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# First 'gripe' forum for students opened by Student Senate

By Kelly S. Brown  
STAFF WRITER

Texas A&M students with a problem, gripe or criticism about the University can ease their discontent and take the first step toward a solution by venting the complaint to a new student forum.

In hopes of increasing communication between the Student Senate and the student body it represents, the External Affairs Committee created an Issues and Grievance Forum, through which senators can listen to issues that concern students.

Representatives from the Student Senate will hear the concerns of students and administrators at an Issues and Grievance Forum Monday at 8:30 p.m. in 607 Rudder.

Brennan Reilly, a sophomore economics major and senator, attributed one need for the forum to the lack of effective exchange of ideas and opinions.

"Never before has there been a forum at A&M where complaints could be heard," Reilly said. "In the Student Senate we regularly pass bills, but only on the basis of what we know, and what we think the student body wants. We haven't been able to hear our constituents loud and clear and we want to change this."

Reilly said if the Senate could hear its constituents' concerns, it might be able to do something about the situation.

"This is what we are here for — to represent the student body to the administration," he said.

Reilly said the Senate also wants to reach the non-traditional students.

"For example, the 40-year-old woman in one of my classes," he said. "She is a student and has concerns just like I do. But she's also a mother and maybe wants to know about day-care on campus but doesn't know who to contact. I want to hear her problems and have the chance to help her."

Jody Manier, a junior English and psychology major and chair of the

committee, said the forum will be a panel-type format in which students can ask questions and offer proposals to the Senate.

"We perceived a need for a program like this," Manier said. "We want to listen, and if we can't help them we can refer them to an office or committee that will be able to help them directly."

Manier said many students don't realize the vast amount of programs and committees that have been implemented to research various problems on the campus.

"It seems that everyone thinks the only means to express concern is in *The Battalion's* Mail Call," Manier said. "It's where a lot of senators get good ideas for bills, because people

"We haven't been able to hear our constituents loud and clear and we want to change this."

— Brennan Reilly, student senator

write in to gripe."

But, Manier said, students don't realize that organizations exist that have the sole duty of investigating complaints.

Brent Kettle, a sophomore general studies major and senator, said he often hears complaints.

"I hear people say 'I don't like this or that, and I'd like to see it changed,'" Kettle said. "Too many people just complain without ever doing anything about it."

Kenny Gossett, a sophomore political science major and senator, said other schools have implemented similar programs that have been successful.

"We want it to work here, too," Gossett said.

## In Advance

**Red Cross sponsors annual health fair**

The Brazos County Red Cross is sponsoring its Eighth Annual Health Fair **Friday and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. at Post Oak Mall.**

More than 70 health and safety related organizations and agencies will be providing information pertaining to this year's theme "Feel fine in '89: Take time for the Health Fair."

Free tests for cholesterol, anemia, blood sugar, blood type, blood pressure, vision, glaucoma and posture will be available.

The Red Cross Blood Mobile will take blood donations Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Cinema 3 entrance.

Fingerprinting for child identification will be conducted both days by the sheriff department.

**A&M hosts annual PRSSA conference**  
By Holly Beeson  
REPORTER

Texas A&M is hosting the annual Public Relations Student Society of America District Conference this weekend.

Students interested in public relations will have the opportunity to make contacts with professionals and learn about the daily duties of public relations practitioners.

Professionals in various areas of public relations will describe their duties, tell how to prepare for public relations employment and be available to talk with students and answer questions.

"It would be advantageous for students to meet and make contacts with these professionals," Stan Golaboff, a senior journalism major and conference coordinator, said.

Among the speakers are Bob

**Geosciences students to share research**  
By Susan B. Erb  
CORRESPONDENT

Texas A&M students from all disciplines of the geosciences will share their research with faculty members and colleagues this weekend at the Texas A&M University Student Geosciences Symposium.

The symposium, hosted by the Ocean Drilling Program, is open to all Texas A&M students and faculty involved in the earth sciences.

Dr. Philip D. Rabinowitz, director of the Ocean Drilling Program, said the goal of the symposium is to promote interaction between students within the College of Geosciences and to generate cooperative research between different sciences.

"There has been some cooperative research between the departments," Rabinowitz said. "I think students and faculty can always benefit by becoming more aware of what other groups are doing."

Dean Merrill and Frank Ramm, members of the organizing committee for the symposium and graduate students in oceanogra-

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