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Board to vote on teller proposal

by Denise Richter

Battalion Staff

MPACT and PULSE machines may be only as far away as the University Center if a proposal approved Sunday by a committee of the Texas A&M System Board of Regents is approved by the full Board on Tuesday.

The Board will meet at 8:30 a.m. in the regents annex of the Memorial Student Center.

The proposal calls for the on-campus installation of automatic teller machines. Two MPACT and two PULSE tellers would be located between the MSC and Rudder Tower.

Several local banks have expressed interest in installing the tellers, which would be installed at the expense of the banks, Vice President for Business Affairs Howard Vestal said.

Local banks that have reviewed the contract have agreed to pay the University eight cents when a transfer of funds or a balance inquiry is made and 15 cents when a deposit or withdrawal is made, Vestal said.

If the proposal is approved and a contract with local banks can be negotiated, the tellers could be installed by January, he said.

On-campus teller machines first were proposed almost a year ago. At the time, 11 different machines would have been needed to serve all the banking networks that existed.

Because of advances in banking technology, only two types of machines now are needed. All local banks offering automatic teller service are connected to the MPACT or PULSE system, Vestal said.

Currently, students and staff may cash checks at the Coke Building, the MSC and Rudder Tower.

The main cashier facilities at the Coke Building will be kept open if on-campus banking is approved, Ves-



Dr. Arthur Hansen, left, and H. R. "Bum" Bright at Sunday's meeting.

tal said, but no decisions have been made about the other check-cashing facilities.

A discussion on whether to open bidding for electricity meters on the 562 apartment units at the Hensel, College View and College Avenue complexes sparked a lengthy debate during the Planning and Building Committee meeting.

A flat fee for electricity now is in-

cluded in the monthly rental charge. If individual meters were installed, each apartment would be billed for the amount of electricity used.

Metering each apartment would encourage occupants to conserve electricity, Vestal said.

Committee Chairman H.C. Bell agreed: "We've been subsidizing married students for years and years and years, and we've been subsidizing

their electric bills, too. If students were paying their own bills, when they walk out of the apartment to go to class, they would turn the lights off."

Board Chairman H.R. "Bum" Bright expressed concern that installing individual meters would result in a rent increase.

"You would have 562 readings, 562 buildings and 562 computations of

what they owe," he said. "Don't tell me that isn't going to cost extra money that you're going to stick (students) with."

Vestal said installing individual meters would not cause a rent increase. After additional discussion, committee members finally agreed to seek bids for the meters.

In other business, members of the Committee for Academic Campuses

approved a proposal calling for the Department of Sociology and Anthropology to be divided into separate departments.

Texas A&M President Frank E. Vandiver said dividing the departments "is the kind of move that will enable one large department to emerge into two strong departments."

Regents will meet as a committee of the whole today. Items scheduled for discussion include:

- The appointment of Charles R. Cargill, associate vice president for business affairs, as vice president for operations — a position created by Vandiver as part of the reorganization of University administration.

- According to this plan, the vice president for operations and the vice president for fiscal affairs will share duties now handled by the vice president for business affairs.

- The appointment of a dean for the College of Science. This position has been vacant since Dr. Thomas Sugihara resigned in 1980.

- A \$250,000 appropriation from the University Available Fund for the establishment of a research incentive fund for the liberal arts, science and business. This fund, which would be administered by the University president, would be used for research that holds promise for additional outside funding.

- A request to the Legislature to allow the University to lease 3.24 acres of land at Jersey and Houston streets for an Association of Former Students headquarters. Special legislation is required because state law forbids the leasing of a portion of the main campus.

Meningitis case confirmed; Goswick reassures students

by Jennifer Carr

Battalion Staff

No new cases of meningococcal meningitis, a highly infectious strain bacterial meningitis, have been reported here since Friday, when a diagnosis was confirmed in a Texas A&M student. Health officials are urging anyone who had close contact with Michael C. Wheeler to report to A.P. Beutel Health Center for treatment.

Wheeler, 22, a senior finance major from Texarkana, was admitted to the health center Wednesday when he complained of headaches, fever, chills, stiff neck and a sore throat. He

was transferred to St. Joseph Hospital in Bryan on Thursday after doctors suspected meningitis.

Wheeler's girlfriend, roommate and the person he shared a room with in the health center all were contacted Saturday, Dr. Claude Goswick, director of the health center, said.

Employees at the Texas Real Estate Research Center where Wheeler, of 301 Krenek Tap Road, worked already have come to the health center to be treated. Students who may have come in close contact with Wheeler in these classes should go to the health center for treatment.

— FIN 347, sec. 502, meets MWF at 1:30.

— MGMT 405, sec. 466, meets MWF at 3.

— ENGL 301, sec. 513, meets MWF at 4.

— BANA 364, sec. 509, meets TTh at 2.

— ACCT 329, sec. 507, meets TTh at 3:30.

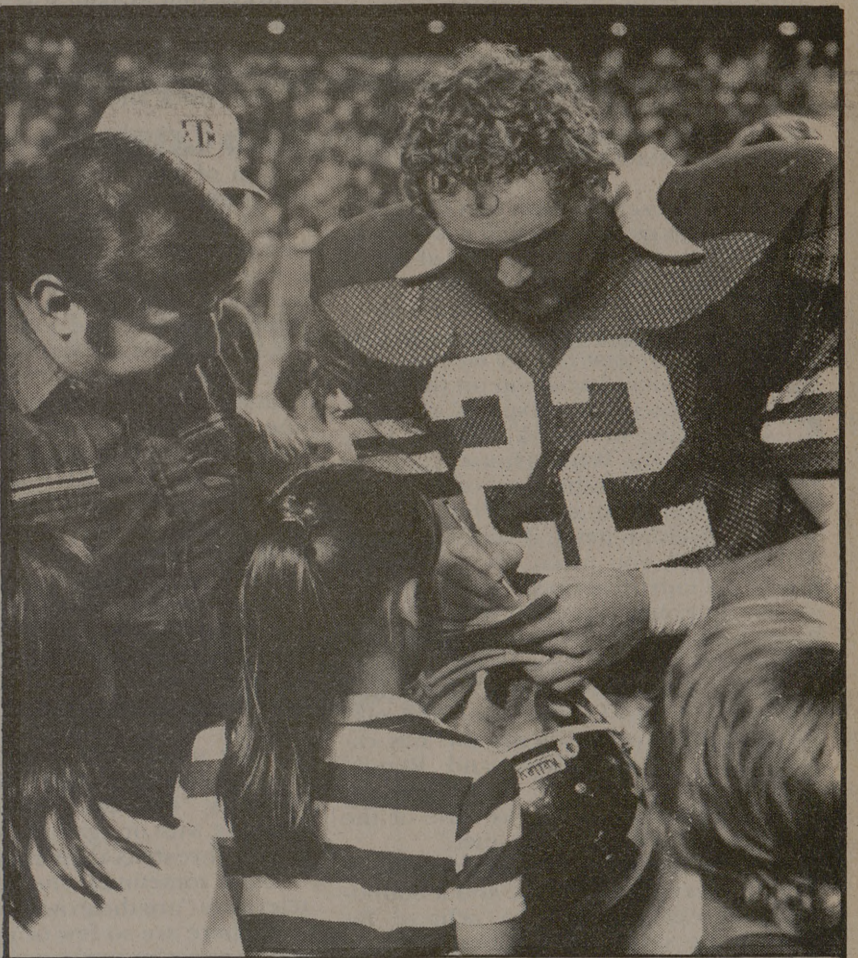
Anyone exhibiting symptoms and who may have had casual contact with Wheeler also should report.

"The state health department has been notified," Goswick said. "With only one confirmed case, they are interested but not alarmed. At this point we want to find anyone else who

might have been infected and stop it before it spreads."

There were 327 cases of meningitis in Texas in 1981. Of those, 34 were fatal. Texas normally has only about 150 cases a year, but a large outbreak in Houston caused the higher numbers in 1981.

Meningitis is an airborne disease transmitted when the infected person coughs or sneezes. Meningococcal meningitis inflames the membranes of both the brain and spinal cords. Symptoms include high fever, severe headache, vomiting and pronounced neck and back rigidity.



staff photo by David Fisher

Hero worshippers

Following A&M's victory over Louisiana Tech Saturday night, many of the football players were besieged by autograph seekers. Billy Cannon signs an autograph for a young fan and her father. See related stories on page 9.

Leftist rebels free 32 captives, fly to Panama with Honduras diplomat

United Press International

SAN PEDRO SULA, Honduras — A dozen leftist rebels freed 32 Honduran captives Saturday and flew to Panama "empty-handed," ending an 8-day hostage crisis. The guerrillas were to be flown to Cuba Sunday.

The Honduran government said the "Cinchonero" guerrillas "did not achieve a single one of their demands," including the release of 57 leftist prisoners and the expulsion of

American military advisers from Honduras.

The 12 guerrillas shot their way into the San Pedro Sula Chamber of Commerce Sept. 17 and seized 105 people attending a business convention. By Saturday, 73 of their hostages

— including two wounded businessmen — had been freed or escaped.

"The group of bandits left the country empty-handed," the government said in a statement issued after a

Panamanian air force plane carrying the rebels lifted off from the San Pedro Sula airport.

The guerrillas, wearing white hoods, arrived at Panama City's Tocomen military airfield at sundown and were immediately taken to a nearby national guard base outside the capital.

They were accompanied to Panama by the country's ambassador to Honduras, Salvador Iglesias. All 12

rebels were unarmed when they climbed out of the plane, apparently leaving their rifles inside the aircraft.

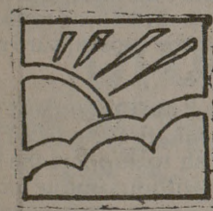
Officials said the rebels would leave within 24 hours in an airplane that was to be flown to Panama City from Havana.

When they fled Honduras, the rebels hustled through a human tunnel of hostages lined up on both sides of the boarding ramp to climb aboard the twin-prop Panamanian Air Force plane, witnesses said.

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forecast



High in the mid- to upper-80s, low in the lower 60s tonight. Clear skies.

Marijuana: The Ozarks' new cash crop

Pot growers are replacing moonshiners

United Press International
Marijuana farmers are replacing the moonshiners of 50 years ago as the producers of illegal intoxicants in the Ozarks.

Favorable growing conditions in the Midwest, the government's crackdown on South American smugglers and prices of up to \$1,200 a pound for prime-quality "sinsemilla" are factors in making marijuana a major cash crop in Missouri and Arkansas.

In addition, the dense woods and narrow hollows that concealed mountain folk from "revenooers" two generations ago still provide protection from the prying eyes of lawmen. "I think one of the reasons so much marijuana is grown in this area is that

there are so many remote areas," said Sgt. Joe Wilson of the Missouri Highway Patrol's regional office in the foothills town of Rolla, Ark. "People can really get out in the boonies and get hid."

Sophisticated growers use a cultivation technique that produces seedless, resinous sinsemilla buds. The male marijuana plants are pulled, allowing the female plants to grow unpollinated and thus producing higher levels of THC, the active ingredient that results in the marijuana "high."

Missouri marijuana grown without any special cultivation method sells for about \$300 a pound, authorities said. The same pot cultivated by the sinsemilla method can produce mari-

juana worth \$1,200 a pound because of its greater potency.

"People are finding out how lucrative it can be," said a representative of the federal Drug Enforcement Administration in St. Louis. "It'll be the biggest year we've ever had."

"As to how much it's going to be worth, you just have to let your imagination fly," the agent added. "Figure it like this: With one marijuana plant for each square yard, that's 4,800 pounds an acre. You've got more money there than a drug agent or a reporter makes in a lifetime."

U.S. Forest Service officials estimate the value of the yearly crop grown on national forest lands in Arkansas approaches \$200 million.

The total far exceeds the value of timber harvested on federal land in that state.

Ozarks growers wary of poachers have resorted to protecting their crops with dogs, shotgun-toting guards in camouflage suits, trip wires and booby traps.

On Sept. 17, a 23-year-old man was shot to death on a farm near Edgar Springs, Mo. Authorities said Mark Holt was killed while guarding his marijuana crop from other men who were trying to harvest it.

Five men were charged with second-degree murder in the slaying. Authorities said the crop was worth at least \$500,000.

Horticulturist Steve Horwine of the Missouri Botanical Garden in St. Louis said the weather conditions this year were ideal for growing marijuana.

"It is a very easy plant to grow," he said. "I would think it would be doing very well. It's a tropical plant like tomatoes and peppers that do well with steady moisture and bright days. We've had both."

Frowne said improved strains introduced into Ozark marijuana crops have made them much more potent.

"It used to be that domestically grown marijuana wasn't worth bothering with," he said.