

New student federation joined last semester

A&M quit old group after mailouts, report

By DILLARD STONE
Battalion Reporter

Relying mainly on Jeb Hensarling's report to the student senate of the United States Student Association (USSA) mailouts, Texas A&M university student senators last semester voted to resign the University's membership in USSA, said Beall, vice president for external affairs.

At the same time, the senate decided to join Hensarling's new American Student Federation.

Senators relied almost exclusively on Hensarling's report on a summer conference in Boulder, Colo. At the conference, two established national student organizations, the National Student Lobby and the National Student Association, merged to form the USSA.

However, Beall said, as vice president for external affairs, he was privy to a broader base of information.

Beall is also president of the Texas Student Association. By listening to

reports from other TSA member schools, and through his own experience with NSA and NSL, Beall said Hensarling's negative evaluation of USSA was accurate.

"I'd seen both organizations, dealt with their officers, seen their ideology and Jeb's evaluation covered the issues just about the way they were," he said.

Hensarling's senate reports on the USSA conference spoke of delayed meetings, inefficiency, virtual dictatorship and a preoccupation with social issues.

Hensarling and Beall both felt USSA's concentration on social matters is inconsistent with Texas A&M's philosophy regarding the role of a national student organization.

Although Texas A&M was a member of the NSL for about five years, Beall said, student government had always been wary of NSA because of its involvement in social issues outside of the educational spectrum.

When the two groups merged, Beall said, any singular, preferential aspects of NSL were swallowed by NSA's preoccupation with social issues.

"We sent delegates to the Boulder conference to oppose the merger," Beall said. "Apparently they made little headway, mainly because they'd been working toward merger for quite a while."

Frank Jackalone, national chairperson of USSA, said he wished USSA members would try to reform

the organization from within, rather than forming a splinter group.

Beall acknowledged that Texas A&M was taking a chance in withdrawing from the established Washington group and joining the fledgling ASF.

"But we considered the chances of forming the new group to be about equal to those of reforming USSA," he said.

Freedom was a word that came up several times as Beall discussed the reasons for Texas A&M's support for the ASF.

"USSA was tending to get involved in the internal affairs of member schools," he said. "That's a

pretty repressive activity for the voice of the nation's students."

In contrast, "ASF is supposed to express views, only educational views, rather than telling us what to do," Beall added.

Top Ag parents to be picked soon

By ERIN BECKERS
Battalion Reporter

Wanted: one set of parents of a Texas A&M student(s) who have contributed to their community and the University, along with being outstanding parents.

This is what the Parents Day Committee will be looking for when it chooses the Aggie Parents of the Year.

Nomination applications for Parents of the Year are available in the Student Government office in room 216 of the MSC and must be turned in by March 19, said Ray Godsey, publicity chairman for the Aggie Parents of the Year Committee. Aggie Parents Weekend is April 20-22.

"What the parents will be judged on foremost is what they have done as parents," he said. Only 15 applications for nomination have been picked up compared to over 40 last year and 70 the year before.

The reason for such a light turnout, Godsey said, is because the committee is working with a small budget this year. "There hasn't been enough advertising," he said, because the group could not afford it.

Winning parents will be chosen by the committee, which is composed entirely of students, Godsey said. These students were interviewed after the spring elections by the Student Government.

The Aggie Parents Award, which has been presented since 1958, is a way of expressing our appreciation to parents for what they have done," Godsey said. "We choose a couple to honor as a representative of all parents."

The recipients of the award will be announced and recognized at the Parents Day program in Rudder Auditorium April 22 at 9 a.m. A plaque, pendant and tie tack will be presented.

The parents will watch the Corps Review from the reviewing stand. They will also have seats in the president's box for a home football game.

Writers neglect Southwest, A&M prof uses verses to paint pictures of region

By JEAN LONGSERRE
Battalion Reporter

Paul Christensen is an explorer — explores the Southwest and him- self through his poetry.

Christensen, a Texas A&M University English professor, gave a poetry reading to a Basement Coffeehouse audience of about 150 people Wednesday night.

Christensen said he uses the Southwest as a major theme in many of his poems because of the challenge it offers him.

"I feel as a writer that the Southwest is a subject which hasn't been exhausted as much as the East coast," Christensen said. "There is a feeling that it hasn't really been touched."

Christensen said he writes about individual coming into consciousness and awareness.

"I'm interested in situations that stir and arouse me," Christensen said. "That's another reason why I write about the Southwest — it's all an awakening for me."

Christensen's poems have appeared in numerous journals including "The Southern Review," "Hemandoah" and "Epoch."

His first book of poetry, "Old and

Lost Rivers," was published in 1977.

Since then, Christensen has had two more books published. "Charles Olsen: Call him Ishmael," published in January, is a book of prose which Christensen says is a study of a poet who influenced him greatly.

"You could call it a poet's homework," he said.

Christensen's latest collection of poems, "Winter Sunlight/Spring Rain," is scheduled to be released sometime this spring.

After the reading, a reception for Christensen was held at a local bookstore.

The program was sponsored by the Memorial Student Center Arts Committee.

Christensen hosts a radio show called "Poetry Southwest," which airs on KAMU-FM, Saturday at 10 a.m. and again on Tuesdays at 8:30 p.m.

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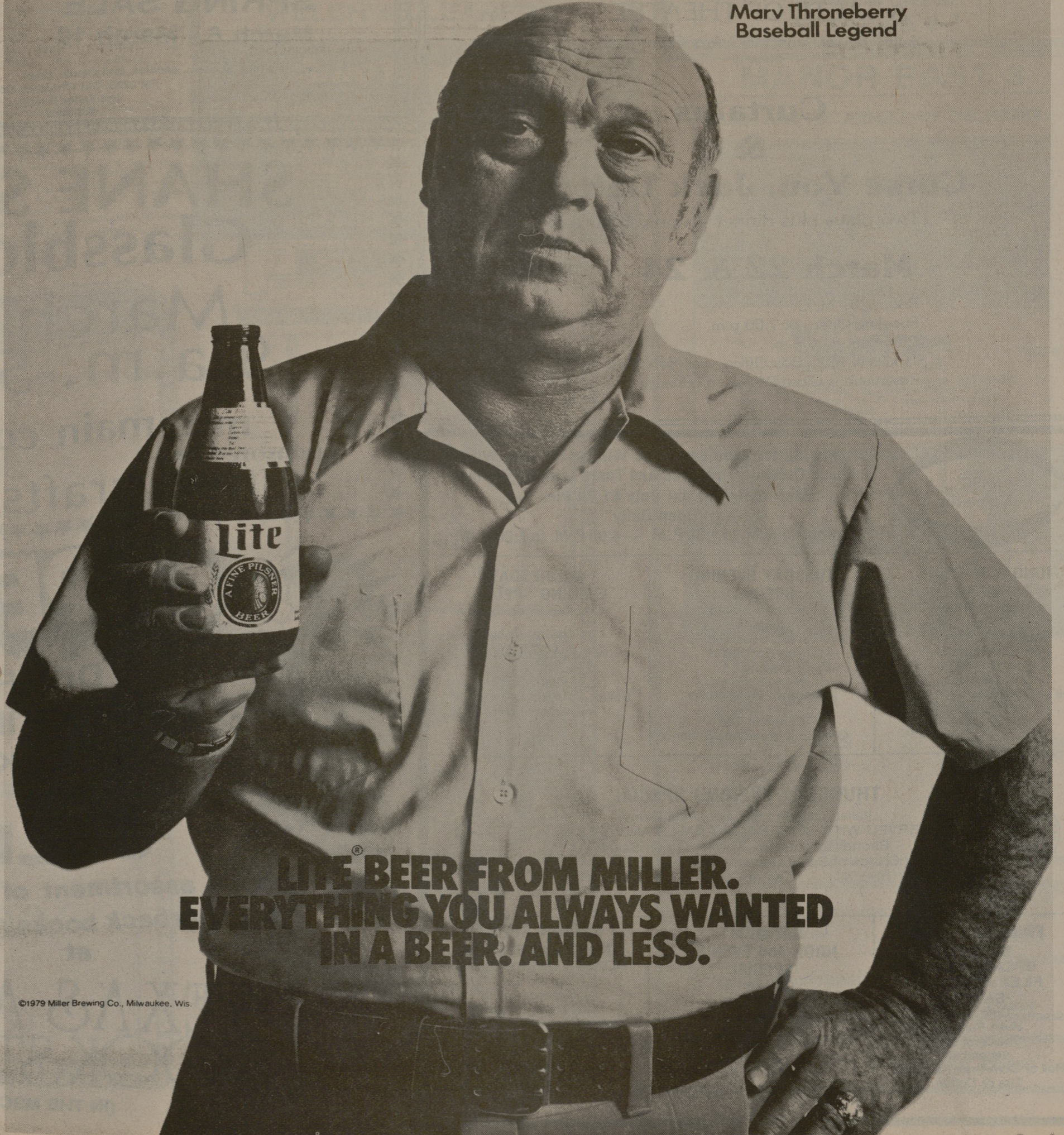
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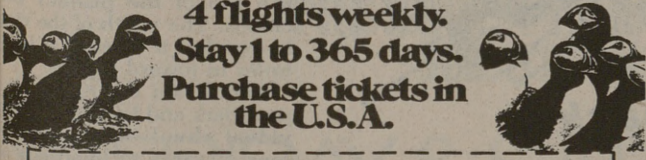
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