

Plackemeier wants out of race



"He can't get used to A&M being coed! He fusses at me because I don't write, and we see each other every day!"

Editor:

I would at this time like to informally withdraw from re-election for Sr. Yell-Leader. I say informally because we are not allowed to remove our names from the ballot. This was not an easy decision by any means to make. Those of you who know me realize how much this past year has meant to me.

The goals I had hoped to achieve for next year I do not think I can attain anymore. I had hoped to have five yell-leaders who were out there and were unified. Not looked upon as CTs or Non-Regs but as Aggies who gave a damn about A&M. I had dreamed of A&M coming together so that there would be as many civilians at bonfire and yell-practice as there are CTs. I wanted a unified A&M which people could look upon and say, look at the 12th Man yelling for A&M, not look at those Army guys and civilians yelling at each other. I can imagine how I would feel if I was in the shoes of Charlie, G-II or Steve and somebody came in and knocked me or my buddy off in a special election. I would have trouble respecting him. These guys worked hard for three weeks and won an election. Even if there were irregularities, you

cannot take that away from them.

I know many people will read this and civilians will say that Plack is just a chicken and will not fight. The CTs will say that Plack is going to get beat anyway and he just does not want to lose again. I'm sorry these people feel the way they do for they are very wrong. I just do not want A&M to be split any farther than what it is right now. Too much controversy has already surrounded this election and A&M need not be hurt anymore by it. I love A&M more than that!

Finally I think A&M will be in good hands next year and I hope and pray that next year's yell-leaders will work with both sides of campus so that everyone can feel the 12th Man Spirit which this and only this school has. I would hope that the Corps will not have the attitude of this year's head yell-leader and believe that the Corps is A&M and A&M is the Corps and that is all. It hurts when your own leader says you're not really an Aggie unless you're in the Corps of Cadets. It would be wonderful to see a united A&M not divided. I would hope that the non-regs get off their cans and get out to yell-practice and want to work with the Corps because they are already there yelling their hearts out. In conclusion, I want to thank all who made last year the best year of my life. Next year let's go out and:

BEAT THE HELL OUT OF EVERYBODY.

Ron Plackemeier
Jr. Yell-Leader
★ ★ ★

Clarification

Editor:
Several misconceptions have arisen concerning the upcoming elections of yell leaders. First, I did not appeal the election because any particular candidate won or lost. I stated my intention to appeal the election before the results were tabulated. As a supervisor in the ballot counting room, I was asked on several occasions to inform the poll workers that seniors were not allowed to vote. The widespread irregularities which occurred, plus the large number of voided ballots, convinced me that the validity of the election would be in doubt. My purpose in appealing was to insure a valid election, not to change the results of the election.

The Judicial Board considered the facts and decided unanimously to rehold this election. I acted solely as an individual, having no contact with any of the candi-

dates or their supporters before the appeal.

David L. White
★ ★ ★

Plack backed

Editor:
In the past two weeks we have heard and read very much about the April 4th student elections. I know many have heard and have speculated very much about the yell leader elections. You may have spoken to some of the candidates or have been told how they feel about the outcome. I personally know one candidate who sincerely loves Texas A&M and what it stands for. He loves this school so much that he feels it would be best if he withdrew from tomorrow's special yell leader election because he is concerned that if he wins it would cause an even greater split between the Corps and civilians. I feel it's a shame that because of a controversial new election that Texas A&M could lose a dedicated and concerned Aggie who I sincerely believe could be the best damn yell leader this school has ever had.

I believe that with both civilian and Corps yell leaders working together, we can unite both sides of campus. I only hope that everyone will get out and vote tomorrow and that people will vote for a man because of what is inside him and not because of the clothes he wears. I hope you will vote for Ron Plackemeier, because he is an Aggie who has got it in his heart. He believes in A&M and I hope you will believe in Ron.

Don Shafer
★ ★ ★

A farce

Editor:
Wednesday, the Judicial Board voted unanimously (7-0) to invalidate the April 4 yell leader election due to election irregularities. A self-appointed protector of student rights, Mr. David White, presented the evidence to the board. The April 11 Batt stat-

The real issue

David White's appeal of the Yell Leader election to the Judicial Board of Student Government, which was at first narrowly rejected and then overwhelmingly accepted, has been the subject of heated controversy in the last week.

The controversy was inevitable. Three Corpsmen won the disrupted race for senior yell leader while a civilian and current yell leader placed fourth, 124 votes behind no. 3. Whether intentional or not, the protest pitted the Corps vs. civilians in their classical battle for power at A&M. This emotionally-charged conflict often pushed the real issue into the background: that the election was poorly conducted.

White had good evidence to show that. He documented for the Board about two dozen cases of graduating seniors, graduate students and freshmen voting in the yell leader election, in which only sophomores and juniors were eligible. He presented signed statements from two poll workers saying they had allowed graduating seniors to vote. White charged that campaign lists identifying Corps candidates as such were distributed too close to the polls, in violation of the election code. He added that the Sbsa newsstand ran out of ballots before the polls closed and that the 167 voided ballots in the yell leader race were indicative of the election irregularities.

The Board in a 5-4 decision voted to reject White's appeal originally citing lack of evidence to warrant a re-election. But when White presented his two dozen documents the Board reversed its earlier decision and voted unanimously that enough irregularities occurred that the outcome could have been different and approved the appeal.

This incident should not be considered a Corps-civilian confrontation but an attempt to seek justice and a fair student election. The Board deserves to be commended for allowing a re-hearing and swallowing its pride in reversing a previous stand. David White, also, earns our respect for standing by his convictions in the face of harsh criticism.

The Battalion

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