

Smith Claims Press Fair, Objective

Editor:

Although I am deep in final exams, I must take time to commend you for publishing Glenn L. Peavy's letter concerning his disappointment of Dan Rather's speech—"The Press vs. The Administration"—along with his numerous comments degrading the quality and integrity of the press. By publishing such a narrow and poorly researched letter, you did, indeed, show the fairness and objectivity of the press to voice the view of the public.

I wonder if Mr. Peavy realizes the fact that even a letter such as his, is an example of the press publishing opinions in order to be fair and objective; even when those opinions are knocking the very medium which takes the time to place his letter in print. The *Battalion* certainly had no legal obligation to publish such a letter.

To quote Mr. Peavy for those who were fortunate enough to miss his letter, he said, "I think history proves they" (the govern-

ment) "did a pretty damn good job without the press watch dog."

Well, that is interesting. Particularly when you take into account an idea from a former United States President. As early as 1787, Thomas Jefferson wrote: "... were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers... or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate to prefer the latter." Then 36 years later in 1823, he went on to say, "The only security of all is in a free press."

It seems very contradictory to Mr. Peavy's statement when one considers a piece of journalism, a pamphlet called "Common Sense," circulated in over 100,000 copies, which in 1776 was so instrumental in boosting wartime morale and calling for independence from the present administration. And of course, the fight for independence produced the government which Mr. Peavy obviously feels could do without the press today.

Peavy went on to complain that

he had no voice in voting for the President of CBS... or to choose or reject Walter Cronkite as a news commentator, as he did to vote for public officials of the government. Well, it is the media which presents the candidates to the public—for very few of us could meet them personally; particularly those seeking high offices.

Finally, Walter Cronkite is a journalist... not a candidate for public office. The public doesn't vote on who becomes a farmer, baker, shoe salesman, professor, truck driver and thousands of other professions. So, if Mr. Peavy wishes to reject Walter Cronkite, he might want to contact Professor C. J. Leabo, head of the Department of Journalism at Texas A&M, and sign up for courses in journalism. Then with 20 years or so of hard work, he might take such a position.

However, with his attitude about the press, he might do better to contact Spiro T. Agnew and obtain a few pointers on how to seek a "government" office. I'm sure Vice-President Agnew is looking for a good running mate in '76.

Jim Tom Smith '73

Editor:

I have a story here which is rather contrary to the usual Aggie joke we hear!

A friend and myself, along with our two small sons, were making a hurried trip on campus to obtain an important paper for my

Women Engineers, A&M Working To Attract HS Girls

Texas A&M and the Texas Chapter, Society of Women Engineers are cooperating on a program to recognize and attract outstanding high school girls to engineering.

J. G. McGuire, assistant dean of engineering, said all Texas high schools have been contacted for principals to recommend the top three girls studying science and math to be honored at the annual Junior Engineering Technical Society (JETS) Conference scheduled at TAMU March 2.

Girls are nominated for academic and extracurricular achievement. The nominations are screened by a committee headed by Mrs. Margaret Skillern of Dallas, SWE Texas chapter president.

McGuire reported 100 girls have been selected to receive SWE "Outstanding Student" certificates from Mrs. Skillern at the JETS meeting.

He will accept applications through Jan. 15. The dean said TAMU also has sent information on scholarships and the cooperative engineering program to each nominee. TAMU is actively recruiting women for engineering careers, he added, and companies have an increasing demand for women engineers.

Mrs. Skillern, chemical engineer employed by Perbin and Gertz Consulting Engineers in Dallas, works closely with McGuire on the JETS and women engineering programs.

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A&M Student, Cayard, Killed Sunday In Longview Car Mishap

(TYLER)—Funeral services for Earl Edward Cayard III, a Texas A&M student killed Sunday in a car accident near Longview, were held here Tuesday in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church.

Cayard, son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl E. Cayard Jr. of Tyler, was one of two youths killed when their car struck a bridge on Interstate 20 one mile west of Longview.

The other fatally injured youth was identified as Herbert Brewerton of Tyler. John Schneider, also of Tyler, was injured in the accident. Neither attended TAMU.

Cayard was a freshman majoring in chemical engineering.

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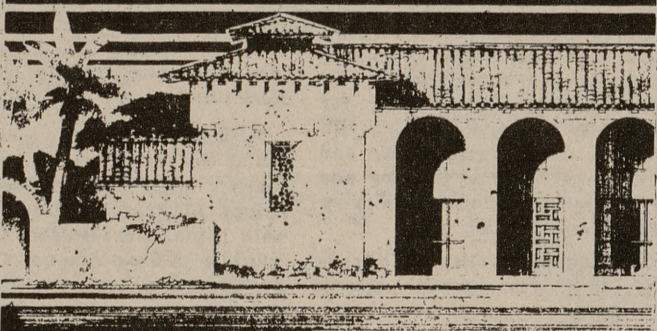
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Letters to the editor must be typed, double-spaced, and no more than 300 words in length. They must be signed, although the writer's name will be withheld by arrangement with the editor. Address correspondence to Listen Up, *The Battalion*, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

Members of the Student Publications Board are: Jim Lindsey, chairman; Dr. Tom Adair, Dr. R. A. Albanese, Dr. H. E. Hierth, W. C. Harrison, J. W. Griffith, L. E. Kruse and B. B. Sears.

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PEANUTS
By Charles M. Schulz

I LOVE THE HOLIDAY SEASON!

I LIKE TO SEE PEOPLE BUYING PRESENTS AND DECORATING THEIR HOMES... I LIKE CHRISTMAS TREES TOO

EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE A CHRISTMAS TREE... EVEN WOODSTOCK...

IT SNOWED LAST NIGHT...

NOW, I CAN'T SEE A THING... SUDDENLY I'M SHUT OFF FROM THE WORLD AND ALL ITS PROBLEMS

LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE SNOW!!

THAT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE A STUPID BUSH!