



editorial

The intent of this edition is to expose to the students long standing criticisms of the present structure of student government. The Sentinel editors believe that these criticisms are valid: the structure of the ASFC government needs to be changed.

What we hope to initiate is a new concern for changing that structure and we intend to provide in the Sentinel a forum for further discussion of the needs of Foothill students and the possible forms that government might take in order to meet these needs.

We neither support nor oppose any candidate or slate of candidates for the present election. We do recommend that you vote yes on the proposition that asks: "Is there a need for change in the organization and structure of the present ASFC student government?"

A function of a newspaper, beyond reporting the news, is to attempt to inform the public of issues and situations which, in the editors opinion, are important to the readers. This is particularly the case in

areas which concern the established institutions that exercise a control over our lives. It is in this capacity that we present the critical essays that will be found on pages one and four of this special report.

We recognize that full coverage of the opinions involved in the controversy of student government have not been included in this edition, it is our hope that we will create a response by reopening the examination of what is wrong with our government and that from this response an affirmative and multi-dimensional perspective will develop.

The Sentinel is dedicated to continuing and broadening the communication of ideas necessary to the further development of student awareness and the growth of responsive institutions. We solicit your views on the controversy surrounding the need for change and pledge ourselves to providing full coverage of all opinions.

Kenneth Wilson

Many moons ago, student government was an influential force on this campus, when the mean age of students was 19 years old. The functions of the ASFC met the needs of 19-year-old people who apparently wanted the auspices of a government without having to bear the responsibilities that accompanied it.

And so it was written in the ASFC Constitution that "this body was to be subject to administrative approval and control." This very clause, while consoling students of yesterday's needs, makes the ASFC in today's light nothing more than a fraud. The average Foothill student in 1974 is 26-years-old, and the farcical government body "representing" him is an insult even to the intelligence of today's 19-year-old.

There is talk of revitalizing this archaic structure. How can you revitalize something that reeks with the stench of having died long ago? The best thing to do with a decaying corpse is to bury it.

Bobbie Phillips

A Critique of the Body Politic

— Analysis —

View from within

By TOM SPIRES

Here we are again at election time on the Foothill campus. A new group of energetic, politically-minded students are voicing their aspirations for the vacated offices of ASFC. Their energy is directed and for some reason their eyes are closed. This unseeing attachment to the present structure of student government is not a new or unique attitude for ASFC aspirants.

I remember early Spring of 1973 when another group of energetic, politically-minded students made their move for the ASFC council seats. Buried somewhere deep in the rhetoric of the Affirmative Action Coalition party was I, charging blindly ahead on the surrealistic platform of 9th grade civics cliches, I sincerely believed that a change could come from

within. I blamed the retiring membership of ASFC for its consistent failure to act. And they, though I paid little or no heed, blamed the structure and the Administration. The realistic, experiential impact of their words was overwhelmed; by the support I solicited from others as ignorant as I, and, from the administrators who were as enthusiastic as I to rebuild from within the failing Constitutional structure. Onwards and upwards I rushed until finally, after generating the necessary votes from my personal group of friends, the title was won. I was Senior Senator of Foothill College. Oh, the good I would do, the successes I would collect. My name was prime for the annals of

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The Process

By BOB DeGRASSE

As Student Body elections approach, we begin to hear the rhetoric associated with "free elections." The words and symbols of the "democratic process" are used indiscriminately to attract votes. This rhetoric would not be as repulsive if it were true; but after a few doses of student politics one begins to wonder how "democratic" the process really is. We, the Students of Foothill College have a Constitution, a tightly controlled constitution, subject to the approval of the Administration, the Governing Board of Foothill College and anyone else in sight. We hold

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What's it mean?

By ANNETTE CLAMPITTE

Our campus is a background for changes. One change that can be seen is an appearance of a new group of people every six months or so who want to get involved in student government.

They come together fired with urgent messages about "student needs, our right to self-determination, student control of funds, and power to the people!" Some have designs for action, some have questions, "How could this be better? Why isn't this working?" So they campaign, get elected, and become representatives in Associated Students Foothill College (ASFC). Each group of people attempts change. The platform statements and what happens in their period of involvement makes me ask, "What is it?"

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In Spring, 1972, one of many cycles began with Frank Pretty, running for President of ASFC on a slate saying, "With energy, will, and drive, things could be changed for the better. Student funds are being misused. Priorities have changed. We need to help the people."

The struggle of priorities took the student government and the administration to court. The conflict was about redistribution of funds from the Athletic department activities towards child care, legal aid, and the Multi-Cultural Program. Co-Curricular Council was formed and two student body cards resulted for sale in Fall, 1972.

We hear Frank Pretty's November 7, 1972 final resignation, "People that think that the ASFC has any real power are near-sighted. The only time we have power is when the administration approves of what we're doing. When they disagree with us, they find ways to work around us or they ignore us altogether."

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November, 1972. A new group of students campaign to "bring the students of Foothill back together with one card sale. The ASFC should set up a book loan fund, and fund publications such as a Black student newspaper, a women's publication, Chicano and Asian publications." (Doc Goodman) "If student government is going to exist, it should be for the students, not despite them." (Carl Wesley) "The last council did as they said they would, they acquired a legal aid and child care, however, they did not meet the needs of the whole student body. Without change, the ASFC will die." (Steve Block) "We must re-orient the priorities to include and incorporate both councils for the interests of the predominate ideals of the entire student body." (Dave Rogers) "In the past, student government has had more trouble deciding what action

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What is good government?

By JEFFREY PATTY

Campaign rhetoric, the slogan-plan-promises, fades away before the last ballot is counted. All the candidates, winners and losers, dutifully remove their colorful literature from the walls and doors according to the provisions of the elections code.

The students who voted relax for two quarters, secure in the belief that by voting for the candidates of their choice they have fulfilled the

symbolic exercise of participation in the governmental process. The students who did not vote relax too; they won't hear accusations of "apathy" until the next election.

The newly elected ASFC officers glow with energy as they assume their positions on the campus council. Those people who ran for office and lost most likely disappear from the scene, their plans and ideas scattered and unavailable to the group called the

Campus Council.

The cycle of student government returns to the election phase every two quarters. Unfortunately, the student government defined by the ASFC Constitution is without the power to govern. The Campus Council is "subject to the control and regulations of the governing board of the Foothill Junior College District."

The ASFC Constitution, by
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★★★ ASFC ELECTION ★★★

ASFC ELECTIONS WILL BE HELD FEBRUARY 25, 26 AND 27. ALL STUDENTS REGISTERED FOR WINTER QUARTER ARE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE CAMPUS CENTER.

Constitutional Party

We are for a revitalized, strong student government. We believe total involvement in Student Government is an asset to Foothill College. We believe that Student Government is useful to the student community. We believe there should be more cooperation between student clubs to avoid conflict in activities. We believe in true democratic expression on campus. We believe in a means of communication between students and administration.

- Mary Hamilton for President
- Paul Haje for Vice President of Activities
- Rick Vitrano for Vice President of Administration
- Michael Taylor for Senior Senator
- Juan Ramirez for Senator
- Kate Minott for Senator
- Dale Kinoshita for Senator
- Cyril L. Fabio III for Senator
- Teri Black for Senator

Which of these campus issues would you like to see the Constitutional Party work on for ASFC?

1. Campus Center prices and quality of food
2. Scheduling of classes
3. Extension of Health Care
4. Student Credit Union-extend Student Services
5. Better club coordination
6. Student activity card system (one or two cards)
7. Your suggestion

We believe government should be truly representative. This brief survey will give us an idea of what you the students are concerned about on campus. A comprehensive survey will be run by our government, when elected, in the Spring Quarter.

Presidential Candidates

Mary Hamilton

I am running an action campaign and plan to run an action government as President of the A.S.F.C.

I believe government should be an active force on campus and it is not enough to wait for someone else to get things done. In running my campaign I have looked for and brought together action people that think positive to improve quality of life on campus.

It is time to get things done on



Mary Hamilton

campus. I have already begun by organizing a hard working, problem solving campaign team, the Constitutional Party.

I have begun a complete analysis of student needs all the way from the constitution to the everyday complaints of students. I strongly feel that positive action can solve problems and benefit all the students.

I am running to represent all the students and I will put together a campus government organization that is an excellent as the rest of the programs at Foothill College, and try to add one more reason why we have one of the best colleges in the country.

To do an effective job I seek support and participation of individuals from organized groups on campus such as BSU, Asian Students, MECHA, Handicapped Students and others in the party and as candidates. All students are welcome to voice their opinions and concerns to our party; and after the elections, to our government. Then we can organize our energies to research, educate, gain support and initiate intelligent action.

I am available for more specific information every morning from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. in the Constitutional Party headquarters in the campus center.

Revitalize!
Mary Hamilton
Constitutional Party

Young Socialists

John Kenney

The Young Socialists is conducting its campaign for positions of the ASFC Campus Council as part of the fight against attacks on the youth and the working class. This struggle will not be resolved in the narrow confines of student politics, but is being fought through the mobilization of the working class to take political power.



John Kenney

As a result of Nixon's conscious policy of mass unemployment, combined with the drive to cut wages and the continuous rise in the cost of living, many students are forced to discontinue their education.

First of all, WE DEMAND THE RIGHT TO A JOB. To provide jobs for all, the work week must be reduced to 30 hours at 40 hours' pay. To fight the closures, basic industry must be nationalized under the workers' control.

We reject exploitive wages which most youth are forced to accept. We demand union wages.

We demand grants to cover the living expenses for students unable to find employment. With each rise in the cost of living, there must be a corresponding increase in the amount of the grant.

All forms of racial discrimination must be eliminated. Our answer to racism and other attempts to split the working class of students is a united fight of students, staff, and members of the American Federation of Teachers for our basic rights.

The Young Socialists intends to make this electoral campaign a vehicle in which to fight for this program among masses of youth. This is the program we fight for, not only in discussions and debates, but also in the organizing of our statewide march for jobs. This is a call to action for the unions to use their power to drive Nixon out and construct the alternative of a labor party committed to Socialist policies. In the course of this we see constructing a new, revolutionary leadership.

VOTE YOUNG SOCIALIST
JOHN KENNEY FOR
ASFC PRESIDENT
GIANMARA MUSSIO
FOR SENIOR SENATOR

Robin Roberts

Traditionally, candidates elected to office are the hungry, go-getters who are willing to yell, scream, debate, and flaunt themselves before the public. Once in office these go-getters either



Robin Roberts

continue going and getting or sit back and admire themselves. Most of the student body at this school are not go-getters and hustlers, however. They are the apathetic

majority. If more students were anxious and interested they would show this interest by voting in each election. But they don't -- care or vote.

So I, as a non-hungry, non-aggressive person am willing to lend myself to the government to represent that great mass of the student population, the apathetic students, who get walked over every quarter by the aggressive student government and its representatives.

We need a casual government, one which can deal with and for the majority not yet represented. A government that is relaxed and effective rather than anxious and incompetent. I can't make any real promises, of course, but at least you know that I won't break them later.

Robin Roberts
ASFC Presidential Candidate

V.P. Admin.

Ron Adams



Ron Adams

My name is Ron Adams. I'm running for Vice President of Administration under the Constitutional Party.

My primary objective is the restoration of student involvement and reunification of the system.

Rick Vitrano

I am Rick Vitrano and I'm running for A.S.F.C. Vice-President of Administration because I believe in a strong student oriented government. We in the Constitutional Party believe



Rick Vitrano

this the first step toward solving problems such as high prices in the campus center and the issue of a one student body card. Myself and the party firmly believe that greater student involvement is the key to making Foothill government work.

If student government works you will see more concerts, dances, speakers, services and club cooperation. This can work, and I promise, and my party promises, to work toward this goal with action and new ideas.

My involvement, in the car pool, the Foothill Political Forum, and student government has added much to my understanding of students wants and needs. We in the Constitutional Party are in-

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SPECIAL REPORT STAFF BOX

Due to the holidays the Sentinel was not scheduled to be published this week. However, due to the elections and the related controversies, we feel it was in the best interests of the students to publish this special report.

The Editors for this edition are, in alphabetical order:

WENDY GREENE
JEFFREY PATTY

BOBBIE PHILLIPS
TOM STIENSTRA

KENNETH WILSON

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interested in the problems of handicapped students, the black students and students who are alienated from Foothill. If elected I will devote my full attention and energy toward making student government work for the students. If you want to discuss a more detailed outline of my ideas, I will be having office hours from 8:30 to 9:30 everyday in the campus center.

V.P. Activities

Paul Haje

Energize, excite, involve, create. As do think, in-Act and talk. Be as you are. INVOLVE EXPRESS.

Paul K. Haje

Candidate for Vice President of Activities



Paul Haje

Senior Senator Candidates

Michael Taylor

I hope to inform the student of the issues affecting them. This includes extra curricular activities, financing, and other important issues. I will attempt to learn more of the needs of the individual students, and do my best to help them meet them.

I will be working with Mary Hamilton and others to affect these much needed changes as Senior Senator of A.S.F.C.



Michael Taylor

Gianmara Mussio

Gianmara Mussio is a candidate for Senior Senator, he was unavailable for statement or photograph.

★ Senatorial Candidates ★

Teri Black

I was born in Kansas City, Kansas. I left Kansas at the age of 5, to come to California with my family. We first lived in Menlo Park and then East Palo Alto and finally Sunnyvale.

I've lived in Sunnyvale since I was in the third grade attending



Teri Black

grammar school, junior high school, and high school there. This is my second quarter here at Foothill and I intend to transfer next year to the Claremont Colleges.

My hobbies and interests lie in

the area of reading, dance, travel and swimming. My major here at Foothill is communications. As you might have guessed I enjoy talking to people and helping them out in the best way I can.

When I first came to Foothill I knew nothing about the student government, except that it was disorganized. That's why I am running for senator, to straighten the whole mess out.

When in high school I was the President of the B.S.U. for one year; I learned a lot and I am willing to continue learning and I also held a seat on the student council. Though there was only eleven of us (B.S.U.), we were very effective. Everyone did their part and we were successful. We received a lot of money, did a lot of things, and went a lot of places.

I would really be interested in anything you would have to say about Foothill, good or bad. So if you see me, feel free, I mean really free to stop me and comment.

By the way, I'm running with the Constitutional Party. No student government can participate without students, so feel free to participate.

Cyril L. Fabio III

The Constitutional Party is concerned with administrative, academic, and curriculum design, and with social and monetary policies affecting the lives and destinies of the Foothill College student body. The development of the Child Care Center and the energy conservation attempts through the car pools are examples of student activity on campus.

Our intentions are to build a stronger union and meet the specific needs of existing organizations and the student body at large.

Don't expect your representatives to come from the administration.

Vote for us, the Constitutional Party. We're for YOU.

Cyril L. Fabio
Candidate for Senator
Constitutional Party



Dale Kinoshita

Student Government does exist and I want to make it more real to more students. My name is Dale Kinoshita and I am running for Senator. The less communication between students and the government the more distant government seems.

I want better communication and everyone actively participated and represented in the Student Government. I will work for better communication and a more active representation for students, clubs and multicultural organizations.



Scott Johnson

1. Help student workers--participated on wage hike recently (Principled Criticism)

2. Formulate with other groups and describe a game plan emerging from the Foothill Academic Jungle.

3. Participation--the only way to achieve opinions about reality of student government.

4. To help save dying souls and join with those who emphasize student culture existence--its importance and improvement.



Kate Minott

My name is Kate Minott and I am a candidate for Junior Senator. The continuation of Foothill's student government is being challenged, the question centering on whether or not to abolish it. That attitude purportedly reflects



Kate Minott

the prevailing mood of student apathy which I believe to be an incorrect assumption. For the most part, students are ambivalent and not negative towards the Campus Council.

The Campus Council is a viable force not to be discounted. But we need to hear from it and this does not solely mean an appeal to the students to attend meetings. Many cannot or don't care to, so the subjects discussed and any con-

clusions shall be publicized via the newspaper or the bulletin boards.

For those who want to participate or observe, we propose to have bi-weekly meetings on Mondays at 10 A.M. and Wednesdays at 1 P.M., with a posted format to be concluded by an open discussion period.

Campus issues tend to be seen in relevance to each individual and I know that financial security is a major concern. At this moment, I am uncertain as to exactly why the price of textbooks is so high or why the cafeteria food seems relatively overpriced. But these are issues because they concern the financial and gastronomical well-being of many students and these matters should be investigated and publicized.

We should unite the two student body social activities cards under one heading, with a set fee, and the discount applicable to all school activities. No more of these bureaucratic squabbles on film nights when the cashier refuses agreement to a discount merely because the card you paid for did not cost enough.

We ought to make contacts with commercial enterprises in the community to investigate possible discounts on merchandise with presentation of the student body card.

It seems preferable that the student government be revitalized, and not dissolved. Our party, the Constitutional Party, came together as concerned individuals to discuss and develop solutions to the varying concerns.

Juan Ramirez

John Ramirez is running for Junior Senate on the Constitutional Party slate. He is an ex-marine who fought in Vietnam; he is head of MECHA at Foothill; and he is helping with the farmworkers' struggle.

Ramirez' main concern is to establish and maintain a democracy at Foothill. "The idea of democracy is in danger on this campus. Democracy and constitutional government are practicable here. It is a small arena, but an important one."

Ramirez says that "student government is being threatened with abolishment. There is an all out effort by the administration to abolish it."

Ramirez sees the student government of Frank Purdy, student body president, '72-73, as the last one that had power to help students. That government made sure that student money was spent for making life easier for students, he says. Purdy's government started the child-care center.

Ramirez sees many resources on campus not being utilized. "There is a whole television studio not being used." He sees T.V. and movies as the people's media today. Ramirez would like to see a Communications major offered at Foothill, involving radio, T.V.,

newspaper, and every other relevant communications skill.

Three other concerns of Ramirez are; (1) the high price and low quality of food in the Owl's Nest; (2) the high price of books; and (3) the minimal health services that



Juan Ramirez

Foothill now is providing. He would like to see (a) a full-time doctor on campus, (b) a larger health department staff, and (c) v.d. tests at Foothill.

"The people in the Constitutional Party are truly concerned with providing basic need that many who go to school can't afford." Ramirez wants to see a government that students can go to for help. He wants students who are not politically involved with government to still be able to use government for practical purposes.

All students and other interested persons are invited to an open-mike discussion sponsored by the Constitutional Party Thursday, February 21 at 1 p.m. in Library 8. ASFC candidates from the Constitutional Party will discuss their plans for student government.

More on constitution

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elections, but does that make the process "democratic?"

Democracy and the democratic process are extremely effective political symbols. If one can be convinced that a given process is "democratic" or subject to approval of the people, he is more likely to accept it than if the process seems to be "facist" or "autocratic." The student constitution is a good example of this phenomenon. By attaching the title "constitution" to a piece of paper with words on it, an effective symbol of authority is developed. Students think they have power and representation; yet their authority all stems from a document which is totally subject

Govt.?

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giving the final authority on all matters to another governing board, apparently negates the possibility of government by and for students.

The constitution does, however, adequately insure the constitution of the system of student non-governance by providing in its by-laws for semi-quarterly elections.

The question that remains after each election of a new Campus Council, is whether a "government" that is controlled and regulated by another is a governing body at all?

The organization that presently fills the space called student government does not continue because it fulfills the responsibility of providing for the welfare of the students; that is something it doesn't have the authority to do. The organization continues only because the structure of the electoral process is self-perpetuating.

By voting for candidates to fill ASFC offices we fill the space called the Campus Council, and effectively surrender our responsibility to make the decisions that affect our welfare as students.

By voting for the ballot measure proposing a change in the structure of the present student government we can begin to accept and to share with each other the responsibility of governing our activities on the Foothill Campus.

KFJC DEBATE

KFJC will present a debate between all candidates running for ASFC offices on Thurs., Feb. 21 between 3:30 and 4:00 p.m.

Included will be a presentation of the platforms of all Parties and a 15 min. general debate of the issues.

to the "...limitations of the policies and regulations established by the governing board of the Foothill Junior College District..." (Article I, Section 2, Constitution of the Associated Students of Foothill College.) Moreover, The Constitution is established only "...with the approval and subject to the control and regulation of the governing board of the Foothill Junior College District..." (Preamble of the Constitution.)

Under the present constitution, students at Foothill College can only control their own government with the approval of the governing board. If such approval is revoked student government could not exist at Foothill College. Under the guise of "democracy" students have and will continue to be controlled and limited by non-students.

What is worse, students themselves through apathy, ignorance and inaction have overlooked real opportunities to reorganize student government. Instead of attempting to take a hard look at the failure of the present system a number of students feel it their "democratic duty" to continue to perpetrate the

What's it mean?

A tradition of frustration

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they would take, then in taking action." (Steve Bassin)

"I'm running for the people. The current Campus Council feels powerless because it has isolated itself from students. The priorities should come from the students. We need to take polls to find out what they are." (Mike Kelly) "I plan an era of hammering in potential benefits to the students, from politics, power, and participation to develop constructive attitudes, build confidence, and emphasize the democratic process." (Jaime Arias)

Another cycle begins.

New energies, Spring, 1973. "I feel that as young thinking adults, it is time for us to sit back and survey the situation we are getting ourselves into. We are sitting on our asses and letting a handful of people decide what they think is right for us." (Kenneth Shaw) "I believe we students who have returned to college should take an active part in student government." (Myrtle Conway) "The most most important thing to me is not the strength of lack of strength of student government, but the power of the student body." (Pepper Wendorf)

"Changing Foothill from a community college to a college community is my primary reason and goal for running." (Rod Helton) "I feel this school really needs activities in which all students may take part." (Nancy Frykman)

"I will not concern myself with supposed apathy. I believe this "apathy" is used as an excuse for the constant shortcomings and failures of the present council." (Tom Spires) "I am running in order to alter many of the prevailing conditions on campus, such as student budget allocation, student housing, student transportation facilities to and from school." (Raymond Wilson) "I believe that student government is only as ineffective as the administration wants it to be and only as ineffective as it lets itself be." (Deems Fishman)

"The Affirmative Action Coalition will return the long absent positive energy to the government. The formation of an independent student center is necessary to bring students and their energies together." (Paul Draper) "Student government should protect student interests as a whole when need be, from the Administration and campus elites." (Albert Giles Dyer)

"Accepting these responsibilities means total representation, not just backing a single faction. It is being willing to listen to all sides objectively, accepting and giving advice, making decisions to reflect the needs of the ASFC as a whole, not just placing one group at an advantage, at the expense of the rest." (Patrick Malone) "As President of the ASFC, I would strive for Involvement, Motivation, Enthusiasm, Innovation as required, and, above all, Accomplishment of Purpose." (Al Hall)

"I believe it is not the form of government which isn't working but the people who are the representatives." (Doug Ellwood) "In the past and at the present time candidates have proposed and are proposing various types of student government. I plan to investigate all alternatives until I

From Within

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Foothill College Governmental History.

It's really quite amazing how quickly my bubble was burst. Immediately following my landslide mandate victory I went to work on rebuilding the ailing ASFC. Through the summer months and into the fall quarter a few energetic students, some interested though less energetic faculty members, and of course the everpresent administrators worked on revitalizing the sick structure. The Student Government Reorganization Steering Committee was established. After two or three meetings and a Guerilla Theater, the Committee was disbanded.

My ideals and motivations were disbanded in the same stroke. I had placed, and somehow felt I had been directed to place, my entire energy in the Committee.

That was fall quarter 1973. In the few months between then and now I have passed through many stages. For awhile my political involvement ceased. I had become caught in the hypocrisy of my ideals versus the reality of the ASFC. I finally read the writing on

the wall. The very structure of ASFC denies change from within. Because change necessitates replacement, not rearrangement or revitalization. Then again, I became involved in the "body politic" of Foothill campus. This time we were working from the outside on a replacement, a new system for the dead one. Energy was high, progress was evident and then came the elections, 1974. For the most part we are satisfied with the present structure of student governance of students. It has been my experience however, that taken in the context of present regulatory, administrative, and control qualifications intrinsic of the ASFC Constitution, student governance of students is not a viable satisfactory end on which to focus.

If we are seeking a realistic voice in the affairs, attitudes, and policies of this institution, we must redirect our emphasis towards Student Involvement in CAMPUS GOVERNANCE. Contrary to popular belief, this entails only that we assume the responsibility of our membership in this Institution of Higher Learning - and progress from there.

find the one that is the most productive for the students." (Henry Spencer)

+ + +

Many of these people started out in agreement that needs could be taken care of, projects actualized, and life on campus improved. Yet as they began to fulfill the responsibilities of their offices, something began to happen.

At the end of these cycles of involvement, the enthusiasm, the ideals, the willingness to communicate seems to be overcome by a quiet despair, a barbed rage, a rigid rationalization — depending on what the demands of the times were. Voices can be heard, "I'm burned out!", "The Administrators are pigs!", "The constitution should be rewritten.", "We needed more time, more people, more money, a place to meet uninterrupted.", "Students are apathetic."

The important, meaningful aspects of this involvement in "student government" seem to take the shape of finding a need that many share, mobilizing energies, and actually creating ways to efficiently take care of the need and enjoy the process. There is something exciting about discovering that you as an individual, in cooperation with others, can be responsible for your own decisions.

But something happens to people and to student government during these cycles. People moving into the scene will say that what is to be done to make Foothill a better place can be accomplished by more "progressive, positive action"; "communications"; "an alternative form of government."

+ + +

What are people doing when they prepare a statement of intent to act on the behalf of a lot of other people? What happens to the people who try? Is the system you are working with putting you in competition with the same people who share similar and yet different needs — to a point of no longer respecting each other?

What burns people out? Maybe it's the lack of information; too little time to discover how Foothill College really works. Maybe it's the quality of communications available to people who are trying to exchange on what they are doing. Is it getting caught in wanting power instead of assuming we already have power? What about the way our meetings are organized? What does the structure of constitutional government do to burn people out?

It might be a resistance to change within the institution and positions held by some faculty and administrators ("These students will all leave here soon. What do they want?"). Possibly it is what we do to each other by not listening, and then by not understanding.

+ + +

Elections, 1974, and another cycle begins. People are joining forces again to begin work on making Foothill a more meaningful, productive environment. What are these new groups of people saying? And what do they mean?

PREAMBLE

We, the students of Foothill College, with the approval and subject to the control and regulations of the governing board of the Foothill Junior College District, in order to promote the general welfare of students, to foster a spirit of democracy and unity in all student activities, to promote the growth and development of the college, and to better college-community relations hereby establish this Constitution.