

Film censorship

The MSC Council agreed that all films ordered through the MSC would have to be approved by Hal Gaines, Student Program Coordinator. An appeals system was set up in which the Council would have the final say on film programming.

Council members argued this procedure was necessary for coordination of programming. It would also, they contended, make film committees more responsible to the Council, which supports them financially, and insure that programming be consistent with the stated objectives of the particular committee.

These are legitimate concerns, but it was obvious from the start that the resolution calling for a film programming overseer was introduced to prevent the showing of pornographic or otherwise objectionable movies by the Arts Committee or any other MSC group. As soon as the resolution passed, the Council had its first opportunity to act as a censoring board and determine the fate of the film Luminous Procress, which is scheduled to be shown Thursday midnight by the Arts Committee.

Council members now have the final say as to what movies are of "value," and will act as a guardian mother and protect the student body from things it should not see.

This censorship procedure is degrading and totally unnecessary. The Council already has a check on programming in that it chooses committee chairmen and can dismiss them at will. This and a good communication with committee heads should insure that the moral and financial interests of the Council are maintained. If a movie is truly objectionable the student body will make that known, if not vocally then through lack of support for a committee's programs.

Students at A&M, with few exceptions, are legal adults and should have the right to determine for themselves what films they care to see. The committee chairmen should be free of an administrator's censorship to establish programming in the student's interest.

A student newspaper

To call The Battalion a student newspaper may be misnomer. True, the staff is made up of students, and the paper does concern itself with student related matters. But the controlling force behind The Battalion, the Student Publications Board, is comprised chiefly of faculty-staff members and has only limited student input.

Under the present system, the Board is chaired by the Director of Student Publications, with four faculty-staff members appointed by President Williams and three students appointed by Dr. Williams upon the recommendation of the Student Government head. It is this group that selects the editor for The Battalion (subject to the approval of the president) and can suspend that editor, in addition to making policy decisions for the newspaper and other publications.

The Battalion's number one responsibility should be to the student body. The paper acts as an information service for students and watchdog in the campus community. Its publication is funded by Student Services fees which supplement advertising and subscription income. The Battalion along with Student Government represent two major ways in which students can express discontent and work for constructive change within the establishment of the university. It is inconsistent with the function of a student newspaper that it be controlled by a board composed mainly of faculty members and administrators.

The Student Senate Rules and Regulations Committee will present changes in the "Blue Book" to be considered by the Senate at tonight's meeting. One of the changes will be to alter the membership of the Student Publications Board to include five students and four faculty-staff members. The Battalion supports this change in the hope that students have the controlling interest in their Student Publications Board and campus newspaper.

The Battalion

Opinions expressed in The Battalion are those of the editor or of the writer of the article and are not necessarily those of the University administration or the Board of Directors. The Battalion is a non-profit, self-supporting enterprise operated by students as a University and Community newspaper.

LETTERS POLICY

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and are subject to being cut to that length or less if longer. The editorial staff reserves the right to edit such letters and does not guarantee to publish any letter. Each letter must be signed, show the address of the writer and list a telephone number for verification. 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. Herth, W. C. Harrison, Randy Ross, T. Chet Edwards, and Jan Faber.

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

Mail subscriptions are \$3.50 per semester; \$6 per school year; \$6.50 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rate furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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Listen Up

Kunstler, ACLU, freedom hailed

Editor:

We, as students of TAMU, owe a debt of gratitude to the ACLU and others who had a role in rectifying the great injustice done everyone connected with this great institution. The appearance of William Kunstler re-established the oft forgotten goal of every university, the free and untainted exchange of ideas and views, at TAMU.

Mr. Kunstler is also to be commended for caring enough to inconvenience himself and perhaps endangering the freedom of his current clients to bring the First Amendment back to TAMU.

Partisan politics should never have entered this situation. Whether one agrees with Mr. Kunstler or not is immaterial. This and any institution of higher learning finds its life-blood in new ideas and to suppress them is to kill progress and promote stagnation of thought.

Let us hope that this display of

misguided priorities and badly aimed censorship is not repeated and that President Williams will assist in the re-establishment of free communication at TAMU.

Bradley T. Britt

Figaro

Editor:

Why was there no mention of "The Marriage of Figaro" in Thursday's or Friday's Batt? The only mention the opera received was the paid advertisement immediately preceding its showing.

Tom Dawsey

Due to contractual obligations, no photographs were allowed to be taken of the opera and no one on the staff was qualified to review one. An advance story was printed on the front page in the Feb. 20 issue and the opera was mentioned later in the MSC Calendar and Campus Briefs—Ed.

CADET SLOUCH

by Jim Earle



"I'm not sure that whether you walk or run is really the issue!"

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