

# Good news, bad news in politics

Last Tuesday's election marked the end of the campaign season, and most people would agree that the next one will come much too soon. But before it fades into the history books as just one more campaign of little substance and a lot of hype, I offer my assessment of the most deserving candidates, the least deserving candidates, and what this election means to our political parties.

**• The Most Deserving Candidate Who Won:** This award was a tough one, not because there were so many candidates to choose from. On the contrary, a list of nominees was difficult to compile. Yet most people would agree that it has to go to Lawton Chiles, the former U.S. Senator from Florida who beat Republican incumbent Bob Martinez in the Florida governor's race.

By discussing the issues and pledging not to accept any individual contributions to his campaign larger than \$100, Chiles earned the respect and votes of the Florida people. Although his contribution pledge was a difficult one to keep, Chiles survived. His pledge assured the people of Florida that if victorious, he would not be indebted to special interest groups. Chiles ran a model campaign that hopefully others will feel compelled to follow.

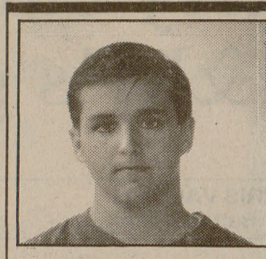
**• The Least Deserving Candidate Who Won:** No contest here. The winner of this title easily goes to the backward-ass, ultra-conservative Jesse Helms.

In one of the most closely watched Senate races in recent history, the people of North Carolina had their choice of either Jesse Helms, the Republican incumbent, or Harvey Gantt, the former mayor of Charlottesville.

It looked like Gantt's discussion of the serious issues facing North Carolina and the country would earn him a majority of the vote. But in the last week of the campaign Helms ran a television ad that played to the fears of the white male by portraying Gantt to be in favor of racial quotas in regards to employment.

Ordinarily, this type of tactic would be ineffective, but considering that Gantt is African-American, it worked. Helms' campaign reached a new low in dirty politicking.

**• The Most Deserving Candidate Who Lost:** As you might have guessed, Harvey Gantt takes this prize. While his opponent, Jesse Helms, has



**Patrick Nolan**  
 Columnist

spent the last eighteen years trying to rid the country of communists, homosexuals and controversial artists, Gantt thought the senator from North Carolina should be tending to regional concerns.

Gantt discussed education, the environment, unemployment and taxes. He purposely avoided negative criticism of Helms while highlighting their fundamental differences. Yet Helms opted for the low blows and emerged victorious.

**• The Least Deserving Candidate Who Lost:** While old news, it deserves the award. David Duke's run for the U.S. Senate in Louisiana scared people nationwide.

The good news is he lost; the bad news is he won roughly 46 percent of the vote and is eyeing the governor's race in 1992.

How a former Grand Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan can win 46 percent of the vote is a disturbing question. But then again, we're talking about Louisiana.

**• The Good News for Democrats:** In short, Ann Richards won, Lawton Chiles lost, you picked up eight seats in the House of Representatives and one in the Senate. You should be in a good position to redraw district lines in your favor.

You also dashed any plans Phil Gramm might have for the presidency in 1996. Unlike his colleague, Lloyd Bentsen, Gramm's political coattails are non-existent. Virtually every candidate that Gramm campaigned for lost.

**• The Bad News for Democrats:** You lost the governor's race in California and Massachusetts.

Senator Bradley of New Jersey and Governor Mario Cuomo of New York, potential candidates for president in 1992, fared poorly in their respective races.

**• The Good News for Republicans:** Clayton Williams lost. You can breathe a sigh of relief, there will be no more

poking fun at your party's nominee for governor.

The best news for this party: you won the big prize — four more years of a Republican governor in California.

**• The Bad News for Republicans:** You lost the Texas Governor's race, the Democrats are alive and well in the South and your overly optimistic hopes of gaining a majority in the House will not be seen in this century.

Oh, one bit of advice, if you're a fledgling Republican who is contemplating a run for a political office and Phil Gramm or George Bush offers their help, tell them thanks-but no thanks.

**• The Good News for Ann Richards:** You won. A political upset that people will talk about for years to come. Just months ago you were 15 points behind in the polls.

**• The Bad News for Ann Richards:** You won. You will now face the arduous task of trying to implement your programs. Good luck with that while you try to deal with a shortfall in revenue of about 3 billion dollars.

**• The Good News for Clayton Williams:** The oil industry seems to be picking up. That may be enough to make up the eight million dollars you lost in the campaign while you defend your bank in court from angry insurance customers.

**• The Bad News for Clayton Williams:** Nineteen months later, eight million dollars poorer and you're still not governor. Console yourself with the praise you've received on your concession speech.

**• The Good News for Incumbents:** You did much better than everyone thought you would. The House returned 96 percent of its members, and only one incumbent lost in the Senate. You fared well, considering this was supposed to be an "anti-incumbent" year.

**• The Bad News for Incumbents:** The term limitation idea is beginning to pick up steam. You had better get responsive or face the wrath of term-limiting initiatives.

So there they are, my interpretation of last Tuesday's election. Some surprises, some obvious, none that we haven't seen before or won't see again.

*Patrick Nolan is a senior political science major.*

## Mail Call

### Fundamentalism not outmoded

**EDITOR:**

I would like to offer a different perspective of a fundamentalist than Jeff Farmer has in his article "Fundamentalist religion: Its time has gone."

I can relate to a great deal of what Jeff had to say about fundamentalists taking their cause or belief to the extreme. People who use their beliefs to condone violence are obviously dangerous to us all.

Let me point out why I feel fundamentalist Christianity is not an "outmoded belief." I consider myself a fundamentalist because I believe in the fundamental teachings of Jesus Christ. He was here to teach us all the basics we all need to build from. His perfect example is a model we all should model our lives after.

It is always amazing to me how Jesus' teachings have stood the test of time, and how I can use those teachings now, right here at Texas A&M.

It is true that the world today seems more complicated than ever before. With such a diverse world population one would expect such a variety of beliefs when it comes to religion. I just have a hard time placing a fundamentalist label on people that use extreme or violent measures to force their point. I would rather call them extremist or radicals.

I can really only speak from a Christian point of view when I say that I do not feel that these violent confrontations, by people claiming they are fundamentalist, are actually valid.

Look at the life and teachings of Jesus and see how He related to a variety of personalities, not by violence, but with love. Believing in Him and His teachings are truly fundamentalist. For that reason I am proud to label myself fundamentalist.

John Braun '92

### Top 10 gubernatorial rejects

**EDITOR:**

In the spirit of David Letterman, I present **The Top 10 Worst Individuals to be Elected as Texas' Governor:**

10. Bill the Cat
9. Krusty the Clown
8. Donald Trump
7. David Duke
6. Oral Roberts
5. Rosanne Barr
4. Geraldo Rivera
3. Dan Rather
2. The Energizer Rabbit
1. Ann Richards

Brian Purcell '93

### Williams was a bad Ag

**EDITOR:**

This is a note to all of you who wanted to put Clayton Williams in office because he was an Aggie.

When Williams was asked if he would run for governor again in 1994, he said, "I may be an Aggie, but I'm not stupid." Obviously, Williams does not place much value on being an Aggie.

Yes, Aggies should stick together, but we should make sure who the true Aggies are before we jump on the bandwagon.

Ariane Catala '91

### Bonfire bus cancellations not smart

**EDITOR:**

I would like to know whose bright idea it was to cancel bus service on Thursday, Nov. 29, the night of bonfire.

First of all, many students, myself included, have classes on Thursday nights and depend on the bus system for transportation to and from class.

Second, although I am not condoning the activity, alcohol consumption is a fact of life at bonfire. Running the buses and even running extra buses the night of bonfire will definitely cut down on the number of alcohol-impaired drivers on the road.

According to the article, which appeared in a special bonfire section of The Battalion, the decision not to run the buses was due largely to the fact that a few students who rode the buses last year were being rude to the bus drivers.

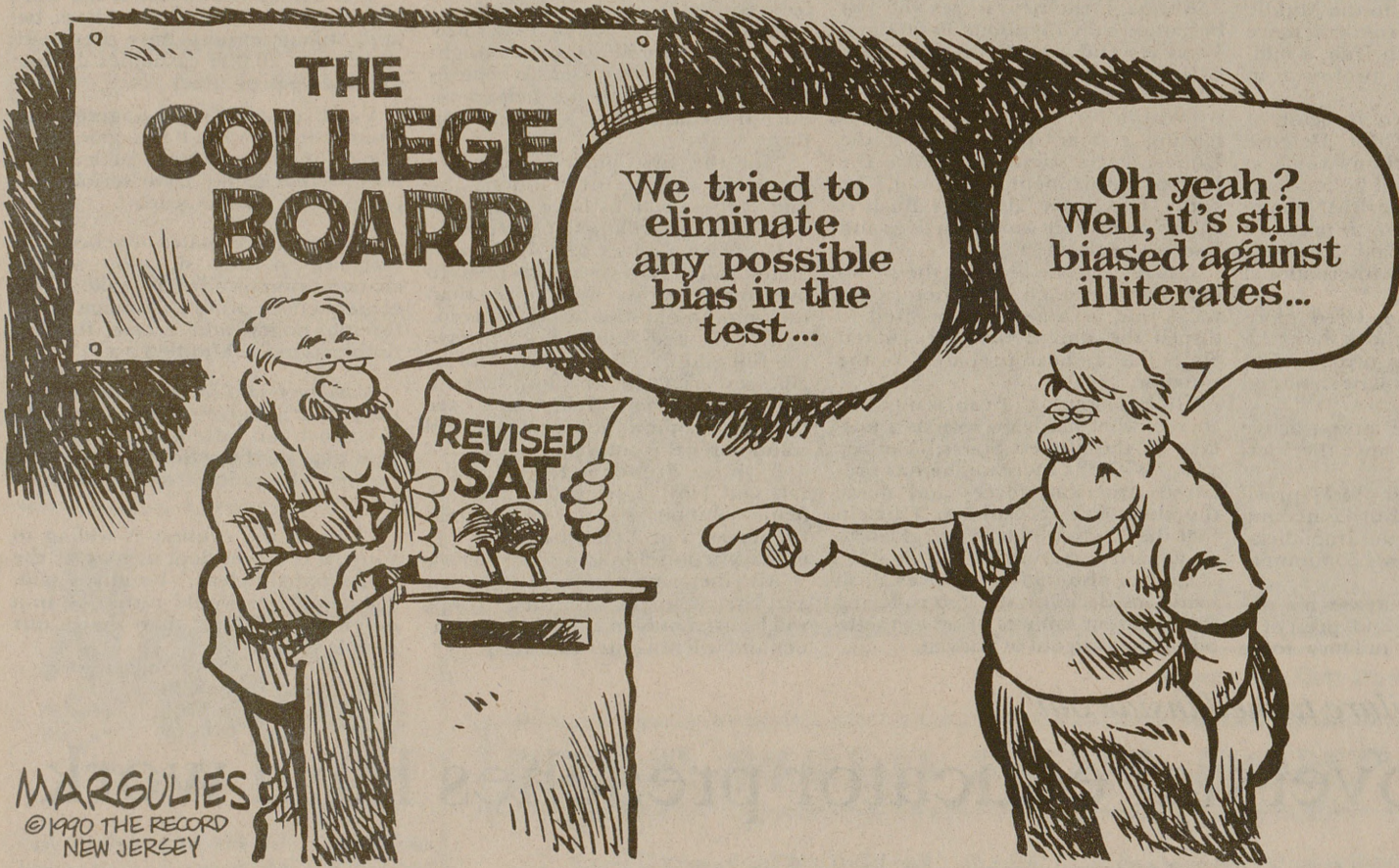
Is it fair, though, to punish the entire student body for the actions of a small number of rowdy students? I would rather see them getting rowdy on the bus than weaving back and forth in the passing lane on Texas Avenue!

I urge the person or persons responsible for the decision to cancel the bus routes on the evening of Nov. 29 to reverse the decision immediately. I also urge anyone who has paid for a bus pass and depends on the bus system for transportation to class, as well as anyone concerned for the safety of Texas A&M students, to speak up for the need to operate buses on Nov. 29.

Lawrence J. Clark  
 graduate assistant

### Have an opinion? Express it!

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. There is no guarantee that letters submitted will be printed. Each letter must be signed and must include the classification, address and telephone number of the writer. All letters may be brought to 216 Reed McDonald, or sent to Campus Mail Stop 1111.



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## Adventures In Cartooning

by Don Atkinson Jr.

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