

Opinion

Encouraging voter turnout despite personal sacrifice

Student Government elections are in full swing. Big deal.

Last year only 4,324 students voted in the elections. Only 1,799 voted in the runoff for student body president. That's a pretty pathetic turnout from a university of 35,000 students. There's just not much interest in the elections. The five candidates running for student body president this year aren't very interesting either. That's why I have decided to start a write-in campaign for student body president.

I filed to run for the office but was disqualified because my grades were too low. I think that my grades show I am well qualified for the job — the majority of the student body has low grades too. I would have a lot of time to dedicate to my office since it's obvious that I don't waste my time studying.

If elected I promise to make a difference. Unlike my opponents, I will do something other than make the stereotypical "I-will-increase-student-partici-



Karl Pallmeyer

pation-in-student-government" campaign promise.

Here are 13 promises that I will keep if elected:

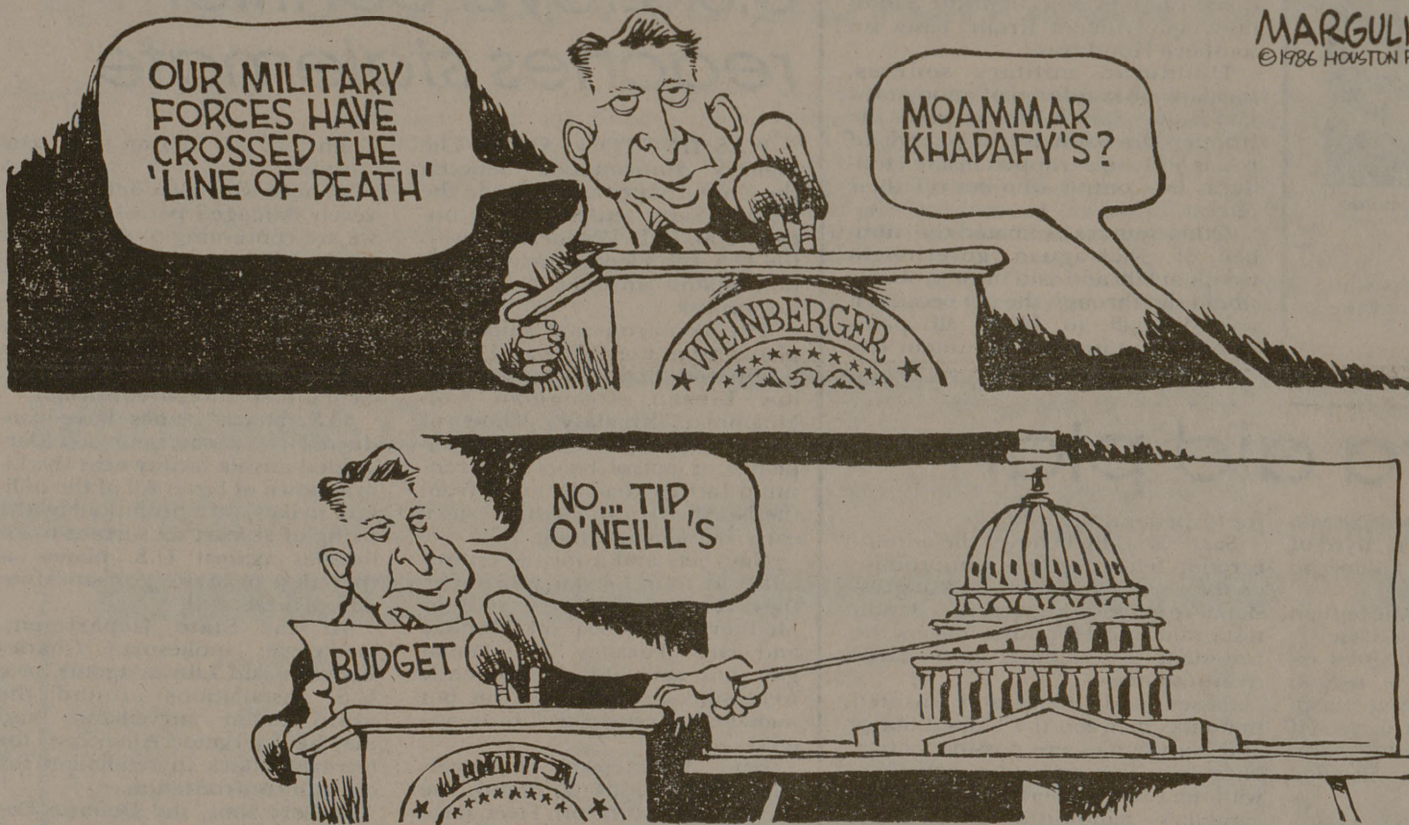
- I promise not to put maroon and white signs and posters shaped like windmills, thumbs or feet all over campus during my campaign.
- I promise to fight for coed dorms on campus.
- I promise not to wear a tweed jacket.
- Since the regulations on Q-drop don't allow students enough time to judge whether they can handle a class and since I want out of Stat 303, I promise to fight for an extended Q-drop period.
- I promise to fight for a bar on campus.
- I promise to form a committee that will lobby for an amendment to the Texas state constitution that will call for a student to be appointed to the Board of Regents.
- I promise to have a parking garage built out of the bell tower.
- I promise to refrain from excessive, overpretentious and unreasonable employment of polysyllabic phrases while engaged in public discourse or correspondence with my constituents in

favor of less hyperbolic and more colloquial terminology during my term of office, unlike one of my esteemed predecessors.

- I promise to form a committee that will lobby in Austin to prevent unnecessary budget cuts in education.
 - I promise to fight for a core curriculum.
 - I promise to fight for the divestment of nearly \$3 million that Texas A&M has invested in banks and corporations that do business in South Africa.
 - I promise to form a committee to work with the Association of Former Students to help determine how donations from alumni can be used more efficiently to benefit the University.
 - Due to conflicting interests of being a journalist and an elected official, I promise to quit my job at The Battalion.
- On Wednesday, Apr. 2, the day after April Fool's Day, you will have your choice. You can either write my name in for student body president or you can force the candidate of your choice to take up these or some other issues.

The choice is yours — so vote!
Karl Pallmeyer is a senior journalism major and a columnist for The Battalion.

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MARGULIES
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Safe at home, but out at third

The testing of baseball players for drugs has begun.

"Well, ladies and gentlemen, this is Dan Sundergard of WFLY Radio, and we are in Florida at the baseball training camp stadium of the Doppler Snail Darters. They are playing an exhibition game against the Windemere Dumplings. Leading the lineup for the Snail Darters is Brian Smirk.



Art Buchwald

"Brian steps up to the plate, tips his cap, takes a practice swing and the umpire hands him a specimen bottle. Smirk is shaking his head to indicate that he doesn't want to be tested, but the umpire vehemently insists. Hold it. Max Fury, the Snail Darter manager, has just jumped out of the dugout and is having a tantrum. He is cussing and throwing his hat on the ground. The umpire is telling him to get back to the dugout. But Max is too incensed to pay any attention. Wait a minute — Fury has grabbed the specimen bottle and has thrown it at the Windemere bench. It has broken into a thousand pieces. The umpire is now tossing Max out of the game for interfering with the testing of a baseball player when he is at bat.

"Things have settled down. Smirk is back at home plate. The umpire gives him another specimen bottle. This time Brian does not flinch. He jogs behind the backstop where no one can see him and . . . Let's pause now for a commercial.

"Welcome back to Doppler Stadium. Smirk is returning to home plate. He hands the specimen bottle to the umpire who raises it up to the sun. Everyone in the stadium is holding his breath. Now here comes the decision from the umpire. He is spreading out his hands in a sweeping gesture. SMIRK IS SAFE! The test has come up negative! The crowd is going crazy. The Doppler dugout has emptied out and the players are swarming around Smirk, hugging and kissing him. Now he is riding on their shoulders waving to the fans. Just a second, Tap Chewing, the Windemere manager, is arguing with the umpire that Smirk's specimen was positive and not negative. The umpire has turned his back on Chewing who seems to be threatening to take the test to the baseball commissioner on appeal.

"The umpire has told everyone to get off the field so the teams can play ball.

"Monarchy throws a fast-breaking ball which Smirk connects with and there it goes over the second baseman's head . . . back to the wall. Brian has a triple! The third base umpire hands Brian another specimen bottle to make sure he hasn't used any drugs while running from home plate to third. Smirk is going behind a billboard . . . And now it's time out for another commercial.

"Here comes Brian back to third with his specimen. The umpire is taking out his test kit. Hold it! He is looking at Smirk strangely. Now his thumb goes up in the air. Smirk is out. Smirk is out! This is the first time a major league player has ever been tested safe at home and then called out at third.

"Smirk is jumping up and down on the umpire's test kit. The Doppler third base coach is throwing sand into the umpire's face. But nothing will change the umpire's mind. In baseball, test tubes don't lie.

"There goes Brian walking toward the dugout. Maybe our man on the field, Simple Simple, can have a word with him."

"What happened, Brian?"

"It was a bad call. I was clean for the entire triple."

"What was that white stuff you were sniffing when you slid into third?"

"That was lime from the baseline."

"Do you think it was the lime that made your test positive?"

"Beats me. I don't even know what the test for lime is."

"Do you believe the baseball commissioner has gone too far with testing baseball players?"

"Damn right. There is nothing wrong with testing us once. But when they test us at every base they've gone too far."

Art Buchwald is a columnist for the Los Angeles Times Syndicate.

Mail Call

In the interest of the Free World

EDITOR:

There are people who claim that the United States was being provoked in its maneuvers and exercises in the Gulf of Sidra. The Rev. Jesse Jackson calls it Ramboism. The president of Arab-American relations claims Ronald Reagan is showing off only because of the oppositional vote in the house. Contra aid. Such people say that the U.S. actions are bullish and heavy-handed.

But what Col. Moammar Khadafy did was fire upon aircraft in international airspace. This airspace is no different in the Gulf of Sidra than in the Atlantic Ocean. The U.S. Sixth Fleet has sailed into the Gulf of Sidra seven times over the past five years for one reason. This reason is not to back at Libya for harboring terrorists. It is to maintain the fact that the United States Navy is willing and able to go anywhere at anytime in order to protect the interest of the Free World. These exercises are not provocative, all for the Gulf of Sidra, irregardless of what Khadafy thinks, is international waters.

Some critics say we should not have entered the gulf at all, in order to prevent terroristic reprisals. Yet if the United States would be intimidated from sailing into a free zone by a 10th-rate power, what does the United States do if given an ultimatum by the U.S.S.R.? If the Soviet Union detests sovereignty over West Germany, with a "line of death" over the Rhine, what would NATO do? Follow the U.S. lead and risk provoking the East Bloc by sending in reinforcements? Or do we maintain that we cannot show aggression by being a bully or heavy-handed, and respect the U.S.S.R.'s claim? Or better yet, take the matter to the World Court?

One wonders whether it will take another downing of a KAL-007 to change the opinions. Unless, of course, there are 264 CIA agents on board unjustly provoking any missiles nearby.

Mark Ude
Geography Major

Dorm checkout blues

EDITOR:

I am writing because I have a few complaints which I would like to express concerning the new residence hall checkout time. The time in the past has been set at 5 p.m., but now it has been moved to an earlier time, 3 p.m. Dead week is a period of time with the purpose of preparing the students for their final exams.

If Student Affairs forces students to disassemble lofts, pack and remove all personal belongings, arrange transportation and clean the rooms before and during finals, they are defeating that purpose. Ron Sasse of Student Affairs says, "If we extended the time limit or changed it to Saturday, we just be postponing our problems or moving Friday's problems to Saturday. What about the students problems? They cannot be changed to another date." Example: Our final examination schedule.

Cyndi Lauda
Class of '88

No overnight change

EDITOR:

In response to Carl Krieger's "Blacks should wait their turn," thank you people like Krieger, hundreds of people have been killed in South Africa. Why should they wait? They have been waiting since 1948 with the election of the National Party.

It's OK for good ole' boys to exploit South Africa and its people, if they don't, then how will they fulfill the American dream? So what if blacks are being killed. So what if they have no voting rights. Can you compare death police brutality, economic exploitation and white supremacy to the civil rights of taxpaying U.S. citizens who want maximum profit?

Either Krieger can't read or he is blatantly ignoring the real situation. Yes, there are high standards of living and low hunger rates among the South Africans, but what do the blacks have? They have apartheid.

How would he feel if I took his home, his valuables, made him carry a "pass," beat him and asked him to graciously accept the situation.

Maybe Krieger never heard of George Washington Carver, Jupiter Hammon and James Durham. These are a few noteworthy black men.

He probably thinks blacks in the United States should have waited for the abolition of slavery and the right to vote. When did he experience oppression, false imprisonment and prejudice? Maybe if he experienced some of these things he could sympathize with the black South Africans. They know a change will not come overnight, but if they don't make some noise who's going to do it for them?

Cynthia Green

Suggestions for improvement

EDITOR:

Here are two simple questions to improve the quality of our newspaper. Primarily, as a STUDENT paper, there should be room for all student activities which are presented for publication by recognized student organizations. I have been informed that you allot 14 inches for "What's New" and that much is deleted for room's sake. I believe that a student paper should publish all such information. Personally, I would prefer to read the law society, the vet society or (God forbid) the gay society rather than meaningless or anti-A&M opinions of Pallmeyer and company.

Secondly, there are certain projects and events occurring on campus which have been attended by your reporters which have not appeared in The Battalion. A good example is the photo contest offered by the student veterinary association which was displayed through spring break at the Forestry Building (west campus). Part of the reason for displaying the contest there was to get people to see their atrium, which is beautiful. Winners were formally announced March 7. An article Monday or Tuesday of the following week would have really helped meet that goal. For most of the year, the art collection fills that space.

Your attention to these matters would benefit the Aggies.

Bryan Turner '88

Return the pliers

EDITOR:

This is to the girl who borrowed a pair of electrician's pliers at the All Night Fair. I would appreciate if you found the time to return the long overdue pliers. As a reminder, they have blue insulated handles and were made in Mexico.

As an electrical engineering student I need those pliers, and good ones don't come cheap.

I appeal to your Aggie honesty. In the event you decide to return my pliers, please call me at 696-5526. You're welcome!

Charles M. Humphries

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. A letter must be signed and must include the address and telephone number of the writer.

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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.

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