

Democrats still looking for missing party link

By **ARNOLD SAWISLAK**
United Press International

WASHINGTON — Ten years ago, the Democratic Party embarked on an experiment: It turned over its presidential nomination to people who don't ordinarily give a damn about politics.

Starting in 1972, Democrats effectively wrote their elected public officials and party leaders out of the nomination process.

Two examples illustrate the change: First, the party rules banned "automatic" delegates — public office or party position no longer guaranteed delegate seats for anyone. Second, the rules attempted to restrict convention "deals" by encouraging prospective delegates to commit to candidates and requiring pledged delegates to vote for their candidate at least on the first ballot.

The results were dramatic. After scores of prominent Democrats endorsed Edmund Muskie in 1972 and sat home while the Miami convention nominated George McGovern, many party leaders and elected officials shied at early commitments. By remaining uncommitted in 1976 and 1980, they avoided embarrassment, but passed up the chance to be delegates.

Some reformers were untroubled by this, saying the reforms were intended to give the control of the party to the grassroots. Others saw it as passing control to

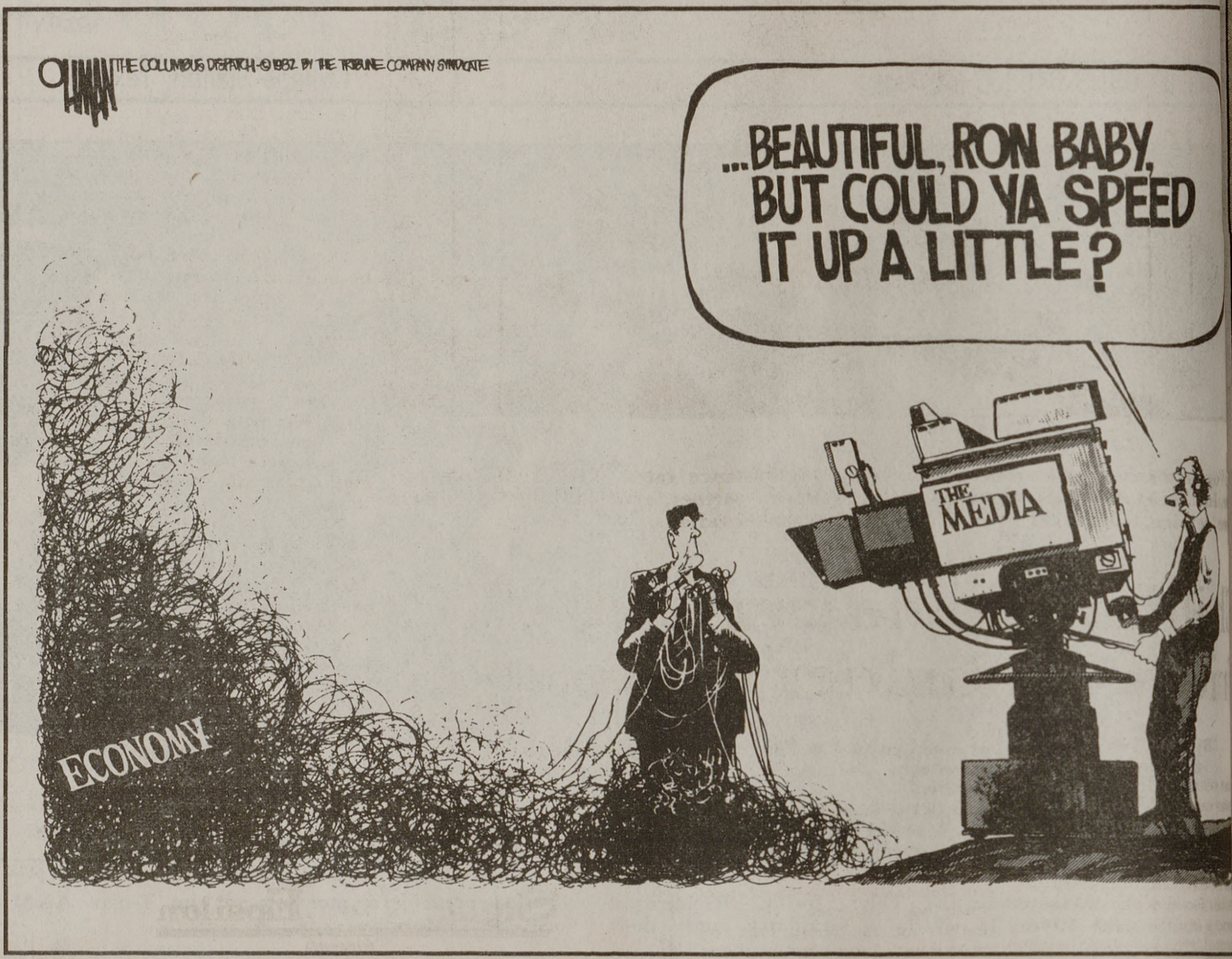
"casual Democrats" who might attend caucuses, or vote in primaries and general elections once every four years, but do little else for the party.

During the Carter years, this problem surfaced. The Democratic members of Congress and party professionals had little to do with the nomination and election of Jimmy Carter and, except for sharing the Democratic label, had little stake in its fate. But in 1980, the voters did not differentiate, rejecting the party's senators and House members along with its president.

Suddenly, the Democratic reformers saw the point that the party regulars never really had made: There is a crucial connection between all Democrats who represent the party in public office; they must be linked in doing their jobs because they are going to be linked by the voters in the next election.

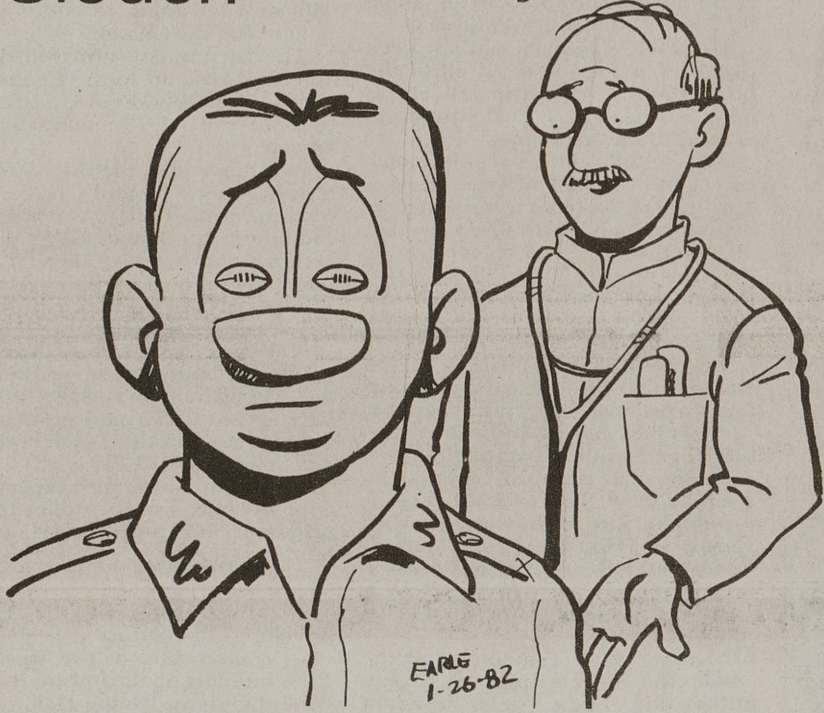
So, two weeks ago, reformers and regulars agreed to change the rules again. In 1984, it is almost sure that about 800 of the Democratic National Convention delegates will be elected officials and party leaders and that some 500 of them will be allowed to be uncommitted.

That may raise the risk of a "brokered convention," but it also should forge a link between the party's presidential candidate and the people the candidate will need help from if and when elected.



Slouch

By **Jim Earle**



"I don't think it's anything to worry about, and I think it will correct itself now that football will be off TV."

Reader's Forum:

Honor must be restored from within

Editor:

Some say that honor is a state of mind and being, others say honor is great, let all men be beholden to it. Some universities have their century long traditions based upon it. Texas has been the state of the Union where most verbal contracts were legal and binding until the late 1970s. We have taken pride in this fact. Our word is good and contractual, most of all it is a reflection of ourself.

However, the occurrences of the last few days, coupled with its similarity or 'mirror image' from a few years past with Mr. Bellard and Mr. E. Jarvis Miller, have led many Ag's to see our "regents," the uppermost figure-heads at this once great and honorable institution, lack honor. It may not be they don't have honor, it may be they just have a dual standard. That being, "it's great for others and it is a necessity for some, but for ourselves it may get in the way and become an obstruction for our great visions for this University."

This being the case, they fail to see the log in their own eye while trying to pull the micro-splinter out of all others. The ultimate prognosis is complete blindness.

Should we as the remaining honorable men and women allow these men to succeed in this. Many say yes, but it is forced or submissive yes. We all know this situation must end, with it must come the return of honor.

The only problem with the return of honor is that honor is a difficult commodity to restore. It must come from within. Who can replace it? We must replace it! It must come from each individual and only then will it reunite. This however, includes our Board of Regents (not just Bum), the president, faculty and finally the undergraduates.

Some one must put a halt to this slide. One man does not dictate the policies of a university. One man's values and wishes don't or shouldn't dictate another man's visions and ethics. Thus, all the blame must not be pushed upon the enlightened Bum but must be shared by all. It

seems apparent his visions and wishes were pushed over the grassblades of others.

There can never be two right situations nor has the end ever been the means. There may be several ways for achieving the same goal, but honor and regard for others, the way with no honor and little or no regard whom it may affect. Honor has been a single edged sword.

Let us then restore what we are currently in the process of losing. This must never be placed second or third cause it affects all other values we trust in us from others, respect, and ultimately pride in ourselves and in our university. For it is from this university we leave to interact in society, influencing our fellow men.

R.A. B...
R.D. ...
Rick ...
Linda ...
Graduate Students, Animal B...

Letter: Desegregation isn't just meeting a set quota

Editor:

A response to the article titled, "Desegregation, Office seeks minorities to comply with plan" in the January 19th issue of The Battalion is what has compelled me to write this letter.

First of all the title of the article itself seems to imply or have the earmarks that the University is hunting and searching for the sole reason to comply with the plan. This I hope is not true. In all sincerity I would like to believe that an institution such as Texas A&M University and its Office of School Relations are recruiting minority students because education here is offered to all, regardless of race, color, sex, or national origin, and not just to meet a goal or quota.

That introduces you to my second point. As Mr. Bond indicated, "Recruiting and Goals Setting may help eliminate some of the past vestiges" of discrimination. The way the article presents this future scenario seems to imply that by obtaining 525 more black students and 675 more Hispanic students we've got it made. If you take those figures and add them to our present enrollment of these two minority groups (according to fall semester figures) you will find that it brings the totals to 908 for blacks and 1,853 for Hispanics. With an enrollment average of 35,000 (again, using fall enrollment figures) this computes to approximately 2.6 percent for blacks and 5.3 percent for Hispanics in 1986.

Now, let's take into consideration the percentage of high school graduates throughout the state of Texas for 1980-81 within these two minority groups; blacks represented 13.7 percent (information obtained from the Information Analysis Division, Texas Education Association, Austin, Texas) while Hispanics constituted 19.7 percent.

The bottom line is this, at Texas A&M University we still have a ways to go to be triumphant in this challenging task and not just do enough to get by to meet minimum requirements as the article seemed to indicate.

Gerald Wright
Affirmative Action Officer
Texas A&M University System

Wilson better off gone

Editor:

I hardly ever write letters like this, and I'm not really sure they do any good, but I think this needs to be said. I've been following the antics of the newest episode at Texas A&M with disgust and anger. I too am an alumnus of A&M and I am quite ashamed of how some of the people involved are acting in this matter. Of course you know that I am talking about football at Texas A&M.

From the time that Tom Wilson took over as coach he never had a chance. Now, just as things are about to happen again, a bad decision is made. Whatever happens in 1982 to Texas A&M football fortunes, Sherrill will of course, be the hero or the goat. There doesn't seem to be an end to the vicious cycle.

I respect Tom Wilson greatly and admire him for his conduct while coach at Texas A&M. One of his major faults was that he was too much of a gentleman for most of the alumni. Wilson did a lot of things well. I personally believe he is a fine coach and person. Whatever the 1982 team does, most of that will be because of what Tom Wilson has done. This current football team was on the verge of being very good. I am afraid that you

folks have set yourselves back a bit. Look at what Emory Bellard has done the last two years and you will see that somebody made a big mistake. Now, another mistake has been made. If 36 wins in four years under Bellard didn't satisfy certain people (including two 10-2 seasons back to back), nothing less than 11-0 will. If I were them, I wouldn't count on it for the following reasons: 1) certain people's gossip, rumors and backstabbing; 2) pressure to win 'em all by certain people; and 3) overall strength of the SWC.

I want to wish Mr. Wilson good luck in the future and say that you will be better off not being associated with this mess anymore. I have really lost interest in Texas A&M football the last several years because of this stuff. It is a pitiful mess.

John C. Winfrey '80
Capt., U.S. Army
Ada, Okla.

Cadet's remarks disturbing

Editor:

I couldn't believe some of the comments made by Paul Vaughan in Friday's Battalion.

He says that the Board of Regents and the Corps of Cadets are not to be "messed with" at Texas A&M. I disagree. If the Board has made a grave error, as many believe it has concerning Tom Wilson, then criticism may be in order, as with any other body or institution.

Further, as a non-reg, I resent the comment that Texas A&M "is the Corps," and the implication that the non-reg's don't belong here. Once Texas A&M was the Corps, but no longer. The

Corps continues to play an essential role in making our school the unique and great place it is. The admission of non-reg's, however, has helped Texas A&M grow into a major institution, nationally known. This certainly has brought us many good things, and another reason to be proud.

I am not in the Corps, yet I share a rich treasury of Aggie pride and tradition which sets us apart. My Aggie proudly worn, and I'm glad that cadets are more thoughtful than I.

Bill Qu...

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The Battalion also serves as a laboratory for students in reporting, editing and photography within the Department of Communications. Questions or comments concerning any editorial should be directed to the editor.

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