

Opinion/Commentary/Letters

Quadrangle was informing its readers

Editor:
In the Tuesday editorial — "A call for student parties" — The Battalion and Mr. Jerry Needham have implied that the Corps of Cadets "bloc voted."

The basis for this suspicion, apparently, lies in the results of last week's elections. Of the 47 executive and senate positions for which members of the Corps were eligible to campaign, Corps members were elected outright to 26 seats.

It should be pointed out that 87 people (both Corps and civilians) ran for these 47 places. Of these 87, 44 were Corps members — roughly 50 per cent of those who were in active contention. Of those 47 seats, 26 Corps members or 55 per cent were elected — a fairly proportionate ratio of those who ran for offices.

Anytime an organization which comprises seven per cent of the student body furnishes 50 per cent of the candidates, then one could safely assume (even before the election) that the organization will have more than a proportionate share elected anyway. The Corps cannot be held to task if its members were the ones who were concerned enough about student government to actively seek office.

To anyone who knows anything about human nature, it should not be surprising that people of similar organizational affiliations and ideologies should want to be represented by someone who shared their ideas and viewpoints. However, to claim that the Corps truly bloc voted would not be realistic.

Each cadet was encouraged to vote, but to imply that they voted under duress is an unfair accusation. Even if some cadets' activity cards were checked to see if they had voted, there would be no way for the checker to positively know how the checkee had voted.

All that is said in the article written by Ms. Tyson is that "Some Corps members said they had their activity cards checked to see if they had voted." This statement completely lacks attribution as to who the Corps members were, and also neglects to define "some" as any set number. Perhaps Ms. Tyson could use a refresher course in basic journalistic techniques.

Concerning the ethics of the editor of The Quadrangle and the seniors on Corps staff, it would seem that they would have been negligent if they had not informed the readers about information which they cared to see and know.

Perhaps this is difficult for members of The Battalion staff and Stan Stanfield to understand, but then again, their concerns are different than ours. The Battalion is duty-bound to cover campus-wide activities while we deal with our constituency of the Corps of Cadets.

It is entirely within the rights of any other organization to start its own newspaper and print articles about the activities of its members.

The objective of The Quadrangle in printing the list was to get people interested in the elections and to get them to vote, and evidently we were successful.

Judging from the number of cadets who voted in the senator races from the Corps of Cadets living area, a total of 1136 Corps members voted. Out of 1750 in the Corps, this is a 65 per cent turnout. Compared to the 28 per cent of the University as a whole, why should people be surprised the Corps won 26 seats? As said before, it is not the fault of the Corps that 72 per cent of the student body does not care who are its leaders in student government.

Another interesting and final point is that although the writer of the article on the front page of Tuesday's Battalion interviewed people in the controversy from runoff candidates for student body president to a freshman accounting major, the editor of The Quadrangle, however, was never contacted in any way by the writer or any other member of The Battalion staff. If a person's ethics are to be questioned, perhaps one should get his viewpoint first.

— John LaBore
Editor, The Quadrangle

Editor's note: In the editorial, the editor stated "The vote of the Corps truthfully cannot be called a bloc vote..."

As to the point of including cadets' names who said their activity cards were checked to see if they voted, you, of all people, should know that Corps members are very reluctant to have their names associated with anything that may shed unfavorable light on the Corps as a whole. Even Mr. Gontarek, the cadet whose picture appeared with Tuesday's page one story, apparently caught enough flak from his fellow cadets that he saw fit to write a letter saying that he did not endorse the article with which his picture appeared.

Cadet Corps is very organized

Editor:
After reading Tuesday's Battalion, it became very clear that certain persons were upset over the Student Government elections.

Stan Stanfield said he thought the campaign literature (The Quadrangle), was unethical, because no other large group on campus tried to organize its members to vote for candidates in their areas. Terry Pylant said she thought the publication unfair but similar to national elections. But in actuality nothing illegal was done!

The Quadrangle is a newspaper, as is The Battalion, and being so, may print whatever it so chooses, or endorse whomever it chooses, in any election. Because it is the Corps newspaper, it seems only natural that it should represent the Corps. If any other large group at A&M had wanted to organize its members to vote for their best interest, then I think they should have gone ahead and done so.

I will have to agree with Battalion editor Jerry Needham's statement in Tuesday's editorial, "...the outcry against the mass vote of the Corps is a cry of envy of the excellent organization the Corps has exhibited."

— Gib Sawtelle III '79

Won't vote in runoffs

Editor:
I won't vote for student body president in the run-off elections. Scott Gregson, candidate who did not make the run-off, has been given a bum deal.

Gregson was forced to stop campaigning after 12:30 Wednesday afternoon, the first election day, after complaints of an election violation.

Some dorm residents in the north area, including Stan Stanfield, a candidate for student body president, complained that Gregson cluttered the hallways with campaign literature, a violation of election rules.

Were they more concerned about the paper in their hallways or in getting Stan Stanfield elected?

A picture of the literature and campaign flyers were used as evidence against Gregson. No doubt it was cold-blooded, huh?

I won't vote for Robert Harvey either. The Quadrangle, the Corps newspaper, published a list strictly of Corps candidates running for office.

Robert Harvey, in his position as Corps commander, has jurisdiction over such a decision as this, and I feel he is responsible for it.

It's high school stuff. The C.T.s can make their own decisions as to the best candidate.

Why alienate the Corps and non-regs even more by pulling a stunt like this?

It's too bad that Gregson, who I feel played the fairest game of the three, lost because he didn't lower himself to the other's standards.

— Steve Mayer '78

Corps doesn't run police state

Editor:
Why those nasty Cadets. Look what they've gone and done. They voted for other Cadets. How despicable. How dastardly.

They bloc voted. God knows that ranks right up there with pistol whipping your grandmother. Cadets don't have the right to vote for other Cadets simply because they think a Cadet can best represent their interests. They ought to throw darts at the ballot or have the administration choose officers on a quota basis.

All levity aside, what is all the big fuss? So what if seven per cent of the student population can get its members elected to 30 per cent of the offices including most of the higher positions. Why get mad at seven per cent who voted and won and say nothing about the 75 per cent who did not vote?

The fact that the Corps is able to elect Cadets to represent the Corps only speaks highly of the Corps' organization and interest in campus activities.

Gays seek social recognition

EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the third part of a four-part series on homosexuals, their lives and their problems. The Battalion is aware that the subject is controversial and that almost everyone has strong feelings about it. But The Battalion believes that more is to be gained by intelligent discussion than by rumor and invective. We hope that this series will contribute to understanding and enlightenment.

By JOHN W. TYNES
Battalion Staff

Homosexuals are presently encountering strong opposition as they mount campaigns to promote their interests. But the opposition today is slight compared to persecution in earlier times.

Historically, homosexual behavior has been strictly prohibited in almost every culture for many centuries. Only recently has it even begun to be accepted in a predominantly heterosexual world.

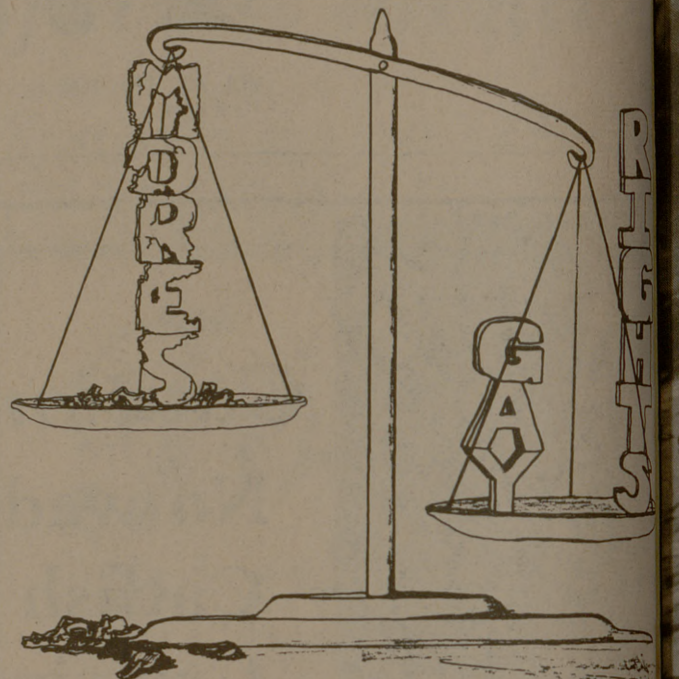
In his book, "The Homosexual Matrix," Dr. C. A. Tripp explained how the laws that regulate sexual behavior today were established: "The religious philosophies which underlie the sexual mores of our society were brought together and elaborated by men who believed that a life of celibacy, abstinence, and asceticism was morally superior to one containing any sexual expression."

Tripp traced the changing sexual opinions of society from their early beginnings in early Jewish codes and even earlier Hittite, Chaldean and Egyptian ideas.

He wrote that Jewish law was basically outlined in the Old Testament, but that it gained most of its highly restrictive character from moral arguments put forward in the Talmud, the authoritative body of Jewish law and tradition.

The early Christians proved to be even more harsh and rigorous in their sexual edicts than the Jews and sexual behavior was further restricted by them.

"Our mores gained their direction from Jewish history and their harsh-



ness from Christian elaborations," Tripp wrote.

He explained that standards of sexual behavior were established by the Church for several centuries. During this time, Church and government were one and the same.

Even when government was finally wrested from the hands of religious leaders, laws still reflected the sexual attitudes endorsed by the churches.

Tripp noted that there are many people today who are not religious but still disapprove of homosexuality.

"Evidently," he wrote, "religious teachings become implicit in the customs and attitudes of a society, eventually regulating both the central tendency of behavior and the expectancy of what people do sexually."

Until very recently, the subject of

homosexuality has not been subject to approach even in the book, "Human Sexuality," by Bernard Goldstein.

"Our long history of being taught to despise and suppress homosexual feelings has led us to the conclusion that homosexuality is a crime, a sin or to be punished severely — after all, people do nasty things with their genitals."

Goldstein cited a Louis Brandeis taken in 1969 that showed that 80 per cent of the nation considered homosexuality harmful to the American way of life.

He noted, however, a more recent communication and opinion about sexuality that has some of the strain between "straights" and "gays" throughout the country.

(See "Gays" Page 1)

Slouch by Jim Earle

"THERE MAY BE A LESSON IN HUMAN NATURE TO BE LEARNED THERE!"

The Battalion

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