

# Student consumer activity is advocated by Nader

by Alison Cope  
Battalion Reporter

While students still have the time, resources, and ability, they should become involved in consumer rights, Ralph Nader said Tuesday night in a speech sponsored by MSC Great Issues.

Nader, often called "the last angry man in America," told a near-capacity crowd in Rudder Auditorium that everyone has an obligation to become involved in government by becoming active consumers.

Active consumers, he said, are those that question the car salesman about safety standards, and the dentist about lead shields when he takes X-rays. He said everyone has a moral obligation to fight for their rights in order to protect future generations.

"Why do you go to school?" Nader asked the mostly student audience. "To get a better job? To have a good time? Ask yourself if you're being short-changed. Are your creative and

intellectual skills being suppressed?" he asked.

"Take a few hours every week and close out the world. Ask yourself if this is the way you want to use your mind," Nader said in reference to students just studying to get a job after college.

Nader also told students to question the university system and those who run it.

"What is it about those who rule universities that gets them so nervous when students want to become good students?" Nader asked. Why aren't they willing to accept change and encourage

students to think for themselves?" he said.

Nader, who began his consumer activist career as a college student concerned about the harmful effects of DDT, encouraged Texas A&M students to establish a Public Interest Research Group (PIRG). PIRG, funded and run by students, works for social change, citizen training and education. It is active in 25 states. Nader said PIRG is effective for students involved on other campuses in lobbying for consumer rights and protection.

Nader said University of

Houston and Rice University have very small chapters of PIRG. The University of Texas tried several years ago to start a chapter, but failed when the regents vetoed the proposal.

It's time for people in their late teens to throw off the yoke of their upbringing, and get involved, Nader said. People are embarrassed when they ask too many questions, he said, but that is the only way answers are found.

"Don't let anyone tell you to stick to your knitting," Nader said. "Now is the time to make a difference."



staff photo by John Ryan

Dr. Edna McBreen, a College Station resident and a professor in the Agricultural Education department, discusses some points with Ralph Nader during a reception after Nader's presentation in Rudder Theater.

## Senate Tower is here tonight to debate drop-add

The Student Senate will elect a vice president for finance, approve senate positions, and discuss four new bills at 7:30 tonight in 204 Harrington Classroom Building.

The four new bills are:  
**University Office Hours Bill** — a recommendation that all University office workers and persons who work during pre-registration and drop-add stagger their lunch hours so students can visit advisers during the noon hour.

**Student Book Exchange Bill** — a recommendation for Student Government to organize a book exchange program so students can sell books to other students.

**Senate Bylaws Revisions Bill** — a recommendation to update and revise the Student Senate bylaws.

**Legislative Study Group Political Action Bill** — a recommendation for the Legislative Study Group to begin research on the Permanent University Fund, faculty salary increase, tuition increase and a student on the Board of Regents.

U.S. Sen. John Tower, R-Texas, will hold a question and answer session open to the public in Room 701 of Rudder Tower tonight at 8:15.

Tower, who will be on campus as the "Speaker's Guest" at the Student Government Senate meeting, has served as chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee since January 1965. He is regarded as one of the most effective voices in Congress in support of increased de-

fense spending. He has been outspoken on America's national security weaknesses and has criticized SALT II.

To prepare for the Tower program, the MSC Political Forum Committee conducted a survey of the Texas A&M student body concerning national security. Of the 638 students polled, 62 percent said they feel that the U.S. government should increase defense spending and cut back on social pro-

grams. When students were asked whether or not they would voluntarily enter the armed services if the United States went to war, over 69 percent of the males and 35 percent of the females polled said they would.

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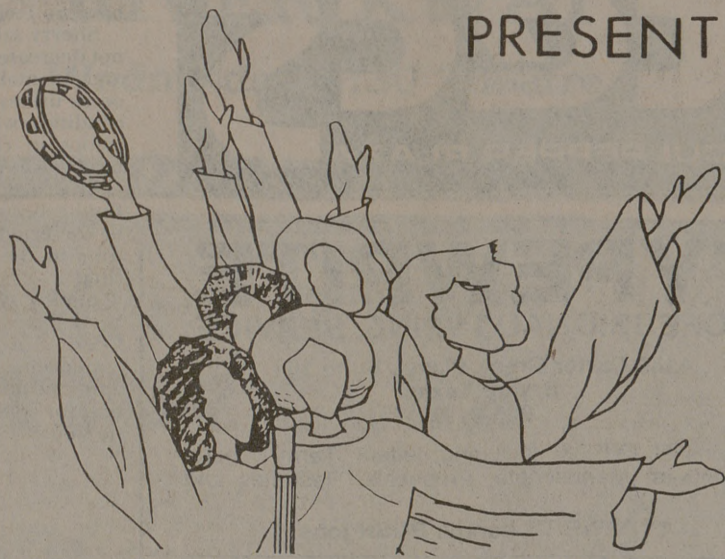
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