

# Constitutional Draft Riddled with Religious Flavoring

By RICK BROWN

The draft presented to the Texas legislature by the Constitutional Revision Commission is a great achievement, a succinct, unambiguous and commendable document effectively separating church and state. It provides ample guarantees for freedoms of the press, speech and religion. Sure, and Wallace is engaged to Shirley Chism, the earth is flat and Nixon is the best President we've ever had.

Granted the CRC draft is bet-

ter than the 1876 model monstrosity we now use, obviously. When any constitution has 200-plus amendments, reaches 55,000 words and is still growing, relief is imperative. But in this case, the cure resembles putting a band-aid over a brain tumor; it just don't hack it.

The bill of rights section of the CRC document provides for freedom and equality regardless of race, sex, creed or national origin. So far, so good. The next paragraph, however, promptly

proceeds blatantly to contradict one of those guarantees by stating, "No religious test shall ever be required . . . nor shall any one be excluded from holding office on account of his religious sentiments, provided he acknowledge the existence of a Supreme Being." The coup de grace occurs in another section devoted to guaranteeing religious "freedom" wherein it states "All men have a natural and indefeasible right to worship Almighty God according . . ." Nowhere is there

a guarantee against discrimination towards those choosing not to worship or not to profess a belief in a God. In point of fact, the entire constitution is itself religiously biased in addition to being self-contradictory. It is also in direct violation of the U.S. constitutional amendments I and XIV.

In 1961 the Supreme Court ruled conclusively in "Torasco vs. Watkins," that a Maryland statute requiring a declaration of belief of God, an exact parallel to

that required in the CRC draft and what is stated in Art. I, Sect. 4 of our present constitution, was and is unconstitutional. The court further stated, "Neither a State nor the Federal Government can constitutionally pass laws or impose requirements which aid all religions as against non-believers, and neither can aid those religions based on a belief in the existence of God as against those religions founded on different beliefs." I could not have said it better myself.

And yet there it sits in the constitution. Light up a era and be proud.

Incidentally Leon Jaworski, a member of that college grad school dropouts who up this pathetic compilation self-contradictions and lies Richard Nixon, with that characteristic wisdom he has often in the past, has to elevate Jaworski to the status of Watergate Special Prosecutor. Thank you, Mr. President.

## CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle Listen Up

### Editor Draws Fire; Aggie Traditions Defended



"We feel that it has a tremendous market among the Sunday drivers!"

I read an ad in the Battalion concerning the image of A&M. It contained an article from the Daily Texan containing views purported to be those of Mike Rice. Although I would never have believed that an Aggie would say such things about his school and his fellow Ags, I might have been a little too optimistic or naive.

Mr. Rice said that an Aggie doesn't call attention to himself when he's in Austin because he's afraid of all the Texas people. I wonder if Mr. Rice has ever taken the time to attend a Corps march in Austin. The look on those faces is pride, Mr. Rice, not fear.

Mr. Rice also said that the most important thing to the student body is preserving the tradition of the "true Ag." I hope with all of my heart that we can preserve that tradition for it as based on those qualities exhibited by Lawrence Sullivan Ross who was a soldier, a statesman and a knightly gentleman. The "true Ag" has gained the image of being honest and big hearted. Should we change that? I think not.

Finally, Mr. Rice said, "We are so far behind the times that it will take a while to do anything

constructive." Well, I guess we are behind the times here. We Aggies are so far behind the times that we haven't had campus demonstrations and riots as other schools have. We are even so backward as to pay a final tribute to a departed Ag with Silver Taps. Yes, Mr. Rice, if we weren't so far behind the times, we could scrap that tradition also.

Donald E. Parr, III  
Any letter will be run if it is in good taste (without certain adjectival flavorings). Definitely, demonstrations are not the answer to problems, but an awareness of crisis of the times, such as the energy problem, should result in the change of such traditions as the annual bonfire. Additionally, there can be no definition of "true Ag." except that he may be classified as one who attends A&M.—Ed.

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Editor:

Several misconceptions have arisen from the advertisement in the Wednesday Battalion by the Committee of Concerned Students for an Accurate Image of A&M. Several petitions calling for the removal of Mike Rice as the editor of The Battalion have been circulated as a result.

The editor has a right to express his own views anytime he wishes. The views in themselves are not grounds for removal. According to the University Rules and Regulations, "The Student Publications Board shall have the authority to suspend student editors, although editorial opinions expressed and content of publications shall not in themselves be grounds for suspension."

If the editor has lost the confidence of the student body, then perhaps the Student Publications Board should investigate the operation of The Battalion, but in no event should the Editor's personal views be considered.

David L. White,  
Committee of Concerned Students  
for an Accurate Image of A&M

Editor:

Re: Lee Blumenthal on Nov. 27  
I must first state that although I am on Town Hall the ideas I am about to present are my own and should not be assumed to be anything else. I am one of the few civilians on Town Hall and have been on the committee for two years now. I must admit that some of the feelings expressed by Mr. Blumenthal were once my own and my primary motivation for applying to Town Hall. In the past two years I have discovered some of the error in my logic.

First, concerning the makup of the Town Hall Committee, there is a much larger number of Corps students than civilians. However, last spring when applications for new members were taken less than one third of the applicants were civilian. Of the new members selected I believe that the ratio of those accepted to those applying was substantially larger for civilian than Corps members. My suggestion is, therefore, that those complaining should get more civilians to apply.

Second, I served on this year's selection committee (which I

might add was open to anyone interested) and wish to explain the choice of groups. Not just myself, but nearly every one of the committee members ran opinion polls as well as a joint poll in the "Battalion." Every attempt was made to book the first groups on the polls but several factors made this impossible. Town Hall gets funding from student fees and this is its sole source of capital. However, the money available is only about 20 per cent of its total budget. Obviously, with two free concerts that doesn't leave much to book a really expensive group. Next, many of the groups simply will not play for colleges. Since our five fall dates are inflexible it is often impossible to find one which will coincide with both the group's tour and open dates. Also, comparatively speaking, our box office sales is somewhat small and we lose several groups to better offers. For example, one group we booked canceled to play Madison Square Garden.

Third, I am sorry but I cannot answer the reason for not playing in Kyle Field. I will offer, however that probably the expense of

utilities and janitorial would be to large to handle a fixed cost. Also, even for Clark and Elton John. G. Rollie was not sold out.

I would like to state that I tried to answer Mr. Blumenthal's question for his sarcasm (Sgt. . . . really!) In my years here I have found that we are all Aggies, with or without uniforms, male or female. I am not in the Corps nor have I been, but no less of an Aggie. This year's bonfire proved this more than ever. The Rice game left for Saturday. But those of us who worked together and no one else if they were a "CT" or "non-Aggie." Without the pros and cons of a fire there was a sense of unity and pride there that was more than just enjoyable. All I hope is that more people will "off their apathy" and find there is more to going to college than going to classes and football games. So if you aren't trying find a way to obtain change have no right to gripe.

Ron Sparks '74

## Batt Commentary

### Recycled Aggies

At A&M the number of graduates "recycled" back into the faculty is alarming. As of last year, 21 percent of the A&M faculty received their Bachelor's degree here, 27 percent got their Master's from A&M, 20 percent received Ph.D.'s here (exclusive of the Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine) and 60 percent of the profs with the DVM got theirs at A&M. This inbreeding detracts from the wide variety of personalities, opinions and experience stimulating an educational atmosphere.

To put the problem in a different perspective we see that, according to the new University catalogue to be printed this month, the 1,339 part and fulltime A&M faculty members have 983 doctorates, come from 224 schools in the U.S. and represent 56 schools in 33 nations. This sugar-coating of statistics, however, does not hide the fact that one out of five doctoral degrees (non vet-med) and three out of five DVMs, earned by our faculty were presented by our school.

The University's deans and administrators deal with the problem in different ways. Dr. John C. Calhoun, vice president for Academic Affairs, says he asks the deans "to seek the best, neither by policy discrimination for or against our own graduates." Dean Fred J. Benson, College of Engineering, mellows this position somewhat. "We don't have any particular policy against hiring our own graduates, however, we do try to avoid inbreeding," he said. "If we had equals up for a position, we would take the other guy." The dean of the College of Agriculture, Dr. H. O. Kunkel, said he tries to disregard this factor in seeking faculty, but, "we have a tendency not to hire our own. A graduate is essentially a carbon copy of someone you already have." In the College of Science, Dean John Prescott said he will not hire recent A&M graduates unless under "unusual circumstance," such as a temporary appointment. Hiring of grads with terminal degrees from A&M "is not generally done," he added, unless the person has done post-doctoral work or has distinguished himself in the scientific world.

Dean David Maxwell of the College of Liberal Arts deviates even further from Calhoun's policy on hiring A&M graduates. "We discourage it; we don't do it," he said. "If someone got a Ph.D. from A&M and had a career and did well, then we would consider him." Of the nine department heads in Liberal Arts only one has a degree from A&M.

Statistical interpretations can, however, oversimplify a complex situation. After all, can the College of Veterinary Medicine be expected to have a widely diversified faculty when there are only a handful of such colleges in the country? And, should an A&M grad be turned away if he received an advanced degree out-of-state and had a distinguished career?

With certain exceptions in mind, a growing university must strive to achieve a diversified and broad-based faculty. Administrators and deans should unite in this effort and ban inbreeding.

## The Battalion

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