

OPINION

Right to privacy not absolute in public

The Corps of Cadets had its three-mile Bloody Cross run last Tuesday.

There were cadets running around and around the Quad. There were cadets passed out on the ground from exhaustion. There were EMTs reviving the unconscious cadets. And there were members of the media taking in the whole University-approved affair.

One of The Battalion's photographers was there, snapping away. He spotted a few fatigued bodies sprawled on the ground and started to take pictures.

But a cadet stepped in the way and asked him to stop. The photographer said he was sorry but that he still was going to take the pictures. This was a news story and the Quad is public property.

Not to be outdone, several cadets from Company M-1 began tugging on the photographer's camera, elbowing and body-blocking him. Then he was "escorted" from the Quad by some helpful cadets.

A typical reaction on this campus, indeed around the nation, these days. If you don't like someone, get tough and rough him up a little.

The point these cadets seem to have missed, a point many people miss, is that public places are open to everyone — including photographers. The Quad is a public place, as are grocery stores, theaters, shopping malls...

The courts have held it is not an invasion of privacy to take someone's photograph in a public place. If you can see something in a public place, you can photograph it.

Not only did these cadets try to prevent the public from seeing what it has a right to see, but they actually resorted to physical harassment.

Instead of letting the photographer do his job and letting the public judge what was going on for itself, the cadets decided to take matters into their own hands — and in doing so made themselves, and the whole Corps, look bad.

The Battalion Editorial Board

England's past key to future

LONDON — A paradox of modern politics is that some of the most effective leaders lead while looking backward. Churchill was a 19th-century romantic. De Gaulle, entrusted with authorship of the Fifth Republic, had his gaze fixed on the sweep of past grandeur. When Ronald Reagan said, "America is back," he was saying that greatness is traditional. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, too, brings a retrospective cast of mind to an aggressive attempt to shape the future.



George Will

Asked, in an interview at No. 10 Downing St., whether Britain can have a commercial future as bright as its commercial past, Thatcher reacted in the vigorous manner characteristic of the very faithful when confronted by uncomprehending agnosticism. Her answer contained about two percent economics, two percent sociology and 96 percent nationalism.

This was the question: Is not your problem more complicated than the one Reagan saw for himself? Campaigning in the late 1970s, he said Americans are instinctive capitalists, bursting with entrepreneurial creativity, healthy people ready to re-make the world if only government would get out of their way. But the British are not that way.

Her terse reply was: "They were." Her expanded reply, delivered with quiet vehemence as she edged forward in her chair, was:

"Most of the major industrial inventions were ours. The steam engine, Brunel's bridges, the spinning jenny, Arkwright and so on, you name it." With her

first word, "most," she was gilding the lily a bit. But gilding lilies in ways that stir confidence is an act of leadership. She continued: Britain has been more creative more recently than all the talk about "the British disease" would suggest. Britain created radar, the jet engine, vertical take-off aircraft, penicillins.

But what happened to that vigor? She says there has been failure, especially in universities, to adapt to Britain's role after empire. The universities were brilliant at producing colonial administrators, but have never adapted to the need to train people for trade and industry. This reflects a "basic snobbery," the prejudice "that trade and industry aren't quite the thing as professions."

About that snobbery, she says icily, "We are getting rid of it." One way she tries to do that is by evoking memories of Britain's proud achievements and by laying waste, rhetorically, to what she sees as institutionalized snobbery.

Recently Oxford University, proving that academic folly knows no nationality, voted against giving Thatcher what it has given other recent prime ministers — an honorary degree. In a speech last weekend she noted that many of Britain's best entrepreneurs came from modest backgrounds, "didn't speak with Oxford accents" and "hadn't got what people call the right connections." What critics "can't stomach is that wealth creators have a tendency to acquire wealth in the process of creating it for others."

Various bishops of the established church have been mixing, as modern bishops everywhere are wont to do, theology and macroeconomics. And they have been criticizing her. So she said, "Some reverend and right reverend prelates have been heard in the land. I make no complaint about that. After all,

it wouldn't be spring, would it, were the voice of the occasional cuckoo? Next morning the headline was:

Dons, clerics are 'cuckoo' says Thatcher

A few years ago some protesters gathered at a hall when Thatcher invited to deliver a speech. A television reporter asked her reaction to the protest. At first she seemed puzzled. The said "Oh, you mean this. Why should I care? These people don't belong to supporters. And I thank God for that."

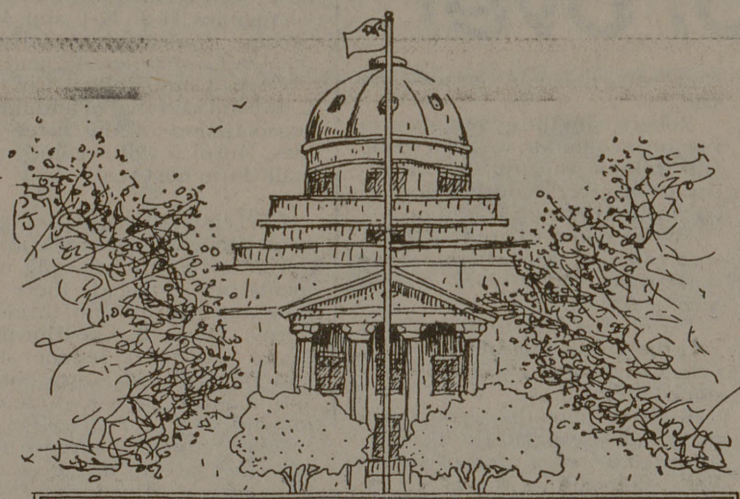
Her political success derives a small measure from a second party Democracy is government by consent. But one way to get consent from a majority is to be seen to care little for consensus. It has made her a success soon, an unprecedented success.

A constant complaint about democracy is that electoral cycles overrule cycles of problems. By the time an government formulates and begins implementing policies, the pendulum movement of opinion rearrange governmental furniture, and the cycles do not have time to be tested. 1979 Thatcher said she would need full terms — 10 years — to change Britain's course, which meant combatting snobbery and making other attitudinal changes. She may get more than that.

In May 1987, she will break a record (1908-16) for the longest consecutive residence in No. 10. In 1988, she probably will become British Franklin Roosevelt, the only woman since the early emergence of democracy — since, say, the 1832 Reform Bill — win three consecutive elections.

George Will is a columnist for Washington Post.

WHAT IF THEY GAVE AN ELECTION AND NOBODY CAME...



WELCOME TO TEXAS A&MSKI UNIVRSKI ☆

VOTE APRIL THIRD

LANE 83

Chalk up one for the Indians

The Indians have finally defeated the cavalry. I've always rooted for the Indians because I felt the cavalry wasn't quite fair when it came to drafting treaties. But this time it looks like the Indians are going to get to keep their land.



Kevin S. Inda

On Monday the Supreme Court let stand a lower court ruling preventing Texas A&M from denying the Gay Student Services official University recognition. The ruling stated that "officials of the state-supported university violated gay students' rights by not giving the group official recognition."

University officials have contended that recognition of the GSS would lead to "increased overt homosexual activity and resulting physical, psychological and disease ramifications... in the student body." In an earlier decision, the appeals court said that was only speculation by University officials and that a public health argument was "not enough to overcome the right to free expression."

The battle began in 1976 when the GSSO asked for official University recognition. At that time homosexual conduct was illegal in Texas. But, in 1983 a federal judge ruled that law banning homosexual behavior in Texas was un-

constitutional. Since then, the well-armed cavalry has been trying to wage war with the under-armed Indians.

But now it's obvious the cavalry has run out of bullets and their horses have all died. It's not like they have an insufficient number of troops or anything; they have a well-stocked garrison. They just don't have any more weapons left to use against the Indians.

But, don't count the cavalry out just yet. The commanding officer of the cavalry, Ted Hajovsky, said the cavalry will continue to chase the Indians. He also said he hasn't yet received a formal report of the battle, but when he does he will talk with other cavalry officers to discuss alternative actions.

Meantime, all is not well on the prairie. On Monday some of the Indians attempted to smoke the peace pipe with local farmers. The Indians said they didn't want all the land but just rather what they were entitled to. Some farmers could live with the Indians but most reacted as if they would rather fight them.

One prairie mother said she felt the Indians were a bad influence on her children and that if the Indians were permitted to stay, kids wouldn't grow up to be normal. A couple of local preachers also got in the act. They accused the Indians of being sinners and heathens in the eyes of God and challenged them to reform and become normal like the farmers.

The Indians also had their say. They

said that it was their choice to be a Indian. They also said under the law they have the right to meet on the same as the farmers. In response to the prairie mother and the preachers, the Indians said they could all live peacefully together.

I somehow doubt that the farmers this prairie will ever accept the Indians. But, it does look like the Indians will be able to put up their teepees anywhere they please.

Kevin S. Inda is a senior journalism major and a weekly columnist for The Battalion.

LETTERS:

Royall endorsed for today's election

EDITOR:

Student Government is now at a crossroads. Perhaps never before has the election of the Student Body President been so pivotal. Next year's Student Body President will have to deal with such issues as changes in academic advising policies, core curriculum proposals, university wide course/instructor evaluations and budgetary problems. Therefore, it is imperative that next year's Student Body President have the credibility and repute with the faculty and administrators necessary to secure solutions to these problems that are beneficial to the student body.

The Student Body Presidential candidate who has the insight and knowledge to make Student Government work for students is Sean Royall. Through his involvement in both the executive and leg-

islative branches of Student Government, he has gained an understanding of what Student Government can do. As Vice President of Rules and Regulations and two years as a Student Senator he has acquired the necessary experience in the legislative branch. This year, having served as student representative to the Faculty Senate, Sean has worked extensively with many of the issues that are of concern to the student body.

Furthermore, Sean realizes which of these issues Student Government can be effective in pursuing. Sean understands what the position can accomplish and will deal with these issues. Any concrete gains for students will come through a sound working relationship with the faculty and administration. Once again, Sean's strengths are tailored to the prerequisites of the position.

Sean has exhibited the professionalism necessary to appropriately represent students needs. His ability to motivate others will ensure the productivity

and effectiveness of Student Government. In such an important year, the high moral character exemplified by Sean will guarantee that Student Government truly represents students' views.

It is for these reasons that we heartily endorse Sean Royall for Student Body President in the April 3rd runoff election.

Wayne Roberts
Vice President of Student Services 84-85
Eric Thode
Speaker Pro Tempore 84-85

Courage of gay students saluted

EDITOR:

Well, it's finally over. Justice has prevailed. The U.S. Supreme Court let stand the unanimous decision of a fed-

eral appeals court requiring Texas A&M to recognize Gay Student Services.

The intention of the United States Constitution's Bill of Rights is to protect minority freedoms from intrusion by the majority. The free expression of minorities can contribute greatly to the vitality of our society, but only if society permits it. Our society will eventually stagnate and die if minorities and the ideas they represent are continuously suppressed by the majority.

So even if you don't agree with the Court's decision, everyone is better off, for a sacred voice is now allowed to speak. It does not matter whether you agree with the voice, only that the voice can be heard and that you can listen and make a fair evaluation of what it has to say.

So here's to you Marco, and the rest of Gay Student Services for your great courage in the struggle to protect your voice and the voices of all Americans.

Glenn Murtha, '86

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Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the Editorial Board or the author, and do not necessarily represent the opinions of Texas A&M administrators, faculty or the Board of Regents.
The Battalion also serves as a laboratory newspaper for students in reporting, editing and photography classes within the Department of Communications.

Letters Policy
Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words in length. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit letters for style and length but will make every effort to maintain the author's intent. Each letter must be signed and include the address and telephone number of the writer.
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