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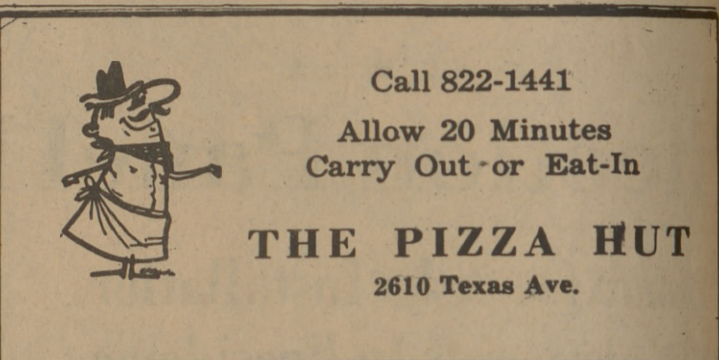


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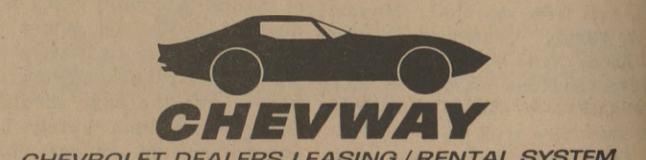
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The events of the past 12 days have been unparalleled in their number, their complexity and their long-range significance. Briefly, the chronology runs something like this:

April 16—The candidacy of Al Reinert for Student Senate President was challenged by Election Commission Vice-President Tommy Henderson on the grounds that Reinert's A&M grade point ratio did not meet the minimum 1.5 requirement. Late that night, the Commission met to consider the case, along with those of two other candidates with challenged requirements. After Reinert argued that transfer grades from another school had been used in the past for such purposes, and produced a note from Dean James P. Hannigan to that effect, the Commission approved his candidacy.

April 17—The Student Senate voted against suspending its rules to take up non-agenda items—specifically, an appeal from a different election commissioner to reverse the Commission's decision.

April 22—Henderson appealed the case to President Rudder, who forwarded it to the University Appeals Committee. The committee interpreted the University Regulations' reference to "grade point ratio" as meaning only A&M grades, and sent the ruling back to the Election Commission with a request to reconsider its stand. (A subsequent interpretation of the ruling by four members of the committee—not part of the original motion—applied it to the current election.) The Election Commission again approved Reinert's candidacy.

April 23—A special Student Senate meeting heard Henderson's appeal of the Election Commission ruling and voted 33—14 in favor of Reinert's candidacy.

April 24—Reinert was elected Senate president by a plurality of 1799 to Garry Mauro's 1414 and Andy Scott's 409.

April 25—David Wilks, Civilian Student Council president, appealed the Commission and Senate decisions to the Appeals Committee, which ruled Reinert scholastically ineligible and recommended a new election be held for the presidency.

April 26—Several students, concerned over the potentially grave situation developing, met with Rudder to try to work out a compromise that would get the university out of what they considered a dilemma. The suggested solution was that the Executive Committee declare the election null and void and suggest that a new election be delayed until early in the fall semester, with Vice-President-Elect Gerald Geistweidt designated acting president during the interim. This would allow Reinert a chance, albeit slim, of raising his GPR to the minimum and meeting the requirements as clarified by the Appeals Committee.

April 27—The Senate Executive Committee, in a special meeting, endorsed the compromise proposal. It also voted to send along with the proposal a summary of the opposition's views on why the election should be held this semester.

April 28—see front page.
A few observations are in order:

- The situation, as snarled as it had been, seemed to have reached a viable point when Reinert was elected. The administration may have had its doubts about the rulings of the Election Commission and Senate, but it had, after all, indicated a desire to leave the matter in students' hands. These two student groups, made up of students' elected representatives, had exercised powers granted them by University Regulations; the student body had made its choice at the polls. Wilks' action, again throwing the problem upstairs, was quite possibly one of the most damaging single blows to student government in recent years here. By asking an overruling of the student body by an administrative body whose status as arbitrator of Student Senate decisions isn't readily apparent, the appeal sets a dangerous precedent.

- Al Reinert has been at the mercy of purge-like treatment. Three times he was called before the Commission and Senate to defend his candidacy, often with very little notice or time to prepare a case. The morning of the second Appeals Committee hearing, he reportedly was awakened with the news that his case was to be considered again some two hours later.

- The Executive Committee undoubtedly felt its decision would be in the student's best interests. But in turning down a middle-ground position offered by the student government's leadership, it has caused more than a few students to doubt whether student government is being treated fairly.

Whatever comes out of this unfortunate situation, one good result can be expected: Leaders of the administration and of students have seen what needs to be done to prevent the recurrence of similar circumstances in the future. Ambiguous rules must be cleared up. Candidates must be certified as eligible by the registrar before they may file. A definite channel of appeals must be set up, with clear procedural rules.

Unfortunately, there are no precedents to shed light on the current crisis. What is done will, in fact, be a precedent.

We believe the Election Commission's recommendation that the Senate elevate Geistweidt to the presidency and hold a new election for the vacated vice-presidency offers hope for a face-saving all the way around, and the Senate, if given the chance to put its house in order that way, could maintain the unity it needs to remain effective.

But whatever solution is found to the problems now facing student government, frustration must never be allowed to replace rational judgment. The challenge will be great, but this student body is equal to the challenge and this student government is worth the effort.

WEATHER

Wednesday — Partly Cloudy.
Wind Southerly 10 to 15 mph.
High 78, low 58.
Thursday — Partly cloudy to cloudy. Wind Southerly 10 to 20 mph. High 81, low 61.

Tonight On KBTX

6:30 Lancer
7:30 Red Skelton
8:30 Doris Day
9:30 That's Life
10:00 News, Weather, Sports
10:30 It Takes a Thief
11:30 Alfred Hitchcock

Editor, The Battalion:
What is the purpose of the Student Senate? In the University Regulations it states that "The Student Senate is the governing body of the students." Members of the Senate for years have been trying to make decisions concerning the welfare of the student body and endeavoring to keep the administration from interfering with the business of the students. But now it seems that this was all for naught.
I am referring, of course, to the question of the eligibility of Al Reinert to run for President of the Student Senate in the latest election. This question was brought up before the election and his eligibility confirmed by the Election Commission and the Student Senate. The members of the Senate are the duly elected representatives of the student body and expressed the wishes of the majority of the student body. Why should the question be taken out of the hands of the students and given to the administration? The students, through their representatives, approved the candidacy of Mr. Reinert. If we, the students, are going to set a precedent by allowing the administration to overturn a ruling made by our Senate, then... What is the purpose of the Student Senate?
Richard J. Reese
Treasurer
Student Senate 69-70
★ ★ ★

Editor, The Battalion:
I always thought that an "undying devotion to his school" was an intrinsic part of the Aggie's creed. Apparently, devotion to his half of the school is more important. Factionalism is the order of the day.
Actually, there are no Corps interests or civilian interests at A&M. For as long as I can remember, the issues of greatest concern to our student govern-

ment, housing, laundry, compulsory board, course evaluation, faculty-student communications, etc., were of concern to the whole student body. Jerry Campbell did not entertain civilians to the exclusion of the Corps. Neither can Bill Carter be accused of biased leadership. Yet cadet and civilian consistently vote for the similarity attired candidate, regardless of his qualifications, ability, or experience.
Because of this inconsequential triviality, we now have a student body without a leader (unless the administration moves to fill the void). When (and if) a Student Senate President is selected, be he Corps or civilian, he will head a divided student body, or perhaps just half a student body. How is he to strengthen student government when this quibbling is undermining it? How should the administration treat a Senate riddled with factional jealousies? How will A&M compare with other universities in the light of this phenomenon?
If this is the type of student government you want to have, if this is the image of A&M you want to project, factionalism and jealousy should be your standards. The alternatives are involvement and responsibility. The choice is yours.
David Reynolds '71



"I can't decide whether to be encouraged or discouraged. As a graduate student I'm eligible for aid under the Poverty Program, as a member of the hard core unemployed, the disadvantaged and as a member of a handicapped minority!"

Bulletin Board

WEDNESDAY
Aggie Christian Fellowship will meet at 5:30 p.m. in room 3-D of the Memorial Student Center. Joe Wall will speak on "God Equals Christ: The Ultimate Equation."
Houston Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 321 of the Physics Building. After-school party will be discussed.

THURSDAY
Dallas Hometown Club will meet at 7:30 p.m. in rooms 3-B and 3-C of the MSC. Next year's officers will be elected.
Computer Science Wives Bridge Club will meet at 8 p.m. in the home of Mrs. William Tauzel, 1405 Skrivanek Court. Please call Mrs. Gilbert Fox at 846-8090 for reservations.

Three times in little more than 10 years, coups d'etat have rocked Iraq.

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"TRICKS OF THE TRADE"

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.

LETTERS POLICY
Letters to the editor should be typed, double-spaced, and must be no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, *The Battalion*, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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.

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WOOF!
IF WE CAN GET THIS GUY OUT, THERE'S STILL A CHANCE TO WIN.
IT'S AN EASY POP FLY TO SHORTSTOP...
HERE'S THE WORLD FAMOUS WRIST-WRESTLER GETTING READY FOR THE EIGHTH ANNUAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN PETALUMA ON MAY SECOND.
BONK!
WHY IS CHARLIE BROWN JUMPING HEAD-FIRST OFF THE TOP OF THE BACKSTOP?