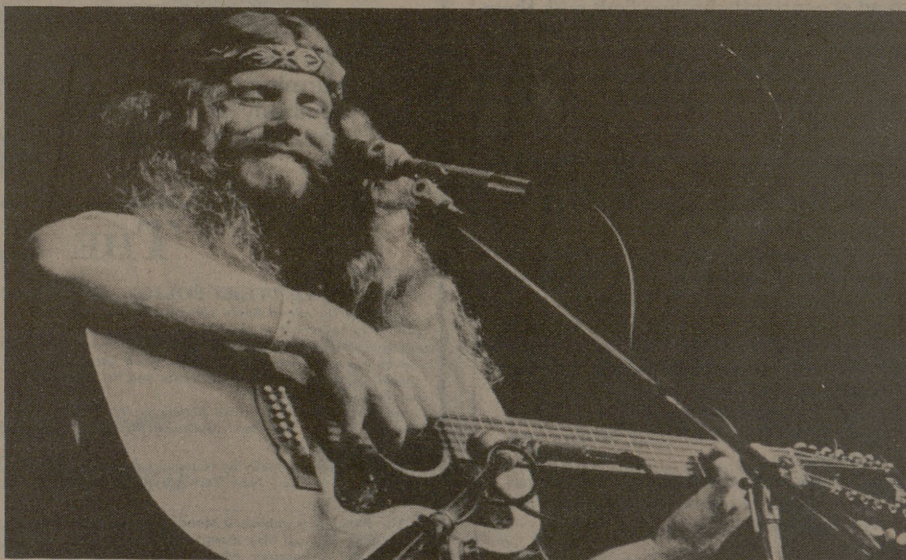
Williams has recorded two albums, both on Austin's B.F. Deal Records. In between songs on his first album, *The Radio Show*, also a live recording, Williams best describes his music:

"This gets rid of all that question about what we're doin', is it pop or jazz or folk or rock or country or whatever. It all boils down to either belly rubbin' music or butt bumpin' music. And right now we're gonna do a butt-bumpin' tune."

Williams is from North Carolina. He spent seven years in Denver and has been living in Texas "not long enough" — a little more than two years.

He presents himself onstage like an old friend passing through town with just enough time to tell some stories and sing a few songs, invariably making people smile in the process.

"I hardly ever get in any trouble in Texas," he says on another cut



Folk Singer Mike Williams

from *The Radio Show*, "cause I've found out how to get along with good-ole-boys."

"Just lay it on back. And the most important thing of all — any of you folks out there look kinda weird and get in a tight spot down in Texas, remember this — don't show any fear. Just walk right up, stick your hand out and say, *howdy*, and before the guy's had a chance to punch

you out or turn around and leave or whatever he's gonna do, he's already said, *Just fine, how are you?*"

"It's automatic. Then see, he's locked into the conversation. He's gotta be nice to you."

Williams said he is doing another album because he has some songs that "need recordin'" and said he wants another live album because of the "magic that happens during a

live performance."

"You can't replace that in the studio," he said.

The performance will start about 9 and will cost \$2.

If you come to Grins tonight you'll get a taste of Mike Williams. No, you probably haven't heard him on the radio, and you haven't seen him in G. Rollie White, and you sure haven't yelled "beat the hell outta anybody" during one of his performances. If you have, he's more than likely told you to be quiet.

Some musicians don't mind not being big-time. They just enjoy what they do and want other people to enjoy it too.

Williams gives a glimpse of his point of view in the liner notes to his first album:

"Life's finest adventures seem to happen when I am trying to do something else. Actually, we were trying to record a commercial for a feminine hygiene product, but the company turned it down because of a few missed licks. Dennis (a musician on the recording) pointed out that what we had was probably a record album. That's all right — last time I tried to cut a record album it came out sounding like a commercial for a feminine hygiene product. This business is so weird. I just take 'em as they come."

Consol lawyer says board said too much about firing

By DOUG GRAHAM
Battalion Staff
Some College Station citizens demanded explanations Monday night at the A&M Consolidated Independent School District board meeting.

They wanted to know why Superintendent Fred Hopson's contract had been terminated Nov. 20. The board said it has been silent to avoid lawsuits.

The termination cost the board \$54,400. Because his contract had been ended two years early, Hopson received one year's salary, \$34,400, and \$20,000 in damages. He was also given use of a car until he locates a new job and \$2,500 in relocation expenses.

The people wanted the board to elaborate on its earlier statement that the termination was due to "disagreements concerning educational policy and policy implementation."

The board did not address their request.

Board President Bruce Robeck said the board is following advice from its attorney, Jack Woods.

Woods said the board is trying to avoid possible lawsuits. While an explanation could be given without giving grounds for a lawsuit, he said, it is better to be silent.

Woods said that individual board members are not empowered to speak for the entire board. If one board member spoke, he alone would be liable.

The board could give an explanation, Woods said, if the explanation were given in resolution form.

But Woods still said he does not favor speaking. "If I had been sitting on the board and listening to my advice, my advice would be to talk even less than they (the board) have talked."

The silence decision was both legal and political advice, he said. Woods added that, in fact, he was acting more as a political counsel.

He said an explanation would have started reactions that would have divided the board as each man tried to defend his

decision. When the board operates as one, Woods said he can represent all of its members.

If it doesn't, then each man would stand alone.

But taxpayers will have their say, he said. "Some citizens are going to be angry about the position we took. They have a recourse. And that recourse is the ballot box."

The primary concern, said Woods, is to avoid legal problems. He said the word "termination" for ending the contract was used because it was deliberately vague.

For instance, "termination" does not carry the connotation of "fired" or "canned."

The board also approved a federal grant application and listened to a presentation about landscaping and playgrounds.

The \$153,648 grant is a Head Start Child Development grant for both Bryan and College Station.

The HEW program is a full-day program for 75 preschool children in the A&M Consolidated School District. The Bryan program is an eight-week summer session involving 275 children.

The board watched a slide demonstration of new concepts in playgrounds. Modern playgrounds, the board heard, must be designed with safety and child development in mind. Different equipment encourages development of different motor skills.

A child-oriented modular playground was presented that could cost around \$17,000.

Conventional playgrounds cost \$20,000 or more, said representatives of the College Hills Elementary School Parent Teachers Organization. They said the PTO has been working for several years to raise money for a playground, but are far short of the necessary funds.

Robeck said the money may be available in unused building or equipment funds, and the board voted to look into the matter at the next meeting.