

Letter battle begins

Editor:

Before a battle of letters begins in the "Battalion" over the February 26th Senate decision to delete the word "male" from the qualifications for student Yell Leader, I would like to reinforce the point made by Curt Marsh and make another point of my own.

The first point is that the majority of student Senators showed a great deal of wisdom and foresight in their Yell Leader resolution. Their decision reflects their knowledge and respect of the Supreme Court decisions which regard sexual discrimination as unconstitutional. They acted as good Americans and A&Gs during this moment of controversy. Had the Senate not amended the qualifications and had given in to those "Old Ag Traditionalists" (of whom I am a member) the entire matter would probably have been eventually taken to court and contested. A protest in court is in itself not distasteful; however, as has happened many times before, the extensive coverage by the press and the delay of the court in handling cases could combine to cause a painfully long and over publicized event which would probably taint the reputation of A&M and result in a decision similar to our Senate's. The Senate's decision then is anchored in an idea 200 years old and it will not easily be changed.

The second point I would like to make concerns the role of the student body in having the final word in this matter. If by chance a female feels she can meet the challenge offered by the position of Yell Leader and should decide to run for that position, her prospects and the all

male Yell Leader tradition would be at the mercy of the entire student body. At this point the real debates should begin over the coming election. Election day will be the individual student's chance to express his convictions on his ballot and it will be an excellent time to observe true democracy in action.

Elliot Lowe

Go Mert

Editor:

Having been at the Student Senate meeting Wednesday night, I was quite impressed by the seemingly all knowing representatives — the ones who had the word "male" deleted from the qualifications for yell leader. At first, I was moved by what Curt Marsh, John Nash and Steve Eberhard vocalized on how the Senate had no right to state restrictions or qualifications on such positions. They said that it was up to the student body to decide what the qualifications were by voting at the elections for the candidates of their choice.

As previously stated, I was moved by their orations — that is, until I started thinking. If the Senate does not have the right to state qualifications that their constituents want, then what do they have the right to do? What is their purpose?

Several Senators stated that they had polled their constituents and found that not only did they not want girls to be yell leaders, but they did not want them to run.

They stated that girls and guys, both, in overwhelming majority felt this way. There were 36 Senators who felt it did not matter what their

constituents thought — or at least that is what their votes indicated. It is possible that someone's constituency could have supported the resolution. However, our illustrious Senate had already voted down the resolution to allow students themselves to decide in a referendum.

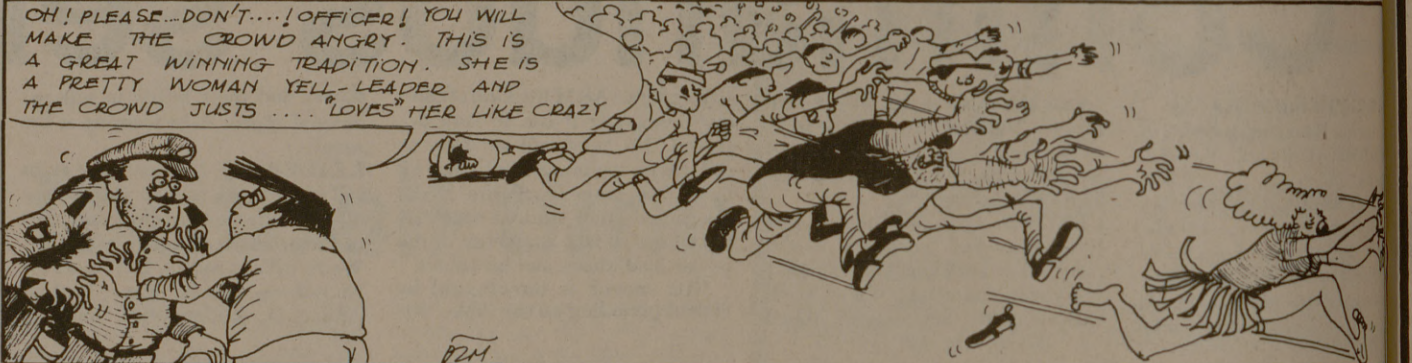
There is no question that if a girl were elected yell leader, the role of yell leader would be altered greatly. The role of yell leader is not the point. The point is that the Senate said they could not establish discriminating qualifications. Questions of discrimination are for judicial concern. Elected legislators should be concerned with the desires of their constituents. That is the way our democratic system works.

Now Student Senate is in a predicament. It seems they have an obligation to drop all other qualifications. Who is to say a student with a 1.9 GPR is not just as capable of being a yell leader, or student body president for that matter, as present office holders. Or why limit the number of yell leaders to five — why not let voters decide at each election what positions they want to exist?

An even more basic question is that if an elected legislator cannot (or will not) carry out the wishes of its constituents, then why does Student Senate exist?

Louie Gohmert '75

P.S. Check the roll call vote on the yell leader question and see if your Senator voted the way you feel. If not, remember him or her at election time. And in the meantime, there is such a thing as petition.



Good job

Editor:

The fact that the Student (?) Senate voted not to allow the students of A&M to vote on the issue of deleting the word male from the qualifications for Yell Leader seems to be a crying shame. It would be one thing if the Senators were representing their constituents, yet how many Senators actually did this? How many Senators had a quiz the next day or some other "pressing" problem that they had to take care of which kept them from contacting their constituents for their opinions? Granted that a very small minority of Senators actually took time to obtain opinions on this issue from the people they represent.

The issue of deleting the long lived tradition of the word male from Yell Leader qualifications should be the right of the students at Texas A&M, not the right of a social clique within the senate who are too busy studying (?) or perhaps socializing to check with the people that are being represented! Thanks to those who voted against letting the Senate delete the word male from Yell Leader qualifications.

Joan Marshall

Slouch

Editor:



"I'VE DECIDED TO SELL MY CAR!"

The economic reply

A Realist's Reply to Libertarianism

Solution to all the problems . . .

By MARK RANKIN

For the past few months, this space has been occupied with the writings of one Mike Perrin, libertarian and self-proclaimed economist of The Battalion. Perrin has shown us the libertarian solution to a variety of the world's problems ranging from the validity of government itself to the relative merits of cowhide benches in the MSC. While I have no argument with libertarianism as an ethic, I would like to take this opportunity to argue that there are some cases where the free-market solution may not be the best one. Take education for example.

Tomorrow Texas A&M will adopt a completely freemarket approach towards education. Anyone desiring to teach a course will rent a room for the university and will advertise the pertinent information in The Battalion which is now on a subscription basis, using no Student Service Fees since they are no longer col-

lected. The faculty will vie to make their particular course sound the most attractive in an effort to draw as many students as possible. One such advertisement might look like this: EXPLORE THE ADVENTURES OF MONEY & BANKING! — come hear the AMAZING Dr. Peabody Mondays and Wednesdays from 11-1200 (stag movies every other Wed.) Room 210, Systems Bldg. Air Conditioned — A student, seeing this, arrives at the prescribed time and place and enters the classroom and takes his place with about nine other students who were attracted by the advertisement or, perhaps, the entertaining effects of the professor's last lecture.

The professor proclaims, "How much will you give me for a lecture on the Federal Reserve?" The class members draw together in a tight circle and after a few minutes deliberation announce, "Two dollars, fifty cents and . . . a button."

"What! That won't even get you a cursory explanation of Keynes," declares the professor indignantly, "Try Again."

"Two fifty-five."

"None."

One student heads for the door.

"Where in the hell are you going?"

"The English Department has a Mickey Mouse festival going."

"We're down to two-twenty."

"I'll give you the Great Depression for three!"

"Are you kidding, you're only an assistant professor."

"Look, I've got to eat this afternoon, how about two-ninety."

"At those prices we won't be able to eat. Two-seventy."

"Seventy-five."

"Sold."

Five minutes later, nine students leave the room, knowing exactly two dollars and seventy five cents worth about the Great Depression.

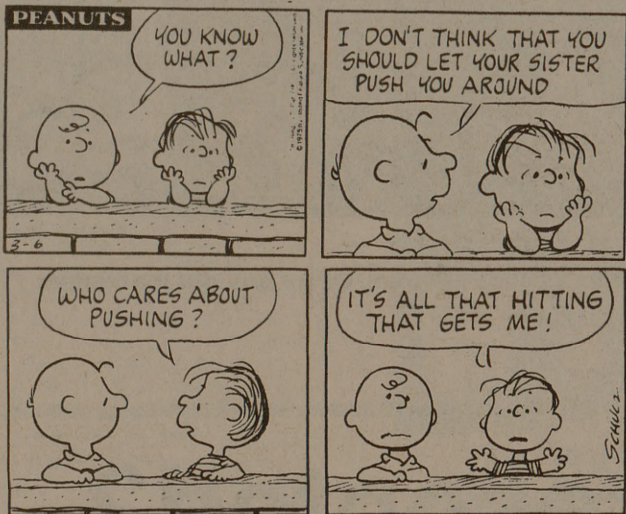
The MSC has closed down, the last of its money having been spent to bring Milton Friedman in for a speech which had the bad fortune to have conflicted with the beer drinking lessons sponsored by the Chemistry Department. The basketball team is out on the Academic Building lawn begging for funds with which to make the trip to Austin. They had to hitch-hike to the last two away games.

One slightly haggard looking student stands, dejected, in the Rudder Center fountain, threatening to drown himself. Someone points out that the water had been turned off for days and he declares that he will simply eat the mosaic tiles that are left off the floor. It seems that the price of diplomas has risen to two hundred dollars. Sully

has been felled and sold for scrap metal by the Fish Drill Team. Itinerant maintenance men wander the streets asking people if they want something fixed. The library doorman's position is much sought

after since he is in the best position to take bribes.

The campus has become a free-market. Mike Perrin is happy, and all of our problems have been solved.



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. Editorial policy is determined by the editor.

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. Hierth, W. C. Harrison, Steve Eberhard, Don Hegel, and John Nash, Jr.

Represented nationally by National Educational Advertising Services, Inc., New York City, Chicago and Los Angeles.

MEMBER

The Associated Press, Texas Press Association

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 \$5.00 per semester; \$9.50 per school year; \$10.50 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.

The Associated Press is entitled exclusively to the use for reproduction of all news dispatches credited to it or not otherwise credited in the paper and local news of spontaneous origin published herein. Right of reproduction of all other matter herein are also reserved. Second-Class postage paid at College Station, Texas.

Editor David Kaspar
Assistant Editor David Pierce
Managing Editor James Briedlow
Sports Editor Paul McGrath
Photo Editor Jimmy Richards
City Editor Wayne T. Rife
Campus Editor Josh Utterback
Copy and News Editor Susan Carstens

Reporters Dub Shook, Mike Kimmey, Tray Henderson, Donald Falk, Sayeful Islam, Janie Nettles, Dan Kaspar, Henry Franke, Doris Koch, Stan Sisco, Jimmy Arnold, Beth Krugler

Photographers Dean Clemens, Jack Holm, David Kimmel

Artists and cartoonists Dr. James H. Earle, Nguyen Dziem, Brad Foster, Rodney Hammack, Tom Brents, Scott Morgan

AN EVENSTAR PRODUCTION

IN CONCERT

FROM HOUSTON DALLAS' OWN

MARKALISA FREEMAN

AT INDIAN LAKE

ON SAT. MAR 8 2:00 PM til 1:00AM

Non-Stop KESAMI SANDWICHES & Rock & Roll COLD BEVERAGES

Tickets \$3.50 at the door or in advance at: HEROES & BUDGET TAPES & RECORDS

KESAMI Sandwich Shoppe

"NO TWO SANDWICHES ALIKE"

OUR FRESH DELICIOUS MEATS AND CHEESES AND BREADS ARE ALSO AVAILABLE FOR RETAIL SALES.

NORTHGATE 846-6423