

Senior Pete Greaves was named head yell leader Monday afternoon by the University yell leader and Bonfire committee. Greaves, a marketing major from Austin, will coordinate the activities of the five yell leaders at next year's athletic events. The other yell leaders are senior Brian Hill and Jeff Smiley, and juniors Mark Outlaw and Ed Franza.

The "Texas A&M Engineer," a student publication of the College of Engineering is coming back. It will be published four times a year and the publications committee of the Student Engineers Council is now interviewing for next year's editor. All interested students in the College of Engineering may contact Rick Griffith at 846-9706 before April 26.

A man was arrested early Tuesday on charges murder in connection with the \$1.9 million robbery at a Purolator armored car garage Monday in Waterbury, Conn. Three guards were cut down by high-powered rifle fire in that incident. Police said the suspect, Lawrence Pelletier Jr., 36, of Waterbury, was charged with three counts of felony murder, possession of a sawed-off shotgun and possession of marijuana. Other suspects arrested in the case were Pelletier's wife, Evelyn "Vega" Pelletier, 26, Donald Couture, 26, and his wife, Donna, 23, of Wallingford, Conn. The Pelletiers were arrested at 1:15 a.m. at their home, police said. The Coutures were picked up in Wallingford, 10 miles southeast of Waterbury — along with most of the loot, two .30-caliber carbines and two pistols.

A wildcat strike by dissident steelhauers has created a "serious" problem for the nation's major steel producers and at least one has predicted layoffs if the problems between the steelhauers and the Teamsters Union are not resolved. Republic Steel Corp., U.S. Steel and Armo Steel Corp. all said they were hurt by the strike. The strike, which started in eastern Ohio, spread into Pennsylvania and Indiana early Tuesday. One shooting was reported near Canton, Ohio, when a sniper fired a shotgun blast at a truck hauling meat. One man was arrested. The dissidents, members of several militant Teamster groups including Teamsters for a Democratic Union, want to vote separately on a supplemental section of the master freight agreement covering steelhauers. The Teamsters strike ended last week but steelhauers have refused to go to work.

Donald Kennedy resigned unexpectedly Tuesday as head of the Food and Drug Administration to return to Stanford University as provost and vice-president for academic affairs. HEW Secretary Joseph Califano accepted the resignation "with great regret." Kennedy, who was appointed to the post a little over two years ago, was a professor of biology at Stanford before he came to the FDA. The first non-physician to head the agency in more than a decade, his performance had generally drawn praise from consumer activists. Kennedy will be leaving with several major issues unsettled, most notably the question of a ban on saccharin — which was set in motion before he came to the agency — and the question of an over-all revision in food safety laws. Kennedy said he was making the move "after long and difficult deliberation."

Tanzanian troops seized the most important industrial center in Uganda, the giant Owens Falls dam over the river Nile, before holding Idi Amin loyalist troops could blow it up, Communications Minister Akena Pojok said Tuesday. The minister said both the dam and the power station, which provides Uganda and parts of Kenya with electricity, were now in government hands but he gave no details of the military operation to seize the site — the single most important industrial complex in Uganda. Government officials said the Tanzanian troops and Ugandan government forces had not yet secured the adjoining industrial city of Jinja, the second largest city in Uganda. But the seizure of the Owens Falls dam represented the most significant military victory of the new government since the capture of the capital of Kampala itself a week ago.

An apparent Irish Republican Army land mine exploded under a police vehicle near the Irish Republic border Tuesday, killing four officers and injuring seven other people. The four members of the Royal Ulster Constabulary were killed immediately by the mine concealed on a contry road near Bessbrook, about 5 miles from the southern Irish border. The blast also injured two officers riding in a car behind and five civilians in a car that had just passed the mine. The outlawed IRA made no immediate claim of responsibility, but police said the mining appeared to have been done by the group. The IRA has used similar land mines against security forces in the past in the same south Armgh stronghold, 55 miles southwest of Belfast.

Mostly cloudy with mild temperatures and humid, along with a 50% chance of rain today and 30% tonight. High in the middle 70's and a low of 60. Winds will be southeasterly at 8-14 mph.

### 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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## Nader would be proud

By DICK WEST

WASHINGTON — A young man trembling on the brink of buying his first automobile came to me for guidance. I suggested we stop by and see what "Honest Sid" Lemonpusher had to offer.

I sometimes forget between purchases just how accommodating used car salesmen can be. "Honest Sid" himself showed us about the lot. Turned out the only thing he had in the prospect's price range (\$100) was a 1961 Pontiac, the superstructure of which somewhat resembled the Queen Mary.

I told the kid, "Here is where experience pays off. The proper move at this point is to pin the salesman down and make him define his terms. If you can find out what the information he volunteers really means, it will give you tremendous leverage."

Turning to Lemonpusher, I said, "What kind of warranty does she have?"

"The best in town," he crowed. "Whoever buys this little beauty gets a full 90-day warranty."

Your typical greenhorn usually drops the interrogation at this stage. But a canny veteran schooled in the Ralph Nader brand of consumerism knows to pursue it further.

"What does the warranty cover?" I asked shrilly.

"The dip stick," Lemonpusher replied. Now we were getting somewhere. In

addition to finding out exactly what the warranty covers, a smart used car buyer will make the dealer spell out all of the conditions under which it is operative.

"Ok, Sid," I said, "spell it out. What precisely are the conditions under which the warranty is effective?"

Lemonpusher tossed me an admiring glance. He knew he was dealing with an old hand.

"It's all straight and aboveboard," he said. "If during the first 90 days after the purchase of this vehicle anything goes wrong with the dip stick in the normal course of checking the oil, it will be repaired or replaced without charge."

I called the kid aside. "Make sure you get that in writing," I advised.

The kid was deeply impressed. "You really know your way around in the jungle of commerce," he said.

In the first two weeks he owned the car it developed brake failure, transmission problems, dead battery, a radiator leak, fuel line stoppage, clutch slippage, carburetor trouble, rear end vibrations and a spark knock.

The dip stick, however, operated perfectly.

The next time I saw Lemonpusher, I commended him for his candor.

"They don't call me 'Honest Sid' for nothing," he said.



## Campus politicking no training for ethics

By RAY JAMES DANIELS

Well, elections have come and gone once again. This being my last semester at Texas A&M, I would like to relate a few observations about elections — keep reading, I promise you an insult, a few discouraging words, and perhaps a few thoughts to mull over.

In particular, I would like to point out

how Aggies as a society react to the democratic process of free and open elections through a couple of real events occurring in the last several weeks.

**EVENT 1:** I was talking to a friend about the elections and mentioned that I would vote for a particular candidate. When I asked him if he might vote for that candidate, he replied: "No. Why should I. He hasn't come to ask me to vote for him."

**EVENT 2:** I have become aware of how frighteningly easy it is for one individual to muster a dozen or so friends to run for office with the stated aim of controlling Student Government for their benefit. Often they are easily elected with only a few votes. Now regardless of what you think of Student Government, the University administration does rely on them (sometimes exclusively) for student input on a variety of issues.

Remember, it is the student body president who selects, and student senate who approves, appointments of students to such unimportant committees as the traffic appeals committee, the health center and library advisory committees, menu boards, student publications board, and many others.

**EVENT 3:** Walking home late last Saturday night (two days before general elections) I saw two cars filled with male students stop suddenly in front of the Commons. They jumped out and proceeded to knock down, take apart, and break up every election sign in the area. I realize there may have been a number of reasons for doing this (frustration, insecurity and jealousy amongst them), but the striking realization was that they would vent their feelings by violently interfering with the electoral process.

**EVENT 4:** Monday morning a sign was hung at the entrance to the dorm. It asked the residents to vote for a dorm resident. That's great — endorsements and support are part of the political process — especially when reasons are given for supporting the candidate.

But only one reason for support was given by this sign: "He's running against a Corps member and he needs your support to beat the Corps block." As the morning progressed another sign went up. It urged the residents to examine the candidates and vote for one who would help A&M and not to vote merely on the basis of blind prejudice. The second sign was torn down within an hour; the first sign stayed up until mid-afternoon.

Reviewing these events a number of thoughts come to mind, but the most striking one is this: How can we, as Aggies, a group known for our fervent belief in American democracy, respond to a basic tenet of the democratic system (elections) with apathy, divisive purpose, violent destruction and close-minded prejudice.

I must admit that not too long ago, I probably would have voted twice in an

election if I thought I could get away with it and benefit my candidates.

But let's remember what happened in national politics not two elections ago. A group of men, who began their criminal careers by tampering with college elections, were led by an incumbent president of the United States, to lie, cheat and steal in order to throw a national election. If we continue our political practices, where will we be during Watergate 1995?

A few weeks ago, the Brazos Civil Liberties Union published an advertisement in The Battalion dealing with the conflict of ideas as an essential part of discovering the truth. And I think this relates well to elections in American society.

Perhaps our most significant discovery in college should be that "the truth" often

### Reader's Forum

change — and so it should if history is to progress and man to grow intellectually with his technology. We must encourage, in fact pursue, the conflict with ideas. By doing so, we become stronger in support of our own beliefs and more able to deal with them.

Also, we challenge our perceptions with new ones and give ourselves the opportunity to adopt those perceptions which we feel come closest to the truth. And this process never ends. In short, victory does not always mean winning, but it is impossible if we do not learn.

The election process, when conducted in a fair environment, free from tampering, offers us the opportunity to put our ideology to a challenge, to support those whose perceptions parallel our own, and to learn by winning, by losing, and always from the conflict of ideas.

It seems we have studied constitutional rights and the recent downfall of democratic integrity to no avail. We are content to perpetuate those attitudes and actions that have created the current one in American government. A tone that we often despise and destruct, even though we believe in its form and its purpose.

It is time for us to challenge our own actions and pursue a path that will reinstate a responsible, viable government. The best place to learn is here, the best time is now.

Ray James Daniels is a senior biochemistry major at Texas A&M and president of the MSC Council.

### Correction

The Battalion incorrectly reported in a photo caption Monday the hours that the campus creamery is open. Weekdays the creamery is open 8:15-5:00 p.m., Saturday it is open from 8:30 a.m. until 12:15 p.m., the fountain closes at 12 p.m. The Battalion regrets the error.

### Letters to the Editor

## Rally to move tracks

### Sticking together

Editor:

The fact that Texas A&M has a railroad carrying lethal chemicals through campus should disturb every dorm resident on the north side of campus. The proximity to the railroad tracks of Keathley, Fowler and Hughes halls, those havens of honeys, should make all the men of A&M rally behind a movement to move the tracks.

Not to mention that thousands of Aggie men also live within the areas prescribed to be evacuated (thus proving their dangerous location) in the eventuality of an accident on the tracks through campus.

One accident would be all that if you would take to move the tracks, maybe. But why wait until someone is killed?

—Jon Davis, '80

### Voice your views

Editor:

One of the most important proposals ever considered by the College of Engineering, the decision to become the first Professional School of Engineering in the country, is now being closely examined. The subject has been brought before the Student Engineers Council many times but I feel the vast majority of the nearly 8,000 students of the college have yet to hear about it.

The final format of the Professional School has yet to be decided but to my knowledge the most prominent includes: a two-year pre-professional curriculum, followed by three to four years of professional school. The student completing the professional program would be required to take a professional competency exam and immediately become a registered engineer.

Having had time to evaluate the proposal, I am wholeheartedly in support of it. I feel that the field of engineering has become too complex and encompassing to acquire an adequate grasp in only four years. Furthermore, I am in favor of the immediate registration rather than the four-year "internship" that now exists.

I would like to challenge, even beg, those who agree or disagree to voice their opinion on this very important decision by coming to the Industrial Representatives' meeting in Room 102 of the Zachry Engineering Center at 7:30 p.m., Thursday, April 19. All students are welcomed by the dean's office, Industrial representatives and Student Engineers Council.

—Rick Griffith, '79

### 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

