

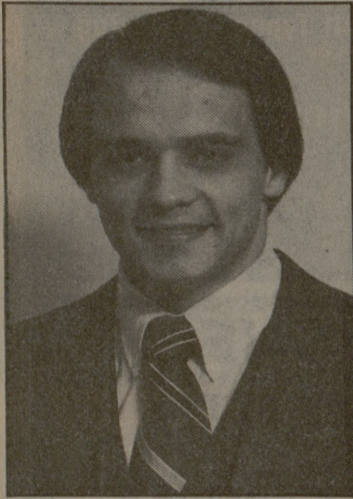


THE SENATOR

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1981

From the President's Pen | Vice Presidential Voices



KEN JOHNSON

The election dust has finally settled. No one is knocking at your door or calling you at all hours of the night asking for your vote. The signs are gone, and the bulletin boards are clean for a change. Have you given any thought to what the past three weeks have been all about? Those of you who chose to exercise your voting privilege have elected a new set of student leaders. It is our responsibility to represent the

collective needs of the student body to the faculty, administration and Regents of Texas A&M University.

In the past, the University administration has been extremely receptive to student input. In the midst of changes in system philosophy, and with the expected influx of new personnel, it is more important than ever that student government is maintained as a strong and viable voice for all students.

In the coming year, we will make every effort to address the problems facing all students. Specific areas of concern include: Q-drop policy, teaching vs. research, special tests for graduating seniors, housing, campus traffic and parking, and the expansion of the student body beyond that of current facilities and teaching faculty. We are also committed to carrying out our business in a responsible and professional manner.

I honestly believe that the system we have here at A&M can and will work. With your support and input, we'll get the job done!

Ken Johnson, Student Body President

STUDENT SERVICES — The Student Services Committee is the committee that works on specific projects that help to meet student needs. Some of the projects initiated in the past by Student Services are: a new weight gym, extending library hours, a legal advisor for students, and lighting for the aerobics track. A lot of work done by the committee is the result of Senate bills referred to Student Services by the Speaker of the Senate. Last year, the committee worked on 27 bills ranging from consideration seating at A&M football games to recommending whether or not the MSC Basement Coffee House should sell alcohol. Still another function of the Student Services Committee is to research problems that arise concerning current Student Services.

Last year's Student Services Committee initiated several projects that will carry over to the new administration. For example, the "Eyes of Texas A&M" — Living Bank Project is a drive sponsored by Student Services to recruit or gain donors for the Living Bank organization. The drive, which will be run in conjunction with the Aggie Blood Drive, is the first project of this type at any college or university in the nation. The willingness of Aggies to help others is an important tradition at A&M and through the Living Bank, Aggies can carry on the tradition by offering others a chance to live.

Other projects the committee will work on include: The Survival Kit, major credit card applications for seniors, better lighting for the tennis courts, expanding the new summer jobs program, and many others.

Several bills have already been introduced that this year's Student Services Committee will work on. The question of whether or not to recommend recognition of fraternities and sororities is one of our most important issues. Because of the controversial nature of the issue, we will have to be very careful to discuss all of the pro and con arguments. After we find the best solution, we will present our recommendations to the senate which will then debate and vote on the bill.

Another bill referred to this year's committee requests that an addition to the Health Center be placed on the university's five-year plan. The committee will research the addition, especially student need, and make a recommendation based on our findings. Still another bill referred to the committee calls for a study of the student financial aid program. As a result of our study, the committee

will suggest any changes that should improve the program.

If you have any question about the Student Services Committee or ideas that the committee should consider, I would like to hear from you. My phone number is 845-5406 and the number of the Student Government office is 845-3051. The Student Services Committee can do a lot of work, especially with your help.

Chris Langford
VP Student Services

ACADEMIC AFFAIRS — Howdy Ags! Academic Affairs serves as the liaison between administration, faculty, and students on issues concerning academic policies. Because we have such wide boundaries in which to work, we are looking forward to an active and exciting year.

The committee will be evaluating the new shortened deadline for Q-drops to determine the feasibility of extending the date past 25 days. We will also be working to maintain senior's exemption from finals during finals week. The committee will work towards organizing a central campus quiz file located in the main library. Current dead week policies will be researched to determine the possibility of making dead week strictly a period for review. Professors would not be allowed to introduce any new material or give lecture tests. Professor evaluations will be re-examined and modified to make them a more effective tool for both the student and the department head. This project would also work toward the publication of answers to relevant questions that students may use in class selection. The teaching vs. research policy will continue to be evaluated and the resulting proposals presented to the deciding administrative committees. We will also be organizing a Student Academic Council that will enable interested persons to present the student's viewpoints on academic issues to their department heads and deans. The SAC will be the body actually presenting the research done by the rest of the committee to the administration and faculty. The committee will follow up previous work done on the listing of academic minors on transcripts and the progress concerning computing facilities. We are also interested in working with individual problems between students and professors; therefore we will be establishing a Hot Line for students to call to report academic problems. Our primary purpose is to serve

you, and to represent your interests to the administration. We can do that best when you help too. Any suggestions you may have are welcome, and can be directed to the Academic Affairs Committee, Student Government, 216, MSC.

Kathy Bartholomew, VP Academic Affairs

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS — The External Affairs Committee is the official voice of Texas A&M at the local, state and national levels of government on all issues pertaining to Texas A&M students. Goals for next year's External Affairs Committee are separated into three major areas. The first phase will be to continue the existing programs that the committee has started this past year, such as Bus-

year. Your input is both encouraged and welcome. Call or come by the Student Government office, 216 MSC.

Blaine Edwards, VP External Affairs

RULES AND REGULATIONS

The Rules & Regulations Committee is responsible for legislation concerning University Rules & Regs, The Student Body Constitution, By Laws, and Election Regulations. The committee is composed of senators, non-senators and the vice-president for Rules & Regs. The nature of the committee must be flexible in to meet student needs. We plan to continue the committee structure that has worked well in the past. For a student who desires to make a di-

low up on bills for legislation 5) "NETWORK" PROGRAM — Refine, research and present the senate a bill concerning campus-wide intercommunication communication system. If you have any questions, questions or you need more information, please feel free to call Rhonda Rhea — V.P. Rules & Regs

FINANCE COMMITTEE — primary purpose of the Finance Committee is to administer and allocate money for various services and necessities. This year, the Finance Committee faced with some tough issues had to make some difficult decisions. I feel this coming year

Parent's Day

PARENTS' DAY ACTIVITIES — The annual Parents' Day activities will be held on April 24, 25, and 26 this year. According to the Parents' Day Committee, there are several new programs being held. One of these programs, the All-University Show, is called "Family Follies" and features the Century Singers, Womens Chorus, and several other acts on Friday night. Saturday, the Residence Hall Association will host a reception for all parents that morning, followed by another reception that afternoon hosted by the freshman class. The MSC will have an open house all day in the Student Programs Office.

The annual Parents' Day ceremony will be held on Sunday, and features the presentation of the Gathright Awards to the outstanding student in each college, and the announcement of the Parents' of the Year. The Ross Volunteers and the Fish Drill Team will also be on hand to perform.

Each year the Parents' Day celebration grows a little bit more and this year's committee, headed by Mike Bonin, has done a great job in coordinating all of the activities. In addition to the other programs listed, there will be a barbecue given by OCA in order to get more off-campus students involved, the annual Singing Cadets concert, and the showing of the traditional film about Texas A&M "We've Never Been Licked". For those interested in finding out

more about Parents' Day activities, you may pick up a printed schedule of events in the Student Government Office in Rm 216 MSC, or at the information desk in Rudder.

MUSTER

On Tuesday, April 21, the most revered of Aggie traditions, Muster, will be held for the 78th consecutive time at Texas A&M University. This year, in addition to the regular Muster Day activities, there will be a barbecue before the ceremony at the picnic area by Mt. Aggie. The picnic will begin at 5:00 p.m. According to Tad Jarrett, Chairman of the Muster Committee, it is hoped that the barbecue will bring an added atmosphere of fellowship to those who plan to attend. Tickets for the barbecue are \$4.00 and are being sold at the MSC box office.

The traditional Muster Ceremony will be at 6:30 p.m. in G. Rollie White, and for the second year will include the special Candlelight Ceremony. This part of the ceremony involves the lighting of a candle for each name on the roll that is called. The speaker for the 1981 Muster Ceremony will be Fred D. McClure, a former Student Body President and Singing Cadet here at A&M. McClure is presently a senior at Baylor law school, and is serving as the President of the Baylor Law School Association.

AGGIE PARK — In an update of the plan to consider an off-campus recreation area for Texas A&M students, the Student Services committee has conducted a student survey. Results of the survey show that students are 85 percent in favor of an off-campus recreation area and are willing to support a cost increase in student fees. Some suggestions for park facilities are barbecue pits, a dancing pavillion, a swimming pool, and

playing fields.

SPENCE STREET TO CLOSE — A bill introduced by the Student Services committee to close Spence Street to through traffic was passed in the Senate recently. Currently, Spence Street is the scene of continuous heavy traffic. The bill is designed to make the street safer and more pleasant to pedestrians and bicyclists with a minimum of inconvenience to

motorists. Motorists would still have access to buildings and parking lots along the street, but those wishing to go through from Ross Street to Lubbock Street would have to use Bizzell Street. A barricade would probably be placed in front of the Animal Sciences Building.

The Spence Street proposal would fit in with the university's long range planning for traffic control on the main campus.

PROPOSED INDEPENDENCE FOR KANM-FM — The Student Services committee will introduce two bills in the April 15 Senate meeting that, if passed, would make radio station KANM-FM an independent student organization, and will ask for funds to provide a three-line phone bank.

Currently, the radio station is considered a branch of Student Government. One bill would make the station an independent organization with its own faculty advisor. The last monetary support the station received from the university was in the Fall of '77. Since then, the station has supported itself through advertisement revenues, and individual and corporate grants. If the bills are passed, the station will be considered a student organization, and thus be entitled to funds from bookstore profits and student service fees.

"The only disadvantage," says station manager Todd Gross, "is that the Radio station would lose the buffer of Student Government in dealings with University officials." Also to be proposed is the alloca-

tion of three-hundred dollars to provide the station with a three-line phone system that could be used for talk shows. The shows could feature discussions with administrators, student leaders, and student groups about current issues, and allow for immediate student feedback to be broadcast.

STUDENT TENANT/LANDLORD RELATIONS

— Student Tenant/Landlord Relations was established in order to improve the relations between off-campus students and their landlords. Most problems between student tenants and landlords involve a lack of awareness on the students' part. The primary emphasis of the committee, therefore, will be to increase student awareness. Currently, the committee is actively investigating the possibility of printing an apartment guide which will provide information about the different apartment complexes, mobile home parks and duplexes. The proposed apartment guide will also include facts about leases and what to look for in a lease. The committee is researching the possibility of implementing a system which rates the various complexes, based on a student opinion poll. The proposed poll will be administered next Fall.

AGGIE TRADITIONS — The Student Services committee approved a plan to establish a one credit hour course for new students interested in learning about Aggie traditions. The plan was included in a housing bill presented



Students vote at Sbsia Dining Hall during Spring elections.

ness/Consumer relations, City Council liaison and research into the Northgate situation.

The second area of operation for our committee deals with the strengthening of relationships with other schools throughout the southwest. We intend to work with these other schools in the areas of Student Services and other legislative matters pertaining to us. We intend to host another COSCA conference and to work towards improved student relations.

The third phase of our committee goals will be to research and study deficiencies in the local transportation situation. We are going to research the feasibility of improved, economically feasible transportation for the Bryan/College Station area. We also plan to look into the traffic problems around College Station.

The External Affairs committee has a very broad base of ideas and projects to cover next year, we are sincerely looking forward to next

rect contribution to "The Laws of A&M", membership on Rules & Regs will prove to be rewarding.

Projects for '81-'82 include:

- UNIVERSITY RULES & REGS** (known as the "Blue Book") — We plan on making necessary clarifications in:
 - Scholastic Probation.
 - Repetition of a course that has been failed.
- ELECTION REG'S** — Establishing of the election commission and regulations concerning elections.
 - Clarification of the election commission's power.
 - Clarification of graduating seniors' right to vote.
- FREE SPEECH FORUM** — The coordination of the new program known as free speech forum to be started in September.
- PROCESSING BILL PROGRAM** — Intercommittee activity to help freshman senators write, research, pass, and fol-

low many of the same challenges for us. The issue of user-fee have to be dealt with in other than the Health Center Intramurals. We will have to notify to the student body the increase in Student Services and research carefully any increases. Texas A&M has the best student services available the state, and it is our set to maintain this high quality at the lowest possible cost to students. The money we are is the student's money, and plan to spend it where it will benefit the students. If you like to serve with the Finance Committee, or if you have suggestions for improvement, free to call me at 845-4158, in touch with me through the Student Government office, MSC. I eagerly look forward to '81-'82 year, and I am excited about what lies ahead.

J. Terry Smith, VP Finance Committee



Committee members vote on upcoming legislation at a Student Services meeting.

to the Senate on February 18. The course would be arranged by the Department of Student Affairs, and may be offered as soon as the Fall of '81.

"DISCOVERING AGGIELAND" — "Discovering Aggieland" is a soon to be released booklet containing almost everything one needs to know about what to do and where to go in scenic Aggieland. Included in this information is a guide to various restaurants, clubs, hotels and cleaners in Bryan/College Station.

Administrators as well as members of the External Affairs Committee have been working diligently on revising the booklet and suggestions would be appreciated. Direct your questions or comments about "Discovering Aggieland" to room 216, MSC at the Student Government office.

FREE SPEECH FORUM — A bill recently passed the Senate that will provide an open public forum intended to promote the free exchange of ideas and provide a source for campus information.

Senator Tim Cavell, the bill sponsor, has recommended a "Free Speech Forum", a week-long open forum to be held near Fountain. The forum would be held during the Fall and Spring semesters except when emptied by holidays, finals or element weather. A Student Government representative or coordinator will act as moderator at each forum. For more information call Rhonda Rhea, VP R&R, at the Student Government office, 845-3051.



Student Body President Brad Smith and Vice President Eric Langford discuss legislation at a recent Senate meeting.