



THE ACC EAGLE

THE STUDENT NEWS AND INFORMATION BULLETIN OF AUSTIN COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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STUDENT POWER!!&¢%*□???

The most recent EAGLE promised coverage of the issue of **student power, or student involvement in ACC's decision making processes.**

The suggested premise was that students, as other legitimate constituencies of ACC, should share some responsibility for the formation and development of their college. A form of representation ensures reasonable debate. Questions do center on the **HOW** of involvement. The UT student body voted recently in referendum to eliminate the present structure of their student involvement. **They did maintain their right to be so involved.**

At ACC the traditional structure of student power or involvement has been the student government. Its present condition is less than vibrant. What do we do?

Some germane questions concerning student power were proposed to a few individuals familiar with recent ACC activity involving student input. These summary skeleton responses are offered as opening statements for conversation. These statements were given with a candidness often surprising, and always without self-serving rhetoric. We hope these statements are catalysts for further discussion within this spirit.



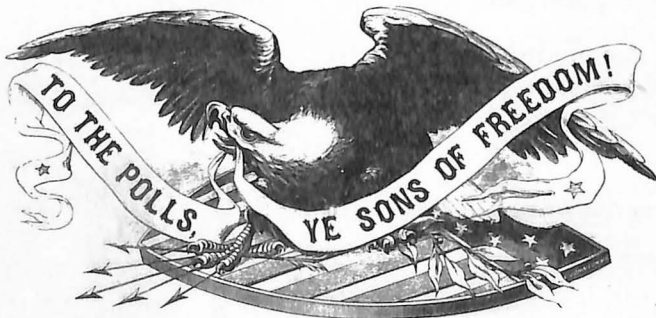
CAREER EMPHASIS WEEK APRIL 10 — 14 ALL CAMPUSES

One fundamental direction of student life is toward a career — a form of human action or creative work which benefits others, the environment, one's own spirit or body, while producing the necessary rewards or benefits which make life possible. A job, but something more than a job. A career.

ACC is necessarily involved in enhancing a student's realization of a satisfying career. It teaches classroom skills which qualify one for a job. The ACC college experience often provides human interaction experiences which prepare a person for responsible or responding relationships of trust, honesty, fruitful communication, listening, hearing, speaking, human development or life experiences.

ACC also attempts to raise student consciousness about careers and the effort required to pursue them — the work needed to find work; the component parts of various work situations; qualifications and necessary skills; directions of the job market; communicating pertinent skills in resumes and interviews; how to look for a job; opportunities to listen to people in comprehensive work situations; opportunities to talk with representatives from other colleges, regional companies, individual workers.

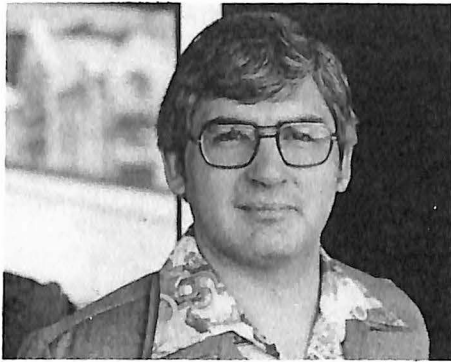
Career Emphasis Week is an integral part of the ACC experience. The schedule of events on each of the campuses is on the **centerfold** of this issue. The visitors to our campuses and the various programs are oriented toward helping us to work at finding careers.



RAMON DOVALINA DEAN OF STUDENT SERVICES

Interviewer: Students at the University of Texas recently voted on the relevance of student government to their situation. Their recommendation was to disband it. At ACC, is student government relevant?

Dovalina: Student government at ACC is less relevant than at UT. I mean that the structure itself has not worked here at all. The student council has not been able to raise a quorum because students simply do not want to give up the necessary time to attend a meeting every other Saturday. The structure is simply antiquated for the community college. What we really need is a smaller, although representative, group to speak on behalf of students.



Interviewer: Why is it even important to have student representation?

Dovalina: Of all the different constituencies on campus, the students are the most important. It is absolutely essential that they have a say in the decision-making process. We all are here, after all, because of the students.

Interviewer: The decision to do away with student government will have to be decided by the students through student government?

Dovalina: Well, I am not sure exactly, but it may come down to some type of referendum. Whether or not the questions would be asked in a special election or when the students register still has to be decided. We'll have to decide. An alternative should be on the ballot, or better yet, a number of alternatives. It's kind of like throwing away your only pair of pants before you go to buy a new pair.

DR. CECIL GROVES PRESIDENT OF ACC

Interviewer: President Groves, is there a need for student government?

Groves: There is a very important need for student government, or at least we need something that acts as the vehicle for transmitting student ideas to the staff, faculty and administration.



Interviewer: Why is that important?

Groves: For two reasons. First, because participation in what you would call "student affairs" is part of the learning process for students. It helps them to think in terms of teamwork and cooperation. Secondly, it is important from the administration viewpoint. We get a chance to more accurately gauge the success or failure of programs through students' feedback. Then, too, there are times when change is needed. It is usually the students who first feel the need. We need their input.

Interviewer: How do you get that type of input now?

Groves: Well, now it is coming to me although not along the most direct of routes. Of course, each of the area deans lets me know what is happening on his or her campus. The dean for student services has a close relationship with many of the more active students on campus. The faculty passes along things and of course we have committees that have student representation.

One thing is certain: it is absolutely essential that we have that participation if we are to grow in a constructive way.

GREG HALE - STUDENT BODY PRESIDENT

Interviewer: Looking back on your term as student body president, Greg, do you have any regrets? Are there any things that you would have liked to have done that you didn't?

Hale: Well, I think that we did everything possible, given the participation that we had and the level of student apathy. We had free films on the campus and we had a talent show and I thought that each of these was successful. They were successful in that they were a beginning. If I have any regrets it is that we didn't have enough of these types of activities.

Interviewer: Why not?

Hale: Well, for a number of reasons. First, because there is such a diversity of interests within the community college. I think that it is difficult with a limited budget to appeal to very many. What I am getting at is that the activities must be, to a certain degree, organized by the students and not for the students. Which brings me to the second reason for apathy. To generate that kind of interest on the part of the students you need strong leadership. On the part of student government it just has not been there. As student body president I will accept part of that blame but not all of it. The student council just reflected the same attitude that the students have about self-determination. They just would not meet. Although more students voted in the last election than ever before, we never once were able to get a quorum at the student council meetings.

GREGORY
HALE



PRESIDENT

Interviewer: So Greg, do you feel somewhat bitter about student government?

Hale: It has been frustrating at times but I don't think that we should dwell on that. We should take the lessons that we have learned and put them to use. It seems obvious to me that student government, as it is now organized, is not going to work. Activities take planning — time.

Interviewer: What type of format would you suggest for a successful Student Government?

Hale: Well, I think of two important things that students should have. One is a place where they can meet without hustle and bustle, somewhere that will be open to the students whenever they want to use it. The other important thing that the student body needs is a place to lodge grievances whether they be primarily academic or otherwise. There is too close a relationship right now between the administrators and the faculty for students to complain about courses or grades or whatever.

What we probably need is some kind of ombudsman who acts as a middleman and is independent of the faculty and the administration.

I do believe that there is a definite need for students to have a voice in the decision-making process. Without that voice, the college will veer farther and farther away from what is relevant. On the other hand the students will veer farther and farther away from constructive criticism if they do not have healthy dialogues with the staff and faculty, not to mention the administration.



TRISH
LENZENE

VICE-PRESIDENT

DR. PAUL MEACHAM DEAN AREA I

Interviewer: Do you miss student input?

Meacham: It's wrong to think I do not get ideas from students. Students have directly asked me to organize courses in physical education and first aid. Students have also pointed out the great availability of the gym facilities. These and other ideas were not greatly different from those of some faculty and staff. But they were given to me and I did appreciate them. I tried to act on them.



Interviewer: What do you hope for in the future?

Meacham: I am especially interested in knowing how students feel about the level and type and appropriateness of the instruction that they receive here at ACC. I need input about the classroom situation as they see it. I also realize that this information has to be handled in a way that is just to all. But I want to respond to student needs.

Interviewer: What other items are you interested in for student development?

Meacham: I want to know what support services they find desirable or necessary. I want to know how we can provide programs useful to the surrounding area of the campus. We did income tax counseling, helped with the blood drive, and cooperated with the sickle cell anemia campaign. But this is a community college and we have to relate to the needs of the immediate community and to the larger community. I ask myself how we can use the experience of students to provide help. We have to be more like what we say we are, a community college.

DR. GWEN RIPPEY DEAN AREA II

Interviewer: Is there a need for participation of students in anything besides attending classes?

Rippey: I would say very definitely that we need to have students involved in many, many activities. I'm not sure that student government, the way it is now, is the right answer. But I do feel that students need some kind of participation. This is part of the education of the student body. We could, perhaps, go to an open forum where students would have the opportunity to ask questions of the administration. A town meeting type of thing once or twice a month could go a long way toward eliminating apathy.

Interviewer: Would the main beneficiaries of your open forum suggestion be the students?

Rippey: No, we would all benefit. First of all, we could better learn the needs of the students and respond to them better.

Interviewer: Whom do you see as being responsible for initiating interest?

Rippey: I think it needs everyone's support but I would think that the main impetus should come out of Student Services working with faculty and administration.

Interviewer: Why are students apathetic?

Rippey: Maybe they have not been given the opportunity. They need choices of activities. They want to get involved but we have not provided them with an adequate place to do that.

Interviewer: What kind of participation would students have in the ideal structure?

Rippey: Well, I can tell you that one of the first questions would be, "What are you going to do about parking?" The second one would be about the quality of food in the cafeteria. But I think that any kind of interest would be welcomed. We can form ad hoc committees that the students would sit on to look into various areas. We need to have a vehicle by which student interest and ideas can be communicated. Veterans benefits, summer school — things like that need student insight. I think that participation would be welcomed.

GRADUATION

Candidates for graduation during the Spring semester should make arrangements with their instructors to complete their course requirements at least one (1) week early.

Since the last day of classes and final exams for this semester is May 11, candidates for graduation should finish requirements by May 4.

Graduation is scheduled for May 12.

Further information is available at Central Admissions and Records Office, phone extension #121.

THE GUTHRIES, GUITARISTS

A significantly quiet audience filled the Ridgeview seminar room for the informance by Robert Guthrie and his wife, Mary. As had been promised, Robert Guthrie talked about his selections before he played them. This exposition added a fascinating dimension to the program.



Mary Guthrie summed up their feelings: "We are thrilled if our audiences quietly listen to a musical form which they may not have heard before. We are doubly rewarded if they are convinced we can really play the guitar, even without enormous amplifiers." This concert, hosted by the Office of Student Activities, convinced at least the Ridgeview audience.

THE HISTORIC TEXAS HILL COUNTRY Saturday, April 8, 19788

Roger Griffin once more takes up the mantle of his Texas forefathers to lead city folk into the Texas frontier. The horse has moved aside for the bus and the trail grub can be augmented by picnic baskets. But the trail still leads West to Fredericksburg. The hill country maintains its grand austerity. Griffin does not fear to stand on his reputation of being a steady scout on the trail and of showing urbanites a memorable view of some nationally known historic sites and scenes.



Caution: reservations limited, but several other field trips are planned each semester.

CANDIDATES FORUM

Six of the seven candidates in the AISD school board election presented their respective platforms at Ridgeview lounge March 28. The program, organized by Rosemary Gillett-Karam and the Ad Hoc Speakers Committee, sought to present the candidates and the issues to the local community.

Perhaps the candidates spoke to the keen interest of their audience by endorsing proposals supporting ACC. But, whatever, the videotaped program will not show the audience as a one issue audience. The diversity of questions proposed to the panel of candidates revealed a multiplicity of concerns.

City Councilman Lee Cooke concluded the evening with a presentation of arguments against the proposed revision of the city charter creating single member districts.



Donald Grace, Assistant Area Dean, greeted the guests. Roland Hayes, Director of Arts and Sciences, together with his timekeepers, kept the program flowing smoothly.

SCOTT MILLER

Scott Miller has resigned editorship of THE EAGLE. Only those who have experienced first hand the time and imaginative energy which he applied to the direction of this student news and information bulletin will understand the responsibilities which others will now share. We thank him for his leadership. His editorial desk awaits applications for a new editor.

NOTE: The interviews in this edition were supervised by Ken Hoagland and Karen Mulholland. For lack of space they are shorter than the excellent copy provided. They are a beginning.

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Offices:

- A) 900 Thompson (Ridgeview campus) Room 500E
 - B) 1212 Rio Grande (Rio Grande campus) Room 209
 - C) Central Office — P.O. Box 2165, Austin, Texas 78768
- Telephone: 476-6381, ext. 59 or 143 or leave message at 156.

Editorial Board Advisor: Ed Lundy