

'72--The year young people make a move into politics

By DEBBIE BLACKMON

1972 is going to be the Year of Politics in the United States. Across America the college campuses, the student communities, have become fully-enfranchised political forces capable of using the direct route of the ballot box. The 18-year old, now, has been saddled with the responsibility to legislate responsive government at local, state and national levels which will look to the true needs and wishes of the American people. We no longer have to appeal to representatives for support ourselves and our own candidates who can look at the true needs and wishes of the American people.

Political pundits have been arguing for months now about the influence that we are going to have on the outcome of the primaries and the general elections, later in November. They've speculated on the local participation of "uprooted students," and the real interest of the col-

lege-aged American on the higher level of politics. Many experts have raised the fear that the New Voters have so little practical experience with the political process that we are going to be easily swayed by the most superficial considerations, if we are "swayed" at all.

Many new voters have a hesitancy about coming into the direct politics and all its dirty laundry, but not all of us are going to ignore the whole business and hope it will go quietly away. Those who feel they have a stake in this mess of American politics are going to do a lot of "swaying" disconcerting established petty politicians and petty politics. We will be trying to support candidates who can continue handling their duties competently, and those who can replace our "city fathers."

Politicians involved in this year's "races" are going to stand before 3,839,000 college-aged constituents and have to reason with a lot of ideas, independent of

petty politics and band wagons. I think The New Voters will initiate a purer democracy in the United States.

Responding to the enactment of a Bill providing for the suspension of the restricting system of voter registration and eligibilities, over 1250 young Texans gathered in Austin this summer to call for constructive change. Thirteen people from Texas A&M went to the conference which began as a "get rid of Nixon" and "Get out of Viet-Nam" sort of movement. But the conference evolved into a forum of concerned new voters interested in intensive examination of voter registration techniques and the laws they now were responsible for. This is a unique feature of the evolving mode of thought of the new voters. An overwhelming insistence on standing up for principles and insisting them out loud, rather than depending upon the traditional politics of the "smoke-filled" room have distinguished them from those who

have continually defeated true democracy in the United States. They declared nonpartisanship and stood by it. Not for party recognition but for the recognition of principles of American ideas of today. They have been one of the many nationwide vehicles organizing for the education of the informed young citizens participating in basic democratic decisions which will affect their lives and their reputations in our country's politics.

In September, a major change was made in the revised voter registration restrictions for the Texas Election Code concerning the ability of the newly enfranchised voters who live on a campus to vote in their local elections. As the result of a court suit, the state decided that the requirement that unmarried persons under age 21 vote in the county of their parents' residence was unconstitutional. Students aren't entitled to any special considerations from the registrar's office, but neither are we to re-

ceive any special discrimination. This particular provision was inserted by the House of Representatives in a conference committee during the last session of the legislature and was directed at keeping college students from voting in the town where they attended school. Now with the declaration of its unconstitutionality, a college student under 21 can register and vote in the town where he attends school. This is the biggest victory that we new voters have gotten. Out of state students and out of county students at Texas A&M may register in Brazos County, if they tell the county tax assessor-collector that they definitely are making A&M their permanent home. Any student can determine this when he is registering at the County Court House in Bryan. He does not have to be here during the summer to be a resident. On account of the student economic impact from his local area, every student should be active in his local elections as he is directly

affected by its expenditures and the local taxes he is burdened with. He is affected by the markup of retail prices of food, sales taxes paid to the community, income taxes from his pay check if he happens to work in the community, and many other municipal services every citizen has to pay for. When a student stops and considers that \$78,000-000 was spent in the Bryan-College Station area last year by Texas A&M and connected individuals, he will notice that some of that came out of his pocket. As a registered voter of College Station, he has a say in all local bond issues and specially created sales tax issues. If you, as a Texas A&M student don't consider yourself a resident of College Station, because you plan to skip this place as soon as possible, you are going to find your taxes being levied by your locally registered businessmen.

Getting the opportunity to vote and having a direct say with grubby personalities and nifty

stock scandals isn't what some people get excited about. The chance to jump right in the most questionable and 2nd oldest occupation in the history of man—politics—is something that is part of the staunch American guarantee—life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. A lot of adults "don't have the time" or feel that their vote "won't matter anyway." New blood, new voters, and new issues are making this year's elections special. It will be a rejuvenating chance for politics in Texas and the nation to be taken by the roots and shaken out. For too long politics have been controlled by a stifling, regressive group who have become bogged down in the laws that they administer. Now that younger voters have been enfranchised, we have the chance to prove our maturity and abilities in handling the government that we have criticized, griped about, and attacked. Together we can work within the system to make the system work for us.

The Battalion

Vol. 67 No. 120

College Station, Texas

Thursday, May 4, 1972

845-2226

Local politicians state positions

Aggie senior Mike Essmyer and Bryan chiropractor Ed Stephenson will challenge incumbent Bill Presnal for the District 28 state representative seat this Saturday in local primaries.

Essmyer, ex-Student Senate vice-president, said that the new state constitution should be flexible and provide for annual unlisted sessions of the legislature. Essmyer feels the constitution should be a structural outline of state government, contain a civil rights bill and allow for more flexible county and local governments.

He said citizens should be treated and cured rather than destroyed for their use of marijuana. "The crime committed for its use should be lowered to a misdemeanor" he said.

His opponent, Bill Presnal, has had three and one-half years ex-

perience as the state representative from this district.

Presnal told the League of Women Voters that he believes a good constitution would have a pay-as-you-go system of financing and give more authority to the legislature and local governments.

In addition he said that the executive branch should be restructured.

"The first offense for the possession of marijuana should be treated as a misdemeanor," Presnal said.

Ed Stephenson, the third contestant for the office, has had seven years of college and is a local chiropractor.

Stephenson told the League of Women Voters the constitution should guarantee equal rights, freedom of the press, religion, and speech for all and provide

a moral code for legislators.

Stephenson disagrees with reducing the possession of marijuana charge to a misdemeanor.

In the county commissioner's race, the Democratic party boasts two candidates in Lester (Red) Parsons and Bill Cooley.

The county commissioners court decides where voting precincts will be within the county.

In a recent interview Bill Cooley said he could visualize two voting precincts on campus if current trends keep going.

"I recognize that the student body is the largest single segment of the population in Precinct 1," he said. "Without it, very few of us would be in office. I feel that voter registration will grow faster than student enrollment."

He also said that the A&M Consolidated voting box is overcrowded with 3,700 registered voters. He added that one polling place on campus and one near North Gate for students who live on the north side of campus should be added.

His opponent, Parsons, has no objections to a polling place on campus, if it is in keeping with the county election code.

Parsons, a heavy equipment operator for Brazos County, said it doesn't matter where the polls are located, but that he thinks A&M should be a regular polling place.

"A&M Consolidated is too crowded. The majority of those who vote there come from the A&M campus," he said.

On the Republican side of the elections, Howard N. Anderson said that he is also in favor of a campus polling spot. Howard, a self-employed businessman, taught for five years at A&M Consolidated.

"I'm all for it," he said. "I think it would make it much more convenient for students to vote."

His opponent, James Carroll, could not be reached for comment.

The polling area for A&M students is located at A&M Consolidated High School's band room.

Graduate College program Friday

A record 297 graduate students will receive degrees at 7:30 p.m. Friday in G. Rollie White Coliseum.

Dr. George W. Kunze, Graduate College dean, said 232 students will receive master's degrees and 65 will be awarded doctorates.

TAMU's traditional undergraduate commencement exercises will be held at 9 a.m. Saturday, also in the coliseum.

Dr. Norman Haekerman, Rice University president, will speak at the Graduate College exercises.



MAKING WAY FOR THE NEW is the case of the demolition of Bagley Hall which has been occupied for the past 68 years. A new two-story building has been de-

signed inline with the architecture of the eight-story building shown behind it.

All you could ask for Saunas and store in new dorm

By MARGARET SHAW

The 1972 fall semester will find 1,000 A&M students, at least half of them women, living in a dorm complex that has almost every available service on campus contained in its three adjoining build-

ings. Named for former students, C. C. Krueger of San Antonio and J. Harold Dunn of Amarillo, the 270,000 square feet of space houses not only living areas but study and recreational facilities.

Quiet areas are provided by carrels and typing rooms located in several places in each wing.

The living area is designed in a suite arrangement. Modular furniture, designed especially for the dorm by Bob Boyce, an A&M designer, will be the main feature of each room. Chosen from three proposed sets of furniture by a committee that included students, it was tested by A&M students before a final selection was made. The pieces are black and white, giving the residents a wide choice of colors for accents.

Storage space was of prime concern and each piece provides maximum storage. Beds have large drawers built in beneath them and with the addition of bolsters to the beds the room becomes a sitting room.

A definite advantage of the design is the uniform height of all pieces which can be placed side-by-side to make one long continuous workspace. Units are also stackable to increase floor space.

Recreation areas are not lacking. The commons building between the two dormitory wings has game rooms equipped with table tennis and pool tables. Also in the central area is a complete exercise room and four color television lounges.

Each wing has its own sauna on the third floor, in addition to lounges on each floor.

Post office facilities are included in the list of services for

the residents. The Exchange Store is planning a branch for the dorm, specializing in personal needs and school supplies.

Residents will eat in the dining hall located in the commons area. A snack bar will be operated in addition to the cafeteria.

Women residents will be placed under an hours policy as freshmen. Coed upperclassmen, with parental consent, may participate in self-limiting hours. However, they will be required to sign out at the front desk when leaving for the evening. Women leaving town must also sign out so they may be reached in case of emergency.

Closing hours for those who do not have self-limiting hours will be 12 midnight until 7 a.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 2 a.m. until 7 a.m. on Friday and Saturday nights. Exceptions may be made for students by the head resident.

Hours of visitation will be established by hall members within the framework of the policy currently in effect in civilian dormitories.

The rules and regulations will be administered by a staff headed by a complex director. Each wing will have a head resident. Women will have three resident advisors per floor and men will have two.

As of May 3, there were still limited spaces available for women.

Dedication will be during the fall semester 1972.

News Summary

WASHINGTON (AP) — Late Wednesday the White House disclosed that Nixon has selected Asst. Atty. Gen. L. Patrick Gray III to serve as FBI director on an interim basis at least until after the November election.

A presidential spokesman explained the appointment of a regular director was being delayed to avoid the possibility of an election-year political fight over the nomination. Gray will not need Senate confirmation to fill the job in an acting capacity.

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey narrowly defeated Sen. George S. McGovern early Thursday in the trouble-plagued Ohio primary election for the state's 38 at-large Democratic National Convention delegate votes.

PARIS (AP) — A critical session of the Vietnam peace talks was set for Thursday and unconfirmed reports that secret contacts were already under way between the United States and North Vietnam.

A Paris newspaper said the United States had proposed in a secret exchange with North Vietnam that a seven-day truce be put into effect, apparently to be followed by a general ceasefire.

U. S. officials here and in Washington wrote off the truce and cease-fire report as "completely without foundation." The U. S. peace talks delegation spokesman, Stephen Ledogar, would not, however, comment on reports that secret talks had begun. North Vietnamese officials noted inquiries about the report

but had no comment.

KELLOGG, Idaho (AP) — As pumps sent tons of air underground, rescue workers began probing the hot, smoky shafts of the Sunshine silver mine Wednesday in search of more than 50 miners missing in a fire that killed at least 24 other men.

Mine officials said 58 men were unaccounted for; 108 others escaped to safety soon after the fire broke out in the nation's richest silver mine shortly after noon Tuesday.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Nixon's chief economist says it is unlikely that wage-price controls will be removed this year.

Herbert Stein, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, also told reporters Tuesday that price controls "are consistent with a very substantial increase in profits this year" and that he doesn't find great anxiety among American businessmen over profit curbs.

Stein, who just returned from Europe where he conferred with economic officials from several countries, said he found a "strong feeling of confidence in the international situation."

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the military situation worsening, Secretary of Defense Melvin R. Laird ordered a top-level team of logistics specialists to Vietnam Wednesday to determine whether Saigon requires more American military aid.

Pentagon spokesman Jerry W. Friedheim said the group will consider both Saigon's military needs and what additional measures may be needed to protect the remaining U. S. troops.

University National Bank "On the side of Texas A&M." —Adv.