

'Not With A Bang...'

"I'm witnessing my first Student Senate meeting," Ken Lewallen, Black Student Affairs Committee head, said at one point last night (story, page 1), "and I can't say whether I'm fortunate or unfortunate."

"Unfortunate" aptly—perhaps kindly—describes what Lewallen and some 10 other black students saw. Most of them were undoubtedly seeing the Senate for the first time; and unfortunately, what they saw might have been enough to make it the last time they visit a Senate meeting.

What they saw was more than 20 minutes' time spent on voting—not discussing, but voting—on a resolution urging recruitment of black athletes. (After the first hand vote was taken, the tally didn't seem correct to some Senators. A second vote was taken; it was questioned; a roll-call vote was taken; a second roll-call vote was taken; a vote was taken to determine whether a fifth vote was to be taken; Carter broke the resulting tie vote in favor of another roll-call vote; that one came out 22-20 in favor.)

What they saw was a Senate which refused to admit fault for the lack of action on black student problems, but shifted the entire weight onto the black students, choosing then to commend the flat refusal of the administration to consider demands, irrespective of the possible reflection in those demands of serious problems.

What they saw, in short, may only have reinforced the Afro-American Society's view that the Senate was not the "appropriate" body to approach.

And that's really more than unfortunate. It's sad and it's disheartening.

We've said it before, but we'll say it again: being around this year's Student Senate has been one of those "Great Adventure" type experiences. Many of this year's Senators were elected without realizing at the time what would be demanded of them by the Bill Carter-David Maddox ticket. But they responded admirably; almost overnight, the Senate showed it could be the students' voice rather than a combination debating society and service organization. With effective leadership and the returning to office of hard-working and articulate representatives, next year's Senate can come on strong and finish stronger. And it could be the only alternative this university has between tyranny and anarchy during the decade to come.

Of course, that will take strong student backing; and we doubt that last night's meeting was the best means to that end.

Maddox was right to a certain extent. Of course, issuing demands and making vague remarks as to the outcome if the demands are not met is not the way to accomplish student goals here. Of course, the Senate cannot condone threats of violence. But in the process of underscoring these beliefs, his resolution emphasized the importance of the Student Senate as the body through which such problems must be voiced. And the Senate, for all its accomplishments this year, had never taken firm stands on black student issues.

Granted, black students might well have tried harder to make their views known to the Senate. Perhaps Maddox was right in saying the Senate "was not out to solicit business." But on at least one occasion—the Senate's recommendation that a Faculty Senate be set up, following an informal referendum among faculty members which reportedly indicated little interest in the idea—there definitely seemed to be some "soliciting" going on. To refuse to accept part of the blame for what some students could justifiably consider a critical attitude.

Furthermore, the sudden cozy rapport which seems to exist between the Senate and the Board of Directors (in view of the resolution commending the board's stand) seems a bit illusory. Had the directors' reply specifically stated, in addition to its opposition to strong-arm tactics, a firm belief that the Senate is the proper and orderly place for such grievances, then the spirit of cooperation evoked by the resolution would be more plausible. Bill Carter's recent disappointments with regard to the board, unfortunately, have done little to justify that apparent sudden rapport.

But whether or not the resolution was the right reaction to what Maddox termed an "important precedent," the Senate must not be ignored in the future. There are, and will continue to be, Senators truly concerned with black student problems—as well as with many other student issues—and the Senate will continue to be the most effective student forum we have. It is unfortunate that an apparent "failure to communicate" may have produced something less than an impressive finish to what generally has been an impressive year for student government at A&M.

ON OTHER CAMPUSES

By MONTY STANLEY
The Student Senate of the University of Oklahoma is in quite a turmoil because of "election procedure discrepancies which have been unfair and discriminatory," among other things. Actions being taken include a growing list of names on a petition to cancel the spring election, and a referendum to decide whether or not to even bother with a student government. Sound familiar?

A group called the Academic Reform Committee at the University of Minnesota has been formed—the group aims to "challenge the archaic and bureaucratic structures inherent in the University." First target is the English Proficiency Exam, which was called by the committee "an insult to upperclassmen."

It is doubtful that any of us ever had a class in which the instructor began by saying, "I am a radical, I refuse to pay taxes, and my degrees were earned in southern jails. I was a member of the Committee for Non-Violent Action that set out to walk from Canada to Cuba, only to have our boat confiscated two miles off the Florida coast. The government brought charges of 'in Rem' against the boat, meaning they could confiscate it."

Well, students at the University of Minnesota have a course in which the instructor does exactly this. He even has a beard, but somehow he manages to appear competent in spite of this. The course is called Non-Violent Revolution, and is a part of their Free University, but the university also recognizes it as a 3-credit philosophy course. Through the course, its teacher tries to give his students "that very rare opportunity to get involved in an actual learning experience."

From the Minnesota Daily Personal Ad section come a couple of interesting items: "Male stud, desires to meet attractive female with liberal views. Call 336-4871." And then there's this one: "Two young gentlemen making a motor trip East, would like for someone to drive and also pay expenses. Phone Sol at 926-1966." If nothing else, one has to admire a guy for his frankness.

Students at the University of Houston are highly hacked for a new reason now. A Harris County Grand Jury has announced

that it hired a private detective to investigate complaints about alleged "immoral and illegal activity at UH. The investigators will say only that the investigation is of suspected use of marijuana and also "may touch on abnormal sex activities on and off the campus." Except for these vague generalities, the editor of the Daily Cougar can get no information about the probe, which is "secret, no matter what the case may be." Some think that the fact that UH has been under fire from seemingly various sources and that the Texas Legislature is presently in session to consider budgets and that the legislature is made up "primarily of Texas exes," are more than coincidental.

The fight for women's rights knows no bounds, and the myth of ol' army continues to be shot further to hell. According to the Washington State Evergreen, House Bill Number 76 has been passed, and women are now allowed to sit up to bars in licensed cocktail lounges in Washington. That's right—cocked bars. A Republican senator from Toppish sees the bill as "an attack on man's last bastion of escape from the harassment of women." The senator went on to protest the bill, fearing that the woman at the bar would "change the type and class of discussions possible" by male patrons.

This writer would have to admit agreement with the good senator. Unfortunately, however, we don't even have the chance to face the problem here in Texas.

A different sort of anti-ROTC confrontation occurred at Northeastern University in Boston. The 300 Army cadets were going about their usual drill a few Saturdays ago in the presence of a police escort. A 13-man anti-ROTC unit, bearing a guidon which read "American Death Co.," marched onto the field and performed a satirical skit which included a roll call—"Militarism, Racism, Imperialism, Capitalism, and all other isms were present and accounted for," read the school paper's report—a "pep talk," and close order drill, led by "Sgt. Pig." The group was dressed in grey-colored sheets, with the "drill sergeant" wearing the mask of a pig. According to many observers, they outmarched the cadets.

Bulletin Board

TONIGHT
Chess Committee will meet at 7:30 p.m. in room 3-B of the MSC.

SUNDAY
Alpha Phi Omega will meet at 8:30 p.m. in room 3-C of the MSC. Elections will be held for next semester. Pledges are meeting at 6 p.m. in the same place.

MONDAY
The Aggie Wives Council will hold its regular monthly business meeting in the Texas room, North entrance to Bryan Building and Loan at 7:30 p.m.

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Listen Up

Editor,
The Battalion:
My name is Neal Ely '70 and I am a candidate for Student Senate Representative from the College of Science. In a year that has seen elections take on increasing significance, it is important that the electors chose as their representative the person who can best serve A&M. I believe that I am capable of representing the College of Science and the rest of the student body. Some of the things I will try to work for next year are:

- Better communications between Senators and their constituents.
- More and better lighting on the campus.
- Improvement of food in the dining halls.
- A published list of professors teaching courses from which a student might choose.
- More professor evaluations by the students and publication of these.

Next year, if elected, I will try to keep in close touch with the other senior science majors to find out their viewpoints on major issues in order that my vote in the Senate will be more representative of their ideas. I will try to do whatever I can to make A&M a better school than it already is. I would deeply appreciate your vote this coming May 14 for Senior Representative to the Student Senate from the College of Science.

Neal Ely '70

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RATS... I FORGOT WHAT I WAS GOING TO SAY!