



The Trinitonian

Volume 86, Number 23

The Campus Newspaper of Trinity University

14 April 1989

Students question voting procedures

BY JULIE POUCHER

Worries about election fraud forced the elections committee to nullify Tuesday's votes in the campus-wide Student Association and Coates Center Program Board elections. The committee re-started the voting procedures Wednesday and extended the voting period to Thursday evening.

It was brought to the attention of the neutral elections committee (appointed by the SA Senate) that the blue dot marking on the back of each voter's Vali-dine could be removed with nail polish remover, alcohol or soapy water. The dot was intended to signify the student had already voted. At this point the committee, according to SA President and committee member Ben Hughes, tried to "correct a mistake before it [became] larger."

Committee member Mike Bacon said the decision to re-start elections, using residence hall lists and Vali-dine verification, was the best option. He commended elections committee members Hughes and Heather Harvey for quickly publicizing the change to faculty and students.

Large signs posted in Mabey Hall and the Coates Center and fliers mailed to students Wednesday morning asked students to vote again if they had voted Tuesday.

Candidate for CCPB president Ellen

Fenwick and candidate for SA president Rick Bales both said they felt the situation was handled the best way it could have been given the circumstances.

Fenwick said she did not think the date extension would make a big difference in the number of voters or the outcome of the elections.

SA Senator Raymond Robertson said, "More people will realize it is a close race...they will be more inclined to vote because their vote will mean more."

Six hundred forty-six ballots were collected Wednesday alone, according to Hughes. He said last year's final ballot included slightly more than 900 votes.

Hughes said for as long as he can remember the election monitors have just marked the Vali-dine to ensure no one votes twice. He did not anticipate the possibility of removal of the marking.

"It never occurred to me that people would remove the marks. It was obviously an oversight on my part. It was beyond my comprehension that a college student would do something like that," said Hughes.

Former Student Association member David Schlosser conferred with former elections committee member J.J. Baskin, who said in his memory the committee has always both marked the Vali-dine and checked the

GABRIEL S. GILLIGAN III



Students vote for their favorite candidates (again)

name off in the registration book.

Assistant Dean of Students Thurman Adkins said he was surprised the monitors went back to just marking the Vali-dine. He said in the past the committees would test out the permanence of the marker when using this method.

Adkins also commented on what Hughes described as "paranoia" over cheating possibilities.

"These things often happen in an election. It's always between those who believe they are running the elections fairly and those people who are running for office and have dreamed up some way that cheating could occur," Adkins said.

Candidate for SA Vice President Jeff

Leiman said he blames the officials in the election. He said the "propriety" of some members of the election committee "is questionable." He said he saw Hughes and Beth Claxton, elections committee members, wearing buttons supporting candidate for SA President Mark Livingston after Monday night's Speakout.

He said he feels the committee is letting Hughes run the election. "He made honest mistakes, but eight people were there to check his work and none of them did," Leiman said.

Hughes said, "I, as an individual, have an opinion about the election. As a committee,

see **ELECT**
page 14

SA Election Results (winners in italics)

SA President:

Mark Livingston 460
Rick Bales 443

SA Vice-president:

Jeff Leiman 499
James Jennings 292

SA Senator:

Joe Hootman 767
Heather Brunner 594
Melissa Rychener 575
Andrew Mansfield 517
Kelly King 505
Geraldine Ender 455
Kevin Foyle 426
Gina McDaniel 402
Kristine Edde 391
Scott Kubie 376
Alycia Tulloch 373
Dean Cooledge 362
Harvard Muhm 263
Todd Bennington 216

CCPB President:

Ellen Fenwick 659
Angela Breidenstein 212

Referendum:

For: 466
Against: 74

Teers put on probation

BY DAVID QUIN

Dean of Students Coleen Grissom on Wednesday found the Triniteers guilty of violating the University Hazing policy and has placed the Teers on probation through May 1990. The probation allows the Teers to continue to function as an organization though they may not extend bids to a pledge class next year.

The charge stems from an event that occurred March 30 when Teer pledge Andy Ellenthal, who is Jewish, wore a Nazi uniform as part of his pledging activities. University and Texas hazing laws prohibit all activities that could harm either the physical or mental health of pledges.

In a memorandum to the Teers explaining her decision, Grissom said she believed Ellenthal "was subjected to subtle pressures which resulted in his willingness, even eagerness, to don a uniform which was demeaning, humiliating, that

adversely affected his dignity."

Grissom rejected Ellenthal's argument that he was not forced to wear to the uniform, saying "within the context of pledging, such claims and assertions are suspect." She said a pledge's desire to be accepted into the organization creates "considerable pressure to perform, to conform, to please."

In addition to prohibiting the Teers from participating in formal Rush, Grissom imposed three other sanctions on the Teers. The Teers must sponsor and attend an "inter-group training workshop" open to the entire university community. Grissom said the workshop will help "sensitize" those attending to the "differences and similarities between every sort of person." In addition, each current member of the Teers must complete 25 hours of community service, and the Teer leadership must submit to a detailed description of the purposes and activities of their future pledging program.

President of the Triniteers Pete Sturdivant said Grissom had found the Teers guilty before she held the informal meeting to determine the organization's guilt. "She had already said on the news that the Teers will be punished," he said. He also said Assistant Dean of Students Thurman Adkins, both in a memorandum to Grissom and in

last week's *Trinitonian*, had said the Teers were guilty. "In my mind, it seemed, and publicly they had already expressed that they had, in fact, made up their minds," Sturdivant said.

"We presented the best case possible, but you already knew the

see **TEERS**
page 8

Kinky fun on the
high seas

see story
page 18

Fiesta Fun in
old SA

see stories
pages 12-13

SAVE combats hunger
on local and global
levels

see special insert



San Antonio Volunteer Effort