

Will The Real SDS Please Stand Up?

If readers of Tuesday's Battalion article about the local would-be organizers of Students for a Democratic Society were expecting fire-breathing, revolutionary rantings from New Left radicals out to turn A&M into another Columbia, they certainly didn't get it. Some of the unrevolutionary points made included the following (with our comments added):

• "Every dorm has a parking lot beside it, but you can't park there." (That's true, to a certain extent, and it has to do with a long-range perimeter-parking plan which President Earl Rudder has, on several occasions, explained to student leaders. Campus Security Chief Ed Powell is, of course, equally aware of the plans and would undoubtedly be glad to explain them to students who are willing to quit griping long enough to ask for explanations.)

• The group wondered why women were allowed to attend A&M but were automatically discouraged because there are no women's dormitories on campus. (Women are still limited to a day-student status by a Board of Directors policy which will be enforced, we understand, until and unless the directors rescind it. The place to "go on record as supporting girls' dorms on campus" would be at a board meeting.)

• The group suggested a monthly meeting... "to air complaints... about university policy." (At least two such meetings have been held this semester, and the student leaders who participated have pretty unanimously noted results. As far as we know, no efforts have yet been made to broaden participation in these talks, and therefore, it's difficult to speculate as to the feasibility of doing so.)

• Committees of students, faculty and administrators should hear student suggestions on matters such as professor selection and courses offered, the group suggested. (The Senate's committee on Educational Procedures and Excellence was formed to study and seek action on similar proposals, including pass-fail systems, published professor evaluations and others.)

• "Many times the students are irked about something the administration doesn't know about, but would listen to if they knew about it." (Spoken like a true Student Senator. In fact, it virtually echoes Bill Carter's sentiments in the year's first Senate meeting.)

• "When we want to pattern something after the University of Texas," leader Brian Foye complained, "most students (at A&M) are opposed, even though it may be good." (Well, that's a debatable point, at best. One thing's sure: meetings such as the Idea Exchange Conference coming up this weekend are aimed at patterning some student activities after successful methods that other schools have found for accomplishing student goals. Some students, at least—and they are students in good positions to sell such ideas to the student body—are not doggedly opposed to learning from students at the University of Texas at Austin.)

• "It took some riots here" to get dining hall committees set up, Foye asserted, and students "got results because the administration is so wrapped up in its own image." (That may very well be true; but what's the point of bitching about that now? It may be that the administration's new attitude toward student participation in forming university policies stems from a selfish concern over "image;" granting this assumption requires, of course, indulgence in the old, familiar, paranoid they're-out-to-get-us concept, and even granting it doesn't gainsay the progress that has been made and that appears to offer hope of continuing.)

There remain many points on which students and administration don't see eye-to-eye (including the political-speakers issue) and which don't seem readily soluble. But progress is being made here this year; students are becoming a vital force in the university; and if it must be granted that this force has not been felt with the violent shock with which the SDS paralyzed Columbia and San Francisco State College, then it must be noted as well that this student body has not shown such willingness to be led in such revolts by the SDS and similar groups.

At any rate, the SDS platform outlined by Foye and others would seem to indicate one of two situations: Either the SDS planners are totally, ludicrously ignorant of what is being done already, through constituted student representation; or they are aware of the Senate's goals and accomplishments, and have utterly refused to accept that any progress is being made, and therefore they state their objectives as if the Senate did not exist. Neither alternative, of course, would speak very highly for their mental capacities, and that renders the alternatives unlikely.

Which brings us to the third alternative. If Foye's group is indeed "not a typical SDS chapter," but rather one "concerned mainly with problems facing students at A&M," if Foye's vehement disowning of such SDSers as Jeff Daniels and Mark Rudd and of the national SDS organization are sincere; if all Foye's goals are as constructive and mundane and acceptable to the Establishment as those he named—then why, in the name of legitimacy, did he organize his movement under a banner that he knew was certain to snap administrative minds? Why did he choose thus to place his group so far outside the system that it would have to depend for support on "an organization with power"—the national SDS, whose leaders frankly see America as "a monster that has to be stopped," and who have decided that violent confrontation is the only way to stop it?

Foye said his group needs publicity. Tuesday's story was published not as publicity, but as a means of showing students what the SDS organizers now claim as their goals; this editorial, along with an upcoming interpretive on their national organization's efforts, will hopefully provide the grain of salt with which their statements must be taken.

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 at a university and community newspaper.

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsey, chairman; Dr. David Bowers, College of Liberal Arts; F. S. White, College of Engineering; Dr. Donald R. Clark, College of Veterinary Medicine; and Hal Taylor, College of Agriculture.

The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M is published in College Station, Texas daily except Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

MEMBER The Associated Press, Texas Press Association

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Service, Inc., New York City, Chicago, Los Angeles and San Francisco.

Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$5.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 3% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

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LISTEN UP

the batt forum

Editor, The Battalion:

Thursday, Dec. 12, the Class of '72 must take the final step towards unity. The class officers have yet to be selected. Being concerned with the situation here at Texas A&M University, we endorse these fish for the class officers: Kirby Brown, president; Gig Newsom, vice-president; Joe Schriever, social secretary.

The plans of this group show serious thought, imaginative solutions, and a willingness to work together. Their first step will be to organize a "fish council," composed of representatives from each Corps outfit, civilian residence hall, and day student organization. The council will provide a means whereby the fish class will work together to achieve the goals which they have set. Their expansion of the Fish Ball into a complete Fish Weekend is only one example of the various projects which they will undertake during the course of the year.

Most significant of all, they are working together as Aggies to help improve Texas A&M University. Rather than representing their separate factions, they are working for the entire student body. If you want a group of leaders who are ready to work for you now, we urge you to support Kirby Brown, Gig Newsom, and Joe Schriever.

David Maddox '69
 Senate Vice-President
 Garry Mauro '70
 Yell Leader

Editor, The Battalion:

Before you read this, you should realize that I am Black and you are White. When I say I am Black, you picture one of two types of Black men. But I refuse to be either; and if you read this as if I were one of them, you will never realize who and what I represent, and you will leave this place just as your fathers and grandfathers left it.

I am the New Black. I will neither babble with you about how much I love this school nor entertain you with racial comedy. I will not eat with my fingers nor go out of my way to sit down at a dining hall table with you. I will not flunk out of this place, but neither will I participate in the childish fanaticism of raving with you about your math test or your English grade. I don't want your love, your pity, your guilt, or your fear. I demand only that you respect me as I respect you.

In show of this respect, I expect you not to use or exploit me. But you have done both (display case at MSC). By using my pictures, are you trying to indicate an air of tranquility in Black-White relations here? If so, you fool only visitors, because you and I and other Black students know this depiction is a farce. And knowing your display is a false manifestation of the racial climate here, you exploit me by displaying those pictures.

Awareness of the Black challenge can never be recognized by a southern conservative university that denies Black students the right to organize. Such is A&M.

Only through communications can our problems be settled here. But you seem more interested in what outsiders think than in the problems that have led to Black students' disgruntlements.

Allen E. Giles
 Moore Hall, 333
 5-1239

Editor, The Battalion:

Again members of the Freshman Class, Class of '72, will have an opportunity to choose their class officers in the freshman run-off election Thursday, Dec. 12. As before every member of the Class of '72 should make a special effort to vote Thursday at the polling center

in the Memorial Student Center basement.

I am a candidate in the run-off for vice-president. There will also be run-offs for president, secretary-treasurer, and social secretary.

On Thursday vote as Aggies to elect Aggies.

Gerald Bratz '72
 ★ ★ ★

Editor, The Battalion:

We, the officers of the Class of 1972, wish to thank the freshman class for electing us as their student representatives.

Senators

Don Mauro
 Dwain King
 Phil Morley
 Bill Hartsfield

Election Commission

Michael Essmyer
 Al Bradley
 Bill Curtis
 Patrick Buckley
 Raymond Kopecky

Tonight On KBTX

6:00 News, Weather & Sports
 6:30 Here Come the Brides
 7:30 Good Guys
 8:00 Beverly Hillbillies
 8:30 Green Acres
 9:00 Jonathan Winters
 10:00 News, Weather & Sports
 10:30 Don Meredith Show
 10:45 Wednesday Night Movie "Shadow on the Land"



"No hard feelings, fish Squirt, but you just don't come across as Santa Claus!"

SENATE SHORTS

by bill carter

SENATE SHORTS N...6...4rit
 The Student Senate will host its second student "Idea Exchange Conference" this Friday and Saturday at the Memorial Student Center. The theme for this year's conference will be "Student Government: Fact or Fiction."

The "Idea Exchange Conference" was originated by the Senate last spring, and was termed very successful by the delegates who attended from other schools. The Conference was established to give student leaders from the Southwest Conference schools an opportunity to meet together to discuss student problems and possible solutions to these problems. Each SWC school, with the exception of Rice, will be represented at this year's conference.

The Conference will be keynoteed Friday morning by a panel discussion of student body presidents from Arkansas, Baylor, TCU and Texas Tech. Their topic will be the theme "Student Government: Fact or Fiction." This should prove to be a very provocative and possibly controversial discussion. The panel discussion will be at 9:45 a.m. in the Assembly Room of the MSC. I would like to personally invite everyone to attend. Also, all roundtable discussions are open and everyone is invited to sit in on these as often as possible. Some of the possible topics for roundtable discussions are Student Rights, Student-Faculty Relationships, Student Protests, Faculty Evaluations,

and Roles and Responsibilities of Student Publications. A calendar of events for the conference will be appearing in today's and Thursday's Batt.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS
 Thursday
 9-10 p.m.—Social Room—Mixer
 Friday
 8-9 a.m.—2-C & 2-D—Breakfast
 9-9:45 a.m.—Serpentine Lounge—Registration
 9-10 a.m.—Assembly Room—Welcome—Bill Carter
 10 a.m.—Assembly Room & Birch Room—Panel Discussion—Student Body Presidents
 12-12:50 p.m.—2-A & 2-B—Luncheon

1-2 p.m.—3-B, 3-C, & Art Room—Conferences
 2:15-3:15 p.m.—3-B, 3-C, & Art Room—Conferences
 3-30-4:30 p.m.—3-B, 3-C, & Art Room—Conferences
 Saturday
 8:00-9:00 a.m.—2-C & 2-D—Breakfast
 9:00-10 a.m.—3-B, 3-C, 3-D—Panel Discussion
 10:15-11:15 a.m.—3-B, 3-C, & 3-D Conferences
 12:00-1:00 p.m.—Assembly Room—Luncheon
 1:15-2:15 p.m.—3-D—Conferences
 2:15-3:15 p.m.—3-D—Conferences

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