

# THE BATTALION

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## Short course for would-be politicians: Beginning Campaigning 101

The League of Women Voters explained guidelines for a successful political campaign at a forum in Bryan Saturday. They

gave tips on campaign staff organization, filing reports for the government, advertising and poll-watching. See pages 6 and 7.

## Residents object to room checks

By SALLY DREYFUS  
Battalion Reporter

When Ken Pfeil returned to his dorm after the Christmas holidays, he found a letter informing him that a routine maintenance check had been done by area staff and a street sign had been found in his

room. The letter was from Ron Blatchley, acting director of student affairs and asked for the student's voluntary assistance in returning the stolen sign.

Pfeil, along with 150 other students, was asked to return a sign to his resident advisor, commanding officer or area office — questions asked.

The letter was left in the students' rooms, Blatchley said, because he wanted to assist all governmental agencies in obtaining their rightful property, and he didn't want any Aggies to be arrested for possession of stolen signs.

"I don't believe they have a right to check our room without our being there," Pfeil said.

Blatchley said, "We have a right and a responsibility to confiscate stolen property. We are in charge of operating state dorms and we are charged with operating the residence halls."

According to the Texas A&M University Residence Hall Staff Manual, a student's room can't be entered by a staff member unless an emergency exists or is believed to exist.

"An invitation is extended by one or more of the room's occupants and the staff member has cause to believe a violation of university rules and regulations is occurring."

"Entry is necessary to provide rooming and maintenance."

"If a room is not the student's room at the end of the semester," said Ron Sasse, assistant director of student affairs for housing, "the student isn't paying rent but can still stay there. That's why when we interim housing people are charged," Billy West, a Mosing Hall residence advisor, "I was upset that they came into my

room. It's none of their business to go in and look around at what I've got. I feel like as long as I'm living there it's my room."

Sasse said, "We do a lot more than we have to. We treat it as an individual's abode, but at the same time it's state property."

West feels, as other students do, that "the maintenance deal was just a guise to look for signs."

Sasse said, "We did go in for maintenance. There wasn't a pretense. We surveyed the rooms (for maintenance) and if we saw a sign, we left the letter."

Some resident advisers have their own feelings on the subject. They said they felt they should have been told about the sign situation so they could inform the people in their halls.

"The guys felt maintenance or staff could search their rooms without their knowing about it," said Glenn Rex, an RA in Davis-Gary. "They didn't tell me about it and the guys got kind of mad. Like I let them down."

Assistant North Area Coordinator, Paul Henry said, "The timing was bad. We couldn't inform the students ahead of time. We do tell the RA's to tell people ahead if possible."

Many students who received letters about the signs are upset. Many feel as though their privacy was violated.

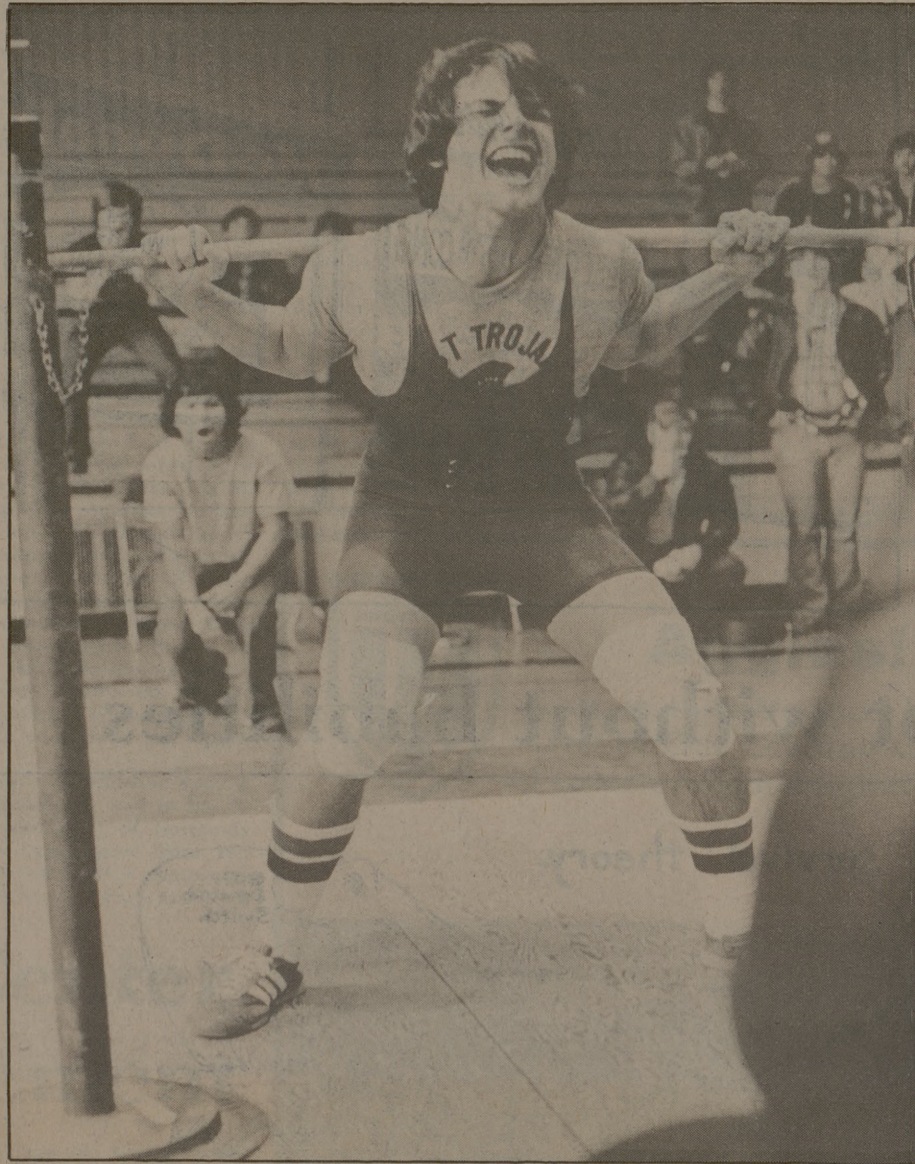
One student, Mary Pat Scroggins said, "Where is the limit drawn as to how much that room belongs to me?"

According to Carol Zeigler, District Engineer for State Department of Highways and Public Transportation, 138 signs were replaced in 1978 in Brazos County because of vandalism, at an average cost of \$25.

"Signs that are stolen are there for a very important reason, so for a safety purpose we need the signs," Zeigler said.

Graduating seniors have a tendency to steal highway signs that have their graduation year on them, a Department of Highways and Public Transportation official said.

"Last year we had to replace the Highway 78 sign quite a few times," he said.



Battalion photo by Lee Roy Leschper Jr.

### The thrill of victory

David Mynarcik shouts encouragement to himself while lifting 462 pounds of dead weight during Saturday's Texas Teenage Powerlifting Championship. Mynarcik, a 17-year-old, 147-pound native of West, Texas, won the 148-pound class championship. The championship will be featured in the Battalion's weekly magazine Focus this Thursday.

## Project to be completed next spring

# New married student complex approved

By CATHY TERRELL  
Battalion Reporter

A new married student apartment complex has been approved by the Texas A&M University Board of Regents, in part to replace the World War II army barracks now housing the couples.

The project was also approved Friday by the Texas College Coordinating Board. The 88-unit project will cost slightly more than \$3 million.

The new complex, designed by Robert Boyce, architect for Texas A&M's planning division, will require low maintenance and be energy efficient.

There will be either 10 or 11 buildings of eight apartments in each, according to the bid costs received, Boyce said. Each apartment will be identical, with a bathroom, kitchen and two large windows.

Every apartment will be "furnished" with six movable furniture units designed by Boyce.

There will be storage, bookcase and desk units. Space on the back of some

units will be covered with synthetic carpet so that pictures may be hung on them. Units will be roughly six feet tall and four feet wide.

"This has never been tried before," Boyce said. "I expect scrutiny from other universities because this does reduce some building costs, such as wall and partition costs."

"The flexibility of these apartments is unique; it's hard to debate it. The couple can arrange the units however they see fit. The units will be on piano casters and may be pushed into a study, sleeping or entertainment arrangement."

Boyce said he thought this was a very feasible lifestyle for people who don't like to be confined to one interior.

The apartments' front windows will face the direction of the prevailing wind. The front window, which is about 16 feet long, will open across the bottom. The opposite window can be opened from the top or bottom for increased ventilation.

Boyce developed a model room with

prototypes of the mobile units which the Board of Regents viewed before approving the plan.

Bids will open on the construction Feb. 27. Completion is expected within a year, meaning they should be finished in spring of 1980, Boyce said.

Rent for the apartments will be decided by the Board of Regents.

The new complex is part of a plan that has been under consideration for at least a decade, said Ken Nicolas, manager of the married student housing. The complex was needed to house students displaced because of the destruction of some College View Apartments housing married couples.

College View Apartments is the name given to converted military barracks brought to Texas A&M in eight sections from air bases in Texas and reconstructed in 1946.

The barracks were first used by returning war veterans and their families and have been housing married couples ever since. "They have served their purpose a

thousandfold," Nicolas said, but their time is over.

"The barracks were only built as temporary buildings and had an expected life span of three years. They are potentially hazardous because they have the original plumbing and wiring and they are suffering from dry rot and termites."

The barracks have been taken down at a rate of four buildings per year for the past five years. Of the original 409 apartments, 192 remain.

Nicolas said there are eight vacancies this month in College View, but that the barracks are still popular with some students because of the price. Rent for a two-bedroom furnished apartment is \$93 a month.

"Some students, after looking at the barracks, come back in the office, throw the key down disgustedly and leave," Nicolas admitted, "but many others decide that for the low rent it's not too bad. But their condition is so deteriorated that they really have to go. If there was a fire, I don't know how long it would be before the whole complex would be burned."

## Taiwan Ags 'hurt' by recognition

By MERIL EDWARDS  
Battalion Reporter

Many of the approximately 100 Taiwanese students attending Texas A&M University expressed anger and hurt at President Carter's decision to normalize relations with mainland China.

"Some were quite angry and others were hurt," said Corkey Sandel, International Admission advisor. "Most of them were hurt, though. It was a blow to their national pride, a rejection by an ally and friend. They considered America number one and felt a real closeness."

One of the students who talked with Sandel was Po-Lin Chin, 27, president of the Chinese Students Association, a social organization on campus.

"I was more hurt than angry at Carter's decision," Chin said. "He showed little concern for the well-being and rightful freedoms of the 17 million people living in Taiwan."

The United States and China recognized each other and established diplomatic relations Jan. 1. At the same time, the United States terminated diplomatic relations with Taiwan.

A number of Texas A&M Taiwanese students participated in a peaceful demonstration against Carter's decision at Manor East Mall in Bryan over the Christmas holidays.

Chin said he does not know of any other planned activities or demonstrations in the area of campus.

Chin said the people of Taiwan knew something was going to happen, but did not expect it this way, nor so quickly.

"For seven years Nixon and Ford were negotiating with China," Chin said. "For some reason they could not come to terms. Why Carter, why now, I do not know for sure. The conditions materialized, I suppose."

Chin said he does not know what will happen now. "We'll keep buying weapons from the United States as long as possible. Since we are not officially recognized anymore, we can only hope the agreements made will be carried out."

Chin said his family in Taiwan is fine. "I've received letters and phone calls from home. They are good as usual. They are not afraid and neither am I."

Sandel said many of the Taiwanese students were concerned about their status in the states.

"A&M has not heard anything official," he said. "I called the Immigration and Naturalization Service in San Antonio and they told me there would be no immediate change."

Sandel said students were concerned about passport revalidation and visa approval.

Chin said he does not know if any problems will arise over his passport revalidation.

"There will not longer be an American consulate in Taiwan to approve their student visas," he said. "They will have to go elsewhere to have them approved. There are some of the hazy areas that will have to be worked out."

The majority of Taiwanese students at A&M are in graduate programs. Sandel said they tend towards chemical engineering and chemistry.

Chin is a graduate student in industrial engineering. "I see no immediate change in plans," Chin said. "If all goes well, I will finish my program in one and one-half years."

"The Chinese are often better than Americans in math, science and physics," Sandel said. "Their education in Taiwan stresses these areas."

"We have a system of education here

that the Taiwanese and others are willing to buy," Sandel said. "Education is an exportable product. Our best way to help our best foreign aid policy, is to educate their people."

If Chin gets a job after graduation, he said he will stay in the United States. "There is a good working and educational environment here," Chin said. "I would like to work here, at least for a few years. It is easier to get a job in Taiwan if you have a couple of years experience in your field."

"A large percentage of the Taiwanese students remain in the United States," Sandel said. "Many seek immigrant status. The standard of living here is better, and the job market is good. It is hard for them to find jobs at home."

## Festivities begin Aggies' Ram year

Sunday marked the beginning of the Chinese New Year. The "Year of the Ram," which promises prosperity and an easy life, has begun.

The Texas A&M University Chinese Students' Association sponsored a New Year's Eve celebration dinner Saturday in the Memorial Student Center.

The Free China Night was open to all. The program billed the dinner "a symbol of friendship and freedom for over 30 years. Let's keep it that way."

Guests were encouraged to come early to see a picture exhibition, a culture and antique display and an arts and crafts sale organized by the Chinese students.

In addition to the display, the Chinese students prepared and served the meal, which included egg rolls, sweet and sour pork, pepper steak, fried rice and Chinese style salad.

After dinner, the show began. First, a student wearing a large smiling mask performed the heavenly God blessing, which bestowed a blessing to all for the coming year.

Next, an all-male group sang several Chinese folk songs.

They were followed by seven members of the Austin Kung Fu Club who demonstrated the self-defense moves as an art of strength and beauty and one of martial techniques as well.

The leader of the group split wood blocks and bricks with his fist and also with a kick.

Skills of the brush pen were evidenced by the time and precision put into a Chinese painting and calligraphy demonstration. The work was accompanied by a Chinese instrumental melody.

Some of the women in the Chinese Student's Association modeled Chinese dressing in the different historical periods from the Chou dynasty to the present. While modeling the costumes, they performed some classical dances.

As a finale, the students who organized the Free China Night invited those who knew the words to the Chinese "Happy New Year" to sing along and clap their hands.

Profits from the dinner will go to help Vietnam refugees.



Battalion photos by Kayce Glass

'Haaaaaaiiiii Yaaaaaaahhh'

James Wang prepares for his kick, left, during the Kung-Fu demonstration at the Free China Night

Saturday. Displaying incredible speed, he then executes his kick breaking one cement block. Wang

then broke two cement blocks stacked together. Please see the related story this page.