

Listen Up *the batt forum*

Editor:
Allow me to take this opportunity to thank you for the fine coverage which The Battalion gave to SCONA XV. Overall, it was accurate and articulate reporting. However, I must take issue with the "SCONA Roundtable Score" article by George Scott. If Mr. Scott was attempting to show a true cross section of interest and co-operation within the roundtables perhaps he would have been wise to visit more than one of the several roundtables. I do not consider a sample of one an accurate sample, especially when you are dealing with a cross section of over 200 students from the U. S., Mexico and Africa, with varying social-economic backgrounds.

I also find it curious that Mr. Scott based much of his opinion not on actual discussions within the roundtable sessions, but on an interview with one of the delegates following a roundtable discussion. I am sure that you are as concerned as I am with the growth of our University newspaper through reporting excellence. Let us continue this growth and not step backward to the day of inaccurate and false reporting for the sake of covering space.

Dennis Flannigan,
Vice President, MSC Council

Editor's Note: Below is George Scott's reply:

1. Mr. Flannigan is under the impression that I got an interview with the Boston University student and then criticized the members of the panel for not challenging ideas that only I heard. Not true. Every idea I included in the article, Paul Haley said during the roundtable. Two reasons prompted the private interview: a.) I wanted more accurate direct quotes, and b.) I wanted to give Haley an opportunity to substitute other words for the curse words he frequently used during the panel discussion. He did not say anything to me privately that he did not say in the presence of all the roundtable members.

2. My assignment was to write an interpretative report on ONE of the discussions and not to show a cross-section of participation. Other reporters covered other roundtables.

3. Was this a criticism of that one particular roundtable? No. Read carefully, Mr. Flannigan. "The other students who participated with Haley were able to make the discussion lively and informative." That is hardly a criticism!

4. Was this a criticism of SCONA? Not really. Although I think "Black America: The Challenge of Development" might have been a topic of more 'national' concern the program as presented was very interesting and well organized. But I was not assigned to write a story on that

subject, Mr. Flannigan.

5. Was the article really opinionated? No. The article merely presented facts about one particular panel—one fact being that seven talked and 12 listened and said nothing.

6. What was the article really about? It was about 12 students who sat back and let a "radical" (Haley's own description) student present unrealistic views on American business and neither attacked nor defended those views.

Mr. Flannigan, that is news-worthy and not "inaccurate and false reporting" as you label it.

Think about the article from this viewpoint, and thanks for your compliment on The Battalion's overall coverage as "accurate and articulate reporting" because I wrote most of those articles too.

George Scott
★ ★ ★

Editor:
To the Freshman Class,
As a run-off candidate for Freshman Class President, I was disappointed by the number of freshman voters who turned out for the elections last Wednesday. Of 2,700 eligible voters, only 800 cared enough to show up at the polls. That small voice the freshmen have should be heard. One has no voice at all in student government if he neglects his responsibility to vote. Thirty per cent turn-outs such as these greatly increase the chance of poor leadership in representation.

The freshman class will be given a second chance Wednesday in the run-offs. Keep in mind that however unimportant the freshman president may seem to you, he nevertheless is the primary representative of the class of '73. Be proud of your decision. Don't be sold by posters and gimmicks. A civilian president is a certainty. The decision now is which civilian candidate exhibits the quality of leadership necessary for the job. I feel that I am that candidate. Vote Wednesday.

Wayne Nichols
Candidate for President
Class of '73
★ ★ ★

Editor:
First, I, as chairman of Political Forum, thank Professor Douglas for his comments printed in Friday's Battalion concerning our program. Political Forum continuously seeks out student and faculty opinion on all our programming. It is gratifying to know that Dr. Wheeler's presentation Tuesday night stimulated some thought to the extent that open response was made, pro or con. Even more gratifying is the interest A&M's faculty is taking in student programming.

Secondly, I would like the opportunity to relate some of the philosophy supporting our committee. Political Forum seeks to

create a greater interest in contemporary political issues and processes. We accomplish this by bringing speakers of varied political ideologies to our campus. A balanced program, one presenting all possible sides of a question, is our utmost goal. We feel that the program we have planned this year, and the year is far from being over, fulfills this obligation. In no way does Political Forum attempt to influence one's political thinking except to expose him to all aspects of an issue.

We are fortunate to have such a committee on our campus. Controversial and noncontroversial issues are thus examined and questioned in an educational atmosphere. Supporting points and flaws in a political theory are brought into the open. Each person attending our presentations is invited to ask questions of our guest speaker concerning any point he might have made.

Political Forum strives to stimulate thought and rational dialogue in an academic atmosphere. We invite and seek constructive criticism from the university community. We can do nothing less to serve the educational purposes of this university.

Charles R. Hoffman
Chairman
Political Forum
★ ★ ★

Editor:
In last Wednesday's election the class of '73 narrowed the choice of candidates for Freshman class President from fifteen people to two. I was one of the selected two.

We are now faced with a run-off election. There is no need to examine the general qualifications of the candidates since I believe that we both possess the dedication, perseverance, and interest needed to fulfill the office. There is one item though, that should not go unnoticed. It is the question of who will accomplish the most for our class?

Last week I stated a few of my ideas for gaining an identity for our class. They included a newsletter and suggested more activities for us. At the minimum we should at least have a class meeting. As it stands now, the class of '73 is never assembled together. I agree that at a meeting of that size not a very lot of things could be accomplished. But, it would serve the purpose of giving us an identity. There we could look around at this huge mass of people and say, this is OUR class, the class of '73.

Tomorrow another decision will be made concerning the success of our class. Hopefully the person who plans to accomplish the most will be elected.

Bill Darkoch,
Class of '73
Candidate for President



"This is what he calls a gradual tapering off before the holidays!"

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Bulletin Board

TONIGHT
Sociology Club will hear Dr. V. Hunacek, a professor at Charles University, Czechoslovakia, speak at 7 p.m. in the home of Dr. R. L. Skribanek, 307 Gilchrist Ave.

WEDNESDAY
Panhandle Area Hometown Club will have pictures taken for the Aggeliand at 8 p.m. in Room 304, Physics. Coat and tie or

class A uniforms should be worn.
Houston Hometown Club will have pictures taken for the Aggeliand, elect a sweetheart, and give out tickets for a Christmas party at 7:30 p.m. at 2D, MSC.
Orange County Hometown Club will elect officers and discuss having a Christmas party at 7:30 p.m. in the MSC Fountain Room.



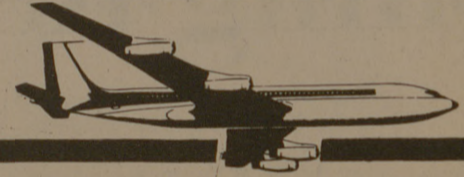
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7:30 p. m. Thursday, Dec. 18

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EUROPE 70



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