

Local

SG publishing newsletter to inform and get feedback

By **BOBBY SWANSON**
Battalion Reporter

For the first time since 1973 the Texas A&M University Student Government is publishing a newsletter to inform students in hopes of stimulating more responses from them.

"One of the major changes we're dealing with is providing students with more information about the projects and issues that affect them," student body President Brad Smith said. "One of the ways we hope to make this information available is the Student Government newsletter."

"Although the 'Senator' will only include a small portion of the Student Government activities, it will cover current issues that student opinion can strongly influence."

Jim Pratt, director of information for SG, said 7,500 newsletters have been printed for November and most of them have already been

placed under doors in all the dormitories on campus.

The newsletter will be printed monthly and plans are being made to distribute them off campus, Pratt said.

The November issue contains information about SG members and how they can be contacted, along with current events, future projects and the October Aggie Blood Drive.

Pratt said the main reason for a newsletter was the need to increase student comment about SG actions.

"It took a lot of time to put the newsletter together and I think we will be getting a staff to help do this in the future," Pratt said.

The SG newsletter will be distributed in the Memorial Student Center again next month. Copies are still available in the SG offices in Room 206 of the MSC.

'08 class agent says Ag life simpler in 'old army' days

By **TRACY L. FENTON**
Battalion Reporter

For A.J. "Niley" Smith, life at Texas A&M was simpler than it is for students today, perhaps because Smith graduated 72 years ago.

Smith, 94, lives at Crestview Retirement Community in Bryan. He is still class agent for the Class of '08.

Smith said a student had to be 18 to get into the school, then the Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas. The new student was then given a month to prove his grades would be good enough for him to stay in school.

The entrance exam alone nearly ended Smith's college career. He said he had made good grades in high school in Cameron, but drew a blank on the college exam.

"I didn't know a single thing on there," he said. "When I realized that, well, I just got up and left."

Smith talked to two professors and they convinced him to try again. He graduated four years later with a degree in agriculture. He said that at that time there were no specialized majors such as agriculture economics or civil engineering. He said people got degrees in agriculture, business or engineering.

Smith said that when he was in school there were never more than 500 students in the College and that there were only four companies in the Corps of Cadets, companies A, B, C and D.

There was one building for classes, five dormitories, a farm for all the livestock and a church on the campus, Smith said.

After graduation, Smith went back to Branchville to farm with his father.

The year after he graduated, Texas A&M and the University of Texas played two games, he said.

"They (the players from U.T.) came out with brooms and started fighting," Smith said. The cadets and former students got in the fight and the police finally had to break it up. He said Texas A&M and U.T. didn't play each other again for four years.

When World War I broke out, Smith went to the recruiting office to volunteer. He said there was a board of three men that decided who went. One of the men told him:

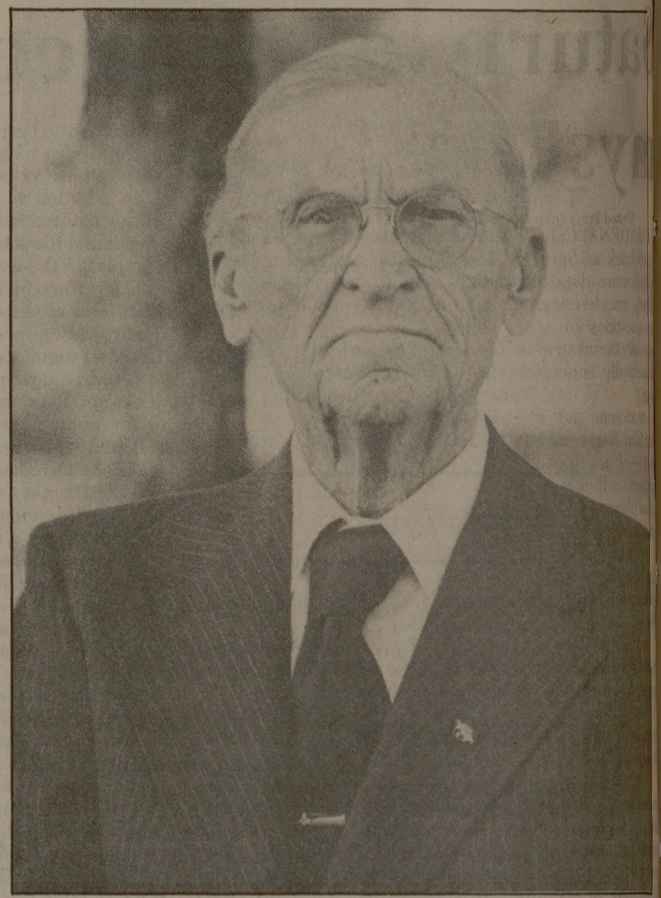
"Now listen, young man, you go on back home," he said. "Those boys over yonder got to be fed and they've got to have clothes to wear and you're gonna help make that difference."

Smith went home and lived on the farm in Branchville until about two years ago, when he moved to Crestview. He is still director and vice president of the Citizen's National Bank in Cameron. His son takes him to Cameron once a month for the bank meeting, Mason's meetings and the Rotary Club because he doesn't drive anymore.

"When I got to be 90 years old, the doctor just said, 'If I were you, I wouldn't,'" Smith said.

Smith said although Texas A&M has changed quite a bit, he's still proud of it.

"There's not one building, not one plank, brick or anything that was there when I was," he said. But he added: "Of course I'm proud of it. I'm still an Aggie."



A.J. "Niley" Smith, 94, is class agent for the Texas A&M Class of '08. Although he says everything has changed since he graduated, he is still proud to be an Aggie.

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MX system still iffy

United Press International
LUBBOCK — Prospects for locating half the controversial MX missile system along the Texas-New Mexico line have dimmed, but the Air Force plans to contract almost \$14 million worth of preparatory work at sites that include Dalhart and Clovis, N.M.

In a statement released Wednesday,

the Air Force announced intentions to begin planning "base facilities, construction camps, initial roads, railroads and utilities for the MX system."

"Under the Air Force contracts, whose estimated value is \$14 million, commercial architecture and engineering firms will do the planning for MX support bases at Beryle and Milford, Utah; Clovis, N.M., and Coyote Springs, Nev., in early 1981.

"Planning for Dalhart, Delta, Utah, and Ely, Nev., will occur later," the statement said.

Although the whole project is still an uncertainty, debate continues over whether all 200 MX missiles should be located on public land in Utah and Nevada or whether they should be split up between Eastern New Mexico and West Texas.

As proposed, the MX system would be a strategic "shell game" in which the 200 missiles would be moved periodically among any of 4,600 concrete shelters, so that an enemy force could never be sure of warhead locations. Total project cost estimates range from \$33 billion to more than \$100 billion.

Proponents say the MX is necessary to combat what they perceive as a Soviet threat to U.S. land-based intercontinental ballistic missiles.

The changing administration in Washington has expressed doubt that the MX system will become reality, however, and President-elect Reagan's chief defense adviser has promised a full review of the project.

Texan to debut movie on Titanic

United Press International
ABILENE — Oil producer Jack Grimm, the money man behind a two-summer expedition to locate the sunken Titanic, said Thursday he plans to premiere a feature-length film next month documenting phase one of the project.

The 90-minute movie, which is already edited and lacks only the narration of Orson Welles and music, will probably open in Houston "or some other Texas city" in December, the West Texas millionaire said.

The man who has underwritten projects to find "Bigfoot" and the Loch Ness monster said a crew will return to the North Atlantic next summer and resume work to prove the sunken ocean liner was found.

Some scientists on board the research vessel believed last August the Titanic had been located in 12,000-foot waters in a box canyon 380 miles off the Newfoundland coast.

Grimm said a crew aboard the Texas A&M University research vessel "R-V Gyre" will return to the site June 15 for two weeks.

"We're going forward with the Titanic quest. We're definitely going forward with it to complete our survey."

"We now have some 13 sonar targets that we are going back to map in detail and run the magnetometer over them and find which one is the Titanic and then film it. So we're proceeding to phase two and we're on schedule," Grimm said.

Grimm is still uncertain whether a 50-foot submarine, the Aluminant, or a vehicle still being tested called a "sea-copter" will be leased as the principal vessel for retrieving artifacts from the Titanic.

The fabled British liner was struck by an iceberg on April 15, 1912, killing more than 1,500 people.

The sea-copter, designed by Miami inventor Fred Koehler, "has a special fuel cell battery in it that makes it self-propelling," Grimm said. "It literally swims through the water like a fish — propels forward, backward, sideways, up and down. It has two arms on the front end of it to do work in much the way a diver does."

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Math skills key to life, scholar says

United Press International
DENTON — More emphasis on the teaching of mathematics is the key not only to the quality of life, but life itself, Rice University President Dr. Norman Hackerman said Thursday.

Hackerman said mathematical skills lead to practical applications of technology on which the future of the world depends.

The United States is strong in science and financial support of science, said Hackerman, but "the problem is the miserableness of education at the lower level, elementary and secondary. To be more specific, the teaching of mathematics in the sixth and seventh grades."

Hackerman said our society appears to be de-emphasizing the importance of education. People do not see a link between scientific research and technology they can use, he said.

Hackerman spoke at a North Texas State University symposium held in conjunction with the inauguration of Dr. Frank E. Vandiver as new university president. Vandiver was formerly provost at Rice.

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