

Listen Up *the batt forum*

Editor:
Imagine a jury which is composed of some persons who have not heard the defense or viewed the evidence.

Imagine a court session in which the judge who is to dictate to jurors the interpretation of the law is the subject of the trial, since it deals with his election.

Imagine a law which allows for the same jury to reverse its decision after the case has been heard and closed and which does not allow for anyone other than a selected group of people to question the validity of the law.

You don't have to imagine very hard, since all these figments of the imagination are real and present at Texas A&M.

There is no question that the general elections held last week were invalid. The Election Commission admitted it and decided to hold another election to compensate for gross errors made during the election. There wasn't secret balloting — a guarantee enumerated in the Texas A&M Election Code Book and in the U.S. Constitution. There wasn't consistency in electoral procedures since they were changed illegally (admitted by the Election Commission) in the middle of the election. And there is even a question about the validity of the ballot count.

It would seem, then, that the Election Commission was taking one large step toward representative government and college students' rights to govern themselves when they decided Tuesday night to declare last week's election invalid and to hold another election which would insure the rights guaranteed in a democratic society.

But they held another session Wednesday morning: composed of some persons who had not heard the defense (Condry, who was pulled in by the commission so they could have a quorum, and Caperton, who was appointed as a proxy, and possibly others); led by a student, Kent Caperton, who was willing to sacrifice the rights of over 5,000 students for his position which he had won during an illegal election; basing the reversal of the decision on "a law" which doesn't allow any interested citizen to question the validity of the law. And that "law" was written by one person.

A student during the Election Commission hearing Tuesday night made the statement that college student's couldn't be expected to hold "good" elections, and that college students weren't capable enough to govern such a large undertaking. I disagreed, and, obviously, the Election Commission initially agreed with me, as they were willing to hold over the election. But, then, Kent Caperton, the newly elected president in an illegal election, was appointed to the Board which threw out the protest on the basis that a candidate did not write the protest.

We could try to get the election contested at the Senate meeting tonight through popular appeal. We could try to get a candidate to write a letter of protest to the Election Commission. But it is my opinion that the only person who SHOULD contest the election is the person who is supposed to be the guardian of the people's rights — Kent

Caperton. Unless we have a leader who is willing to put the guaranteed rights of the students above his personal interests, we don't have a leader. Kent Caperton, lead. Contest the election.

Evelyn Dunsavage
★ ★ ★

Editor:
May 7, run-off elections will be held to determine next year's officers in several vacancies in which candidates did not have a clear majority. Nick Jiga and Mike Milliner will be vying for the all-important post of Sophomore Class President.

As a candidate for Sophomore Class President, I had a chance to meet with Nick Jiga and to discuss many issues with him. It is my opinion that he would be the best man for the job since he would be both hard-working and responsive to the needs of the total Sophomore Class. If you want a more efficient, active Class of '73 executive council which will bring some social life to A&M, vote for Nick Jiga, Class of '73 President.

Steve Paulson
Class of '73
★ ★ ★

Editor:
Having been given, a week or two ago, a "No involuntary servitude, end the draft" sticker by a member of the Young Americans for Freedom, I was quite surprised by the letter by Robert S. Miles of YAF in The Battalion of April 23, in which he stated that conscription may be justified only during a declared war. I think that this position would justify the changing the name of his organization to "Young Americans for Freedom—Except," and would indicate the value of the

Author of War Hymn To Join Sul Ross

J. V. (Pinky) Wilson, author of "The Aggie War Hymn," will be on campus until Saturday for the induction of his class into the Association of Former Students' Sul Ross group.

Sul Ross is an organization of all former students who graduated 50 or more years ago from Texas A&M.

Wilson wrote the fight song while standing guard on the Rhine River during World War I.

Architecture Profs To Exhibit Work

An exhibit of paintings, sculpture, low-relief sculpture and jewelry will be displayed in the Architecture Lobby this week, according to Jean Mah, chairman.

Sponsored by the Forum for Environmental Studies, the exhibit represents the work of six architecture professors: Graham Horsley, John Fairly, Joseph Donaldson, Larry Shiffhauser, Rodney Hill and Lane Coulter.

Biologist to Present Cell and Tumor Talk

Dr. Armin C. Braun, professor of cell biology at Rockefeller University, will discuss "The Multipotential Cell and the Tumor Problem" at a graduate lecture here Wednesday.

The 3:30 p.m. presentation in Room 113 Biological Sciences is jointly sponsored by the Institute of Life Science and the Biology and Plant Sciences Departments.

group when the real fighting starts.

The draft should be abolished because it is immoral. Whether it aids, hinders, or has no effect on the fighting ability of the country is irrelevant. For I hold this truth to be self-evident: that the country does not have the right to exist if its existence is possible only through the enslavement of a subset of its population. Therefore, to claim that the draft is justified is to admit that the existence of the country cannot be justified.

The argument is often made (and is made by Mr. Miles in his letter) that the draft is "necessary" when volunteers are not sufficient. Necessary for what? For the preservation of our freedoms? What freedoms? The freedom to be drafted? "We violated your rights in order to protect them. The operation was a success, but the patient died." "We got rid of your termintes, but we had to burn the house down!"

I think that it is a national shame that men are forced to serve, fight, and sometimes die, for rights which have been denied to them. Small wonder that young men turn against their country or flee into exile when the only choice they have here is to be a slave or a criminal.

To attempt to justify the draft on whether war has been declared by Congress is to be a victim of two fallacies: 1) that the legitimacy of the draft is determined by the legitimacy of the war, and 2) that if Congress considers a war legitimate, then a citizen is supposed to consider it legitimate. I have already shown that slavery is immoral regardless of what the slave is made to do. If Congress declares the existence of a state of war, it is the Government, including the armed forces, to which the war is legitimate, not the people as a whole.

If the YAF wish to take part in the defense of the principles of this country, I think they need to show a greater consistency than what they have shown up to now. It is a matter of life and death.

Johnnie B. Linn III
Graduate Student

A&M Student Elected Head Of SWJC

Frank Griffis, junior journalism major, was named president of the student Press Club of the Southwest Journalism Congress during the organization's annual convention at Oklahoma City, Okla.

Fran Haugen, also a junior journalism major, was elected secretary of the club.

The A&M delegation to the conference also included junior journalism students David Middlebrooke and Charles Hale, and sophomore journalism major Janie Wallace.

Fifteen senior colleges and universities from four states are members of the congress. Next year's convention will be at A&M March 18-20.

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1969 TPA Award Winner

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsey, chairman; H. F. Eilers, College of Liberal Arts; F. S. White, College of Engineering; Dr. Asa E. Childers, Jr., College of Veterinary Medicine; and Dr. Z. L. Carpenter, College of Agriculture.

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