

VIEWPOINT

THE BATTALION
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY

TUESDAY
OCTOBER 24, 1978

Constitution needs rehashing, facelift

By DOROTHY DUBOIS

It's back again: the ghost of constitutions passed. Year after year, a "new" constitution comes before the student body to be voted on. This is a misnomer. Each year, we are not presented a true "new" constitution, a constitution with progressive new ideas and substantive changes. We consider a rehashed, warmed over version of the old constitutions.

I say it's time for a change. Instead of considering the old constitution with a few changes year after year after year, we

Texas A&M has become preoccupied with itself, almost to the exclusion of its true function: to serve and represent the student body.

Is the answer to totally abolish Student Government? I think not. Student Government has a definite purpose, as stated in the first paragraph of our constitution, a purpose I feel is unique to Student Government as an institution. We should not depose Student Government, but restructure it. We should create a structure aimed at efficient representation of and service to the student body of Texas A&M University.

First, serious research and time should be put before a "new" constitution. We should find out what types of student governments other schools have, and what degree of effectiveness they realize. We should spend substantial amounts of time considering all the various alternatives open to us before we finally present one to the student body to be voted on.

Second, Student Government has got to get back in touch with the student body. Adversity public hearings should be held to solicit the input of the entire student body, not just a selected few Student Government politicians. With the same people giving input every year, we will get the same ideas. We need new thought injected into the process, so that we won't be served warmed over constitution every year.

This is your Student Government. It doesn't belong to the aspiring politicians, and it doesn't belong to the administration. It belongs to you, the students.

So if you don't like the way Student Government is operating, change it! On Thursday, Oct. 26, vote against the proposed constitution and tell Student Government that you're tired of seeing the same "new" constitution year after year!

Dorothy Dubois is a junior political science major, and an off-campus undergraduate senator in Student Government.

Readers' Forum

should carefully consider our constitution and decide if it's really what we want. By "we," I don't mean just those involved in Student Government, but the entire student body.

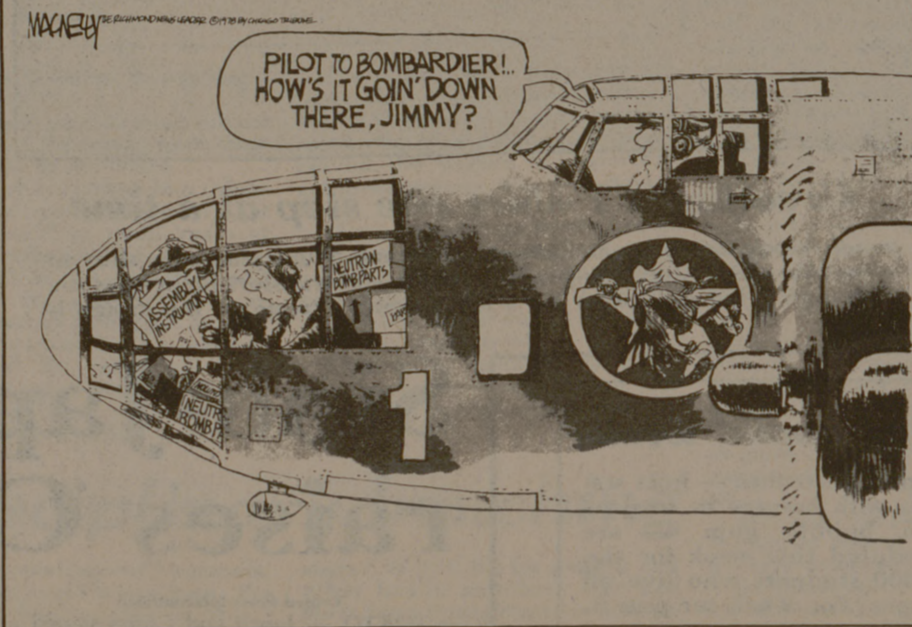
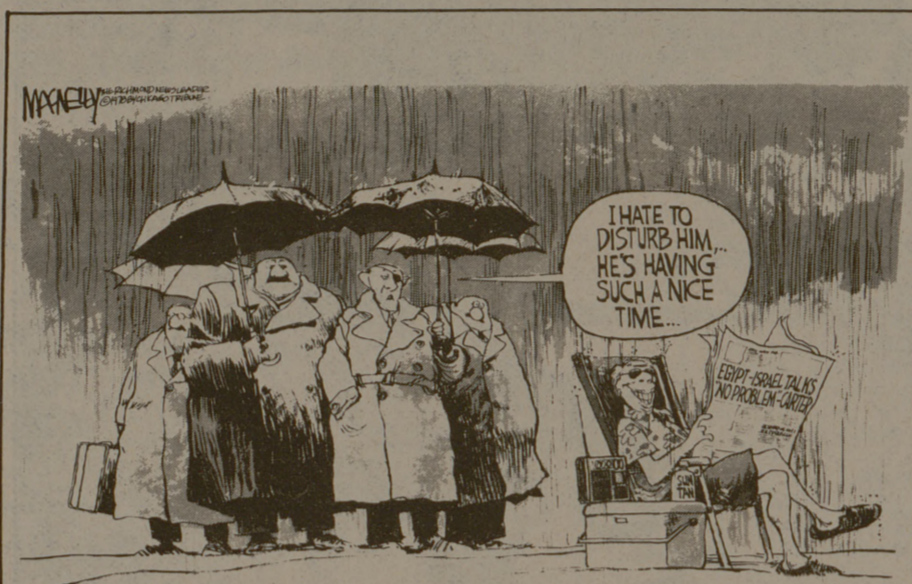
The constitution to be voted on was discussed at the Oct. 19 Senate meeting. At that meeting, the point was made that Student Government has been doing a pretty good job under the present constitution, and that the old order should not be changed.

Before we get too carried away with patting ourselves on the back, let me state my opinion that this is pure, unadulterated bull.

If a random survey were taken, I seriously question the assumption that the result would find even a small minority of students at Texas A&M who think that Student Government is even approaching doing a "pretty good" job.

The fact is that the Senate has spent a majority of its time arguing over internal issues, rather than trying to provide direct services to the student body. A recent case in point is the Student Government budget, in that two meetings were devoted to this issue alone.

Granted, it was an important issue, however, it did not affect a direct service to the students. The Student Senate at



Kennedy, Mondale size up possible rivalry

By DAVID S. BRODER

BLOOMINGTON, MINN. — It was one of those Irish throwaway lines, a joke that may have been what the youths of my time called "kidding on the square."

"I remember when Fritz (Mondale) came to the Senate," Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) told a Democratic fund-raiser here the other night. "Hubert said to me, 'He's a nice, bright young fellow. Give him a hand.' So I helped him along, and suddenly there he is" — and Kennedy pointed skyward — "high up on the ladder of success, looking down at me."

It got the laugh Kennedy expected from the vice president's homestate friends, and he immediately took the edge off the line by adding that "President Carter showed his good judgment in selecting Fritz as his running mate."

But it was not altogether fitting. For in a way that both these able, ambitious young men recognize, they are not only admirers of each other, but potential rivals. Kennedy's friends are divided in their guesses about whether he might, under some circumstances, challenge Jimmy Carter in 1980. But few of them think he would give

up without a fight and let Mondale take over the presidential nomination (and a possible eight-year lease on the White House) in 1984.

Kennedy is 46 now — four years Mondale's junior. But no one who knows him expects him to defer his presidential ambitions until he is 60 — which is what he would be at the end of two Mondale terms.

The immediate beneficiary of this distant and well-disciplined rivalry is the

Commentary

Democratic party, whose candidates this year are getting good campaign service from both Mondale and Kennedy.

Both men are pros. Both good drawing cards. And both are much in demand. Mondale has been on the road for weeks, but Kennedy is in gear now that congress has finished — and is not at all loath to point up his availability.

"I'm delighted to be in Minnesota," he told the banquet crowd the other night. "And not just because you've got 10 electoral votes."

"When they were looking for a speaker

for this dinner (a fund-raiser for Sen. Wendell Anderson's reelection campaign), "the Democratic National Committee said, 'you can have President Carter for \$500. But why don't you take Kennedy? He'll only cost you \$100.'"

"So," he told the laughing guests, "I've already saved you a lot of money."

Mondale and Kennedy are the most effective advocates of traditional Democratic liberalism abroad in the land. Both of them are at their best in the union halls, the blue-collar cities and with the ethnic and minority voters who made up the old Roosevelt Coalition.

And both of them — in this year of Proposition 13 — defend the legitimacy of the Democratic heritage. Mondale quotes John F. Kennedy more than he does Jimmy Carter. Kennedy quotes Hubert H. Humphrey more than he does anyone else.

There are, of course, subtle differences in their speeches, dictated by their differing political responsibilities. Kennedy plugs the local candidate — and also his pet programs, particularly national health insurance. Mondale also advertises the

virtues of the candidate he is visiting, but he never forgets his other client, President Carter.

Mondale says that Carter has faced and mastered the toughest problems any president has tackled in his first two years in office. Kennedy is careful not to criticize Carter publicly, but he measures his praise by the teaspoon.

"The one thing that Hubert Humphrey and John F. Kennedy and Franklin D. Roosevelt understood — and that we hope Jimmy Carter understands," Kennedy said here, "is that you cannot meet the needs of the nation without a strong economy." That was a subtle qualifier he slipped in, but it did not escape notice.

Kennedy and Mondale are the two strongest instruments in the Democratic band this year. The senator's trombone blasts shake the walls — even of a chilly hockey rink in the Minnesota Iron Range. The vice president's high-pitched clarinet runs can rouse even carpenters to cheer.

Some time hence, they may try to drown each other out. But for now, they are pumping life into a lethargic mid-term campaign.

1978, The Washington Post Company

Letters to the Editor

Bellard's concern for athletes questioned

Editor:

I address this letter to our athletic director and head football coach, Emory Bellard.

Mr. Bellard, I write this letter, not to question your coaching abilities, but rather to question your apparent lack of concern for the physical well-being of your athletes. Specifically, I point to Saturday afternoon's game with Baylor and Curtis Dickey.

I wondered how many times Curtis would have to be helped from the field before you stopped sending him back into the game. Apparently, anything short of a trip to the hospital was insufficient grounds for sitting out the remainder of the game.

All Aggies recognize Curtis' value to the team. However, to unnecessarily risk the remainder of his season, and possibly the remainder of his college career, is inexcusable. Have you no regard for his future or he, as are so many athletes, just a commodity to be used and tossed aside?

In the future, I hope that your foresight will extend beyond Tuesday and the weekly wire service ratings.

— Paul Laywell, '80

Wishbone's a loser

Editor:

Referring to the Aggies' 33-0 demise at the hands (or paws) of the cruel Houston "Pumas" let me paraphrase Gertrude Stein's "A rose is a rose is a rose."

Then go one step further and paraphrase Emory Bellard's "a wishbone is a wishbone is a wishbone." To put it another way, a wishbone by whatever name is still a wishbone, be the name "I," "Veer," "Single Wing" or other.

Somewhere I have read that a good (and winning) team puts the football in the air a minimum of 20 times. Against the "Pumas" we put it in the air nine times for five completions and one interception.

To quote Mr. Bellard, "when you put

the ball in the air, three things can happen and two of them are bad." Let me say that the ground can be equally dangerous, especially when you option off to backs who aren't there and the enemy graciously accepts the ball.

I'll take my chances in the air especially when trailing 41-3 (Michigan) and 33-0 at the half (Houston)!!

Oh well, Mr. B. is the coach and I am an "Aggie Amigo" who doesn't understand the science of football, like running the fullback "up the middle" for three yards when the game is out of sight (41-3 and 33-0).

Just a few random thoughts on my good old Aggies. Let me close with one admonition: The "Ags" need to get fierce like those "Pumas" and pronto, or other cruel teams the likes of Cows, Hogs, etc. will belt them around on successive Saturdays; and this I hate to see.

— George M. French Jr
121 Ave. 307, San Antonio
(Father of an Aggie, '69)

Langford's lesson

Editor:

Regarding the comments concerning the Langford Architecture Center in the Thursday, Oct. 19 Battalion.

My first impression of the picture (front page) was that it was a low-security federal model prison. Sorry, but it is about as esthetically appealing to me as a cold plate of day old oatmeal. The designer must have really been hard up for ideas. And Lord forbid but can you imagine what the others that were turned down must have looked like?

Seriously, in light of all the complaints, the passing of the proverbial buck, and the ringside show that must accompany the building of a structure like Langford, it appears that we would all learn an important lesson.

Don't leave it up to the other guy! A&M needs a qualified university representative to watchdog contractors. We also need an

up-to-date comprehensive building code that can be uniformly applied to future projects. This is the only way to guarantee our satisfaction.

After all, we have to live with these grotesque and questionably designed and constructed atrocities. Anything less than this is a "coop out."

— Steve Tennyson, '81

P.S. If you consider it relevant, I have about five years experience in the construction industry. The latest project I worked on was an addition on the locker room at Rice University. Rice officials overlook very little.

Possibly this is a bit harsh, but I have never known of or been on a job where the "OWNERS" did not profusely go to lengths to protect their interests. Why shouldn't A&M protect its own?

Deep Aggie pride

Editor:

Well it looks like my time to write a letter to the Battalion has come. I have been going to A&M for five years and am on my second degree. I have seen some drastic changes. I would like to clear up one misconception that seems apparent from reading letters to the editor from years passed.

There is a lot more to being an Aggie than attending Texas A&M University. It takes pride, consideration for fellow students, and a feeling deep inside which can not be described and is not found anywhere else.

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
- Limited to 100 lines

TOP OF THE NEWS CAMPUS

Silver Taps to be held for Prachyl

Silver Taps will be held today at 10:30 p.m. for Mark Alan Prachyl, a 21-year-old agronomy major from Dallas. Prachyl died about 9:30 p.m. Friday while in the Sports Club, a College Station disco. An inquest is being held to determine the cause of death. Prachyl was the second Texas A&M University student to die this fall; the other was Vikki Sue Owen, an animal science graduate student from LaMarque, who was killed in a truck accident Sept. 10 in Bastrop.

STATE

Award offered for rights study

Awards for study and research in civil liberties and human rights are offered by the Samuel E. Ziegler Educational Fund. The awards, established in 1968, total \$2,000. The sponsoring group says there is no geographical limitation as to who might receive the award, but preference will be given to students in universities and colleges in Texas. For more information contact the Samuel E. Ziegler Educational Fund, 1900 Southland Center, Dallas, Texas 75201.

Candidates support nuclear power

United States legislative candidates from South Texas generally support nuclear power as a future energy source, a recent survey shows. Fifteen of the 16 survey respondents favored expanding electricity production by nuclear means. All candidates agreed on only two questions. None said total reliance on the use of coal for energy production is wise, although coal is abundant. All responded "yes" to the survey question that reprocessing nuclear fuel is an effective way to use uranium and minimize nuclear waste in both light water and, if successfully demonstrated, breeder reactors. The survey was conducted by the South Texas Section of the American Nuclear Society, including the ANS student section at Texas A&M University. Rep. Bob Eckhart, D-Houston, reflected the general theme of comments: "Commercial production of energy from all sources should stand the test of free market competition."

NATION

Hope's heart has bad rhythm

Comedian Bob Hope was treated for "a mild form of cardiac disturbance" Sunday shortly after taping segments of an upcoming television special in Columbus, Ohio. Dr. Ralph D. Lach, chief of cardiology at Mount Carmel Medical Center, was called to Hope's suite at a downtown hotel early Sunday morning. "He suffered a mild form of cardiac rhythm disturbance," said Lach. "We changed the heart rhythm and converted it back to normal by massaging a blood vessel high in the neck." A spokesman for the hotel said Hope, 75, left the hotel later Sunday for Cincinnati. One of Hope's aides reported the comedian "got dizzy while he was doing part of his routine at the Ohio Theatre." Hope, along with performers Ginger Rogers, Vic Damone and Carmen Cavallaro, was in Columbus to tape a special for NBC-TV, which is to be aired Dec. 3.

Stones' guitarist pleads guilty

Rolling Stones guitarist Keith Richard pleaded guilty Monday to simple possession of heroin and the crown prosecutor in Toronto withdrew a more serious charge that could have sent the rock star to prison for life. Crown Attorney Paul Kennedy said he would seek a jail term of six months to a year on the simple possession charge. He withdrew the charge of possession of heroin for the purpose of trafficking — which carries a possible life term penalty — and possession of cocaine. Richard sat impassively in the prisoner's dock through the hour-long proceedings. His attorney submitted a number of documents from American psychiatrists attesting that Richard and his common-law wife of 10 years, Anita Pallenberg, have been under treatment for heroin addiction since May 1977. The briefs said both were well on the way to being cured. Richard had been charged initially with possession of nearly one ounce of heroin for the purposes of trafficking.

WORLD

Saudi king leaves hospital early

Saudi Arabia's King Khalid, recuperating from heart surgery, will check out of the Cleveland Clinic ahead of schedule and will lunch with President Carter at the White House on Friday. The Saudi Embassy, which announced the king's acceptance of the president's invitation, said Carter was expected to ask Khalid to support the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty negotiations. America's major Middle East oil supplier, Saudi Arabia is considered a key to acceptance of the pact among moderate Arab states. Khalid, 65, underwent double coronary bypass surgery Oct. 3 and had been expected to stay in the clinic for four to six weeks.

WEATHER

Mostly cloudy with cool nights through Wednesday. High Tuesday low 70's; low early Wednesday low 50's. Winds northerly at 10-15 mph with a 50% chance of rain.

THE BATTALION

LETTERS POLICY

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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