

Listen Up

Senate Size Bill Offered

Editor:
The proposal to reduce the membership in the Senate may have some merit, but not for the reasons listed by Layne Kruse and other. The point which is overlooked is that the 100 senators, each must communicate with 160 constituents (16,000 students divided by 100 senators) and that cutting the number of senators will increase the number each one must contact.
This indicates a bias which says that it is more important for student senators to communicate with each other than it is for them to communicate with their constituents. I disagree vehemently with this attitude and I propose that the number of senators be increased to 130. With this figure, each senator would have to communicate with 129 other senators and with about 130

constituents, thus giving the students more input into the senate. For those who claim that this will destroy communications in the senate, let me point out that communications must be already destroyed with the students, since each senator contacts far more than 100 constituents.
I propose the following:
I. "No confidence" position on every ballot. This means that if you just don't like or don't know any of the candidates running, then you vote "no confidence" and if no confidence wins, then a new election must be called with at least one new candidate on the ballot, and of course, no confidence.
II. Referendum. Anytime the Senate was to vote on the allocation of funds in an amount exceeding \$1,000, a referendum

must be called in which at least 20 per cent of the student body votes. If fewer vote, then the measure either fails or can be called for a revote. The referendum votes will be binding if it passes, however. No money can be allocated or spent until the students pass the referendum.
III. Petition. Anytime 500 students sign a petition for a measure and present it to the senate, then they must consider that measure. A petition can also be called to bring a proposal out of committee. In this way, any possible dictatorship of an agenda committee can be bypassed.
I challenge any of the candidates running for any student government office to endorse all the principles herein named, and I encourage you to vote for any who do.
Mike Perrin '75

Re-Shuffling The Deck

Question: If you were Student Government president how would you make an effective, communicative job of the position for the majority of students.

Better Question: Since the majority of people at A&M is by far made up of students, what should students expect to receive from their president and elected officials as a whole?

It's easy for many to sit back and say, "oh, yes, the students—they're so uninformed about the issues that they are apathetic in their own right."

We don't believe that is presenting the whole picture, only part of it at most. A seemingly big issue for the coming spring elections is "Why hasn't A&M Student Government communicated with the individual?"

The answer to this question, of course, can't be pinned to any one individual or group of individuals since "we are all in this thing together." And to some this probably seems unfortunate.

We do know where to toss some of the blame for the supposed communication gap between elected representatives and the student body. And it goes something like this:

1. This year's Student Government president was weak in that he refused to take a public stand on all but three or four of this year's issues, some being female yell leaders and the higher mandatory hospital fee.

2. Most student senators themselves have refused to contact their constituency on issues, otherwise most students' balking at the emptying of dorms for women and higher fees would not have been so bad.

3. Most students are here for an education and aren't interested in running a university that has existed fairly well on its own for almost 97 years. Therefore, they don't have the time to delve into the different angles involved in A&M's operations, nor the desire to.

But now we have a chance to re-shuffle the cards, so to speak and with the slicing of the Services Fee pie postponed until after the election, the ante has been sweetened a little bit for those in office now seeking power next year.

In the final wash, then, it comes right down to what we, the students as individuals, want to make of our government and not really what can be done once the election results have rolled in.

Surely trying to make the correct choice of individuals is a hard thing to do from such a vast and many-opinioned field of candidates. But it seems the thing to do would be to search out the candidates who want to communicate with the student body, ones who want to count on the opinions of others.

Utopian or idealistic? You can bet on it! But right now it looks like the only way the situation can be changed until someone can come up with a better form of representation.

We might recommend students watch the 'Student Sandwich' show on KAMU-TV, Channel 15 Monday at 9 p.m. to see candidates for the president's post express their views.

Shows such as this are for the benefit of the students as well as the campaigners. We don't believe in armchair politics; get out and do something about the shape we're in. Vote next Thursday!

The Battalion

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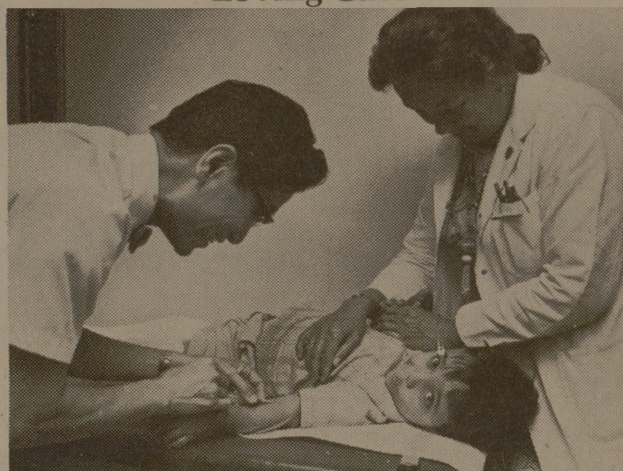
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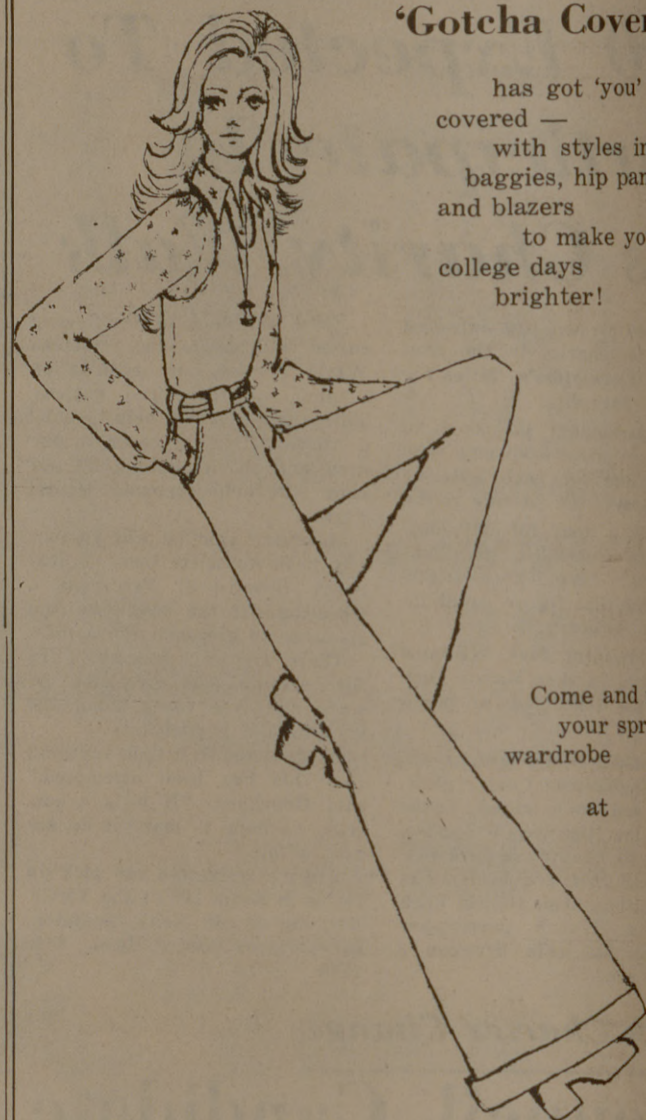
DR. Y. E. HSIA, director of the Yale-New Haven Genetics Clinic, Yale University School of Medicine, takes blood sample from George DeCarolis Jr., 10, of Groton, Conn., assisted by Anita Waters, clinic coordinator. An inborn kidney malformation caused rickets and stunted growth, which are treated by a combination of medical and surgical methods. The March of Dimes helps support Medical Service Programs for prevention and treatment of birth defects.

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PEANUTS

By Charles M. Schulz

