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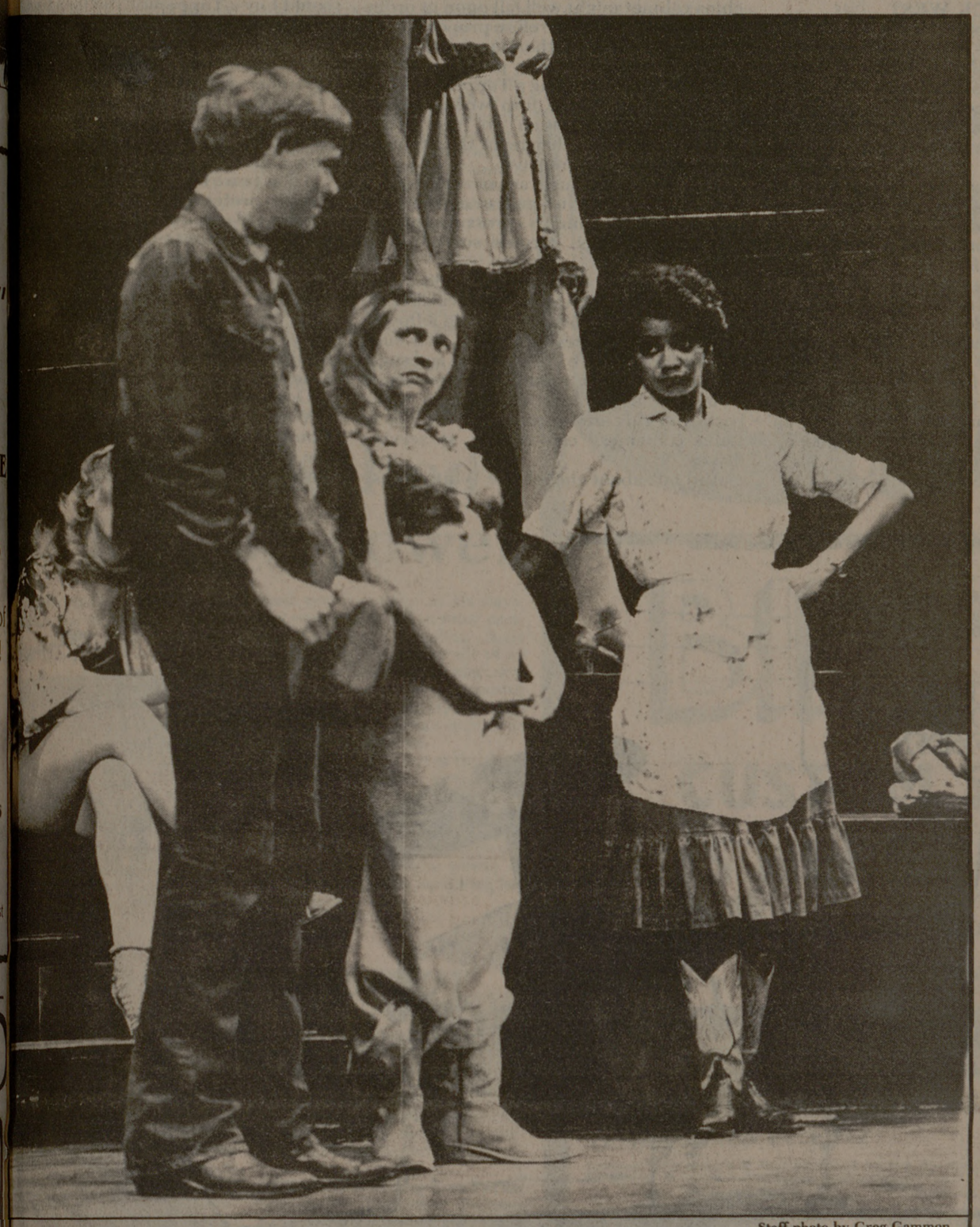
The Weather

Today		Tomorrow	
High	88	High	85
Low	75	Low	75
Chance of rain	50%	Chance of rain	40%



Staff photo by Greg Gammon

Don't be shy!

Jewel, right, looks on as Shy approaches her first customer in Monday night's performance of "The Best Little Whorehouse in Texas." The musical will be presented again tonight and Wednesday night in Rudder Auditorium. See related photo and review on page 4.

A&M faculty senate may be created soon

By DENISE RICHTER
Battalion Staff

Texas A&M faculty members, in an organizational meeting Thursday, are scheduled to discuss creation of a faculty senate or some similar body designed to increase the faculty's role in University governance.

The move to establish a faculty senate started in May when an ad hoc committee comprised of 21 tenured faculty members distributed a questionnaire to about 1,200 faculty members asking if they were "interested in increasing the faculty's role at Texas A&M" and if they supported "investigation into the methods by which that goal may be achieved."

The results of the questionnaire were released in a Sept. 15 advertisement in The Battalion. Of the 594 responses received, 538 faculty members (91 percent) expressed support for the idea, 49 (8 percent) disagreed with the idea and 7 (1 percent) were undecided.

The advertisement also invited all interested faculty members to attend the organizational meeting Thursday at 4 p.m. in Rudder Theater.

"At this meeting we'll get a consensus from faculty members and see what direction they want to go," said Dr. Thomas J. Kozik, professor of mechanical engineering, who is scheduled to co-chair the meeting with Dr. Robert E. Stewart, distinguished professor emeritus of agricultural engineering.

Dr. Paul A. Parrish, associate professor of English, said, "There needs to be a forum in which the faculty, on a regular basis, has the opportunity to express their collective will or sentiment."

Kozik said, "A faculty senate would provide a chance for faculty members to bring forth and debate issues that affect the faculty and students of A&M. We need a forum to cut across the usual college lines and allow faculty members to get together and discuss issues as a whole."

Parrish said, "If faculty opinion should be heard, it would follow that there needs to be an organization to allow the expression of this opinion. We're interested in creating a representative body out of this void."

Currently, the Academic Council is the only University-wide body dealing with academic matters. The Council is primarily made up of administrators, deans and department heads — only 34 of the 167 members are elected faculty members.

Parrish said, "(The Academic Council) cannot in its nature of representation be seen as a faculty body. To draw an analogy, I don't think students would be willing to call the Student Senate a student senate if it was dominated by faculty and administrators."

Stewart said, "The Academic Council doesn't address questions that pertain to the faculty. It's not a body that reflects faculty opinion."

Kozik stressed he felt the Academic Council should remain a working body. A bicameral senate, with a faculty senate and the Academic Council working independently, would be the best solution, he said.

Another alternative, Stewart said, would be a University Senate that would include researchers and staff.

Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver has said he favors the idea of a group to increase the faculty's role in University governance but said he would prefer a University senate, one which would include staff as well as faculty, to a faculty senate. However, he added that he remains flexible on the matter.

Ad hoc committee members have stressed that no single issue precipitated the push for the faculty senate.

Kozik said he feels that any faculty member who has been at Texas A&M for any length of time has found that there have been issues where faculty opinion was needed but not solicited.

"Even if there had never been any issues, the University has reached that point of maturity and growth where a faculty senate is not only appropriate, but necessary," Kozik said.

Prof says possible effects of Sadat's death unknown

Assessing the impact of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's death depends on which view of history one takes, says a Texas A&M political scientist.

"The assassination of Sadat raises considerable uncertainty about the future of the Mideast, especially the peace accord between Israel and Egypt," said Steve Chan, who teaches international relations and foreign policy at Texas A&M.

"However, there are two ways of looking at history — either man makes history or history makes man."

Chan said his personal opinion is that history makes men. "That is, the socio-political conditions have to be appropriate if particular policies are to become feasible."

According to this view, Chan said, if Sadat were not in power, some other Egyptian leader would have taken the same steps to initiate a dialogue with Israel.

"This implies that Sadat's death, even though a tremendous tragedy, may not cause irreparable damage to the momentum of peace negotiations in the Mideast," he said.

Chan said the Egyptian peace accord with Israel may not have been dependent on Sadat and his assassination may not be the determining factor in whether or not the agreement is finalized.

"If Sadat were still alive, it wouldn't necessarily mean peace would continue," he said. Chan said it is too soon to judge the impact of the assassination.

"Our interest in making sure Egypt and Israel are at peace is to keep the Soviets out of the Mideast." he said, pointing out the importance of the Middle East for the U.S.'s strategic position and trade, particularly oil.

Chan said those who think the situation in the Mideast won't radically affect the United States would be "safe" in their assessment.

"Usually things just go on the same way as they have before," he said.

Dissection helps students learn skills

Animal experiments touchy issue

By NANCY WEATHERLEY
Battalion Staff

The study of anatomy has its roots in the Renaissance of the 1500s. Artistic greats such as Michelangelo realized the importance of an accurate knowledge of anatomy, and through dissection, they were able to explore the secrets beneath the skin - how everything looked and joined together to produce the unity of the living body.

Doctors and researchers still use dissection as a tool to explore the workings of the human body. Sometimes dissection must be done on live animals to learn how organs and systems within the body operate.

At Texas A&M University, the College of Veterinary Medicine, College of Medicine and the biology department all use animals to teach students.

These students, as well as their instructors, must learn how to use lab animals to their fullest extent so the animals' deaths are not in vain.

"When you dissect an animal in class, it's for a learning experience and you aren't just randomly cutting them up," said Carole Baas, a junior biomedical engineering major.

Many people are under the impression certain practices used in animal dissection aren't justified, and they suggest using models or slides.

But Dr. Jon F. Hunter, assistant professor of veterinary physiology and pharmacology, said animals are used because certain physiological processes can't be modeled to provide the same control systems and feedback a live animal provides.

"Like any other profession, you must practice certain skills to be competent and some of these skills involve surgery," he said.

In his class, Hunter said, any time the skin is opened, the animal is killed because the students aren't advanced enough to repair what they do. The animals are anesthetized and killed painlessly, usually by an overdose of anesthesia.

In terms of personal justification, Hunter said he looks at all possible benefits derived from animal experiments, and remembers the animals are from pounds and other institutions where they would have been killed anyway.

"In my mind, I say at least this one dog will not have been sacrificed needlessly," Hunter said. He said that a majority of the animals in pounds are killed each day and their lives, in a sense, have been wasted.

Trudie Estridge, a junior biomedical engineering student who wants to enter medical school, said she couldn't see entering her profession without some on-hands experience.

"I'd hate to be under the knife of a doctor who hadn't had some experience other than books and computers," Estridge said. "I see nothing wrong with it if the animal is going to be sacrificed anyway.

"I must dissect to know how the parts of the body work together, so when I am designing an artifical limb or organ, I will know what I'm supposed to be designing.

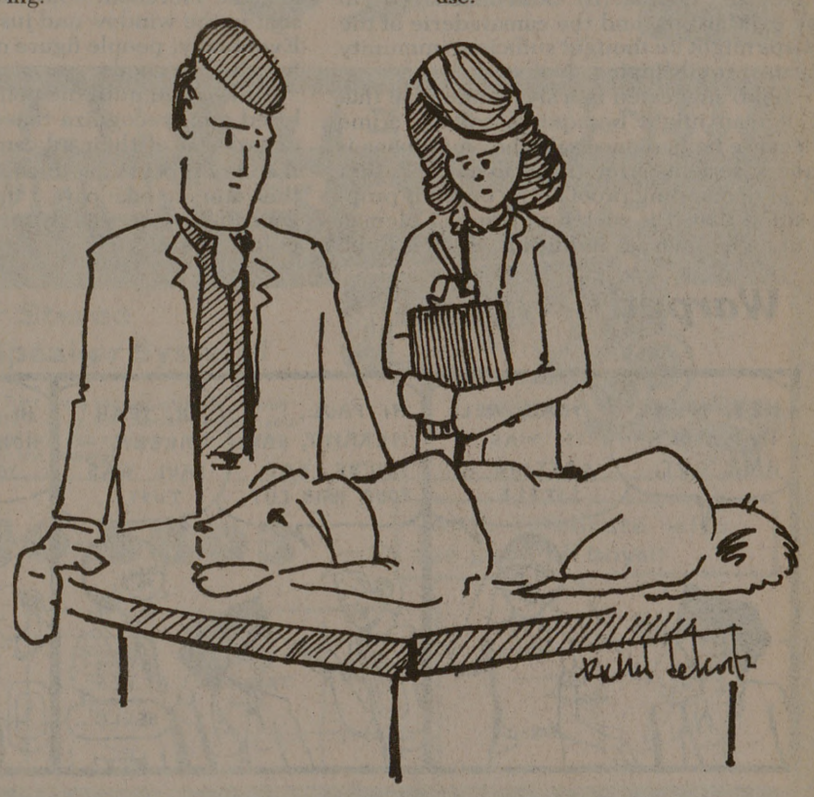
"If you haven't seen a real organ and observed it in the body, you don't have an understanding of what you are making."

Hunter said using animals for research is not something to be taken lightly.

He said the fear of needless killings is always present when doing research experiments on animals.

"When you rationalize it all, you can't even walk outside without the fear you may kill something," he said. "It's hard to draw the dividing line on what animals you use; the life of a mouse should be equal to the life of a fly.

"One criticism we can make upon ourselves is that we should tighten up the controls in our experiments and eliminate all the variables we can, then we could reduce the amount of animals we use.



Commercial firms provide 90 percent of research animals

By NANCY FLOECK
Battalion Staff

More than 4,000 animals are used yearly for research at Texas A&M University. But where do they come from and what happens to them when they're no longer needed?

Dr. Gary Joiner, director of the laboratory animal resources and research facility, said 90 percent of the research animals at Texas A&M are bought from commercial firms which breed and raise animals solely for this purpose.

Others are donated or bought from animal pounds, he said. The exception to this is primates; monkeys are not raised commercially in the United States, Joiner said, but are captured overseas and sold through importers.

The acquisition of dogs varies, depending on the experiment. Sophisticated studies, such as pharmaceutical studies, use pure-bred beagles bought from commercial firms, Joiner said. Most others are bought from pounds, not always local ones.

Joiner said the dogs used by the animal resource facility are from near-by cities like Houston and Waco. The facility prefers not to use animals from local dog pounds because it can cause public relations problems, he said, although several other departments on campus do get their dogs and cats from local pounds.

Humaneness in research is a major concern of both the state and the University. Dr. William McCulloch, professor of veterinary public health, said no research is done that has not been approved by the animal care center, or does not fall under federal and state humane and research laws.

The University is required by law to file annual reports with the state describing what research projects occurred, and the specie and number of animals used in each.

Questions on whether the experiments caused pain and whether pain-killers were used are included in the annual reports. The forms ask if the experiment would have been painful without pain killers, then asks if pain-killers were administered.

Joiner said the reports almost always come back saying no pain was involved in the experiments, but he added that it was impossible for his facility to verify all the reports from the various departments on campus that use animals in experiments.

When experiments are concluded, the University follows guidelines from the American Veterinary Medical Association when killing research animals, Joiner said. Most are killed by euthanasia, put to sleep with chemical injections or gas, he said. Joiner said no pain is experienced by the animal as this is done; the animal slowly nods off, as if going to sleep.

In some cases, decapitation is used for smaller animals like rabbits and guinea pigs, Joiner said. Often the researcher will need blood samples, and the quickest and most economical way of killing the animal and collecting the sample will be by removing its head, he said. This method immediately kills the animal and is painless, Joiner said.

Carcasses also are disposed of according to AVMA guidelines, which recommend incineration. Carcasses cannot be thrown away or used to fill sanitary land fills, for example, Joiner said.

However, Dr. Stewart McConnell, professor of veterinary microbiology, said research horses with equine infectious anemia, or swamp fever, are often sold to a slaughterhouse in Palestine, instead of being incinerated. Such sales generate revenue needed to feed other horses, as well as solves the problem of disposing of carcasses, he said.

Joiner said that although slaughterhouses are shocking, bloody operations, animals killed there feel no pain. He said the electric prods used to stun the animals render them totally insensitive, so they experience no pain when slaughtered. Movements after the stun are reflex actions, Joiner added, not reactions to pain.

Pet owners who donate their animals are told of these disposal methods beforehand, Joiner and McConnell said, and are required to sign a release form relinquishing all rights at the time of donation.