

The Battalion

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Judicial Board ruling denies appeal for re-vote

Outcome of elections not tainted by ballot tampering, board says

By GINA HOWARD

The Battalion

The Texas A&M University Student Government Judicial Board unanimously denied appeals early Monday morning to conduct a re-vote of the 1993 student body elections.

Michelle Campbell, Student Government Election co-commissioner, said this was the best ruling the board could have made.

"This was a good decision because the outcome of a re-vote would not have been accurate because it would be different people voting," Campbell said.

An appeal was presented Friday to Election Commissioners Campbell and Michelle Cook which protested the recent student body elections, specifically citing problems with the race for senior yell leader.

The appeal was filed by Brett Anderson, a junior management major, and Michael Mason, also a junior management major.

A separate appeal was filed by Mike Healy, candidate for senior yell leader, calling for a re-vote of the entire election.

The appeals cited the following concerns about the election process:

- The two-column format per candidate of the senior yell leader portion of the ballot was not easily understood.

- Due to the poor format, the Election Commission took it upon themselves to interpret individual ballots. By erasing and remarking ballots, the Commission violated the integrity of the election.

- Ballots were left unattended in the open Student Government office.

- A violation of Article I Section IV Subsection F which states, "The Election Commission shall post sample ballots and voting instructions in front of all polling places."

Polling place workers in last week's election reported significant voter confusion on how to vote for senior yell leaders. This section of the ballot required voters to fill in two lines on the scantron for each candidate, but instructions were not clear, Anderson said.

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CRAIG FOX/The Battalion

Mark Rollins (right), a newly elected senior yell leader, explains his position on whether the senior yell elections are valid. Charges were made that the election process was improperly handled by the election committee, and that many problems existed that may have

directly affected the number of votes that yell leaders received. The Student Government Judicial Board found that problems existed in the voting process that needed to be changed, but those problems did not have an impact on the voting outcome.

Cadets appeal Election Commission fines

By GINA HOWARD

The Battalion

A Student Government Judicial Board hearing will be conducted Wednesday to discuss an appeal by twenty-five members of the Texas A&M University Corps of Cadets who were fined Thursday for election violations.

Cadets who did not win their race are not required to pay the \$25 each fine, said Jason Arbaugh, Judicial Board chairman, but all cadets involved are still appealing the ruling.

"Most of them did win, but even those who didn't are still appealing on the grounds it was not right to fine them," Arbaugh said. "They are appealing on moral grounds and I can respect that. The whole reason for the process is to try and make it fair for everyone and to allow them to appeal whatever they think is wrong."

Student Government to determine fairness of campaign violation penalty

The Election Commission issued fines to cadets running for various student offices because of a Corps senior staff memorandum distributed in Corps residence halls last Monday.

The memo, signed by Will Haraway, sergeant major of the Corps and '93-'94 Corps commander, listed each cadet running for office and the office sought.

The memo was issued because the Election Commission determined the memo was distributed during illegal campaigning hours.

The cadets were allowed to file the appeal as a group to save time, Arbaugh said.

"If it is not done as a group then it would be 25 cadets basically giving the same testimony," he said. "If the decision is over-

turned for one, it should be overturned for all."

The fines, which are added to each candidate's total election expenditures, could disqualify cadets whose total expenditure is more than the campaign spending limits set by election regulations.

Rick Taylor, student body president candidate and Corps member, said he is not worried about the fine throwing him over budget.

"Most people have enough money left," said Taylor. "They (candidates) usually don't run down to the last cent because they know things like this do happen."

Mark Rollins, a '93-'94 senior yell leader and Corps member, agreed it will have no effect on him, but could cause problems for

others.

"It's not going to affect me, but for some of the offices with smaller budgets, it could," said Rollins who won his senior yell leader position Thursday. "The whole thing is just real unfortunate. The [cadets] who have won are being looked at in a bad light."

He said he disagreed with members of Corps staff who said Thursday the fines were an attack on the Corps.

"I don't think they (Election Commission) were looking at it as a Corps thing," Rollins said. "They just really don't understand how we run our system. It's kind of a penalty for being organized."

Billy Dean, Corps scholastics officer, said he is glad for the chance to appeal.

"I am sure the process will eventually end in justice being served," Dean said.

Candidates hustle for runoff support by stressing issues

By GINA HOWARD, JEFF GOSMANO and TODD STONE

The Battalion

The two remaining candidates for student body president have been working to get a strong voter turnout for this Tuesday's runoff election.

Rick Taylor and Brian Walker earned the most votes from last week's elections, but neither garnered the 50 percent necessary for a victory. Taylor earned 38 percent to Walker's 35 percent.

Since the results were announced Friday morning, both candidates have scrambled to maintain political momentum.

"My intentions are to get people back out," said Taylor, who is a member of the Corps of Cadets. "My main priority is to get students and student organizations to vote. We had a good turnout last time, and we need to get those people back out again."

Walker, who is the speaker of the Student Senate, said he has been meeting with students and student organizations to spread the word that the election is not

over. He said getting students to vote in a runoff "is typically a problem."

"The important thing is to make sure we have the voter turnout," Walker said. "I have been hitting as many meetings as possible trying to get the students to vote."

Taylor said he will try to keep students informed of important issues until the runoff, but there are some campaign activities he cannot pursue because the runoff is so soon.

"You can't door knock, and do a lot of things you can do for the main election," he said. "I plan on answering questions people are still wanting to know."

Taylor and 24 other Cadets who ran for student leadership positions face a \$25 fine issued by the Student Government Election Commission Thursday because of a memo that was distributed in Corps residence halls during illegal campaigning hours last Monday.

The fines, which are added to each candidate's total campaign

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Taylor



Walker

President invites people to take another look at gay life

GLSS kicks off Gay Awareness Week today

By JEFF GOSMANO

The Battalion

Gay Awareness Week begins today with the hopes of making students more aware of issues that concern the gay, lesbian and bisexual community at Texas A&M University, said Clay Kilpatrick, publicity chair of the Gay and Lesbian Student Services (GLSS).

"The goal of this week is to show students you can be gay and be out on this campus, and you don't have to fear retaliation from other students," Kilpatrick said.

Kim Rettig, president of GLSS, said this week's activities aim to inform students that gay life is not isolated.

"Awareness week helps invite people on

campus to take another look at gay life," she said.

Tom Neal, the founder of the Coalition for Gay and Lesbian Student Groups, will speak today about gay activism on the student level.

Ellen Hobbs, former editor of The Battalion and writer for the Texas Triangle, will speak about journalism in the gay community, and Laurie Thomas, president of coalition for gay and lesbian student groups, will discuss racial tension in the gay community.

Although National Coming Out and National Gay Awareness Week occurs in October, GLSS celebrates Gay Awareness Week in April to recognize its anniversary as a University-recognized organization (1985).

A legal battle to establish a University-recognized GLSS began in Feb. 1977 when mem-

bers of GLSS hired an attorney to fight the University's decision not to allow a gay and lesbian campus organization.

After seven years of numerous appeals and legal work, the case was heard by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in 1984. GLSS won the appeal, but the University appealed the decision and asked the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the case.

The Supreme Court denied the University's request, and the decision handed down by the appellate court stood. On April 1, 1985, GLSS became recognized as a University organization.

Activities are scheduled Monday through Thursday and will be held in 401 Rudder at 7 p.m. For more information about this week's activities, call 847-0321.

Controversial injectable birth control now available in U.S.

By STEPHANIE PATTILLO

The Battalion

America's first injectable form of birth control, Depo-Provera, is now available to U.S. women, but not without the controversy and debate that has surrounded it for the past 20 years.

Depo-Provera is a prescription medication that provides contraceptive protection for three months and is more than 99-percent effective. The Food and Drug Administration cleared it for marketing last October after several failed attempts by The Upjohn Company to make the contraceptive available in the United States.

Though Depo-Provera fulfills an important need in birth control options for women, it has a bad

history of side effects, said Dr. Harriette Andreadis, associate English professor and women's studies instructor.

"Drugs that muck around with female organs are very dangerous," she said.

In the mid-1970s, an FDA advisory committee recommended approval for Depo-Provera as a general contraceptive. When Congress raised questions about the drug's possible links to cervical cancer, the approval was denied.

However, questions still linger today about the safety of the drug.

According to an article in "Mother Jones," Depo-Provera causes nodules in the breasts and cancer in the reproductive organs of animals. It causes "irregular bleeding disturbances" that one medical journal describes as

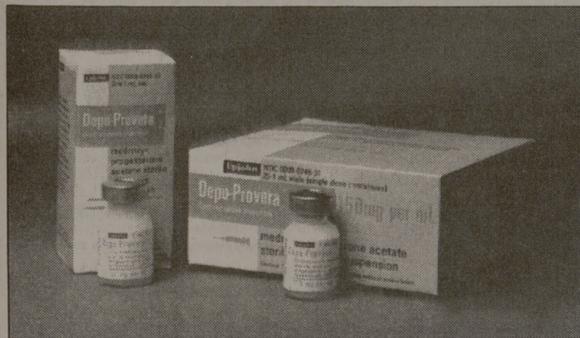
"menstrual chaos." It reduces the body's resistance to infection and causes weight gain, headaches and dizziness in some women.

The article also stated that Depo-Provera may cause long-term or permanent sterility. In 1971, high doses of Depo-Provera in beagle dogs caused cancer.

Florence Steinberg, spokesperson for The Upjohn Company, which manufactures Depo-Provera, said the beagle dog studies were not a good model to study the drug's effects, and it was these studies which kept the FDA from initially approving the drug's use.

The World Health Organization, UK regulatory authorities and many others determined that

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Depo-Provera is a controversial form of birth control now available for the first time in the U.S. The drug has a history of side effects.

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