

Barriers in path

Your editorial suggestion that the silence of the majority may be because the students here don't need or want a student congress is absurd. Nobody is trying to coerce students into participation in campus government.

In fact, barriers in the path of such participation tend to coerce in the other direction. From amongst my experiences I field some examples.

In the spring of '73 I submitted a letter to the editor of Shorthorn. The then letter policy read 'The Shorthorn welcomes and will print ALL

letters from readers subject to editing for length and obscene or libelous material." However, it was made obvious that my interest was not welcome and Shorthorn refused to print the letter.

There was nothing obscene or libelous in the letter so it was billed as long and garrulous. I edited the letter to half its original length and resubmitted it. It was billed as long, garrulous and CONTENTS GENERALLY UNACCEPTABLE.

This time it was made clear to me that the length of the letter was just an excuse and that Shorthorn felt a compulsion to black out what I had written.

This year, SAB's International Student Reception, if not a farce, is at least a study in insincerity. Also, Dr. Nedderman may have been too busy canvassing for the Presidency at UTA, but then, at least, Dean Wayne Duke of Student Life could have attended. Just last year Dean Duke was complaining, at this same venue, that the Internationals were doing nothing. At that time I had spoken up and pointed out to him about half a dozen programmes which the Internationals had on their own initiated and executed, and which had been hindered due to the lack of any support from the school.

It is popular to blame the students, or scream apathy. Quite often, however, the onus lies somewhere else.

Congress has taken the cake for remaining anonymous. This is its greatest failing. The recent step to break this tradition is laudable. Congress must realize that IT is the moving force.

It must change the present pattern of itself creating the apathy, with the concurrence of Shorthorn, to that of a more desirable situation, where Congress, in conjunction with the Shorthorn, create and veild the interest and commitments of the students.

In 1971, while speaking at UTA, Jeff Jones, the then UT Austin student body president, declared the UT Arlington student government and press as farcial and ineffective. It is time to recognize that the so-called silence of the majority is an affirmation of this point.

Zohair Saifuddin Mogri
sophomore,
electrical engineering