

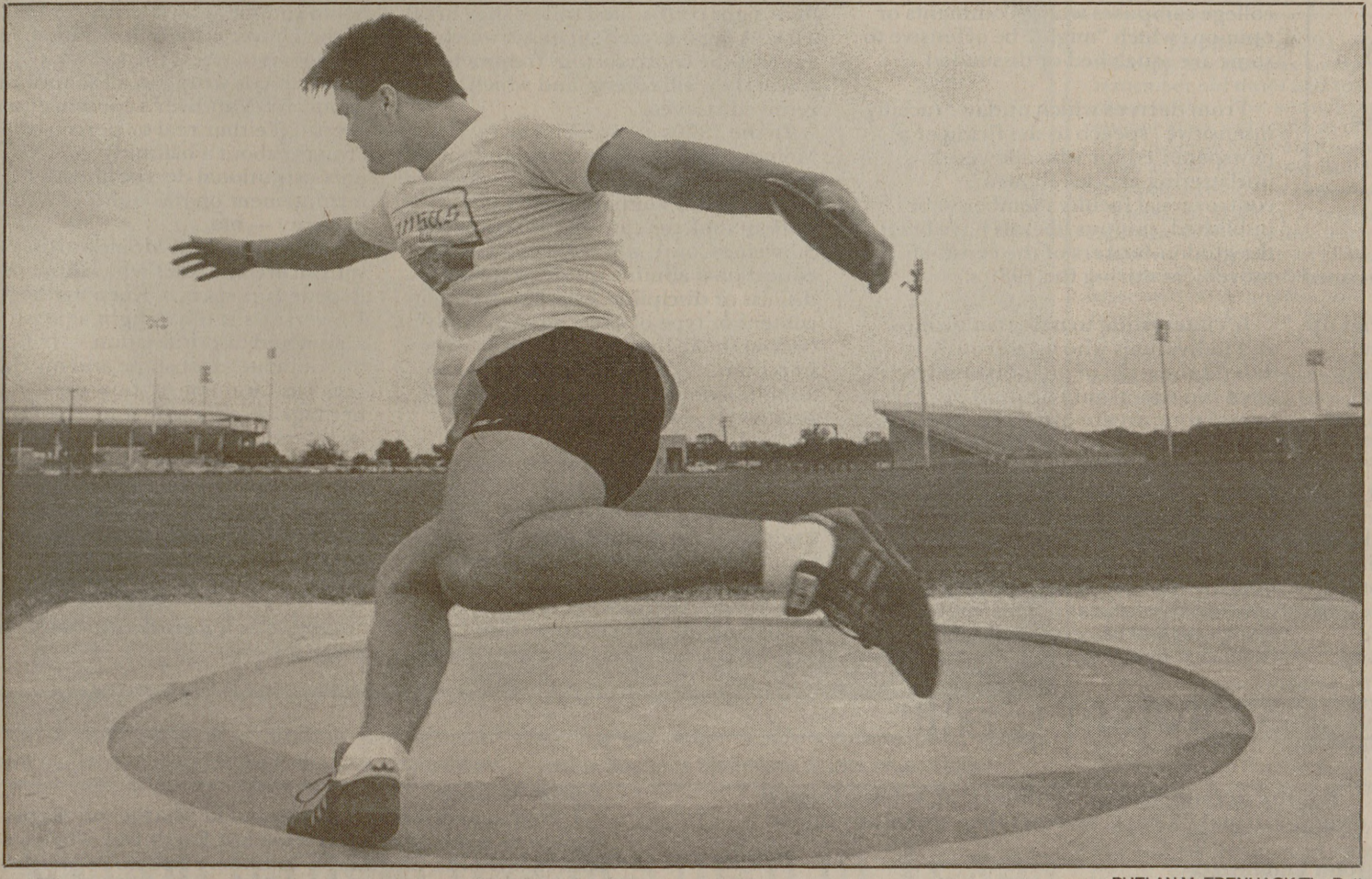
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Texas A&M The Battalion

Elephants roam on campus
Seniors reminisce, look for place to die
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Vol. 90 No. 61 USPS 045360 10 Pages College Station, Texas Wednesday, November 28, 1990

Gettin' around



PHELAN M. EBENHACK/The Battalion
Scott Paulsen, a sophomore shot putter/discuss thrower from Omaha, Nebraska, practices his form during a workout at the Frank G. Anderson Track & Field Event Center Tuesday afternoon. He said he works out three times a week.

Computer labs planned Student Senate passes proposal

By BRIDGET HARROW
Of The Battalion Staff

In its last meeting for the semester, the Student Senate Tuesday passed a resolution endorsing the proposal of a Computing and Group Study Center on campus.

The proposal is for the construction of a large centralized computer center to be open 24 hours with a proficient staff and a group study area that can accommodate 1,000 students.

The center would be housed in its own building between the College of Business and the Sterling C. Evans Library expansion which are scheduled to be constructed adjacent to each other on west campus.

Proposed funding for the center include contacting computer corporations for donations and raising the computer access fee by \$1 for two to five years — the funds from the increase to be specifically used for the center.

The proposal states that the current 18 computer centers are "insufficiently distributed about campus with a shortage of competent staff and opened during unthoughtful and unrealistic hours as related to students' needs."

The proposal was researched and compiled by two current and one former special assistant to student government: Edward Munoz, former special assistant to computing resources, Thomas Taffinder, special assistant to facilities and planning and construction, and Stephen Weber, special assistant to library resources. The trio will present the proposal to President William Mobley.

In other business, the Senate passed a bill that encourages departments not to list courses under "staff" in the Schedule of Classes, but instead list the names of instructors assigned to teach courses.

Senator Ramesh Menon, who introduced the bill, said some departments do not have instructors assigned to courses as late as a week before the beginning of the semester.

Menon said for the upcoming spring semester separate lists will be posted in the Pavilion a week before classes and intervals thereafter, informing students about additions of new courses and sections and changes to existing courses.

Senator Weber also announced that it is "Aggie Code of Honor Week" and students should remember that "Aggies do not lie, cheat or steal, nor do they tolerate those who do." Weber said the name was changed from last year's "Cheating Awareness Week" to be more positive.

Nobel Prize literature critiqued A&M professors analyze writers' social comments

By JULIE HEDDERMAN
Of The Battalion Staff

The literary works of the 1989 and 1990 Nobel Prize winners for literature were the topics of discussion at the Camilo Jose Cela and Octavio Paz Nobel Prize Homage Roundtable Tuesday night.

The presentation, sponsored by the Department of Modern and Classical Languages, began with remarks by Dr. Stephen Miller, and followed with literary analyses of the authors' works by seven Texas A&M professors.

Paz, this year's Nobel prize winner, is a political commentator. He is best known for his social essays and surreal poetry. Paz is the first Mexican to win the Nobel Prize.

Cela is a novelist from Spain. Dr. Richard Curry's presentation, titled "Completing Camilo: Cela in Cinema," consisted of an analysis of Cela's work and its recognition by the movie industry.

Curry also critiqued the two movies made from Cela's novels.

"The success enjoyed by the two films is a testimony of the great impact of the literary creativity of the inventor of words that is Camilo Cela," Curry said.

Two other professors also spoke about Cela, Dr. Timothy Mitchell, with "Cela and the Gro-

"The success enjoyed by the two films is a testimony of the great impact of the literary creativity of the inventor of words that is Camilo Cela."

— Dr. Richard Curry, assistant professor of modern languages

tesque: Introductory Remarks," and Dr. Eduardo Urbina, with "Cela as *Picaro* and the *Picaresque* in his Works."

"Interpreting the Intellectual Biography of Paz" was Dr. Henry C. Schmidt's topic of discussion.

He said the major theme of Paz's work is his interpretation of Mexican history.

Schmidt said that although Paz is most known for his poetry, his essays are what brought him the largest readership.

"It is the label of independent critic that makes him a national figure," Schmidt said.

Other speakers were Dr. Chester C. Christian, on "Paz and *Pachuco*," Dr. Eduardo Espina, on "Libertad bajo palabra: Changes in the Text Are the Changes of the Writer," and Dr. Bart Lewis, on "Paz's Literary Criticism."

'Ask Sbisas' service inspires replies, wit

By LIBBY KURTZ
Of The Battalion Staff

Not all napkins at Texas A&M's Sbisas Dining Hall get thrown away. Some patrons of the dining facility use napkins to write comments to a question-answer service called "Ask Sbisas."

In 1986, the Sbisas Student Menu Board started the service as a method of attracting more student input. The board acts as a liaison between A&M students and the dining facility, which serves approximately 10,000 meals a day.

Lance Parr and John Jackson, both members of the board, are responsible for answering the letters every week.

Jackson, a senior business administration major, says he isn't sure when students decided to write their letters on napkins.

"Napkins are cheaper than notebook paper," Jackson says. "That seems to be the only way we get them. I've also gotten typewritten letters, notes on toilet paper and even a note on a piece of toast."

Parr says he received a letter on a stale tortilla.

Students sometimes leave samples, says Parr.

"One student wrote and complained about the whipped cream topping," he says. "He also left us a sample of the whipped cream so we'd know what he was talking about."

For the past four years, Jackson faithfully has answered the letters.

"I was the last person to menu board one morning and there was a pile of napkins on the table," he says. "I ended up with the job. I've really enjoyed it."

Last year, however, Jackson's workload became very hectic and Parr volunteered to help.

At Jackson's last count, they were receiving 250 letters a week. Parr says that number now has trickled down to approximately 60 letters.

"I try to answer at least 12 letters a week," Parr says. "I read all the letters and see if I can find duplicate letters commenting on the same subject. If a problem needs urgent attention, I'll try to answer that one first."

Although, Jackson's and Parr's replies don't represent the views of Sbisas' management, and all letters get passed on to the managers.

"Most of the managers support the service," Parr says. "They like to be kept informed of students' complaints and comments."

Parr says he tries to include useful information in his replies and he often meets with the dining facility's managers to discuss the letters.

Jackson and Parr try to answer every letter no matter what the complaint. Some of the responses are sarcastic. Jackson says students have called his sense of humor "rather dry." Parr says he's also received comments about his sense of humor.

"People say I have a strange sense of humor," he says. "My sarcasm just creeps into the letters."

One student wrote, "Dear Sbisas, How can ya'll serve helpless defenseless animals (frog legs)? I am referring to the Cajun Festival. Do ya'll have no respect for Kermit? It appears as if more people are trying to make friends with their entrees, instead of consuming them. Come on, please serve food that is not quite



PHELAN M. EBENHACK/The Battalion
(Left) Clinton Borchardt, Janette Garner, Mark Haven, John Jackson, Lance Parr, Basel Lister and Jim Outland read "Ask Sbisas" comments written by students.

so sickening and repulsive." The letter was signed by Miss Piggy.

Parr answered, "...watch for Lion, Bear and Skunk festivals (coming soon to a dining hall near you)."

Jackson says if the letters contain off-the-wall questions, he'll answer them in the same manner.

Cory Pearce, a sophomore civil engineer major, says he enjoys reading the letters, which are posted near the exit of Sbisas.

"They're entertaining," he says.

Carlos Manns, an economic graduate student, says he agrees with some of the complaints.

"The letters are usually pretty funny," Manns says. "I think it's a good feedback system for students."

Parr says he wishes more students would take advantage of the service.

"If students have a complaint, we'll answer the letter," he says. "Ask Sbisas is a forum for students to bring their comments forward."

The service also helps dispel rumors circulating about Sbisas Dining Hall's food.

"Students often ask if they use powdered milk or powdered eggs," Parr says. "I'm here to say that they only use fresh milk and eggs."

Parr says students can look forward to seeing some new editions to "Ask Sbisas" in the next few weeks.

KKK aims for students, better educated members

Editor's note: This is the second of The Battalion's four-part series on racism on the Texas A&M campus. The first story focused on how racism has become more apparent in society.

By JULIE MYERS
Of The Battalion Staff

Students in Texas universities, including Texas A&M, recently have been targeted for membership by the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan in an effort to bring better educated men and women into the white supremacist fold.

Michael Lowe, 41, a Waco-area carpenter and Texas' newly chosen Ku Klux Klan Grand Wizard, says the future of the KKK depends on its ability to attract better-educated, white-collar members who will be tomorrow's leaders.

Lowe would not say how many Klan members are A&M students, but said two students joined the Klan after a Nov. 3 rally in Franklin. Twelve other people also joined after seeing the Klan's post office box number on a KKK sign that was

broadcast during a segment of a local television news station.

"I'm still getting responses from the Franklin rally," Lowe says.

Lowe says he told a reporter during the Franklin rally that he was not surprised the Texas Association of Black Mayors endorsed Republican Clayton Williams for governor "because black men do all the raping." Lowe was referring to a comment made by Williams that compared the inevitability of weather and rape.

An unofficial KKK chapter has opened at Baylor University in Waco, Lowe says, and another unofficial chapter is planned at the University of Texas. Racial tensions have plagued UT during the past year.

Lowe said many people would probably be surprised how many members the Klan has picked up in recent years.

Lowe tells college Klan members to be careful where they hang meeting notices because university administrators frown on Klan activity.

"They'll let the queers and groups like the League of United Latin American Citizens on campus, but not the Klan," Lowe says.

The Grand Wizard says the Klan has grown larger recently because whites do not feel their concerns about affirmative action, welfare, crime, abortion and immigration have been addressed.

At Klan rallies, Lowe apologizes to young white men because, "they do not remember when America was great and we were the most powerful nation in the world economically and militarily. Now we're barely hanging on."

The American dream is not as easy to obtain as it was thirty years ago, Lowe says, but whites can still have a bright future.

College-age students are not the only groups Lowe has targeted — children, farmers and veterans are also being wooed by the Grand Wizard and the Klan.

Lowe says he has received positive and negative reactions to letters he recently sent to new parents. The letters urged parents to teach their children to be proud of the white race.

Teddy bears and balloons decorated with the phrase, "I love the Klan" also are given to children at Klan rallies, Lowe says.

"They'll let the queers and groups like the League of United Latin American Citizens on campus, but not the Klan."

— Micheal Lowe, KKK grand wizard of Texas

The new Klan is trying to avoid the same mistakes it has made in the past — the KKK of today is not motivated by hate, he says.

"I don't hate blacks — it has nothing to do with hate," Lowe says. "You can't blame all negroes for the problems of their race. Some of their problems are our fault."

Lowe blames Presidents Lyndon Johnson, John Kennedy and liberals for initiating social programs which he says have "made blacks lazy."

Many African-Americans now have the attitude that "they don't have to work for anything" because the government will meet all their needs, Lowe says.

"After two decades in the welfare

subculture, negroes have been taught to expect things to compensate for wrongs they suffered at the hands of whites," Lowe says. "But, we shouldn't have that albatross around our necks. We cannot right the wrongs. We can't give land back to the Indians and we can't erase slavery."

"Some blacks are trying to do right, but it isn't a big majority," Lowe says.

Tension between African-Americans and whites is so high that if another "Great Depression" were to strike the United States, there would be another civil war, he says.

Lowe says the education he received was watered down so African-Americans "could keep up in integrated schools," and the entertainment and news industries were — and still are — run by "Jewish men and women who slant things their way," he says.

"I'm not going to kid you; I'm anti-Semitic," Lowe says.

Lowe, a convicted felon, says he also opposes releasing prisoners before they have served out their full sentence. If people break the law,

they should be punished — not out in a year, he says.

Lowe was released after serving six years of a 19-year sentence.

"I wish I could change some things about my past, but I can't," he says.

The Klan plans to rally in Abilene, Athens, Waco, Huntsville and Palestine during the next year. Late last year, Lowe has received warm receptions at American Legion and Veterans of Foreign Wars meetings.

The men in those organizations are concerned about patriotic issues like flag burning, Lowe says.

Dues to join the KKK are \$25 a year or \$15 if the prospective member has hit hard financial times which are probably caused, Lowe says, by illegal aliens who are willing to work for a fraction of what white men will demand for the same job.

Lowe says he likes to think of himself as effectively marketing the Klan and would like to see a Klan candidate for state office in Texas within four years.

"I'm hopeful we'll be successful so that in years to come there won't be a need for a Klan because everyone will pull their weight," Lowe says.