

OASIS gets complaints

Aggies dislike preaching

by Robert McGlohon

Battalion Staff
Sidewalk preaching has become a common occurrence at Texas A&M University — but not a particularly popular one. Many students have complained about the sidewalk preaching at Rudder Fountain, Dave Bergen, chairman of the Memorial Student Center concessions committee, said.

"It's an unfortunate situation, but there is really nothing we can do about it," he said. "The administration is just as concerned about it as the students."

In most cases, an organization must be recognized by the University before it can use the Rudder Fountain area. Two exceptions to this rule are groups or individuals who wish to speak on religion or politics, Bergen said.

"Due to constitutional rights, particularly when it comes to political or religious beliefs, we have to allow anybody down there who would like to come speak," he said.

The committee is, however, allowed to impose restrictions on time, place, and manner of presentation, Bergen said. The event must be scheduled and approved in advance by the concessions committee.

If another organization has already reserved the area, Bergen said, that organization can ask that there be no preaching while they are using the area.

Also, the committee limits an organization or individual to five days' use of the fountain area in a 28-day period.

The group responsible for 90 percent to 95 percent of the preaching, he said, is the Organization for the Advancement of Spiritual Involvement among Students (OASIS).

But OASIS has found a way to get around the five-day rule, Bergen said.

After OASIS has used up its five-day allotment, Bergen said, a member of the group, acting as an individual, schedules the fountain area for his own use.

"I strongly discouraged them from doing it at the time," he said. "I said you're really getting underhanded here and going around the rules. They didn't care."

But, OASIS considered criticism a positive response to their efforts, Bergen said.

"Last year," Bergen said, "we had many, many complaints about the preaching down there at the fountain. I could talk until I was blue in the face about all the complaints I was getting. That was just further encouragement to them to schedule more and preach more."

Student reaction to the sidewalk preaching is varied.

Gary Barbee, a graduate student in agriculture, said the sidewalk preaching is a good idea.

"The Lord told us to preach to the nations," Barbee said. "This isn't just a matter of right or wrong. It's just a matter of our inner sense. If this brother has a sense within that he needs to do it, then he should do it."

Lorretta Waclawczyk, a junior accounting major from San Antonio, expressed a more neutral opinion.

"It doesn't bother me," she said. "No one is forced to listen to it. So whatever he wants to say — he can say it."

Doug Hamaker, a senior health education major, said he was opposed to the sidewalk preaching.

"I really and truly don't go for it at all," Hamaker said. "I feel that the subject he's talking about doesn't need to be spoken out on the sidewalk. It has a different place."

"It seems like he's trying to recruit people into an army or something. I don't think that religion should be that way. Religion is more of a personal matter."

While Hamaker said he wished the sidewalk preaching would stop, he did not advocate forbidding it.

Ag students meet employers

Agriculture students will have a chance to meet potential employers at the fourth annual Professional Career Planning in Agriculture conference today on the second floor of the Memorial Student Center.

Forty-five Texas agricultural companies will have booths set up from 8:30-11:30 a.m. and 1:30-5 p.m.

quire about internships, co-ops and summer employment.

Kitty Fraley, from the agricultural communications department, said upperclassmen can interview for permanent jobs and underclassmen can

Fraley said that fewer companies are attending this year because of the economy. She said that some companies have put a freeze on hiring.

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Prosecutor angers judge then takes job in Texas

United Press International
RICHMOND, Va. — A federal prosecutor who angered a judge by suggesting that race influenced sentencing has resigned, but a senior prosecutor said the dispute was not a factor in the decision to quit for a similar job in Texas.

Assistant U.S. Attorney David P. Baugh, whose comments Monday disturbed U.S. District Judge D. Dortch Warriner, declined to extensively discuss his resignation.

"There are a number of factors that I cannot discuss — that I would feel comfortable discussing right now other than to say that I feel as though my services would be more appreciated and necessary" with the U.S. attorney's office in Texas, Baugh said.

Joseph Aronica, the assistant U.S. attorney in charge of the criminal division for the Eastern District of Virginia, said the resignation had nothing to do with the court dispute.

"I think he wants to go back to Texas," Aronica said. Baugh, who came to Richmond about a year and one-half ago, said he telephoned U.S. Attorney Elsie Munsell of Alexandria and told her of his decision after the hearing.

"I told her that I had accepted a new position in the Eastern District of Texas as chief of their criminal division," Baugh said. He said he had a standing offer to return to Texas for about one year.

Aronica said the dispute over Baugh's comments during sentencing of former gold and silver trader John R. Greer had nothing to do with the resignation. Monday, Warriner sentenced Greer to 10 years in prison for a fraud conviction.

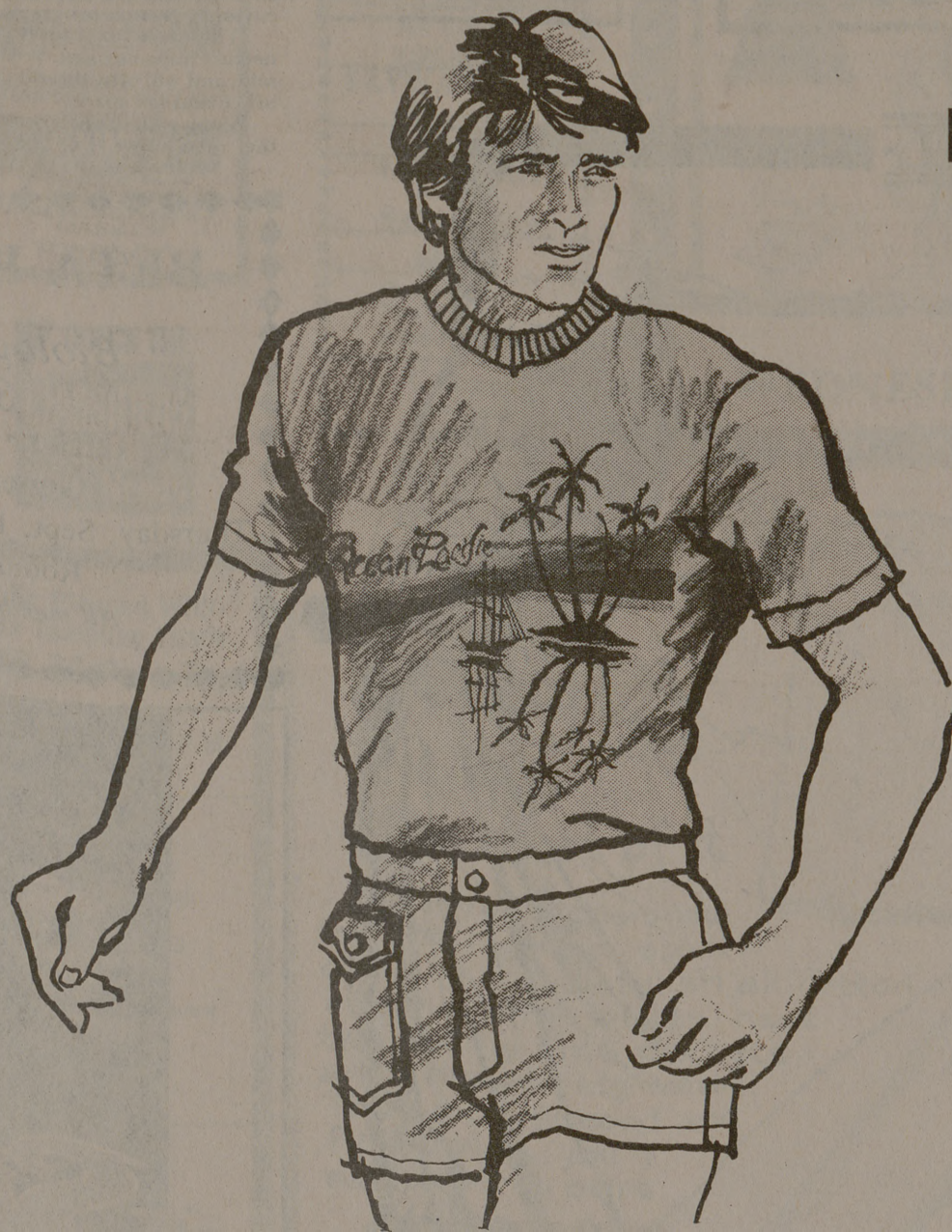
Baugh complained that there appeared to be differences in sentencing for white-collar offenders and others.

Warriner asked Baugh, who is black, if he was suggesting that the court sentence was based on race, and when Baugh began to reply he believed so, Warriner cut him off and asked him to address his remarks to the court reporter.

Later, Warriner called Baugh's comments "despicable," the Richmond News Leader reported.

"It is unfortunate that there was a suggestion the court would go easy (on Greer) because he is a member of the white race," the newspaper quoted Warriner as saying.

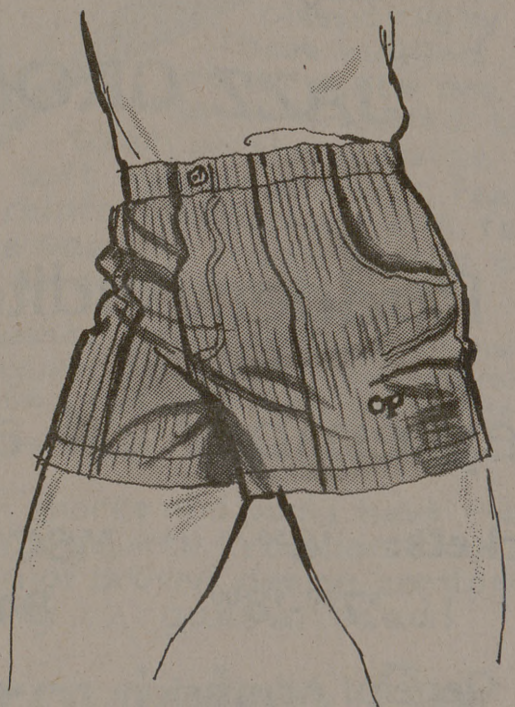
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The B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at Texas A&M wishes the Jewish University Community a Healthy and Happy New Year.

Everyone is invited to services conducted by Student Rabbi Marc Belgrade from Hebrew On-ion College, New York.

Rosh Hashanah Services

Friday, Sept. 17 8 p.m.
Saturday, Sept. 18 10 a.m.

Yom Kippur Services

Sunday, Sept. 26 8 p.m.
Monday, Sept. 27 10 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 6:00 p.m. Break-the-Fast.

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