

BATTALION EDITORIALS

Student Opinions

It is deplorable but true that solid student opinions on the Texas A&M Campus concerning world affairs are as hard to find as needles in a haystack. It is equally disheartening to note that many students on campus have no definite opinions formed about any single event or situation occurring outside a local radius.

Narrowing this statement down, a few questions are in order:

How many students on the campus have a concrete opinion about the crisis in the United Nations? How many would call it a crisis? And why?

How many have solid opinions backed by reading and insight about the trouble spots of the world? How many really know what has happened in South Viet Nam? In Berlin? In Algeria? In the Congo? Even as close as Cuba?

Many students do not profess any interest whatsoever in foreign affairs; their reading of a daily newspaper is limited to the sports page and comics, if they read one at all. Most students on the campus could intelligently discuss the Aggies' standing in SWC basketball. But how many have neglected an "equally important" area of news—the front page stories—since arriving as a student at A&M?

A standard answer by those who are not ashamed of their ignorance is, "Well, we can't do anything about the world situation; why should we sweat it?"

This "defeatism" philosophy has been kicking around for thousands of years, and history has proven those who practiced it usually wound up being defeated. If this is the paramount attitude while in college—the years of presumed question, of searching for the meaning of incidents and situations, then what will be the "carry-over" effects once graduated?

The change from apathy to intense concern was a prompt one for many of the college men among the first troops going into Korea; their painful transition came from stark reality. What will it take for students of A&M to experience a change, from apathy to concern?

Thus far, no credit has been given to the small number of students who have openly shown interest in foreign and national affairs through participation in clubs dedicated to these interests on the campus. These include the United Nations Club, Model U.N., the Student Conference On National Affairs, and others.

These clubs are here to provide the climate and environment for insight into many of the world's situations, although membership in them isn't absolutely necessary to gain this knowledge. A simple daily reading practice can offer an adequate base of thought; it's application is through discussion, but the basis is primary.

Will national and international issues weave their way more into the typical Aggie's conversations in the MSC coffee shop? Or any other place, for that matter?

This question cannot be answered with a direct "yes" or "no". But it is correct to say that if the students of Texas A&M worked more with a few factions on campus who promote and stimulate thought in these areas, keeping abreast of the daily changing world situation would become a much easier task for most students.

In fact, it would change from task to pleasure, from druggery to interest, and consequently ignorance would become enlightenment for many A&M students in the field of world affairs.

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THE BATTALION

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The Battalion, a student newspaper at Texas A&M, is published in College Station, Texas, daily except Saturday, Sunday, and Monday, and holiday periods, September through May, and once a week during summer school.

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Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year, \$6.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 2% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 4, YMCA Building, College Station, Texas.

News contributions may be made by telephoning VI 6-6618 or VI 6-4910 or at the editorial office, Room 4, YMCA Building. For advertising or delivery call VI 6-6415.

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"... no trouble at all! All you have to do to add this course is get the approval of your faculty advisor, clear it with the dean, change your English section to leave an opening, and drop history and that's all there is to it!"

by Jim Earle If Disarmament Come-What Than?

By LEWIS GULICK  
WASHINGTON—(AP)—What if an international miracle happens and the great powers agree to general disarmament?

One result would be a heavy jolt to the U. S. economy—but such a blow could be cushioned by careful advance planning by the government and private enterprise.

This conclusion was reached in a study on disarmament economic impacts released Monday by U. S. Disarmament Director William C. Foster. He described the study

as the first comprehensive inquiry into the effect big cuts would have in this country.

The study was undertaken year by a panel of nine government and nongovernment experts.

They made no claim that disarmament is just around the corner. But they were assuring the study as part of the continuing U. S. effort to find a way to end the spiraling arms race. A new, 18-nation, general disarmament conference starts Geneva March 11.

Read Battalion Classifieds

New Students Alterations

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— Sound Off —

Editor,

The Battalion:

Recently we have heard grumblings from all corners of the campus concerning a state of censorship and lack of freedom of thought involving controversial issues existing on this campus. After considering the actual interests which exist here, we say let's have censorship. Aggies are widely known to possess essentially no knowledge or interest in national and international affairs. We show it.

Many examples can be cited—the student body interest in such programs as SCONA and Great Issues and the educational interest which prevails. Two specific examples have particularly perturbed us—whenever President Kennedy gives a speech on television, the channel is quickly changed, and secondly (the one thing which drove us to write this), the fact that last Friday night Gov. Daniel gave a speech of great importance to Texans. The interest of the students grouped around the various TV sets on campus was so great, that on all sets a frantic search was quickly made to find some other program.

We find great confidence in the

products of this school when average Texans show little or no concern for their current state issues. Possibly Texans deserve a government run by lobbyists and vested interests.

So we say "yes" to censorship on this campus—let's satisfy the real interests and concerns of this student body by filling The Battalion with comics, suspend classes and have one big continuous football game with bonfire

and yell practice, let's replace SCONA with a rodeo and Great Issues with a burlesque show. Obviously the censors would have seems to know or care about to be outsiders since no one here current issues when they are not limited to the campus perimeter.

Perhaps we at A&M need intellect as a companion to intellectual freedom.

Reed Armstrong, '62  
W. Brian DeFazio, '62

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