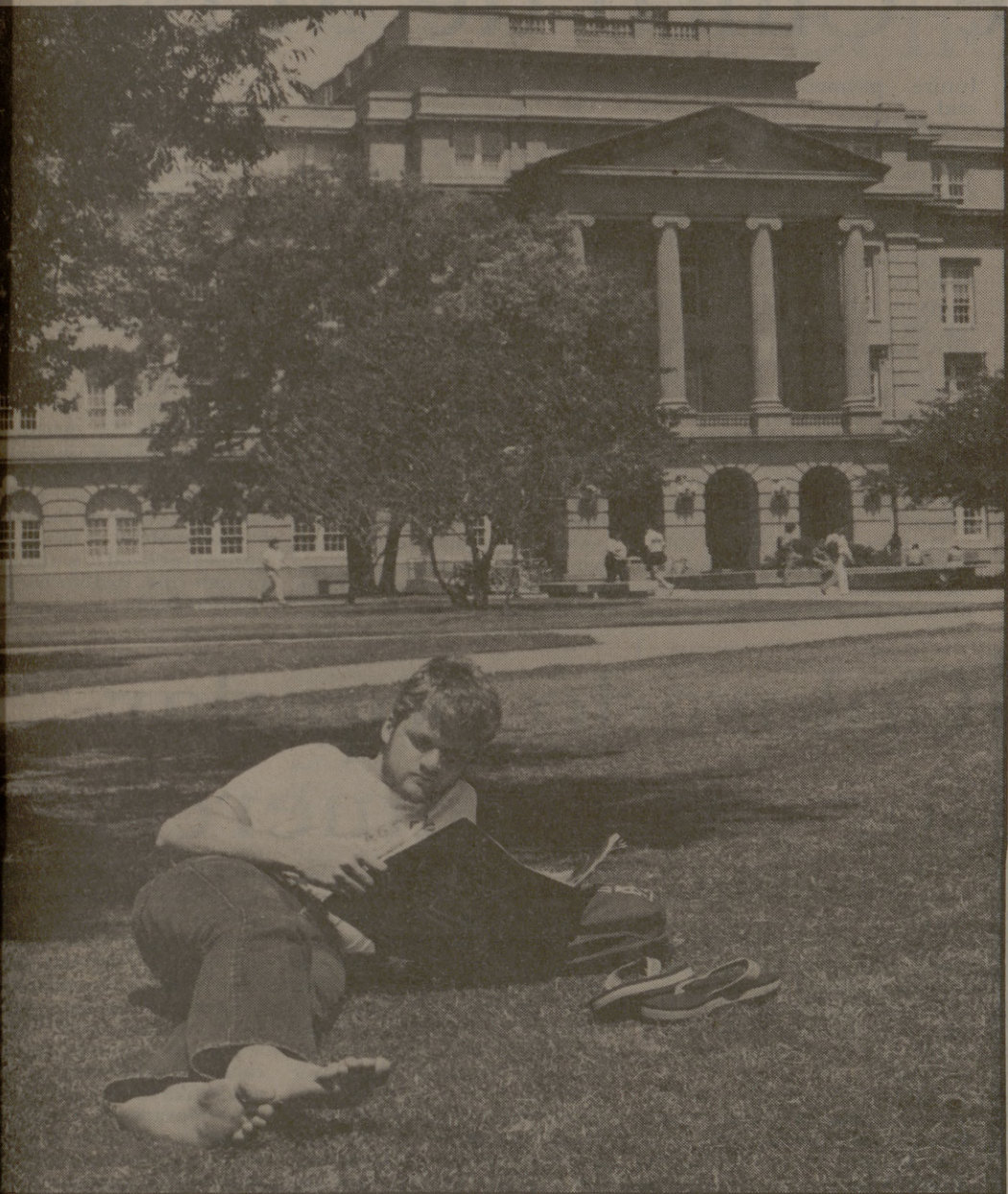


Texas A&M

The Battalion

Thursday, May 5, 1983/The Battalion/Page 1B



Killing time

photo by Jim Bridges

Steve Young, a sophomore geology major, takes advantage of his time between classes Tuesday to soak up some sunshine and read a magazine.

Committee kills chances

Betting bill dies in House

AUSTIN — A Senate-approved bill to legalize parimutuel wagering on horse races died on an 8-7 vote in a House committee, and the measure's sponsor blamed confusion over parliamentary tactics for the proposal's failure to reach the House floor for debate.

After weeks of intense lobbying, the 15-member House Urban Affairs Committee went into its Tuesday meeting with members split 7-7 on the bill and one lawmaker undecided.

The swing vote — Rep. Al Edwards, D-Houston — finally decided to vote against the measure. But Rep. Hugo Berlanga, the bill's House sponsor, said Edwards had agreed to let the bill out of the committee with an unfavorable recommendation

so the full House could debate it.

After an evening of complicated parliamentary procedures and two votes on the bill, the measure died when Edwards sided with the nays on both votes.

"He just got bungled up in his own procedures," said Berlanga, D-Corpus Christi.

The betting bill, which passed last week in the Senate only after a portion of the wagering pool was earmarked for a state water fund, would legalize horse race betting upon the issue's approval in a statewide referendum.

Local option elections then would clear the way for tracks to operate in individual counties.

The Senate-approved measure would set aside 5 percent of wagers for purses, 5 percent for tracks and 8 percent for the

state, with 5 percent of the state's share going to child welfare and 3 percent to a water fund.

The rejected House version was similar to the Senate bill but cut the water fund share to 1 percent.

Voting against the bill in the House committee were Edwards and Reps. Randy Pennington, R-Houston, who led the opposition; David Cain, D-Dallas; Barry Connelly, R-Houston; Frank

Eikenburg, R-Plano; Jan McKenna, R-Arlington; Mike Toomey, R-Houston; and Steve Wolens, D-Dallas.

In favor of the bill were committee Chairman George Pierce, R-San Antonio; and Reps. Paul Colbert, D-Houston; Roy English, D-Arlington; Paul Hilbert, R-Spring; Al Luna, D-Houston; Kae Patrick, R-San Antonio; and Tony Polumbo, D-Houston.



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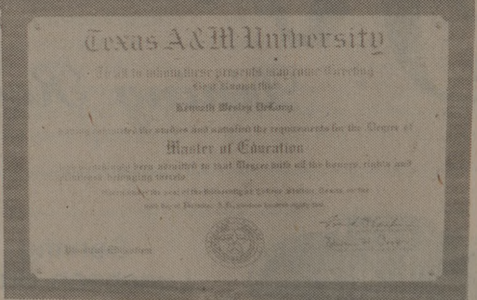
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