

Opinion/Commentary/Letters

Black citizens want to be heard

By ROSETTA KEATON

It has been apparent for almost a year now that being elected to serve as a City Council person also gives that person the power to dictate to the electorate.

This is truly a revelation to those of us who had taken pride in a system of government that will not tolerate any shape, form or fashion of dictatorship. Representative democracy is a farce in College Station.

Perhaps that statement deserves reexamination. Texas A&M University is well represented, the professional community is represented, business is certainly represented, Anglo women are represented and the senior members of our community are finally making their presence felt. The community which remains unrepresented is the Black Community.

This is reflected by the improvements in the peripheral areas of the Black Community that never penetrate to the core. If improvements are initiated, the Community invariably has to make substantial concessions. This situation has many undesirable manifestations for which a great concern has mounted in the Black Community. It is our constitutional right to be represented, and, most importantly, it is our constitutional right to have a voice in decisions that directly affect the vitality, safety and integrity of the communities in

which we live. These rights precede any local charter or any local tradition.

Non-representation of the Black Community has lent itself to the systematic neglect of the duties and responsibilities of the local government to the Black people in every aspect of living within the boundaries of the College Station Charter.

Non-representation of Blacks has lent itself to the imposition of values that have no cognitive relevance for the community. Also, non-representation of Blacks has aided in perpetrating misinformation and misconceptions about the Black people. This brings us closer to the case at hand.

Some months ago, meetings were held in locations throughout the City to discuss the spending of Community Development funds. The farce was convincing enough to mislead citizens into thinking that their input was pertinent and important to the decisions concerning the spending of Community Development funds for improving existing streets in College Station. Neighbors living in the Sterling Street area soon came to the realization they had unknowingly sacrificed the peace and quiet they had known.

The automobiles are no longer just bringing weary laborers home,

nor are filled with children returning home from school, but rather, the automobiles are transporting people through this family residential neighborhood to pay telephone bills, as well as those who support the operation of a telephone company, including the people who drive the many maintenance trucks.

Presently, neighbors in the Southland Street area are facing the same impositions. It is not too late for them, because the nightmare of the bulldozer has not yet sunk its destructive edge into the soil. It has not yet been allowed to destroy the quality of life which should be of vital concern to those residents of College Station who wish to see the town not only grow, but see it grow in a constructive rather than destructive manner.

We, the neighbors of Southland Street, joined in stating that the sacrifice is more than what we are willing to make or even tolerate. We joined in making the initial request that a cul-de-sac could be constructed at the end of Southland Street. We joined in requesting that Southland Street not become a through-way, and we expressed our reservations about this possibility.

At the time we seemed to have been in agreement with those in power, but since that time, each and every request which we have put forth has been ignored. If this is indicative of representative democracy and our "for the people" government at work, then many of us

have certainly been misinformed.

Now that we all know that the entire plan for Southland Street is not just to improve the existing street but also to construct a new street that will connect to existing Southland Street, we all should be informed by our City Council as to what funds will be used to finance this new construction. We all know that the Community Development funds will finance improvements to the existing streets.

Now, we all should be informed by Council members and City employees as to when allocations were encumbered to finance the new construction, where these funds came from originally, and how much was allocated. We all should know that a bridge will be needed to complete the new construction. If Community Development funds are not being spent to build the bridge, our tax dollars are being spent to build a bridge in our community that we do not find in the least desirable. Also the point should be made that the costs to taxpayers for the building of this bridge and its maintenance will greatly exceed the costs of a cul-de-sac.

In the past months, Council members have heard from our community. Once again we are presenting you with our message. Your response will not be ignored. Southland Street will stand as a testimony to either the Council's representativeness of the people or the Council's dictatorial practices.



Will Legett remain a dorm

Editor:

I wish to protest the Board of Regent's consideration of converting Leggett Hall into an office building.

Thonestly cannot understand why they would decrease dormitory space at a time when 6,000 students are on waiting lists, unless for some unknown reason they wish to aid apartment complex owners.

Perhaps they should consider the following three points more seriously:

Not only will entering students want rooms in the dorms, but present off-campus students are asking to move on campus. In my opinion,

the Board should find out what the students want, and not readily accept a University official's remarks (in last year's Battalion) that the national trend is to live off campus. Why be concerned with national trends when there are Texas Aggies who want to live on campus?

The conversion of Leggett will rid the University of another lower rent dormitory. I hope the Board realizes that there are some students who cannot and/or do not want to pay the prices of a more expensive dorm.

The students who now occupy prospective offices in Leggett will

only add to the number of wanting dorms. Where will they go if they want to remain on campus?

I certainly encourage them to spend money on the dorms — why, even my cozy room in Hall has highway yellow lining off the walls, a heater that when cut off, and considerable tile than floor.

But if the money is going to be used to provide someone else a place to live, please keep the money in the Campus Wall market.

—Casey Zesch, '79

Strays a problem; Shelter lacks support

Editor:

The problem of abandoned or stray animals in Bryan-College Station has recently come to my attention. The apartment complex where I live has become the "home" of several unfortunate cats, where they hope to find a few scraps and a warm spot to sleep.

The tenants are not allowed to

have pets, and there is no place to take these animals where they will have a chance for a home. Neither the City of Bryan nor the City of College Station have any facilities for cats. The Brazos County Humane Society cannot get enough support to start a shelter, where cats as well as dogs could be neutered and given homes.

The A&M School of Veterinary Medicine will not take them for educational purposes, but will euthanize them for \$5. This might help solve the problem, but with as many strays as there are it would place an undue burden on any individual.

If residents of this community

don't care what happens to animals, they should at least be aware that the strays could carry diseases that will affect their own pets. They become a nuisance and mar the appearance of residential areas.

Individually, we can do little by considering the responsibility of caring for a pet before we acquire one. Also, think twice before giving out a grown cat or dog to a cute, cuddly kitten or puppy. Please remember that those who are free to breed and bring their offspring into the world share the same bleak fate that they do.

Linda Norton

Women's P.E. choices limited

Editor:

After yawning my way through a doubtful, yet mandatory semester of Concepts, I looked forward to taking my first "real" Physical Education course.

What I hadn't planned on though, was the scarcity of P.E. classes geared especially for women.

Dancing, a popular choice for lots of girls, was closed. Later I was told that there is only one full-time and one part-time instructor for all the dance classes combined. Hardly adequate for a university of this size.

Figure control? By Tuesday afternoon you couldn't have bribed them with a piece of chocolate cake to help you take off a few pounds.

Then there was always wrestling

and weight lifting, but not musclebound women's libbers decided to pass.

Reluctantly I traded my slippers in for a golf club. I think it's time the P.E. department started expanding their offerings to satisfy the interests and needs of the women at Texas A&M.

Not only is it necessary to have more classes in the present, but to open up new fields of study. Maybe a martial arts course in self-defense for women might turn out successful.

If students must meet requirements for P.E., I think the department is obligated to provide the necessary classes.

Until then—Jack Nicklaus out!

—Jeannie Hendrix

SCONA offers opportunity to learn

BY KYLE CREWS

1977 promises to offer vast educational and thought-provoking opportunities for those of us living in an academic environment such as we have at Texas A&M.

February 16-19 are the dates set for an excellent example of such an opportunity: the 22nd annual Student Conference on National Affairs.

The topic for SCONA 22 is "The Expression of Individuality in American Society." The criteria involved in choosing this topic is the realization that we are inhabitants of a highly specialized and sophisticated culture. As such, it is essential that we make periodic evaluations of precisely how we, as individuals, contribute to or conflict with the other portions of society.

The major contributors to the Conference will be student delegates from all over the United States as well as Canada and Mexico. Helping direct the student debate will be various guests who will serve in the capacity of co-chairmen of the discussion groups.

Experts in various fields of sociology, education, and business will speak on subjects directly related to the overall topic. These include: Dr. Nathaniel Branden, Executive Director of the Los Angeles Biocentric Institute; Dr. Stanley Milgram, City University of New York; and Lynn Ashby, editorial columnist of the Houston Post.

All interested students and faculty are invited and urged to be a part of SCONA by attending the presentations of these and other notable speakers.

only take with him a diploma, he will be leaving with something much more valuable—an education.

—Kyle Crews, '78

Readers' forum

Guest viewpoints, in addition to Letters to the Editor, are welcome. All pieces submitted to Readers' forum should be:

- Typed triple space
- Limited to 60 characters per line

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

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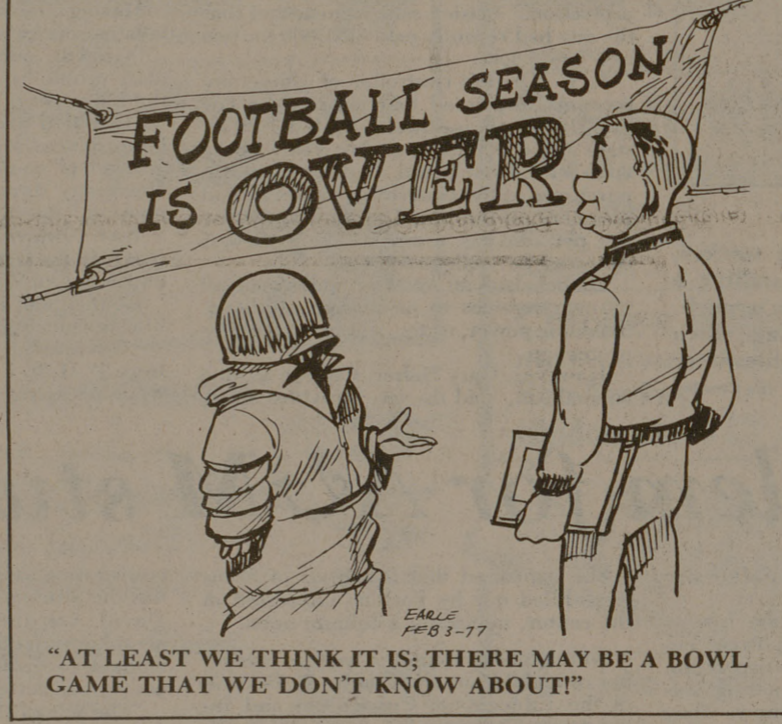
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