

Dear Readers:

This week's At Ease begins a two-part series on speaking out at A&M. In this issue, we explore the question: How much say do students have on this campus?

Sounds like pretty heavy stuff, huh? Well, the fact of the matter is, we started thinking about all the letters that are sent to the Battalion's fearless editor and the less than minimal voter turnout at the recent student government elections. We started thinking about the senior finals issue and the core curriculum and the hours at the health center. And then we asked ourselves what it all means.

It is obvious that students feel strongly about some issues. And this is, after all, our university. Goodness knows, we all invest large amounts of time and money in this institution. So, are we, the students, getting our way?

There's a student entity set up specifically to insure that student opinions are heard — Student Government. But after the lack of enthusiasm at the recent elections, we can only conclude that students either don't think they are being adequately represented, or don't care. One student even ran on the platform that he would abolish student government. He wasn't elected.

Next week, we are going to look at faculty input at A&M. We're going to try to find out how Faculty Senate works, and see if it's more effective than Student Government. Relax, enjoy the weekend and tune in next week for "Speaking Out: Part II."

Karen

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Aggies have often been accused of being conservative to the point of apathy. Demonstrations and protests are infrequent on the A&M campus. Yet the student body's voice is not always silent. There have been in the past — and there continue to be — issues that A&M students feel strongly about. At these times, students have spoken out. But the question remains: Are their voices heard?

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Student Government at A&M has been criticized for not fulfilling its function as the voice of the students. Is Student Government truly representative of the student body and does it attempt to serve in the best interest of the student body?

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