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THE BATTALION

Page 4 College Station, Texas Thursday, March 25, 1971

Student Senate

(Continued from page 1)
made for day student representation by living area. College and on-campus living-area representation also are part of the constitution.

The plan, explained by Issues Chairman Kirby Brown, would divide the B-CS area into living areas whose boundaries would be decided by the Senate. Each area would be allowed one senator, and two would be elected at-large by all students residing in Bryan. Two more at-large senators would be elected by all day students.

Brown said cooperation with the Registrar's Office would allow a student's off-campus address and/or living area to be indicated on his fee slip.

Bill Clark (fresh) attacked the whole plan as ridiculous. He said it would not provide maximum communication between day student senators and their constituents, and claimed the college system was as good a system of representation if not better. Thomas C. Fitzhugh III, MSC president attending as a proxy for Deputy Corps Commander Thomas Bain, said the proposed constitution was too long and should be shortened.

He predicted the document, if adopted, would not work as well as the present constitution. He noted election filing ends Friday, and any change now in the system of representation would only cause problems.

Charles Hoffman, proxy for Rick Briscoe (sr-LA), said it was the responsibility of next year's Senate to consider the proposed constitution or any other new plan. It is the new Senate's responsibility, he said, to consider any new form of government.

Sam Buser (soph-LA) asked if the Senate defeated a document it had spent a semester studying, what could it point to as its semester's work? He said it was no wonder students have little interest in the Senate. He urged senators to drop the twice-defeated proposal and get on to other business.

Other senators argued a combination of living area and college representation would allow a student to know his senator lived near him, and would allow the senator to better represent problems of a particular area.

Mike Barrett (sr-Sci) proposed an alternate method of representation which simply was a reduced number of senators elected by college and class (as is now done) and elimination of ex-officio positions. It was defeated.

After much hassling and flaring of tempers, the constitution went down by a 42-31-1 vote, seven short of the vote required to pass. Thirty of the negative votes were cast by cadets.

Senate Secretary Bill Hartsfield recommended spring elections be postponed from April 15 to April 28. He said university regulations require 10 class days

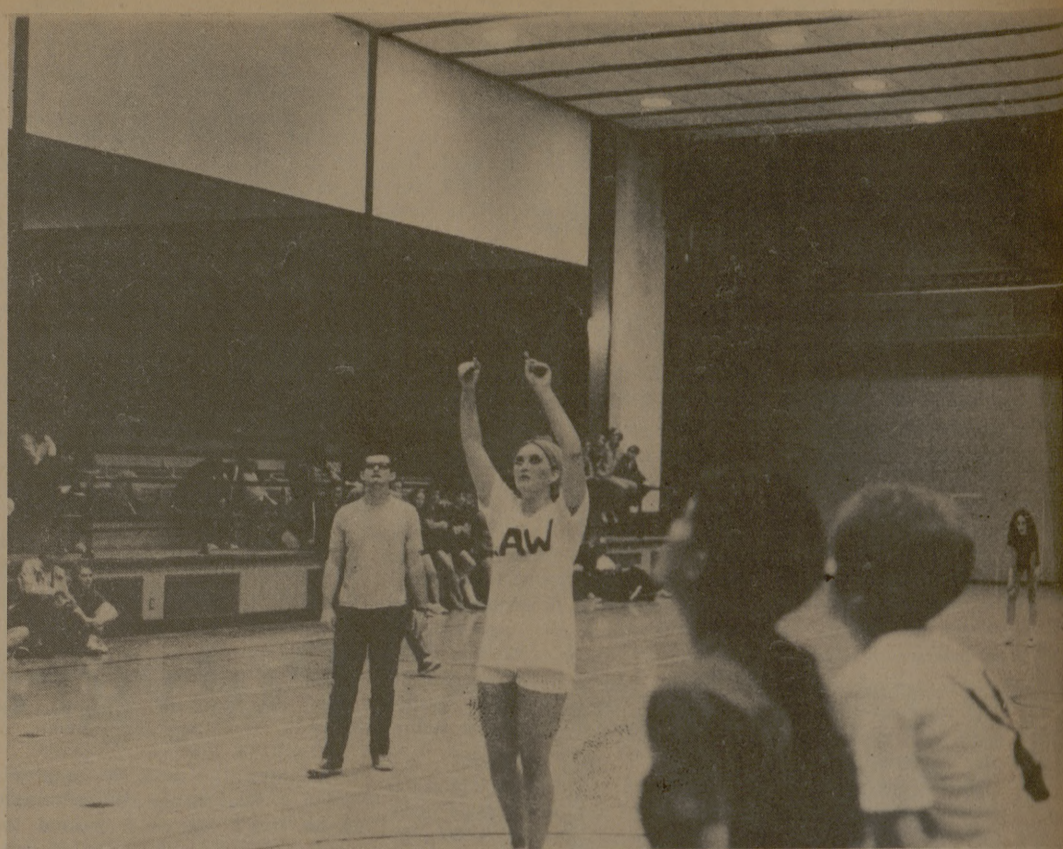
between the close of filing (this Friday) and the elections. Right now, he said, there are only nine days.

He also said election turnout would be poor, since many students will not return until the weekend after the holidays. Dismissal of morning classes April 16 for A&M President Dr. Jack K. Williams' inauguration is another factor, he said. He said April 28 was needed to keep the elections out of Civilian Week.

Election Commission President George Walton argued against the proposal, saying the Commission had set the election date and the Senate had no authority to change it.

Caperton ruled the Commission was an administrative arm of the Senate and the Senate could rule on Commission actions. His ruling was challenged, but the Senate upheld his position.

After more parliamentary maneuvering, with some personality clashes, senators passed Hartsfield's proposal 42-27-3.



LAW HALL'S Linda Lawrence sinks a basket for the Ramp 10 Girls, who defeated the Puryear Playmates Wednesday night 33-26 in DeWare Fieldhouse. (Photo by Mike Rice)

Senate passes 18-year-old vote

AUSTIN (AP) — Texas senators responded to Lt. Gov. Ben Barnes' plea Wednesday and voted 25-6 to ratify a Congressional proposal to lower the voting age to 18 in all elections.

The measure now goes to the House, where a similar resolution was introduced but was not put to a vote.

Senators also took the first step in making it easier for Texans to vote by deciding to debate a bill setting up a form of permanent voter registration.

Sen. Don Kennard of Fort Worth announced four days of public hearings on the \$492.5 million House-passed tax bill will start Thursday afternoon.

"After we review the bill as it is, we will start considering amendments and any additional tax raising ideas not in the bill now," said Kennard, one of the Senate sponsors.

Barnes told senators it would be a "very significant step" if they acted quickly to approve the congressional resolution to change the minimum voting age in the U. S. Constitution to 18.

Barnes said five states already have ratified the proposal—Connecticut, Delaware, Minnesota, Tennessee and Washington.

"Today's young people are the best educated and most politically aware of any preceding generation," Barnes said in a written statement prior to the Senate vote. "They have the right to a voice in the making decisions which so directly affect their lives."

Sens. H. J. Blanchard of Lubbock and Henry Grover of Houston protested the quick vote on the 18-year-old proposal.

"It is a bad precedent to ram something through the Senate without a chance to reflect," said Blanchard.

They voted with four other conservatives — Sens. A. M. Aikens of Paris, Wayne Connally of Floresville, W. T. Moore of Bryan and J. P. Word of Meridian against the measure.

Thirty-eight states must ratify the congressional action within the next seven years for it to go into effect.

The Senate voted, 22-6, to debate a bill allowing a person to re-register automatically by voting at least once every four years in a party primary or November general election for state and county offices.

The bill would allow year-round voter registration with a cutoff debate 30 days before an election.

It will be pending business Thursday.

Sen. Mike McKool of Dallas, the sponsor, said it has "more safeguards than any state in the union."

The Senate passed and sent to the governor a bill to allow city transportation companies to set special reduced fares for persons over 65, blind or disabled. It also passed to the governor a measure prohibiting state and

local governments from seeking competitive bids in hiring attorneys, physicians, surgeons and engineers.

Two bills relating to the Houston Ship Channel were sent to the governor. One would change the name of the Harris County Houston Ship Channel Navigation District to the Port of Houston Authority, which carries with it broader powers. The other would allow the authority to establish safety rules for the channel and to buy a boat to handle fires.

The Senate amended and sent back to the House bills to revise Texas' water code and to set out regulations to protect persons working near high-voltage electric lines.

Senators agreed to a conference committee to work out differences between the House and Senate on a proposal raising tuition for out-of-state students. The House voted to raise it from \$200 a semester to \$700, and the Senate raised it to \$500.

House members tentatively approved, 74-66, a bill enabling county commissioners — instead of the legislature — to set the salaries of all county employees except judges and court reporters.

The House rejected Senate changes in a bill giving freedom to choose their doctors and call for a joint House-Senate conference committee to write a compromise. The House version authorized panels of doctors from which employees could choose. Senators left the choice wide open.

House members tentatively approved a bill putting motorcycle limits under the same speed limits as cars. There now are no speed limits for motorcycles.

MSC chairmen named to posts

Howard E. Creek of Abilene, Robert J. Lackey of Arlington and Miles A. Vincin of Baytown have been named to Memorial Student Center committee chairmanships, rounding out the 1971-72 organization.

Vincin, a physics junior, will chair the New Tradition Singers.

The MSC Recreation Committee will be headed by Creek, an environmental design junior and member of Squadron 4 in the Corps of Cadets.

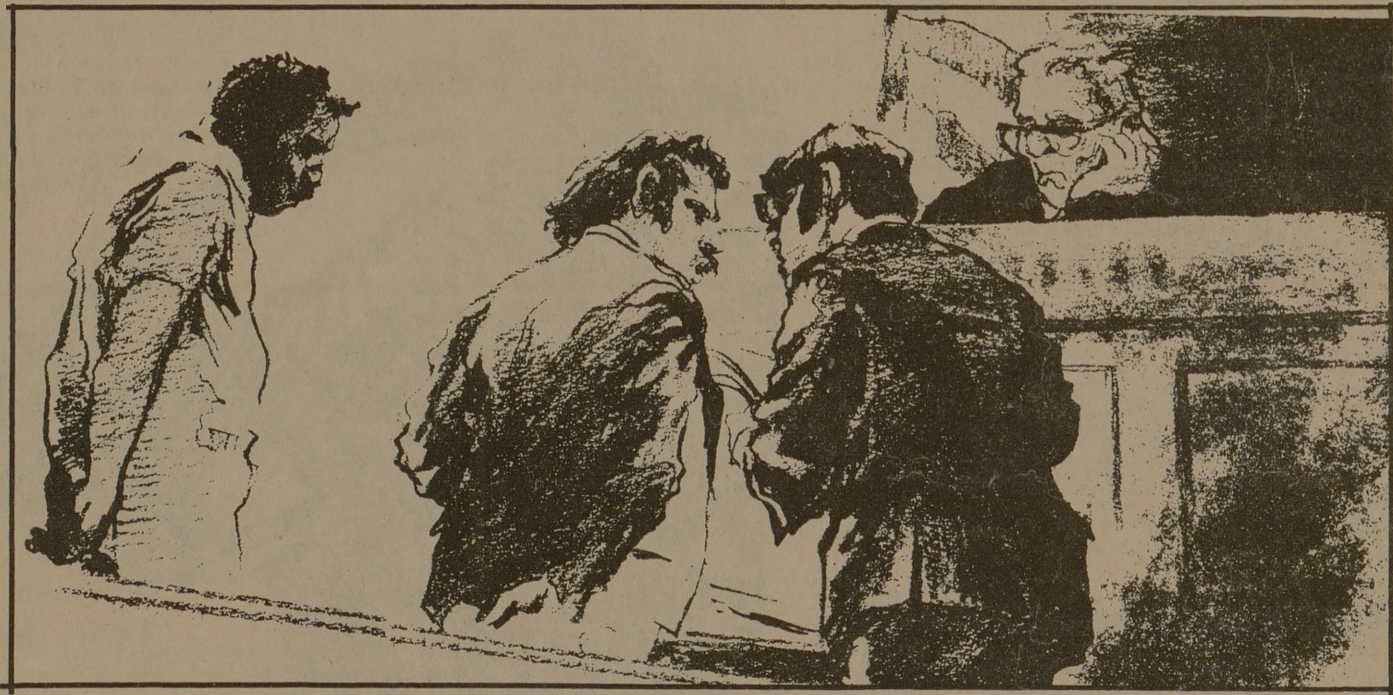
Lackey will head the Basement Committee, which operates a campus coffee house in the MSC basement on weekends. He is a management junior and member of Squadron 9.

Other committee chairmen who

will work under Council and Directorate President John C. Dacus next year are Larry Brown, Washington, Aggie Cinema; Vernon Lewis, Seguin, Black Awareness; Randolph Freeman, Houston, Camera; George W. Lockwood, Fort Worth, Chess; David Dacus, Dallas, Contemporary Arts.

Also, Sam Dragan, El Paso, Great Issues; Bunny Blaha, Houston, Host and Fashion; Terry Rowen, Killeen, Leadership; Paul Turner, Livingston, Political Forum; Jan Bertholf, Annandale, Va., Radio; Ben Thurman, College Station, SCONA XVII; Kirk Hawkins, San Angelo, Town Hall, and Jim Summers, Shreveport, Travel.

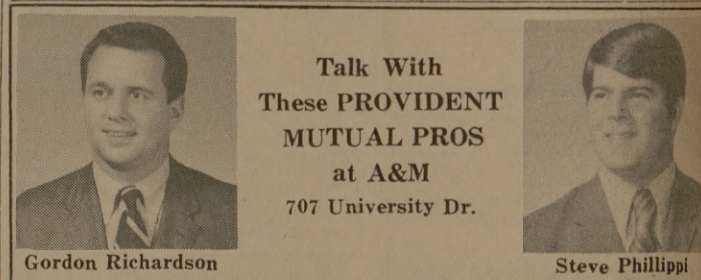
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