

# Student Election Poorly Executed

Last Thursday's student election was in one respect notable and in several respects one of the most poorly planned and executed elections in several years.

Most objections to the procedures and lack of procedures used have been summarily overruled by the election commission. They did announce several changes—ex post facto.

The clarifications of voting and campaign procedures should have been made before the election, not after.

The exceptionally large student vote was a heartening indication that Aggies are taking a renewed interest in the people who represent them.

But the subsequent revelation of irregularities would seem to nullify the election results.

On the day before last Thursday's election the commission discovered that William Bradford, candidate for Senior class President, was ineligible to run because of his probationary status.

For expediency, the commission left his name on the ballot locking the switch under his name in voting booths.

Apparently, at least one such switch became operative, and 69 votes had to be thrown out.

One of the most controversial decisions in the election concerned to protest filed by John R. Gingrich, a candidate for junior class president, who failed to make the runoff.

Gingrich noted improper procedures in which some students distributed lists of civilian candidates among themselves at the polling sight.

Gingrich's protest failed to pass at a special meeting of the election commission Monday, but last night a special session of the Student Senate reversed the decision.

The Senate ruled that that portion of the election dealing with Junior class President will be reheld (see page one).

But if one area of last week's election was reversed, then the entire election should be. Other irregularities affected far more than Junior class candidates.

More than 54 students were turned away for not complying with University clothing regulations.

This was a problem that an election commission has never faced before. But instead of noting civilian disregard for present clothing regulations and making a formal statement of dress requirements before the election, the polls were open for more than an hour before the commission decided to enforce the rules. Many students who had been waiting in line were turned away, which doesn't promote an interest in voting.

"After consulting with Dean Hannigan, it was decided that students be required to comply with current civilian clothing regulations, which are listed in the University Regulations," said Tony Benedetto, commission chairman.

When and if the students vote to rescind those regulations later this month is not in question. As the rule stands, it should be enforced.

But there is no classroom on this campus where the rule is strictly enforced. Therefore, there was no reason to believe that it would be at the polls.

The commission also failed to avoid "stuffing the ballot box" when they unknowingly allowed an untold number of students to use both their fee slip and then their activity cards for identification.

The commission made clarifications of the procedures at their Monday meeting and it appears that a respect of these problems will not occur.

But for the candidates who may have suffered by last Thursday's "shoddy" practices, it is little consolation.

That the Student Senate decided to schedule another election for Junior class President is commendable.

But it is the entire election which should be thrown out and rescheduled. We hope that the commission will more carefully consider all the angles beforehand and before the Student Senate elections later this month.



EARLE APR 4 68  
"As a matter of fact, I'm pleased you brought it to my attention! I'll check it out, it's very possible that I misfigured your grade!"

## Food Service Officials To Meet Civilians

The Civilian Student Menu Committee will meet with university food service officials at noon Monday, for its monthly discussion of Sbsa dining operations, announced Edwin H. Cooper, director of civilian student activities.

Any civilian student desiring to offer suggestions about the dining operation is invited to contact one of the committee members and attend the luncheon meeting as his guest, Cooper said.

Permanent members of the committee are: Civilian Student Council President Griff Venator, Room 47, Milner Hall; Graduate Student Council President Charles Ernest Knowles, 307 Live Oak, College Station; Civilian Student Council members George Walne, Room 47, Milner Hall, and Stephen Bancroft, Room 424, Dorm 15.

**TODAY**  
The Amarillo Hometown Club will meet at 7 p.m. in the Rotunda of the Academic Building.  
The Beaumont Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 202 of the YMCA.  
The Dallas Hometown Club will discuss an Easter party at 7:15 p.m. in the Lobby of the Memorial Student Center.  
The Leaders in World Agriculture will meet at 7:30 p.m. in Room 109 of the Agricultural Engineering Building.

**SUNDAY**  
The Pakistani Students Club will hold its annual cultural festival at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC Ballroom, featuring a variety performance, film show and refreshments.

**CIVILIAN WEEKEND**  
**APRIL 27**  
Town Hall  
Fifth Dimension  
Costume Ball  
Clarence Green

**EXCHANGE STORE HOURS**  
**FOR EASTER HOLIDAYS**

The Exchange Store will be closed for the Easter Holidays From 5 p.m., Wednesday the 10th of April until 8 a.m. Monday the 15th of April.

## THE BATTALION

Opinions expressed in *The Battalion* are those of the student writers only. *The Battalion* is a non tax-supported non-profit, self-supporting educational enterprise edited and operated by students as a university and community newspaper.

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**VOTE FOR ROBERT S. WICK**

CANDIDATE FOR  
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April 6, 1968  
Problems Must Be Solved, Not Denied

(Paid Political Announcement by Mrs. Robert S. Wick.)

PEANUTS

