

Petition to be circulated

Confidence voting supported

Last Wednesday evening, the Student Senate screwed the Student Body.

What I am referring to is the Student Senate's rejection of a resolution which was presented by Stan Stanfield. After a committee report that stated that 78 per cent of 229 students polled supported the adoption of the bill, the Student Senate rejected it 30-33 with 1 abstention.

The bill was on Confidence Voting. What would the bill have accomplished? For the election of the Student Government President and five Vice Presidents, the addition of the words "No Confidence" would have been added to the ballot.

The significance of voting "no confidence" was that should there be a majority of "no confidence" votes in the initial election, filing for that office would be reopened for a minimum period of three days and that the "no confidence" designation would not appear on the ballot of the run-off election.

What does this imply? For once, students could register their confidence or no confidence in a candidate without refusing to vote in the election. This implies that the student candidate, for once, would have to state what he stands for and his

Readers' forum

platform for the coming year, if he wishes to be elected on the first ballot. Also, if no one is elected on the first ballot, then the position would be unfilled for a length of time no longer than the normal run-off.

Undoubtedly, the lines of responsible student leaders and the uninformed, possibly self-interested, senators are drawn. Thirty individuals seem to have proved themselves as representatives of student input and opinion. The bill concerned election procedures for students. I doubt if another bill could be presented which would weigh more heavily on student opinion.

What seems to be occurring in Student Government is a reform movement. Should there be one, distinct or not, I applaud those responsible student leaders, who are attempting to raise their voices. Though these student leaders seem to be taking hold in the Senate, is there anything which the Student Body can do to support them?

On Wednesday, some interested students will be presenting information on the bill and its background on

the first floor of the MSC. The Student Body can initiate its own legislation in accordance with the Constitution of the Student Body of Texas A&M.

The petition will allow the same bill, which was rejected by the Student Senate, to be voted on by the Student Body. The election will be held in mid-October with the Freshman Elections. A roll of how each of the Senators voted, along with their constituencies and phone numbers will also be available.

Thirty Senators have spoken for the Student Body and were defeated. The way which we, the students, can give them support is by signing the petition and letting the Student Body make its own wishes and decisions known. I give my personal thanks to the "Student Leaders."

Scott Farthing
Along with:
Greg Ball
John Oeffinger
Kathy Oeffinger
Randy Levine
Ben Schroeder
Tim Hall
Mike Flores
Michael Gerst
Mary Ellen Martin

The Battalion

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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.

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interior foliage



rubber plant

COMMON NAME: rubber plant
BOTANICAL NAME: ficus elastica 'decora'
HABITAT: india
FOLIAGE: bold broad leaved decorator plant, deep glossy green.
LIGHT: morning or afternoon sun (east or west window)
WATER: evenly moist but not soggy may dry slightly between waterings.
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SOIL: loam, rich garden soil.
FERTILIZE: an application of half-strength house plant fertilizer at 2 to 3 months intervals.

the greenery

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Editorials

Keep up good work

Never has a university education been inexpensive. However, in recent years the price of a college education has been exorbitant if not altogether exclusive.

In hopes of aiding students who wanted a college education but could not afford it, the Texas legislature, in 1965, created the Hinson-Hazlewood student loan program. As an added measure, in 1970 the federal government started insuring the loans.

Unfortunately for students, because of a 15.56 per cent default rate, the federal government is planning to reduce the program's ability to lend money to students by 29 per cent.

The impact of such a cut could drastically affect the chances of a qualified but financially limited student to attend college. In effect, it is a case of today's students paying for their predecessor's failure.

Although it is a terrible injustice to students now trying to get financial aid, one can hardly expect the government to keep giving out the loans when more than one in seven students are not paying them back. After all, who wants to insure loans of \$21.1 million when \$8.3 million will never be seen again, this being the cash total of defaults last year.

Although Texas A&M is contributing to the proposed reduction of the program with eight defaults totaling \$8058 last year, we can be proud in comparison to other Texas universities. Texas Southern University and Prairie View A&M lead in defaults with \$752,907 and \$738,718 respectively.

Other schools with higher default rates than A&M include the University of Texas, University of Houston, Southern Methodist University, Southwest Texas State, Baylor and Sam Houston State with amounts ranging from \$175,025 at the University of Texas to \$8923 at Sam Houston State.

Congratulations Aggies, we may not have a perfect record, but at least we are responsible enough to pay our debts.

D.F., J.N.

Take another look

Last Wednesday night, a majority of student senators (following vice president of finance Scott Gregson's lead) defeated a measure to allow students to vote 'no confidence' in the election of president and vice presidents of the student body.

By doing so, the 33 senators insured that the persons running for these offices would not be required to campaign by discussing pertinent issues with students, but rather saturate the student population with names on billboards as in the past.

Gregson defended his stand in a speech to the Senate by labeling the proposition a "useless change." He also said, "A negative vote like 'no confidence' does not do anything to aid the image of Student Government."

It would seem from this comment that Gregson believes the vote would be used by students; perhaps then his opposition is motivated out of fear.

We agree that a vote of 'no confidence' would not help the IMAGE of the Student Government, but it might assuredly help the Student Government itself.

Likewise, it seems sad that Gregson is more concerned with the image rather than the accomplishments of Student Government. This is no surprise though when one views his comment that he wants to "keep A&M unique." What Gregson (seemingly) fails to realize is that A&M is a rapidly growing university and that its students will not be satisfied with a 'unique' student government that needs a line painted in front of it to make sure it is moving.

Or maybe Gregson's definition of 'unique' is a student senate that defeats a measure supported by 78.1 per cent of the students surveyed by a senate committee. Obviously, there are some that desire such a 'useless change,' probably due to the responsiveness of the student government to students' problems in the past.

Finally, Gregson would like us to believe that, "This proposal has no place in our election process, on a campus level, a local level, or a national level." However, when one realizes that in 1972, a smaller percentage of Americans voted in the presidential election than ever before, a vote of 'no confidence' might certainly have altered the outcome. The very fact that some support a vote of 'no confidence' reflects a disappointment in our student government. The fact that 33 senators voted against the proposal shows they do not care.

D.F., J.N.

FAMILY NIGHT BUFFET

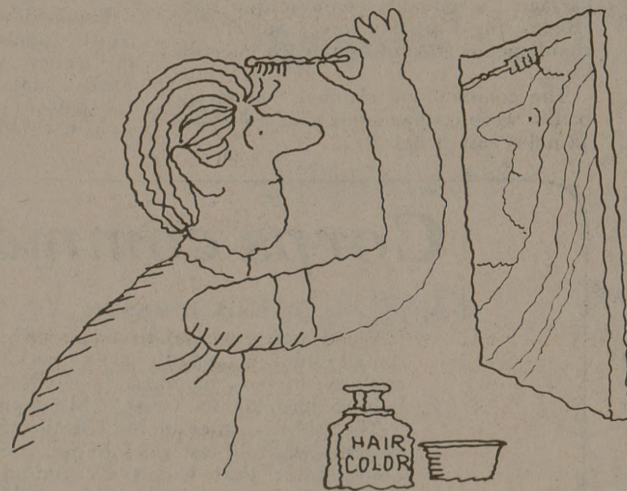
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Slouch

by Jim Earle



"I almost started to say 'Wait until next year!'"

Flora have space

Editor:

The campus looks beautiful. Everything looks orderly and neat. Trees and shrubs and fountains all share such a nice positional organization too. I'm sure visitors are very impressed. But would they be if they saw a little behind-the-scenes?

Since school has started, some students have had to stand during a chemistry lecture with Dr. O'Connor. When a friend told me he felt like bleating whenever he went to his class, I decided to investigate.

I went to the lecture room which holds at least 500 students and was surprised to find not only every seat filled, but also the aisles and any available standing room ten minutes before class began. I marveled at my friend's ability to take notes while standing up and his effort to concentrate. He said he's had to stand at the last 4 lectures and for the first few classes of this semester. That's when I really began to appreciate the privilege our flora have on campus.

I later learned that although a student is assigned a particular time and instructor for the chemistry lectures, he may attend any lecture he chooses. This, I think, is a fine system but where it falls short is in the treatment of the students who have to stand or sit in the aisles during the session they've signed up for.

The situation in Dr. O'Connor's section certainly says a lot for him, and I think the students that signed up for his particular section at least

Readers' forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Listen Up letters, are welcome. All pieces submitted to Aggie Forum should be:

- Typed triple space
- Limited to 60 characters per line
- Limited to 100 lines

Submit articles to Reed McDonald 217, College Station, Texas, 77843. Author's phone number must accompany all submissions.

Listen Up

deserve the courtesy of having us so they can receive the full benefit of his instruction. Even our flowers campus have a sectioned-off place a separate bed of their own.

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