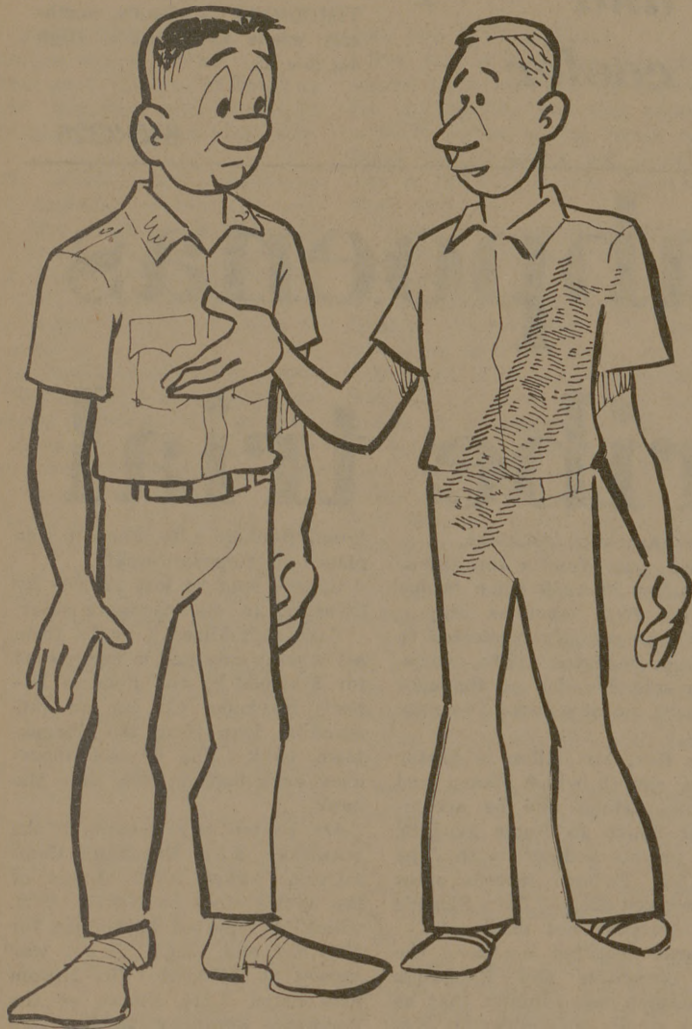


CADET SLOUCH by Jim Earle



"They're getting more and more impatient with jay-walkers!"

Referendum voting

If you haven't read the analysis on the top of this page yet, we suggest that you do so.

It deals with the new constitution which the Student Senate has been slaving and griping over the last several months. We won't go into the right or wrong of the constitution—at least not right now, but the students should.

Typical reaction to that last statement is probably jeering, obscene statement or possibly a horse laugh. After all, what the hell has the Student Senate ever done for the student?

That is another question we won't pass judgment on right now but we do wish to make one statement regarding it.

The new constitution has the potential to change the Student Senate for good or bad. If you want to have an effective Senate then study the constitution for the question now lies in the student's hands.

It is there because of the referendum to be held this Tuesday. The students have the power to approve this document or kill it. One must happen. That is where the student voice in student government comes in.

Whatever you do, if you want to have better student government then get out and vote one way or the other Tuesday.

Texas politicians

With the Mutscher bribery trial coming up and the Sharpstown Bank scandal still lingering in the air Texas politics has entered one of its most ludicrous phases.

Everybody, from Preston Smith to our own Mike Essmyer, has jumped on the honesty bandwagon. "I'm honest" screams one while another denies knowing Gus Mutscher at all. Meanwhile, back with the other subpoenaed politicians, Smith keeps the whole state of Texas in frightful suspense waiting for his TV speech tonight.

Of course, no one has mentioned that politicians are supposed to be honest to begin with. Or is it just that they're not supposed to be caught?

Perhaps it is that Texans are just used to finding out that their elected officials are not deserving of the public's trust. They caught Frank Sharp, who of course had no dignified title to defend himself with and those that did have the title didn't stick around to help, but that was it. Dowdy's conviction even came as a shock.

Ah, well. Perhaps it is all for the best. Now that the cat is out of the bag the Texas politico may be less eager to invest in dubious ventures. Let us think back to the days of Pa and Ma Ferguson and reflect on how lucky we are now.

AARGH!

Batt analysis

The constitution—what it is and isn't

The new constitution that will be voted on in the March 7 referendum is quite a bit different from the one that has been used for the past several years.

It is intended to replace what Student Senate President John Sharp "an obsolete constitution." The proposed document, he feels, is necessary for modern student governments.

The new plan is for the organization, to be called the student government of Texas A&M University, to be divided into three branches and for Senate representation to be by a combination of the college/class system and by living areas.

The three branches will be similar to the U. S. Constitution—executive, legislative and judicial. The Student Body President will be the executive head, and the job of presiding over the Senate will go to the Vice President.

"The President's job this year is legislative and administrative," Sharp said. "They need to be separated, so that everyone can do a one hundred per cent thorough job."

The representation in the present Senate is apportioned to each college by class, according to enrollment. The proposed system would have 50 senators elected in this way, including, for the first time, graduate students.

The remainder of the Senate would be elected by living area in the ratio of one senator for every 500 students. If adopted, the Senate would decide the "dis-

tricts' in the living areas from which representatives would be elected.

The Corps, due to the system of class distinction, would be assured six representatives, and university-owned apartments will be guaranteed two. The remainder of the off-campus seats will be divided equally among the four classes, sophomore through graduate student, with any left over to be elected at large.

Freshmen representatives will be elected in the middle of the fall semester on the same 1:500 plan as the rest of the Senate. This would change the present system of electing five senators at large.

"This new plan for representation is satisfactory to both Corps and civilians," Sharp explained, "because it combines the class/college and living area methods. This should appeal to both sides."

The proposed constitution calls the Student Body President, the "chief executive officer," adding to his present powers an appointment power for any administrative committees, the right to enter into agreement with organizations and agencies outside the university and the veto power. He will have the responsibility for executing legislation and the obligation to present a legislative program at the beginning of each semester.

Instead of the present system of having ex-officio members of

the Senate, the President will have an Advisory Council. This body will consist of the positions now classified as ex-officio and any other people the President wishes to appoint.

Four standing committees will be in the executive branch. The Student Body President Executive Committee will consist of the officers and the chairmen of the other standing committees. The Student Election Board replaces the Election Commission. Membership will be by appointment.

"We want to get the politics away from the Election Board, so they can do their job and avoid any hassle," Sharp said.

The Public Relations Committee will be relatively the same as in the present structure, with the Services Committee taking over the jobs of the other three committees now in existence.

Membership to these committees is subject to the appointment of the various chairmen, who are selected by the Student Body President. These committees are purely administrative, having no legislative duties.

The legislative branch will consist of the Student Senate, with its Executive Committee, The Vice President will preside over the Senate, with a Chairman Pro Tem to be elected by that group.

Six standing committees are planned for the Senate. The Executive Committee will consist of the President, the Vice President, the Recorder, the chair-

men of the legislative standing committees and the Chairman Pro Tem of the Senate.

The other committees include the Academic Affairs Committee, the Student Services Committee, the External Affairs Committee, the Rules and Regulations Committee and the Finance Committee.

The Senate will have the power to override the President's veto with a two-thirds vote. It can grant recognition to student organizations, but it can only recommend withdrawal, again with a two-thirds vote. Each year the Senate will reapportion itself prior to spring elections.

The judicial branch will consist of the Student Body Judicial Committee. There will be nine members, two from each class, sophomore through graduate student, and chairman. All members are appointed by the Student Body President.

The duties of this committee will be the interpretation of constitutional questions, legislative interpretation and certification of elections. It will be their job to rule on election disputes and protests.

Ratification of the proposed constitution will be by a two-thirds vote of the Senate, approval by the administration.

"The main advantage of this constitution is that it allows people to do a more thorough job by specification of duties," Sharp pointed out. "It allows more

people to be involved, and is more participation in decisions."

Work began on this constitution in September. Sharp appointed the committee to work in late October. This group after finals before Christmas drawing up the proposals, finalizing the new plan last week.

Last year, the Student Senate spent most of the second semester debating a proposed constitution which was eventually rejected. Sharp indicated that this is a different situation, and that is a different proposed constitution.

"People from the top organizations on campus participated in this constitutional committee," explained. "The reason last year's constitution failed was that Senate members were inactive. This year, we took different representatives from all the organizations on campus and people in different areas to work on it."

Bulletin Board

- Thursday  
San Antonio HTC will meet in room 301 of the Physics building at 7.  
Cepheid Variable will meet in room 304 of the Physics building at 7.  
Panhandle Area HTC will meet in room 3D of the Memorial Student Center at 8.  
Architectural Wives will meet at 7:30 in the Texas room of Bryan Building and Loan.  
Friday  
Chess Committee will meet in room 3C of the Memorial Student Center at 7:30. Tournament will be held.  
Monday  
Zero Population Growth will meet at 7:30 at St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Jersey St.

Miss TAMU competition will be held

A Miss TAMU contest will feature single coeds in both formals and bathing suits March 8.

The contest, sponsored by several TAMU organizations, is in coordination with the Miss Texas Universe contest. The TAMU winner will go to the Miss Texas contest.

Applications for the contest may be obtained at the Dean of Women's office in the Academic building. The deadline is Friday.

The contest will be held in the mall of the Engineering Center. Judges will be Dean of Women Toby Schriber, Dean of Men Charles Powell, Fern Hammond of KBTX, Mayor J. B. Hervey of College Station and Ford Albritton.

...John R. Moffitt



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.

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