

Sound Off

# Students Administer Their Parting Shots

**Editor,**  
The Battalion:  
I look forward each day to receiving The Battalion and enjoy reading it very much, but I can't say that I'm pleased with some of the "news."  
You probably have seen "Dear Abby's" definition of maturity—maybe a reprint would help the Aggies.  
"Maturity is the ability to do a job whether you're supervised or not; finish a job once it's started; carry money without spending it, and last, but not least, the ability to bear an injustice without wanting to get even."

An interested Aggie Mom  
★★★

**Editor,**  
The Battalion:  
According to an editorial in the Friday (May 20) edition of The Battalion, "for moral classroom and laboratory activities women will wear dress which are in good taste and suitable for the class . . ." I'm certain that many Aggies besides myself are wondering what dress the University prescribes for immoral activities. I think that the solution to the dress regulation problem is to be found in the last sentence of the same editorial, which states "either enforce the regulations of this university, or do away with them." The latter alternative is a very commendable suggestion. Our "academic excellence" would be far better off if the administration would spend less time attempting to impose their provincial attitudes on the student body.

Jack Meyer, '63  
★★★

**Editor,**  
The Battalion:  
Do you know that the attitude expressed by most English professors is one which defeats student's interests when these attitudes should be ones of encouragement and anticipation?  
To illustrate my point:

A sincere and earnest effort on my part to overcome personal and family obstacles in order to acquire a better interest and understanding of the subject matter of English has been met with cold and unsympathetic rejection by the English faculty.

Neither the purpose of the course, the instructor, nor the department, has as yet been made clear to me. If in fact it were, there is no evidence to show that it would be practiced.

Being a conscientious and aspiring student, I have been very negatively motivated by the examples of instructors in the A&M English Department. Lethargy, apathy, and even distaste for the subject being taught are often the predominant characteristics of the professors.

Admittedly, this is an engineering school with little evidence of the academic balance sought by many students and administrators. This is no excuse for the department to follow this policy of dogmatic and hard-headed neglect of all student interests and wishes, as is testified by more than three-fourths of the student body.

Efforts to improve the courses, department, and the entire University are being made by the administration. Desires are mutual throughout the student body to see these improvements accomplished. Efforts and action, in order to be truly effective, should come from within the student body for whom the entire program is being conducted. Such innovations as the student faculty evaluation program contain grandiose and sweet-sounding promises, but as yet are unused by the department heads where the actual evaluation must take effect.

It appears that the student body has no voice, no right, nor hope for the good education they hear of and pay for.

Unless our desires are co-ordinated, delivered, and accounted for with action or acceptable reason for rejection, this institute has no right to call itself a University.

Ed Salisbury  
★★★

**Editor,**  
The Battalion:  
When my committee authored the present Senate recommendation to the Executive Committee on Political Clubs five months ago, I was told that this was doing things the way the administration wanted it done. We were bound to receive approval if such an august assembly of students such as the Student Senate were to petition the administration concerning our feelings. So, the Issues Committee worked many hours with Dean of Students James P. Hannigan to arrive at a compromise that the administration would not find offensive. We weighed each objection that the administration brought forth concerning adequate control of the groups and proposed adequate additions to the University Regulations which would bind the clubs much tighter than any other organization now on campus.

What did we get for our work? The administration has finally stopped giving reasons for rejecting the political clubs. They have finally given what must have been their reason the whole time—we just don't want you to have them. In thus rejecting the action of the Student Senate, the Executive Committee has rejected any type of self-rule by the students.

In effect, the ruling states that the students are not intelligent enough to know what is good for them. How can anyone question why so few people file for government positions, and sometimes even fewer vote, when they fully realize there is absolutely nothing that the Student Senate can do if the administration won't let them, or work with them? Why have a Senate? The little housekeeping jobs that the Senate now takes care of could just as well be farmed out to secretaries or appointed members of the Memorial Student Center.

The administration of this school is in for a rude awakening if they think they can continue to tell students what to think or not think, do or not do, wear or not wear. This university has long been a military bastion of student and faculty conservatism, but if it is to play any large part at all in the governor's plan for academic excellence in the state of Texas, the opinions, wishes and thoughts of the students, will, of necessity, need to be fully reckoned with in future days.

The utter contempt of the administration governing ability burst forth in the water fights two weeks ago, and any civilian that was there can speak of the lack of control within the student body. If no one has authority, no one has control. There is too large a gap between the dean and the individual man in his dorm. He has no place to go. His dorm officers are a joke. There authority is a joke. So he takes matters into his own hands.

The administration has two choices. It can tighten the restrictions upon the individual student and hire a lot more officials to control them or they can begin to respect what the student government has to say and at least attempt to work with it. The smashing of its best attempt at self-government in many a year was not a good start.

Michael S. Reynolds  
★★★

**Editor,**  
The Battalion:  
The Battalion has done it again as in so many times past—delivered the flat of its rapier in blind fury upon a student body numb from the unwarranted frequency and severity of the attacks upon them by a questionable newspaper staff. I of course am referring to the most recent group of articles on student apathy at the polls.

The consensus of The Battalion seems to be that students should have an interest in student government. That in fact there should be a student government.

The truth of the matter is that even though the student government does have some routine functions, these are not tasks which could not, or would not, be performed by any Tom, Dick or Harry. The student body seems to me to be very perceptive in realizing this by not showing up at the polls. Can you not see how ludicrous it would be for a group of young adults to rally en masse when they lack an issue? Contrary to the opinion of The "Batt" we students are not a "flock of sheep" who can be herded to the polls in the crusade against apathy, but are instead "wise" to that Establishment that would seek to be our shepherd—The Battalion.

By not voting, the students have indeed been saying, "We are not interested in student government." And why should we be?

The answer is to be found in that little word power. The more fervor and organization behind the power the more effective that power will be. Student government is the best potential instrument of student power on this campus.

Some may ask, "What good will this power do me?" But this is a sham question, because everyone wants something. Perhaps some would like a coed dorm on campus in the very near future. Student pressure on the Administration might at least speed up the issue. Some civilians would undoubtedly like for the Corps to take their whistle jocks and clear out for the other dorm area next fall. Maybe there are some students who would like to have more, if not all, civilian yell leaders. What civilian would not want his mother to be Aggie Mother of the Year. Undoubtedly some Aggies are disappointed with the slow progress of the political-clubs-on-campus issue. Who wouldn't like to subject The Battalion to pressure of predominant student groups? These are but examples of what some Aggies may indeed wish. There is no limit.

I have no doubt that Aggies would rally 'round the polls if issues which had some meaning were to be decided by elections. But we shy away from the power to change things because of that sacred word, tradition. Tradition has become religion and dissidence is heresy. Nowhere can this be seen better than in the comical efforts of The Battalion to ice over the differences of the two potential political camps with the "Aggies stick together" appeal. But all Aggies are not the same and have no reason to pretend to be.

Is there not one Aggie, or group of Aggies who would not commit the ultimate sacrilege and run on an issue that would fire the spirit of one group of students and offend the sensibilities of another? If not, we are pursuing the correct course. We are a unique example of the dignity of apathy.

Bruce Cochran

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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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News contributions may be made by telephoning 846-6618 or 846-4910 or at the editorial office, Room 4, YMCA Building. For advertising or delivery call 846-6415.

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.

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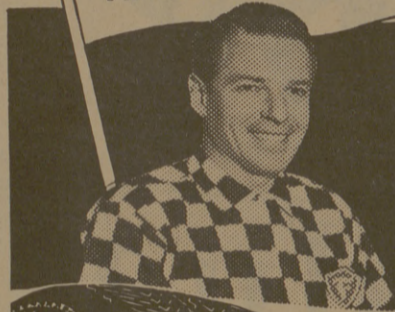
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7.10-15 (8.15-15)	19.15	21.55	2.15
8.50-14 (8.55-14)	21.25	23.35	2.35
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