

OPINION

Is SG forgetting very group it's meant to represent?

Funny how some things in life follow you around like a bad penny. One subject that refuses to fade into the background of my life is Student Government.



Ed Cassavoy

In the past few months I have seen both the good and bad in Student Government. Lately, I have seen only the dumb, foolish side to it.

The student elections have been an enlightening experience to me. Unpleasant surprises keep popping up from the direction of the Pavilion with confusing regularity.

Again and again I have been unable to concentrate on the substance of Student Government, because I am forever

trying to get past all the ridiculous rules and regulations. Apparently somewhere along the line they had a purpose.

Why, in the name of efficiency or convenience, are there so many rules made to control the flow of information and ideas from one group to another?

I thought, foolish me, that politics was the business of being tossed into the rough and tumble world of public scrutiny.

One student body president candidate made an insightful observation when he was being interviewed by The Battalion. Roughly, his statement went like this. "If The Battalion has trouble getting information from Student Government, what are the chances of the ordinary student getting information?"

Well said brother.

Foolish restrictions on who is allowed to voice his opinion during Student Sen-

ate meetings, and for how long, is one legislative gem.

You have to reserve a time slot to speak for a whole three minutes. Fortunately Thomas Jefferson never had to suffer such time restrictions.

Be eloquent, quickly.

Why not, horror of horrors, let the public speak? Or maybe Student Government is afraid of the one inherent flaw in this idea. Anarchy, confusion, conflict. That's the problem when we humans get together—we usually don't fit into any neat spaces, or time slots.

As it is now, Student Government gives the general appearance of a smooth running operation.

I submit to you there must be something wrong. Who ever said a concept so tightly-woven with all that is good and bad about democracy should be efficient?

The true test of what is good, just and

lasting about our world are those tire-some quirks and bothersome snags in the bureaucratic fiber.

And what really burns my student I.D. card is the fact that everyone I talk to in S.G. acts like every rule came down from the heavens. Carved on a giant stone brief case. Never to be touched or altered by mere human minds and hands.

I always thought the true sign of leadership is the ability to break down barriers and carve out new paths.

Student Government, for whatever reasons, has wrapped itself up in layer upon layer of commissions, committees, councils, rules, regulations, restrictions, laws and constitutions.

Along the way they pushed the common man right out the door with the rest of last week's budget reports. And now they have the gall to whine that there's student apathy, that Student

Government's main goal is to open communication up with the students.

And stuck right under their noses is the answer to these problems.

Forget about referendums, polls, questionnaires. Forget those student rules on restricting student committee members. If Student Government truly has a desire to hear the voice of the people, not just take their own flabby out of their ears?

I am not paying part of my University fees to watch them flushed down a regulated toilet. Where are those people in Student Government who have guts to stop this theoretical treadmill?

I say to Student Government, not relax a little, gain a little more of humor and open up to the one that seems to have been forgotten, paper shuffle—the students.

Ed Cassavoy is a weekly columnist for the city editor for The Battalion.

LETTERS:

Election spending controversy goes on

EDITOR:

This letter is in regard to the Friday, March 22 editorial about the enforcement of the Election Regulations. We would like to clarify a few points regarding the Election Commission's role.

A complaint was registered regarding the campaign expenditures of a candidate for Student Body President. The case was presented to the Election Commission at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday, March 21.

After reviewing the allegations, the Election Commission ruled that there was insufficient evidence provided to warrant a disqualification. A person is innocent until proven guilty, not guilty until proven innocent.

Following the hearing, a formal request was made to the candidate to provide a list of expenditures. The candidate willingly offered this information. The Election Commission ruling may be appealed to the Student Government Judicial Board if those registering the complaint are not satisfied with the results. However, no appeal has been made at this time.

The Election Commission does not ignore any "serious breach of ethics" by any candidate. The Election Commission can and has removed candidates from races for violations of the Election Regulations. Some candidates have received warnings, and others have had signs removed.

"Realistically," a candidate cannot "do what he pleased and still be elected." Disqualification can result even after the elections are over.

The Battalion staff usually does a good job of getting the news to the students of A&M. However, in some instances the writers do not do their homework and misrepresent the facts.

We would hope that The Battalion staff would care enough about becoming competent journalists to get the facts (including correct quotes) straight before they go to print. This would prevent the "correction box" in many a day's Battalion.

Laura Madla
Jim Collins
Election Co-Commissioners

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Election Co-commissioners say Sean Royall willingly offered a list of his expenditures. Actually, the commission took Royall's word that he did not exceed his spending limit. Royall did not present an actual list of his expenditures or actual receipts, but instead an approximate estimate of his spending.

Exams policy used against candidate

EDITOR:

There are times when a policy, long established, must be changed to conform with contemporary practices. Such was the case when the question of exempting graduating seniors from final examinations came before the University Rules and Regulations Committee in the Spring of 1984.

Being something of a traditionalist I

was not in favor of changing the policy, especially if it adversely affected students then enrolled in the University.

As the proposed change came from the Faculty Senate (84 percent of whom voted for it) to the Rules and Regulations Committee seniors would not have been exempted from final examinations beginning with the December 1985 graduation.

A number of the members of the committee, especially Sean Royall and other students, spoke against dropping the exemption, but recognizing the policy would be changed supported a proposal to delay the implementation of requiring seniors to take final examinations until the Spring of 1988.

The change in the date of implementation was accepted by the Faculty Senate.

Why this letter? It is my understanding that the part played by Sean Royall, a candidate for President of the Student Body, in changing the policy on final examinations in being used against him in the campaign.

How sad—Sean represented the interest of the student body well. Politics is sometimes the art of the possible.

Garland Bayliss, Chairman
Rules & Regulations Committee

'S.B.' should be included in Inrol

EDITOR:

Dear Trent Leopold,

In answer to your question, "What is an S.B.?"—an S.B. is...

- The President of the MSC
- The Chairman of Parents Weekend
- The Chairman of Town Hall
- The Chairman of SCONA
- The Chairman of Muster
- The Chairman of MSC Arts

In addition, more than one fourth of the girls who received the honor of Cap and Gown are "S.B.s."

Also, one fourth of the girls on Student 'Y' Fish Camp staff are "S.B.s."

We've lost count of the number of "S.B.s" who have been selected for the Buck Weirus Spirit Award and Who's Who.

Yes, Trent, the accurate definition of S.B. should be included in the Inrol. "S.B.s" are an integral part of the Spirit of Aggieland.

Amy Lister, Chi Omega
Annalizabeth Glasscock, Delta Delta Delta
Tami Frances Word, Zeta Tau Alpha

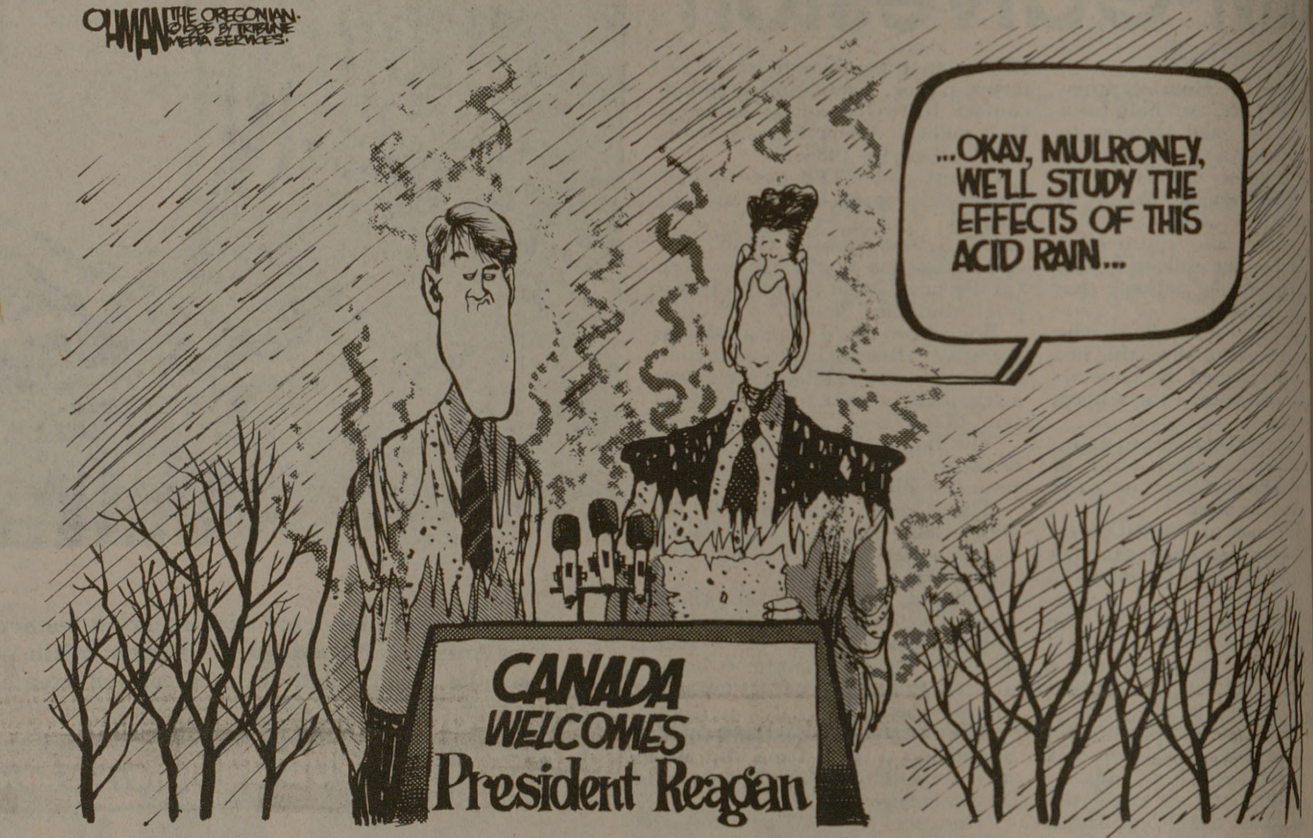
Threats in name of God questioned

EDITOR:

The peace-loving Christians with the large P.A. systems are by Rudder again—it must be Lent.

I confess that hearing ignorance and hate from one who claims to represent Christ (the one who knew and loved, both in spite of and because of that knowledge) is disturbing. Yet I refuse to add hate.

I would, however, point out that name-calling belongs on playgrounds



and in political campaigns, and perhaps in pseudo-religious diatribes.

Also, God, in his theistic gnosis, (which is possible, as "atheistic agnosticism" is at best unlikely) caused our being in its manifold diversity—we were not made to be clones—and any being, human or otherwise, that attempts, by hate, ignorance, and volume to pervert God's love, knowledge, and beauty deserves to have their motives, as well as their messages, questioned.

John 3:16
Richard V. McLamore

Lost Texas A&M book found in Florida

EDITOR:

I just got back from a sunny Spring Break '85 in Key West, Florida and I thought I'd let y'all know what an interesting thing occurred down there.

I was out about a mile east of the Keys on a little coral shoal about the size of an (alleged) parking space (I mean, we're talkin' the middle of no where), just snorkling around the reef, mindin' my own business, and what do I spy half buried in the sand? A book!

Now we're not just talkin' ANY book. This was a waterproof-stainless-steel-staples-printed-with-special-inks-color-plate-FISHWATCHERS-GUIDE book.

Big deal? YES!! WHY? Well, right there on the cover, in itty-bitty blue letters on a small white sticker in the corner it was embellished: TEXAS A&M BOOKSTORE.

Now, being the honest Ag that I am, I rinsed all the sand off of it and commenced to search for the owner of this fine piece of literature. He was nowhere in sight. He did, however, take the time to write his name in the book: Ya Sheng Juau (Jauh?).

So, if any of y'all out there know this man's whereabouts, or whether or not the sharks got him, please give me a call, I'll see that he (or his next of kin) gets his book.

Erich Friend, '85
693-0873

Frat challenges 'no-frat' frat of D.G.

EDITOR:

It has come to my attention that the Fraternity system has reached a point in which they now are beginning to realize the importance of working together rather than pulling apart. We do have problems now and then but most are being settled in an orderly manner.

There is one fraternity at Texas A&M that continually gives the rest of us problems. This fraternity is better known as D.G., the "no-frat" Frat.

They consistently cause disturbances directed toward the other greek and non-greek fraternities. Their disorderly conduct and lack of respect for others is continually causing problems throughout our system.

The most recent event dealt with my fraternity, Sigma Alpha Epsilon. We put a sign up in regard to a large party, "Paddy Murphy," in front of Sbsia dining hall. (This party is open to the campus and helps raise money for the Bryan Boys Club.) Rather than just reporting the signs to the proper authorities they decided it was their duty to destroy the sign with their motto: "no-frat." What purpose did this serve? Is there no justice?

This dorm has also been suspected of destroying private property and other property of local fraternities.

Let me make this challenge to the "no-frat" frat of d.g.

Because of the radical behavior that your fraternity puts forth upon the hard work of others, myself and the members of the other fraternities would like to see if you could have a party or a fund raiser in which your dorm could work together for the good of a charity.

Sigma Alpha Epsilon gives money to the Bryan Boys Club at "Paddy Murphy," the Aggie Cowboys give money to a children's home at the "Bourban Street Bash" and Sigma Phi Epsilon gives money to a boy's home at "Fight Night".

Come on, d.g., what constructive thing can you come up with, and what right do you have to take away possible dollars from our philanthropies?

Please reply!
Gregg Langford

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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 photography classes within the Department of Communications.

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.
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