

Registration needs help

Registration at Texas A&M has been a trying, tedious experience in the past. Lines are long and graduating seniors worry that they won't get classes they must have in order to graduate.

Some seniors who were in the T to Z line for summer school Monday expressed concern about classes they needed for graduation in August or December.

Administrators took a step toward eliminating the lines and helping seniors get classes during pre-registration for Fall 1984. Students registered in order of classification, further broken down alphabetically.

That system seemed to work well, although results won't be in until students receive fall schedules. But the new system did alleviate the long lines and may have aided seniors in their class schedules.

An attempt was made to cut down on the lines at summer registration this year. Registration was divided into six time slots and more time was allotted for picking up card packets.

Lines were long but not unduly so. A little patience was required but it wasn't too unbearable. The biggest problems appeared to crop up if a student was blocked. And if you are a senior with a name beginning with T through Z, you may not have gotten some classes you needed.

That's why the University should consider using the classification system for summer registration: graduate students in the first time slot, then seniors, juniors, sophomores and freshmen. If more divisions are needed, sophomores and freshmen could be divided alphabetically.

It's something to consider as seniors panic for lack of needed classes.

— The Battalion Editorial Board

Letter:

Minority assistance program discriminatory to top students

Editor:

I recently read in The Bryan-College Station Eagle that Texas A&M plans on providing five minority students with \$2,000 stipends, free dormitory accommodations and a one-on-one working relationship with a faculty member in the College of Geosciences for 10 weeks this summer.

Sounds like one hell of a good deal to me. But why is this sort of opportunity restricted to minority students? I know of no one in my department (geophysics) who has ever received such an opportunity. Why not reward those students who show great promise as future geoscientists this opportunity, regardless of race?

Learning about this program also disturbs me because my department has no money to support the students it already has over the summer months. This money could be used to help those of us involved in research and course work to survive during this period.

Why should this program be offered to five people based strictly on their race? The students in my department, as well as others, have worked long and hard — and sacrificed a great deal — to be excluded from such a program. I realize that Texas A&M is trying to right past wrongs, but why should this be done at the expense of those who aren't members of a minority? I feel like we have been abandoned and ignored by the powerful here at Texas A&M.

I'm all for eliminating all forms of discrimination, but this policy of offering special programs for members of minority groups is in blatant disregard for the rights and needs of the rest of us.

Douglas V. Roberts
Graduate student
Geophysics

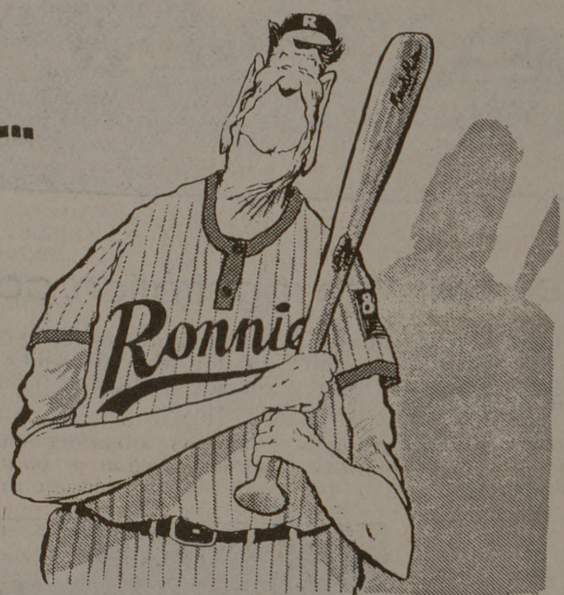
THE CREEDMAN GROUP OF THE TRIBUNE COMPANY

INDEPENDENT DELEGATES and the TEMPLE OF DEMS



Here's what the critics say about THE NATURAL...

- "★" - Tip O'Neill
- "★★★★" - Defense Contractors
- "A SHOO-IN FOR BEST SUPPORTING ACTOR IN EL SALVADOR..." - President Duarte
- "UNBEATABLE" - George Gallup, Lou Harris
- "A HIT!!! DEEP INTO RIGHT FIELD!" - Vin Scully, Joe Garagiola



Jackson gearing for battle

Delegate rules face challenge

By DICK WEST

Columnist for United Press International

WASHINGTON — If, as some analysts are saying, we have presidential candidates this year who do not exactly take a macho stand on all the issues, I remind you that the race is capable of generating a wimp backlash.

Historians tell us something of the sort happened during the 1964 campaign. When opposition forces tried to make fun of the size of Lyndon Johnson's home town (Johnson City, Tex., pop. 767), a small town backlash developed.

Then, four years later, rival politicians became fond of pointing out that the center H in Hubert H. Humphrey's name stood for Horatio. HHH lost anyhow, but it was established that many of the votes he did get were the result of a middle name backlash.

Scratch deeply enough under any initial and you

likely will find a middle name that someone would just as soon not publically flaunt. Middle names, in fact, provide about the only option a birth certificate leaves us. We can always camouflage embarrassing monikers by using only the first letters in our signatures, and it all looks perfectly natural.

By the same token, many of us voters either live in, or come from, small towns. So it is risky to single out for ridicule the home town segment of a candidate's biography.

Because the sympathy vote can be so strong, presidential candidates at this stage of the campaign might do well to curb any impulse to scoff at a shortage of virile warnings in the other camps.

As one pundit in an analysis of the Persian Gulf crisis recently wrote, "Macho talk is cheap until American lives ... are at stake."

In a close race, a wimp backlash could be decisive. So why run the risk of alienating a large, and

potentially active, bloc of voters just because a candidate doesn't come on like a caveman with respect to the Middle East or Central America?

That the wimp vote is worth going after has been seen in the large number of males who eat quiche. If Ronald Reagan, or whoever is the Democratic nominee, could get solid backing from the quiche-eaters, that probably would be enough for victory in November.

At the moment, however, the wimp vote apparently is somewhat divided. One reason perhaps is a tendency to slice quiche into several pieces.

Whatever the wimp factor is, it is dangerous to try to exploit it politically. What a candidate may stirring up instead is an identifying element that will turn the wimp vote against him.

Inside all of us, there is a little wimp struggling to get out. The task of politicians is to discover triggering mechanism — the wimp threshold — were.

Presidential candidates fighting the wimp factor

By ARNOLD SAWISLAK

Columnist for United Press International

WASHINGTON — When Gov. James Hunt of North Carolina finished work on the Democratic National Convention delegate rules last year, party officials proudly declared that the selection process had been perfected at last.

As 1984 delegate selection ends today, it looks like the declarations were premature and that the Democrats, like political Ancient Mariners, are doomed to sail forever on a sea of ever-changing rules.

The obvious first order of business for the next Democratic rules revision commission will be the so-called "thresholds" that determine the level of support a candidate for the presidential nomination must have to win delegates in primaries and at caucuses.

This issue involves basic questions of fairness and political pragmatism, and the party simply has been unable since the early 1970s to reconcile the two.

The Democrats decided long ago to outlaw what were called "winner take all" contests — the candidate that gets the most votes gets all the delegates — in the nomination process. (They succeeded in banning this practice in statewide contests, but it still exists on a congressional district level, as in today's California primary.)

Carrying the idea of "proportional representation" further, the Democrats tried to write rules that gave candidates the same percentage of delegates as they got votes in the primaries or caucuses.

But it became clear that a pure form of proportional representation was impractical.

First, a large field of candidates competing for a small number of delegates might produce a result that required chopping delegates, or at least their votes, into fractions. The Democrats don't like doing that.

Second, the rules writers thought there should be some minimum support a candidate needed to show so that major contenders could be separated from what are politely called "fringe" or "splinter" candidates.

So a series of percentages were worked out to act as thresholds. Those whose vote fell below the cutoff got no delegates in that contest. Over the years, the cutoffs have ranged from 10 percent to 20 percent, which was the threshold this year.

Jesse Jackson started complaining about the 20 percent early and has kept up his running objection to it. At first, little attention was paid to his complaints, but now he has won enough delegates and enough political respect to make an issue of the threshold question at the San Francisco convention next month.

It is a good bet that the convention will take some action to instruct those who write the 1988 rules to lower the threshold for the next election. Even Democrats who back the 20 percent cutoff hope that giving Jackson a victory on this issue will help keep him in the party and behind the presidential candidate.

It also is a good bet that nothing will be done about the 1984 threshold to give Jackson more delegates in the states where he got less than 20 percent of the vote.

Slouch by Jim Earle



"Regardless of what your schedule says, this can't be your classroom. But on the other hand, you could..."

The Battalion
USPS 045 360

Member of
Texas Press Association
Southwest Journalism Conference

The Battalion Editorial Board

Rebecca Zimmermann, Editor
Bill Robinson, Editorial Page/Assistant City Editor
Shelley Hoekstra, City Editor
Kathleen Hart, News Editor
Dave Scott, Sports Editor

The Battalion Staff

Assistant News Editor.....Dena Brown
Staff Writers.....Robin Black,
Kari Fluegel, Sarah Oates,
Travis Tingle,
Tracie Holub
Photographers.....Peter Rocha,
Dean Saito

Editorial Policy

The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting newspaper operated as a community service in Texas A&M and Bryan-College Station.

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editorial Board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.

The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photographing classes within the Department of Communications.

United Press International is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches created in it. Rights of reproduction of all other matter herein reserved.

Letters Policy

Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

The Battalion is published Monday through Friday during Texas A&M regular semesters, except for holiday and examination periods, and Tuesday through Thursday during summer sessions. Mail subscriptions are \$10.75 per semester, \$22.25 per school year and \$45 per full year. Advertising rates furnished on request.

Our address: The Battalion, 216 Reed McDonald Building, Texas A&M University, College Station, TX 77843.
Second class postage paid at College Station, TX 77843.