



Inside

At Ease

Mardi Gras merriment

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College Station, Texas

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For whom the bell tolls

Freshmen James Ezell, left, and Chris DeCluitt read Albritton Tower's inscription. It says, "I ring

with pride and honor for all past, present, and future students of Texas A&M University."

Photo by Jay Janner

Final exam forum draws few faculty

By Karen Kroesche
Senior Staff Writer

An open hearing for faculty on the senior finals issue drew a full house of students Wednesday — but very few faculty.

The hearing was scheduled by the Executive Committee of the Faculty Senate to give all faculty members a chance to express their opinions to the Faculty Senate on the scheduling of finals.

Around a dozen faculty members showed up for the meeting, only one of whom was not a faculty senator. However, approximately 100 students filled the packed room of the MSC where the hearing was held, around half wearing Corps uniforms.

Prior to the open hearing, Faculty Senate Speaker C. Richard Shumway said the hearing was scheduled strictly as a forum for faculty, and that he had invited some student leaders to answer questions from the faculty. Afterwards, he said he was disappointed in the faculty turnout and that he had not anticipated the large student attendance.

The Faculty Senate called the hearing to discuss an alternative final plan to the one that is in place. The alternative plan is a compromise that Student Senate and Faculty Senate leaders arrived at during a recent meeting between the two groups.

The compromise has already been approved by the Student Senate, and will be presented for discussion and possible endorsement at the next Faculty Senate meeting, March 7.

If implemented this spring, the

proposal would move undergraduate finals to May 9-13. Seniors would take finals with undergraduates May 9-10, but would take finals not scheduled on those days either the previous Saturday (May 7) or at another time.

The compromise proposal, for the most part, was criticized by the faculty members present at the meeting as being impractical. Students maintained that while it would create some logistical problems, the

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Israelis kill one, wound 4 as crowd impedes arrests

HEBRON, Occupied West Bank (AP) — Israeli soldiers fired on a crowd trying to stop them from making arrests during a pre-dawn raid on an Arab village Wednesday, killing one and wounding four, witnesses and the army reported.

A merchants' strike in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip kept most Arab businesses closed except for the three hours from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. Numerous cases have been reported of threats to shopowners who remained open.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir returned from Italy and rejected a trade of territory for peace with the Arabs. Secretary of State George P. Shultz proposed the idea and it was accepted by Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, Shamir's partner and rival in the governing coalition.

Neighbors identified the Palestin-

ian killed in Shuyukh village, 20 miles south of Jerusalem, as Ismail Hussein Mohammed al-Halaiga, 21, a university student. The army confirmed the death.

An army officer at the village said the soldiers aimed at legs only, but doctors said the victim was shot through the heart.

One of the wounded, 16-year-old Khaled Abu Rumei, was in a Hebron hospital with a bullet wound in a thigh. A doctor said he had extracted a metal bullet.

Rumei's mother said soldiers broke into her house about 5 a.m. while the family was sleeping and dragged another of her sons out into the cold rain.

"I tried to protect him, and they beat me with clubs," she said at the hospital. "Later they started shooting."

Gunmen kidnap Marine in Lebanon

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — Gunmen on Wednesday kidnapped a U.S. Marine officer serving with the U.N. peacekeeping force in south Lebanon as he drove along a highway. It brought to nine the number of Americans held hostage in Lebanon.

U.N. and Pentagon officials identified the victim as Lt. Col. William R. Higgins, 43, a native of Danville, Ky., and chief of an observer group attached to the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon.

The 76-officer U.N. group from 16 countries monitors cease-fire violations on the Lebanon-Israel border. Higgins was the top-ranking American officer assigned to the force's observer group, holding the title of senior U.S. military observer.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the abduction, which occurred about 4:15 p.m. on the coastal highway between Lebanon's southernmost port of Tyre and the border town of Naqoura, the location of UNIFIL's headquarters.

Higgins was driving in a U.N. jeep station wagon from Tyre to Naqoura behind a similar vehicle in

which two other observers were traveling," U.N. spokesman Timur Goksel said.

He said the first vehicle went around a bend in the road, "and when the two observers noticed that Higgins' car was not following them, they stopped and drove back, only to find Higgins' station wagon abandoned."

He said Higgins was alone in his vehicle. Goksel said UNIFIL helicopters and ground troops were searching for Higgins.

The observers in the other station wagon were another American and a

Dane, but UNIFIL officials did not name them.

Security sources in Tyre said two gunmen in a brown Volvo passed Higgins' car, blocked the road, forced Higgins into their car and drove north toward Tyre.

They said the abduction occurred between the villages of Ras el-Ein and Deir Qanoun. The two villages are controlled by Justice Minister Nabih Berri's Shiite Amal militia. U.N. sources said Amal was helping UNIFIL search for Higgins.

Reporters in Tyre say the influence of the Iranian-backed Hezbollah, or Party of God, has been steadily growing in the two villages. Hezbollah is believed to be the umbrella group for Shiite Moslem factions holding most of the foreign hostages in Lebanon.

Higgins was returning from a meeting in Tyre with Abdel Majid Saleh, a political leader of Amal in the area, Saleh told reporters. One of the things they discussed was efforts to free foreign hostages in Lebanon, Saleh said.

CS announces reduced hours for post offices

By Jeff Pollard
Staff Writer

For College Station Postmaster Clinton Matcek, it's time to put Plan 2 into action. After announcing a new, reduced schedule for College Station post offices, Matcek was told Tuesday by U.S. Postal Service officials that his cutbacks were not enough and more cuts were needed.

Last week, Bryan and College Station postmasters received word that they would have to reduce retail window service by the equivalent of one half day per week. New hours were put into effect on Tuesday, but Tuesday afternoon, Matcek received word that his plan had not been approved by the director of field operations in Houston.

"Basically, it was a misunderstanding," Matcek said. "Originally, I thought that they wanted work-hours cut, but they wanted window-hours cut. I thought that, if I cut back one hour when four people were working, we would cut four hours."

Matcek said Tuesday that they started working on a schedule as soon as he heard the first one had not been approved. He said they sent the new schedule to the Postal Service Division office in Houston Wednesday morning and received word that it had been approved.

The schedule calls for closing the main post office at Northgate one hour early (4:30 p.m. instead of 5:30 p.m.) and changing the Redmond Terrace hours, which are 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m., to 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The hours at the Aggeland Station in the MSC will remain the same.

"They (Postal Service officials) wanted to cut the hours at the MSC also," Matcek said, "but I talked them out of it. I convinced them that the hours there were at a minimum already."

Matcek said the new schedule allows for the main post office to remain open on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to noon and the cutbacks will not affect regular postal delivery.

Bryan Postmaster Earl Pophin told a different story about the effects of the budget cuts. While Bryan's retail window schedule was approved, the cutbacks caused the

Post Office Hours

- COLLEGE STATION**
- **Main Post Office:** 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F 9 a.m.-Noon Sat.
 - **Redmond Terrace:** 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F (Closed on Saturday)
 - **Aggeland Station (MSC):** 10 a.m.-3 p.m. M-F (Closed on Saturday)
- BRYAN**
- **Main Post Office:** 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F 9 a.m.-Noon Sat.
 - **Downtown (201 W. 25 St.):** 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-F (Closed on Saturday)

suspension of work being done on Bryan's new 124,000 square-foot postal station.

Pophin said the budget cuts also cut off funds for new construction and equipment. Not only was construction halted on the Bryan station, but plans for post offices in Houston and Dallas have been stopped.

"This new station would have met our needs locally for at least the next ten years," Pophin said. "The ground work will be completed because we already have a contract, but the building will probably have to wait for about two years."

Matcek said that work on the new station is about 99 percent complete. Because all contracts have been signed, he said, it probably will open on schedule in late March. The new station is located on F.M. 2818 near Texas Avenue.

These cutbacks were mandated by the Postal Service after the U.S. Congress, in December, told the postal service they owed the U.S. government \$1.4 billion and it had to be repaid in 21 months. The U.S. Postal Service is an independent government corporation, not included in the federal budget since 1971.

"Congress decided that we owed them for pension and retirement benefits for all postal employees who retired before 1971," Pophin said. "We have to cut the budget to pay that money back."

Speakers: A&M students fail to take proper precautions

By Tracy Hamm
Reporter

Speakers at the presentation "Lock it up or Lose it" agreed that student apathy toward crime is the major contributor to its increase.

The Wednesday night program was sponsored by the Texas A&M University Security Awareness Task Force and was part of C.A.R.E. week.

"The rise in thefts and burglaries is because of apathy and the lack of responsibility of victims who are not taking precautions," Bob Wiatt, director of the University Police Department, said.

"People here don't lock their doors," he said. "Unless the locks are utilized they are useless."

Bernie Kapella of the College Station Police Department agreed.

"Many students leave things in their vehicles and think that they are perfectly safe," Kapella said. "I can guarantee you that if you leave anything in your vehicle, somebody will take advantage of it."

Kapella said burglaries have increased 120 percent in the last year in College Station.

In 1987, there were 484 burglaries. This year, 86 burglaries

have been reported already. Wiatt said A&M leads the other 37 Texas academic institutions in burglary and theft.

"Since September, there have been 276 misdemeanor thefts," he said. "Of these, 132 were bicycles."

Tony Taylor, the Bryan police officer in charge of the Neighborhood Watch program, said the key to combatting crime was to remove the opportunity for the thief.

"The only way to prevent you

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Killer says ad brought crime offers

HOUSTON (AP) — A convicted killer whose classified ad in Soldier of Fortune magazine is the source of a \$22.5 million suit after the murder of a Bryan woman, says most responses were for illegal activities such as bombings, assaults, jail breaks and murder for hire.

John Wayne Hearn, serving three life terms in Florida for murder, said in a deposition Wednesday that activities also included political assassination involving the president of Canada.

Hearn's deposition was the first evidence presented in a civil suit accusing the magazine, a self-proclaimed "Journal for Professional Adventurers," of negligence.

Sandra Black of Bryan was shot to death in 1985. Her husband, Robert, is on Texas' death row for paying Hearn \$10,000 to do out the killing.

They are seeking \$2.5 million in actual damages and \$20 million in punitive damages.

Hearn said the ad generated 10 to 20 calls a day, so many he had to hire an answering service to handle them.

"When I was home, the calls came 24 hours a day," he said. "I had to get an answering service so I could get some sleep."

Hearn, who at the time was a truck driver living in the Atlanta area, said it cost him \$1,000 a month in long-distance charges just to return all the calls.

"Probably 90 percent of the calls I received concerned illegal activities," he said. Three to five of those daily concerned killings, he said, while others were for drug transportation and sales, illegal arms transportation and sales and assaults.

The deposition, as read in court, did not go into any detail about the Canadian assassination request.

Student Senate officers say smoking ban threat to rights

By Karen Kroesche
Senior Staff Writer

Student Senate officers say students' rights are being threatened by a resolution that calls for a complete ban on smoking on the Texas A&M campus.

The resolution was approved by the Faculty Senate in December and is now under consideration by President Frank E. Vandiver.

"We will agree on the part of the resolution that is banning smoking in public buildings, but we will go against the part that bans smoking in the dorm rooms," said Melinda Moore, chairman of the Student Services Committee of the Student Senate. "We felt like — and I think Mason (Hogan) and Jay (Hays) have felt the same way — it's an infringement on your rights to be told that you can't smoke in your own room."

The resolution recommends "that smoking be banned in all buildings on the Texas A&M University campus, including classrooms, dormitories, eating places, student and faculty lounges, laboratories, hallways and athletic facilities (including seating areas in Kyle Field and Olsen Field)."

Moore said her committee is still studying the resolution, but some preliminary determinations have already been made.

The Faculty Senate's resolution cited evidence from the American Cancer Society linking passive smoking to lung cancer and heart disease. Dr. Benton Storey, professor of horticultural sciences and chairman of the Faculty Senate Personnel and Welfare Committee, told *The Battalion* that second-hand smoke is a problem in most buildings on campus — including dormitories.

Because of the way the ventilation systems in most campus buildings are designed, Storey said, cigarette smoke is not confined to "smoking" areas, but is circulated throughout entire buildings.

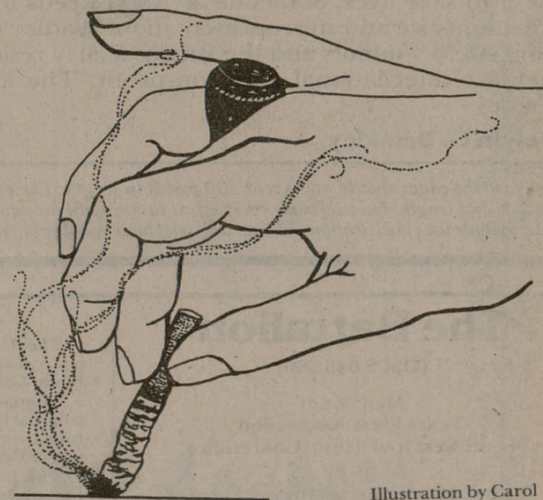


Illustration by Carol

An alternative to a complete ban on smoking in dorm rooms might be to improve the air circulation in the residence halls by introducing more new air, Moore said. But she added that such a process would be costly.

Moore said the committee hasn't formed an opinion yet on the athletic facilities included in the resolution. She said a formal resolution probably will be presented to the Student Senate by her committee at Wednesday's regular meeting. If the Senate passes the revised version of the resolution, it will be sent to President Frank

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