



The Battalion



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'Mod' SF Author Speaks 'Lightly' On Writing Art

By TONY HUDDLESTON
Battalion Staff Writer

held a Contemporary Arts audience by its funnybone with his mod clothes, animated gestures, and dry wit. Ellison, dressed in a black sports coat and red and white

bellbottom pants, spoke on the art of writing, a part of the two day seminar on writing. The seminar coincides with Science Fiction Week, sponsored by the Cepheid Variables.

A science fiction author who has written for numerous television series, Ellison noted that the only secret to the art of writing is sitting down and letting your thoughts drift.

"Ideas appear as the writer is doing the everyday things that he normally does, like walking down the street," Ellison, the script writer of the widely-acclaimed movie, "The Oscar," said.

HE NOTED that his style has changed greatly from the beginning of his writing career. "As a writer ages his works become increasingly better because he has more of a realization of life."

"I learned that the better writer you become, the more beautiful women and luxuries will become yours, Ellison noted.

Questioned on what kind of schedule a writer should keep, the non-conformist Ellison answered: "If a writer is successful he must write whenever the idea appears and for this reason I do not keep a schedule."

He added that when he gets too much work scheduled at one time he becomes increasingly nervous as the days go on. "I am like a roving maniac when I have several writing assignments staring me in the face, and publishers screaming at me to meet my deadline."

He said that he was disgusted in the way that Hollywood directors had changed the roles of characters in "The Oscar." "Parts that I had created for actors Steve McQueen and Peter Faulk were given to Tony Bennett and Stephen Boyd, who were totally unfit for the roles."

"BOYD COULDN'T act his way out of a pay toilet," Ellison further commented as he downed a glass of water, one of the many throughout his lecture.

Ellison pointed out that changing the wording of copy was another thing that caused him to have a distaste for publishers.

"The writer, not the producer or publisher should be the one who changes the words in the story because when someone else other than the author changes it there is always the chance that the meaning of the word can be lost," Ellison, a native of Ohio said.

He noted as he paced the floor that the scheduling of television programs was another thing that irritated him. "Television executives act like bumbling idiots when they start to schedule programs because they believe the American public is as stupid as chocolate pudding." He listed as examples the programs "Beverly Hillbillies," and "Green Acres."

He concluded by reading to the audience his short story, "To Try a Dull Knife."

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Election Panel Rules In Reinert's Favor

By TOM CURL

Battalion Staff Writer
The qualifications of Al Reinert for the presidency of the A&M Student Senate were approved by the Election Commission Tuesday night after a clarification ruling by the University Appeals Committee that same morning.

The decision will be appealed to the Student Senate at a called meeting tonight at 7:30 in the library conference room, Senate President Bill Carter announced late Tuesday.

Reinert's eligibility had been questioned last week at a called Election Commission meeting by Tommy Henderson, vice-president in charge of publicity. Registrar's records show that Reinert has not achieved the 1.5 Grade Point Ratio required for a candidate for the head of the Student Senate, highest elected student office on the campus.

REINERT'S current GPR for work at A&M is 1.23, but if the grades are computed to include his freshman year at West Point, he meets the minimum scholastic qualifications. Last week the Election Commission acted on the favorable opinion of Dean of Students James P. Hannigan and approved Reinert's candidacy.

Henderson appealed the decision to A&M President Earl Rudder, who in turn called a meeting of the University Appeals Committee to consider the matter and clarify the definition of "overall grade point ratio."

The committee decided that overall grade point ratio should include only grades earned at Texas A&M. The group also recommended in its report that the ruling be applied to the current election.

THE COMMITTEE was composed of the associate deans, Director of Civilian Student Activities E. H. Cooper, Registrar Robert Lacey and Malon Southerland, of the Commandant's office.

The Election Commission was called into session again Tuesday night to reconsider Reinert's qualifications in view of the Appeals Committee decision.

Henderson restated the case and read the petition submitted to the Appeals Committee.

Reinert, who was represented at the Appeals Committee by Wayne Prescott, spoke on his own behalf.

"I agree that the definition (of overall GPR) is not new; but the application of the rule is new," he said.

HE POINTED out that there are several different definitions of overall GPR used on the campus. He added that transfer grades from other colleges are used to determine athletic eligibility, graduation with honors and distinguished cadets.

Reinert mentioned Henderson's appearance before the Appeals Committee.

"He asked for a clarification of a problem that existed last week, last month and last year," Reinert commented. "A clarification given today is not necessarily applicable to a decision that was made yesterday."

Malon Southerland, civilian advisor to the Corps of Cadets was at the meeting as a representative of the Appeals Committee to answer questions. Ron Hinds asked about possible personal opinions affecting the decisions of the Committee.

"OF THE SEVEN men who met this morning, only two of us are directly concerned with the student elections," Southerland answered. He was referring to Cooper and himself.

Hinds then criticized Henderson for his actions and suggested they were politically motivated.

"Four people were approved by the Election Commission last week and only one of them wears a uniform, Al Reinert; but his (Henderson's) action now would exclude only one candidate, Al Reinert," Hinds charged.

Southerland said the committee had discussed the other cases and had agreed that their handling by the Commission was justified.

Several parliamentary moves aimed at bringing the issue to a vote were attempted but rejected by Commission President Gerald Geistweidt because he said the meeting was judicial rather than legislative.

Senate Vice-President David Maddox, proxy for Gary Martin, then criticized both sides for their handling of the situation.

"I am personally disgusted with the events of the past two weeks," he said.

He then suggested that the general elections be postponed one week and the matter be taken directly to the A&M Board of Directors for a final decision on the definition of "overall grade point ratio."

REINERT opposed Maddox's suggestion on the grounds that students should solve their own problems.

"The administration isn't going to respect a student body that is factionalized and quibbling among themselves," he remarked.

Senate President Bill Carter, an observer, urged the Commission to make a decision on a purely objective basis.

After a recess, Maddox withdrew his suggestion of going to the Board of Directors on condition that both Reinert and Henderson agreed that they would not appeal the decision of the Election Commission any further than the Student Senate.

A motion to allow Reinert to run for the presidency was passed 24-12 in secret ballot voting.

Council Approves Reapportionment

Student Senate reapportionment became a reality Tuesday afternoon when the Academic Council placed its stamp of approval on the measure.

Senate President Bill Carter, in making the announcement, said that the Council had approved the plan as it was passed by the Senate March 20. He noted that they accepted the Executive Committee proposal to clarify the wording concerning Veterinary Medicine students, but passed over two other recommendations made by the committee — the same two that the Senate had refused to take action on April 17.

The two recommendations were to have at least one representative per class per college, and to have at least 10 freshman representatives instead of the proposed five.

The Council also approved a Senate proposal to have a treasurer elected at large from the student body. As a result, Carter said, students who filed for the position have an office waiting for them to compete for Thursday.

University National Bank "On the side of Texas A&M." —Adv.



NICE TRY
Carolyn Carroll really "pours it on" junior Burch in a molasses pouring contest, one of Tuesday night's Civilian Student Week activities held in the quadrangle opposite Sbsia Dining Hall. The thousand-odd crowd gives appropriate encouragement. (Photo by Bob Stump)

MSC Council Okays \$45,260 In Budgets

Budgets for six Directorate committees for 1969-70, totaling more than \$45,000, were approved Tuesday by the outgoing Memorial Student Center Council.

Largest budget approval was \$20,915 for the Fifteenth Student Conference on National Affairs (SCONA XV). The Council actually gave no money to SCONA, however, since all funds for the December conference are raised by the student committee members.

Other budgets and amounts appropriated were Great Issues, \$13,950; Political Forum, \$8,000; Camera, \$635, and Chess, \$239.

The Council changed the name of the Film Series Committee to the Aggie Cinema and approved its budget for \$1,521. A \$350 loan was also granted to the Camera committee toward the purchase of a \$750 color enlarger.

In other business, the Council elected John Cunningham to

chair the Student Faculty Committee, a Council research panel designed to increase student-faculty communications. Benny Sims, Council president, indicated that the committee may be granted full Directorate committee status if it performs successfully next year.

The Council also approved a request by Frank Gertson, chairman of the Flying Kadets, to separate the committee from the Directorate.

Sims explained that Flying Kadets was incorporating to buy insurance for the airplane it had purchased. The committee would obtain funds from the Exchange Store and not from the Council, Sims added.

'Mother Of Year' Applications Due

Any student wishing to nominate his mother for "Aggie Mother of the Year" may obtain an application at the Student Programs Office, according to Student Senator Jimmy Dunham.

Deadline for the application, which should include a summary of her qualifications, a short biography and a picture, is April 30.

Installment Due

The third installment on the board plan is due payable at the Fiscal Department today.

Also, any student who eats at Sbsia Dining Hall should have his student identification card embossed.

Don't Blow It

Voting in tomorrow's Senate presidential election without knowing the candidates would be like taking a major quiz "cold-turkey"—with one important difference: The rest of the class, even those who studied hard, will be given the same low grade you make.

The interviews on this page may be the only head-on comparison of qualifications and platforms that many students will see. We taped interviews with each candidate individually, then had the questions and answers transcribed. To insure fair treatment, each candidate was given the opportunity to read his transcription and correct any errors.

This represented some extra effort—effort that The Battalion hadn't put out in recent years. We did it not purely as a public service but because we have, frankly, a vested interest in good student government, and because we believe it is of utmost importance to next year's students that an effective Student Senate president be elected.

As reporters and editors, we have been in an excellent position to follow this year's phenomenal rise of the Student Senate to a meaningful and respected place in this university. Of course, we've seen growing pains, and not even the most optimistic Senator would suggest that it has been overwhelmingly successful. A&M administrators, long accustomed to apathetic student bodies represented by a super-service-organization called the Senate, couldn't have been expected to change their concepts overnight; but progress in such fields as fee-plan changes and computer registration has been pretty impressive, and the future looks good.

That is, if a capable Student Senate president is chosen tomorrow.

The Senate just can't stay stagnant. Either it will start next year well-organized, with principle goals mapped out, and continue to serve as the students' voice through intelligent, articulate communication with the administration, or it will revert to something pathetic—divided by internal dissension born of frustration, with the enthusiasm sparked by this year's progress turning to disgust.

We firmly believe the key factor is the Student Senate president.

This year, Bill Carter has been your chief spokesman before President Rudder, the Executive Committee, the Board of Directors and similar groups. He has tirelessly served as the man-in-the-middle between the students' representatives and the administrators. His successor must at least match the job he has done.

You'll choose that successor tomorrow. The choice must not be based on whether or not the candidate wears a uniform, or whether he's a Good Old Boy, or whether the atrocities supposedly committed against him during the campaign have earned him your sympathy, or whether his name sorta rings a bell. The election might be won by great organized masses who make a purely emotional choice; but those masses, and the rest of us, will be big losers in the end if that choice can't continue the Senate's progress. There seems to be a cherished American notion that voting is somehow intrinsically good, whether based on intelligent decisions or not. For the sake of successful student representation—and consequently for your own sake—we urge you to take a more objective attitude than that. Read what the candidates have to say; ask students involved in student government why they favor a candidate; study the relative merits of the three.

In short, don't go into that voting booth cold-turkey.

Presidential Candidates Take Their Stands

Garry Mauro



Garry Mauro is a marketing major from Dallas. This year, he is a junior yell leader and a member of the Civilian Student Council. He holds a permanent proxy to the Student Senate from Bill Youngkin, head yell leader. He is co-chairman of the Senate recruiting chairman of the pass-fail and add-drop subcommittees on the Senate. He is also a member of the Senate grievance committee, and was chairman of the Civilian Student Council bonfire committee.

Garry also serves the CSC as Civilian Week Chairman, and was chairman of its student forum committee. He is a member of the president's ad hoc committee.

on computer registration, and a Great Issues committeeman.

Q. What are your major platform positions?
A. I don't think student government at Texas A&M has represented students in the past. I think that so many times student government is working on things the average student doesn't care about; even when it work on something he cares about, there's such a lack of communications that he doesn't know about it. I think an example of that is when we had our left-wing students form their organizations last year; they came out for (See Garry Mauro, Page 3)

Al Reinert



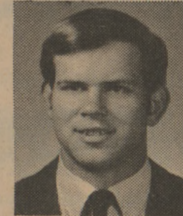
Albert Reinert is a political science major from Fairfax, Va. He is supply sergeant on Corps staff and junior Geosciences representative on the Senate. He is a Ross Volunteer, chairman of Senate subcommittees on education reform and computerized registration, member of Senate grievance and Life committees, and was a delegate to the Texas Intercollegiate Student Association Convention and Southwest Conference Idea Exchange Conference.

Al is also finance chairman for the Memorial Student Center Council and Directorate, chairman of the Experiment in Inter-

national Living Committee, and conference manager for SCONA XV.

Q. What are your major platform positions?
A. I think there's just one major platform point, and that's along the lines of action. The things I've listed on my campaign sheet are just facets of individual problems I've tried to enunciate on.
The major problems we've got here is apathy and lack of involvement on the part of the student body. You're not going to get anybody involved unless you show him it's worth his time. (See Al Reinert, Page 3)

Andy Scott



Andrew Scott is a horticulture major and calls Childress his hometown. He is president of Walton Hall, one of three residence halls on the pilot program for residence halls. He is a member of the Civilian Student Council, and chairs that body's menu committee. He is also a member of the Agricultural Council, the Inter Council (a coordinating body for all college councils), and Alpha Zeta (national agricultural honor fraternity).

Andy is also a member of the Junior Council, and was publicity chairman for the Junior Ball. A distinguished student, he also plays on the Texas A&M rugby team.

Q. What are your major platform positions?
A. My main purpose in running is to make the Student Senate a working, functioning student government, working for the student body at A&M. As I see it, the Student Senate will have no real power until the existing communications barriers are broken—until it really does become student representative, until each senator knows how his constituents feel on the issues at hand. Some people have suggested meetings to accomplish this end, but, as I see it, until a (See Andy Scott, Page 3)