



Con

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New Republic

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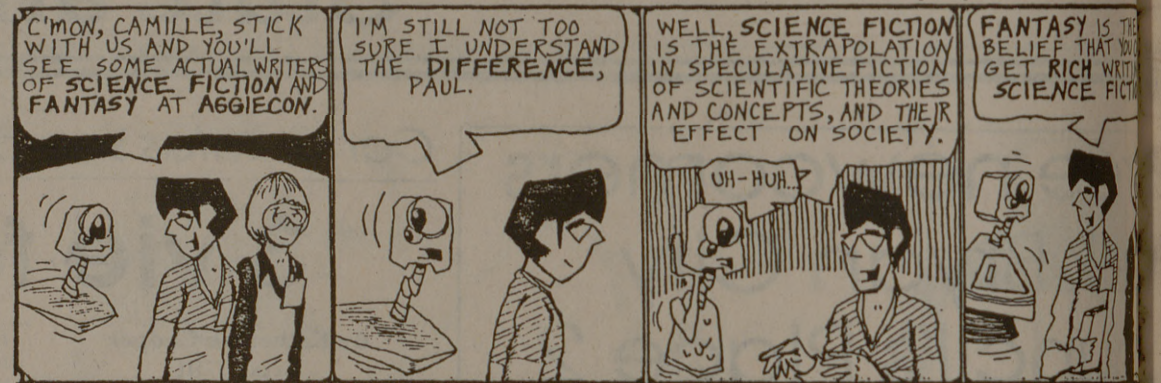
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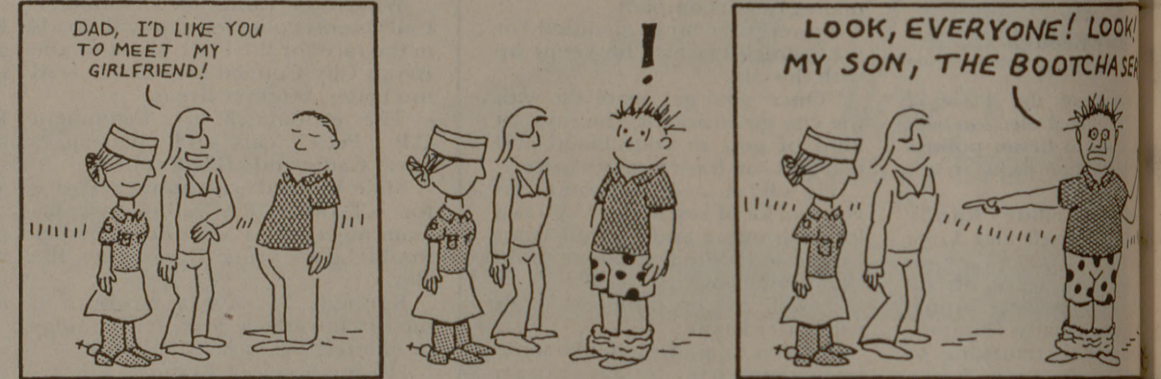
Warped

by Scott McC



Waldo

by Kevin Tho



Student Senate rejects proposal for equality clause

By Frank Smith
Staff Writer

The Student Senate Wednesday night rejected two proposed amendments to the Student Government constitution.

One of the proposals recommended the inclusion of an equal opportunity statement to be placed in Student Government's constitution, judicial board bylaws, election regulations, public printed or written statements and recruiting advertisements.

Both the Texas A&M undergraduate and graduate catalogs contain an equal opportunity statement regarding admission to the University.

However, Sen. David Klosterboer said, "I feel this bill would set a precedent that would make other organizations and committees feel obligated to put such a disclaimer in their advertisements . . . which may not be necessary because an organization that had never practiced any type of discriminatory actions at all

could feel the need to do so because Student Government has come out and said, 'We are not discriminatory.'"

Sen. Jim Atkins disagreed, saying such a precedent might be good, because some groups on campus—like fraternities, sororities and honor societies—do discriminate.

After almost an hour of debate, the Senate voted 24-14 in favor of the bill, with four abstentions. But since constitutional amendments require the approval of two-thirds of the senators present, it failed by four votes.

The other proposed amendment called for student body presidential and executive vice presidential candidates to run together on a common ticket. Currently, the student body president appoints his executive vice president.

However, this proposed change also fell short of the two-thirds requirement for approval, with 16 senators in favor, 15 opposed and five abstentions.

GM lays off 1,700 Arlington

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors Corp. released Wednesday of its biggest production cutbacks since the industry slump, saying more than 5,000 workers in four states, including 1,700 assembly workers in Arlington, will be laid off indefinitely.

The new layoffs will send additional workers home with recall date, due mainly to elimination of second shift at three locations: Arlington, Texas; Van Nuys, Calif.; and Bowling Green, Ky.

GM spokeswoman Nancy Keiser said assembly plant workers will lose their jobs in Arlington as of April 14, and 110 salaried employees will be idled.

The action follows legislation by the nation's largest automaker to pump up new car sales through incentives such as rate financing, which industry analysts say have faded.

Pact calls for reduced prison population

HUNTSVILLE (AP) — The state is considering a court settlement that requires the Texas Department of Corrections to lower its inmate-population ceiling by several thousand unless it upgrades prison living conditions, officials said.

State attorneys acknowledge the state has failed to meet reforms ordered in connection with the 14-year-old prison lawsuit filed by former Texas prison inmate David Ruiz.

An 18-page proposal, drawn up by special master Vince Nathan and obtained Tuesday by the Houston Chronicle, aims to reduce the 40,089-inmate population by 1,500 by next year.

The proposal is an effort by attorneys to avoid a scheduled June 2 hearing before U.S. District Judge William Wayne Justice.

Scott McCown, assistant to Attorney General Jim Mattox, said the state is considering sanctions such as the lower ceiling rather than face fines of several thousand dollars per day.

"De-population is the common remedy in these types of prison lawsuits," McCown said. "The only thing I

want to emphasize is that the accelerated de-population is on a penalty basis."

Last year, state officials agreed either to build cells for about 4,130 inmates or reduce the prison population by that many convicts by 1989.

If penalties are imposed against the state, it would speed up the population reductions within the prison system, the nation's second largest, officials said. The releases will start next February if the proposal is accepted.

Gov. Mark White, however, has criticized the release of convicts to settle the lawsuit.

State Rep. Allen Hightower, D-Huntsville, expects that any convicts released will probably be non-offenders.

Under the proposal dated March 20, the TDC would also house violent inmates and potential victims in man cells; add an unspecified number of guard dormitories of the five high-security units; have dorms and recreational yards completed by November; and construct 100 more cells for female inmates by 1987.



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