

One-Man One-Vote Misinterpreted

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle

— Sound Off —

The "One-man one-vote" edict of the Supreme Court has taken a strange interpretation at A&M, and it's not the one intended.

One man receives one vote in an election and wins. This happened in Thursday's Student Senate election in the College of Geosciences, as an all-time low was recorded at Aggie polls.

Another position was filled when a man received three votes, another won with seven, and so on it went, with 453 students voting in five colleges.

This figure represents five per cent of the total enrollment, and eclipsed a previous low of 11 per cent recorded in the last election. At that time, an editorial appeared in The Battalion deploring the condition and calling for greater student interest in their government or it could be lost.

This is still the position of The Battalion.

Last year, in this same election, 23 per cent of the students voted, and most of us were shocked at the small turnout. Since then we've seen the numbers dwindle. How valid is an election with such a poor turnout?

Very valid, because it shows how little the students care about their affairs. Aggie clamor for improved student government, write letters demanding action on this or that issue, and just generally complain about how "they" run the government.

These complaints are totally UNJUSTIFIED!

No matter how inefficient the government, no one is to blame in a democracy except the voters. If they fail to exercise their voting power over their government, they deserve whatever that government turns out.

The Battalion offers its best wishes to the newly-elected Senators, and hopes they can well serve even a student body with so little concern.



"We'd like your signature! It's a petition to flip th' best two outa three to see which team represents th' conference!"

Editor,

The Battalion:

Judging from the turnout at last week's election something, academic excellence, permitting, needs to be done to increase student interest in our campus government. Why aren't the voting booths put where most students would see and hopefully use them, like in the Academic Building rotunda or in front of Bhis and Duncan Dining Halls? Why are they hidden in the basement of the MSC? This may at first seem radical but there is nothing wrong with students openly practicing democracy a few times a year.

Hye Brown '68

Editor,

The Battalion:

As I near the end of my undergraduate career at A&M (I hope), there are several things I'd like to get said before I leave.

I've been accused of being a gung-ho Ag who can't really see the faults of A&M because the Aggie Spirit is clouding my vision.

I'll gladly admit to all except the last accusation. Working in Houston two years stretched my ten semesters at A&M over seven years so I think my experience,

both in and out of the Corps, gives me an insight that doesn't come to all.

So, I'll just mention a few problems that I hope a few dedicated individuals will continue to work on until a solution to each is finally found.

First and foremost is the political club issue. Right behind that is the now being discussed faculty evaluation by students. Another not quite so popular issue is the elimination or centralization of quiz files to keep some students from having an unfair advantage over others.

Sure, there are other problems, but these are those I consider the most important. Please remember, I am a gung-ho Ag and am for the school AND the students all the way.

Jerry C. Cooper, '63

The Republic of Vietnam is shaped on the map somewhat like California, although only half as large.

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Students Not Radicals

By LARRY R. JERDEN

I mentioned in a column not long ago that what this country really don't need was another examination of American youth, or American women, or American basket-weavers.

Well, another one has been done, and despite my earlier opinion, this one was needed. It pictures, I believe, what most of us secretly believed all along:

American college students today, while they are seeking changes for a better way of life, are not the radicals and revolutionaries some would have us believe.

Samuel Lubell, writing for United Features Syndicate, reports that five out of every six collegians today still share the same basic political and economic views as their parents.

Taking a random survey at 36 colleges across the nation, Lubell found that while most students wanted change, few desired the kind of "campus revolution" pictured by the majority of popular writers treating the subject.

I believe these writers, like the general public, concentrate on this very vocal minority for so long that their perspective is distorted.

Lubell disclosed that, in relation to their politics, one of every 11 students from Democratic families is turning more conservative and Republican, while one of seven from Republican families has either turned Democratic, Socialist or anarchist.

One of the primary forces present on the campus is the attitude of questioning accepted ideas on all fronts, and seeking change where it will definitely bring improvement of the situation.

Students are taking a look at their parent's religion, and nearly half admitted they were "less religious" than their parents. Almost an equal number said they were "about as religious" and 11 per cent thought they were "more religious."

Drugs, both the standard narcotics and the new "mind drugs", have recently been in the news, and the religious beliefs of the students seem to form a correlation with drug use in this survey.

One in seven interviewed had used either marijuana or LSD, but a third said they would never use it again after one trial. The repetitive users usually fancy themselves as writers or artists, and describe their faith with, "I have no religion."

Those who avoid the use of these drugs run the whole range of occupational preference and have much stronger religious convictions than the users.

One of the outstanding characteristics uncovered by this 17-state sampling of students was that beetle haircuts, sloppy clothes and guitar strumming are no real measures of rebellion.

Lubell found a student at UCLA that looked like the model beatnik, only to find that he was a timid boy that neither smoked or drank, still lived at home, and that his costume was about as "rebellious" as he got.

Another finding, usually borne out in most of my personal contacts, was that there was a lot more talking about action than acting. Researchers have been writing about the "Campus Sexual Revolution" for about ten years now, and what college students themselves know about it still stems largely from what they read in the magazines!

Morality, it was found, has become a very personal thing to students. Their criteria for an action is not "what does some authority say about this," but "is it right for me?"

In sexual action, they ask if their action is right for the couple involved, but the emphasis is still on the "me".

Lubell did find the small "rebel" faction, and said that four faces stand out in this group. One is the face of the rebel's offspring. This is the group made up of sons and daughters of one time Communists and Socialists, those that have been going to demonstrations since they were children.

Another face is that of the "Christian radicals," those brought up in deeply religious homes, but who have broken away and said that government can do what God could not.

A third face is the "career" rebels, those who reject money-making for a life of working with people in universities or public employment.

The last face is that of the beatnik, undoubtedly the least influential or important. About all they add, said Lubell, are theatrical effects.

But even these four faces were but different aspects of a minority.

The mainstream? College students that are trying to receive an education so that they may better make their way in life. A group not too unlike their parents, interested, like all of us, in building a better world.

Lubell's conclusion: "Today's new college generation should lift the quality of American life."

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PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz

WHERE WAS THAT BIG TRUCK GOING?
THAT'S A MOVING VAN... LINUS AND LUCY HAVE MOVED AWAY...
BUT I THOUGHT SHE WAS JUST KIDDING! I DIDN'T THINK THEY'D REALLY GO!
WELL, WHAT DO YOU CARE? YOU NEVER LIKED LUCY ANYWAY! YOU WERE ALWAYS INSULTING HER!
BUT I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND... I MEAN, I...
OH STOP MAKING EXCUSES! GO ON HOME, AND PLAY YOUR 'OL BEETHOVEN!
SCHROEDER, WHAT IF YOU AND I GOT MARRIED SOMEDAY AND I NEVER EVEN SAID GOOD-BYE...
LOOK! A POST CARD FROM LINUS!
DEAR CHARLIE BROWN, THIS IS THE MOTEL WE STAYED IN THE FIRST NIGHT... IT HAD A SWIMMING POOL, BUT WE DIDN'T GO SWIMMING...
LUCY HAS BEEN CRABBY ALL DAY... I HAVE TO RIDE IN THE BACK SEAT WITH HER... THIS LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE A LONG TRIP... YOUR FRIEND LINUS... P.S. TELL SNOOPY, I HOPE HE GETS THE RED BARON!
THAT'S THE SADDEST POST CARD I'VE EVER READ!

YOU CAN'T LOSE WHEN YOU TRADE AT LOU'S!