

Editor's Notes

by Rod Speer

The University Rules and Regulations Committee will consider a resolution from the Student Senate calling for a change in the makeup of the Student Publications Board from five faculty-staffers and three students to five-four with the students in the majority. The proposal, even if adopted by the Rules and Regs Committee and later by the Academic Council, will no doubt face still resistance from the man at the top.

President Williams showed no sympathy for the resolution in a letter to Student Government President Steve Eberhard. The letter, dated May 2, was in reply to an SG resolution sent by Eberhard disapproving the manner in which former Battalion managing editor Steve Goble was removed from the newspaper staff by the Student Publications Board. Eberhard mentioned along with the Goble resolution that SG is studying the restructuring of the Publications Board as well as the possible election of the Battalion editor.

Williams answer was curt. He stated in closing the letter, "the Student Publications Board will not be restructured; and we will not elect the editor of The Battalion."

This kind of reply was much too emphatic for my tastes and left too many questions unanswered. Consequently, I managed to get a short interview with Dr. Williams during an especially busy week for him and tried to get some explanations. In referring to his reply he said, "The system we have been using is an old one (the last time an editor was elected from the student body was in 1953, the Publications Board appointive power was established the following year) and I don't intend to change it."

I asked if he would elaborate. He said, "No, I don't have an elaboration. I simply say that I'm not going to restructure the Student Publications Board, or elect the editor of the Battalion. I like it the way it is."

Concerning students as a majority of the Publications Board he replied that he didn't have any committee operating (under his jurisdiction) with a majority of students as far as he knew and that he prefers the status quo, with "a majority of staff people of the Board responsible to me." He added later that it has been a policy of his to get student representation on university committees.

On popularly elected editors Williams said, "I do not propose an election for an editor position since I think that it is by its very nature an appointive position." Williams was also critical of student turnouts at on-campus elections and cited the inefficiencies inherent in an election process. "If you think an election is the way to run everything, you're unaware of the facts of life," he said.

In summarizing his feelings, Williams said, "I would not want to be a part of any other system (of composing a Publications Board or selecting an editor) so long as the newspaper has Texas A&M's name on it and so long as I'm responsible to the Board of Directors for Texas A&M—so that is the way it is."

Dr. Williams busily worked with some correspondence during the interview and had to leave in a rush for Galveston, but he nevertheless got his point across, even though I would have liked more explanatory answers. It is evident then that at present Student Government has little hope of changing the makeup of the Student Publications Board or in similar efforts even with the support of the Rules and Regulations Committee and the Academic Council.

This is my final Editor's Notes and I'll take this opportunity to say that I've enjoyed serving as Batt editor this spring semester and hope I've been able to create a little more interest in the student newspaper. I plan to continue working for The Battalion in the fall only in a more limited capacity. Next week Greg Moses takes over as Batt editor for the summer and '74-'75 school year. He is an intelligent and capable journalist. Expect a quality product from him.

Sears, Edwards, Ruff get top student awards

The top student awards were presented Saturday to Barbara Sears of Columbia, Mo.; Chet Edwards of Houston and Michael Ruff of Dallas.

Edwards and Sears received the Brown Foundation-Earl Rudder Memorial Awards at commencement. Each award included \$5,000.

Ruff was named for the \$3,000 Doherty Award to the outstanding member of the Corps of Cadets. It was presented by President Jack Williams at TAMU's commissioning program.

All three graduating seniors were cited for leadership in the classroom, in student life and TAMU programs.

The prestigious awards were

highlights of graduation ceremonies addressed by Vice President Gerald Ford and commissioning of 161 new Army, Air Force and Marine Corps officers, with Army Chief of Staff Gen. George Brown as speaker.

Established through gifts of the Brown Foundation of Houston, the Rudder award honors outstanding graduating seniors who exemplify the qualities and traits of the late Gen. Earl Rudder. He died in 1970, after serving as TAMU president 11 years.

For the first time, two awards were given. Previous recipients were Corps members Van Taylor of Temple; Kirk Hawkins, San Angelo, and Wade Seidel, Brenham.

The Doherty award was endowed in 1971 by W. T. Doherty of Houston in memory of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. William Doherty. He stipulated that it go to a graduating senior who earned a reserve officer commission, believes in God, loves his family, has strong feelings of patriotism for the U. S. and Texas and possesses a strong Aggie spirit and love for Texas A&M.

Earlier Doherty Award honorees were Thomas Bain Jr. of Dallas and Thomas Stanley of Mt. Pleasant.

Sears, Rudder award winner, majored in botany, coming to TAMU as a freshman from the University of Missouri. She was the first woman student elected to an executive Senate office,

Student Government secretary. She served SG her junior and senior year as External Affairs chairman, was active in the Texas Student Association and National Student Lobby. Sears also worked on the Fair Housing Commission, with the College Station City Council and was a SCONA 18 and 19 delegate.

Edwards chaired the 18th SCONA as a junior and was executive vice president of committees of this year's Memorial Student Center Council and Director. The economics major served on the SG Judicial Board, Student Publications Board and Disciplinary Appeals Panel among numerous other activities. He studied comparative governmental economics at European and Asian universities last summer through the American Institute for Foreign Study.

Squadron 12 commander in the 1973-74 Corps of Cadets, Ruff was named the outstanding pre-medical student this year. He is a President's Scholar and plans to enter the University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston in September. Ruff recently received the Lovelace Award of the Air Force Association. It makes him eligible for all-expenses-paid study at the institution of his choice after three years active duty. His corps outfit won the George P. F. Jouine Flag for the best grade point ratio this year. Ruff was named the outstanding unit commander in the corps.

Distinguished awards go to faculty-staff

Twelve faculty and staff members Thursday received \$1,000 checks and commemorative watches from the Association of Former Students for distinguished achievements.

Former Students President Joe H. Moore presented the awards at a general faculty meeting which included remarks by President Jack K. Williams and Dr. John C. Calhoun, vice president for academic affairs.

Categories for the Distinguished Achievement Awards are teaching, research, extension and student relationships.

Awards for teaching went to Drs. Stanley Louis Archer, professor of English; Vaughn M. Bryant Jr., assistant professor, sociology and anthropology; Darald J. Hartfiel, assistant professor, mathematics; John Howard Hesby, assistant professor, animal science; Philip W. Ljungdahl, associate professor, accounting, and Udo Walter Pooch, assistant professor, industrial engineering.

Research awards were presented to Drs. James Russell Couch, professor, poultry science and biochemistry and biophysics; Jack Autrey Dabbs, professor, modern languages, and Sammy M. Ray, professor, marine sciences.

Harold W. Gaines, student program coordinator for the Memorial Student Center, and Dr. Gary M. Halter, assistant professor of political science, won awards for individual student relationships.

The extension award went to Dr. John Gordon Thomas, extension entomologist, Texas Agricultural Extension Service.

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Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification.

Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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