

Editorial

Moore embarrassing

Blush once for the city of Bryan. For Bryan's own Bill Moore is sponsoring a gut-reaction bill in the state senate that would raise foreign student tuition because Americans have to pay higher prices for foreign oil. The International Student Association (ISA) estimates 85 per cent of the foreign students aren't from oil producing countries. And what about the inexpensive and fuel saving foreign cars and motorcycles? What about foreign-made televisions, radios, cameras, clothing, jewelry, china, silver, clocks and watches? These are popular American consumer items because they offer higher quality per price than domestic products. If Moore would like to see cheaper foreign goods, why doesn't he run for U.S. Senate and repeal the tariffs on imports? Moore seems to be capitalizing on the emotional oil issue. And his ploy may work.

Last night the Student Senate recommended that the legislature defeat Moore's bill. Thank you, Student Senate.

Return to the rational

More rational arguments have emerged to defend the tuition increase. The most compelling argument is that the increase would equalize the tuition for foreign students and out-of-state students. But it would not be a fair equalization. Foreign students have a hard time finding financial aid and it is difficult — almost impossible — for foreign students to get work permits for off-campus jobs. In other words, they can't get help and they aren't allowed to help themselves.

Another of the more rational arguments favors the increased revenue that the tuition would bring. But statistics compiled by the ISA (See senate story, page 1) show that the attrition of foreign students because of the increase would leave a net revenue gain almost equal to zero per cent.

A final note: Of the 496 foreign students polled by the ISA, 70 would stay at A&M, 306 would transfer out of state and 120 would return home. The academic community would suffer.

Junior Promm III

Mud

Provided for benefit of student recreation

By ALAN KILLINGSWORTH

Well, they did it again. The TAMU Board of Directors has given the go-ahead to build more buildings and make life that much more miserable here at TAMU. More mud and more detours. What used to be a 10 minute walk to class is now a 20 minute walk. I can almost remember the days of clean shoes. But don't let this bring you down. Someone up top is concerned.

Br-r-ring, br-r-ring. "Good afternoon, this is the office of Dr. John Koldus, vice president of Student Services."

"This is the President. Make no mistake. I would like to speak to Dr. Koldus."

"One moment, please. Dr. Koldus, President Williams is on the phone. Sounds like a good one."

"Hello."

"Dr. Koldus. There have been reports coming into my office saying that the students aren't happy with all the construction on campus."

"Yes sir, I've heard the same thing. Mostly from the civilians, though. The Corps seem to like the obstacles to run their maneuvers in. Anyway, some people are upset."

"What do you suggest that we do about it?"

"I really haven't given it much thought. It would seem the building use fee would have kept their minds off of the problem."

"Well, it hasn't and I suggest that we have a 'CONSTRUCTION EXTRAVAGANZA.'"

"A what?"

"A CONSTRUCTION EXTRAVAGANZA!"

"Good idea, Mr. President! What is it?"

"Okay. You have a virtual playground of mud out there and we're not putting it to use, right?"

"Right."

"All Aggies like to play in mud. Right?"

"Right."

"Then let's use the stuff and keep them off my back. If you're being attacked by squirrels, don't you throw out some nuts?"

"That doesn't make any sense, sir, but I'll agree with you."

"Then let's use it."

"Okay. What do you suggest?"

"I have contacted the intramural department and have asked that an intramural tug of war program be set up. The good thing is that we don't have to give them any more money to support the program."

"Good idea, sir, I have to hand it to you."

"My secretary is also sending around a memorandum to all departments urging the teachers to initiate mud contest."

"Excuse my ignorance, but what is a mud contest?"

"Dr. Koldus, where did you go to school?"

"What does that have to do with a mud contest?"

"That's a good question. Anyway, the teachers award Brownie Points to the person that has the most mud

on them when they go to class. This way the students don't mind wading through the mud if they know they're gonna get paid for it."

"Mr. President, that has to be the best idea I've heard. How in the heck do you do it?"

"It ain't easy. It comes from being able to feel the pulse of the students."

"May I ask a question?"

"Certainly."

"If we have this playground in our midst, why should we ruin it by putting concrete over it?"

"We don't want to destroy the educational environment of the university do we? If we leave the mud too long the students won't go to class. We should only have fun while it lasts."

"Anything else, sir?"

"Oh, I almost forgot. I have instituted a mud ballet class for those who want to stay in shape while walking to class. Tip toeing builds up the calves you know."

"What is this eventually going to lead to, sir?"

"Well, I'm gonna let you in on a little secret. Keep this real quiet. The Board of Directors has been working in closed session on a new game for Milton Bradley."

"What's it called?"

"Constropoly."

"Conwhat?"

"Constropoly! The object is to hassle as many people as you can by constructing things in the way of their classes."

"I won't tell a soul. Not even my mom."

Listen Up

Straw breaks camel's back . . . and stands almost break player's neck

Editor: The straw has just broken the camel's back. One of our baseball players fell through a board in the stands as he walked up to visit with a friend before practice!

This happened once before to a spectator. On that occasion, some 15 years ago, the old baseball park was condemned and torn down. At that time the end zone bleachers from the football field were moved to the baseball park as temporary bleachers. A new park was designed. It would have cost \$30,000. But no funds were available.

When a baseball recruit comes to visit A&M he thinks our ball park is the practice field.

A&M has grown beyond all imagination in the 16 years I have been associated with this great institution. Our campus will be a place of beauty for the centennial year — but believe me — there will be one big eyesore.

My husband will kill me when he reads this in the Batt!

Mrs. Tom Chandler

Instead, I would like to encourage all interested students to at least talk to someone who sees the other side. Who? I could explain all but a few points (such as why student government didn't contact the telephone company about a WATS system. Your readers have only your word that they didn't). For a really thorough explanation, however, I would suggest talking to the student body president or one of the five vice presidents (rumor to the contrary, they do not live off cattle blood).

Tom Dawsey

D-G, Moore, Moses senator We deny everything — Ed.

Unfair drawing

Editor: The caricature of foreign students which appears in today's edition of the Battalion — "Koozat, by Nguyen Dzien" — reveals nothing but a mockery of the poorest taste.

It is a requirement for admission into an American university — including Texas A&M — that students, be they foreigners or Americans, show a measure of proficiency in the English language. If the foreign visitor cannot attain the level of a Shakespeare—or of an ordinary modern American, for that matter — in the command of the English language, this should not be used as a reason to ridicule an honest attempt to communicate with the native speakers. Indeed, the foreign student is merely attempting to share the culture of the host as best as he or she knows how.

As for the peculiarities of dress stereotyped in the cartoon they serve only to portray the foreign student as a maladjusted cultural failure, as a weird transplant. To make of the foreign students the laughing-stock of the community by exaggerating their cultural differences, is a harmful and deplorable task. It only leads to distrust and to the separation of people from one another.

May the people of the world learn to see the uselessness in perpetuating cultural stereotypes!

Luis A. Jimenez

Unfair comment

Editor: Mike Perrin's comments (The economic reply, Feb. 25) makes good reading — for fiction. It had more than a few subtle inconsistencies which would take more than the 300 word limit to point out and correct. Even then, an editor's footnote would probably follow and deny everything.



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TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
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The Battalion

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