

Liberty lacking at TAMU

Editor:
Apropos of your editorial, "Stop, Look, Listen," March 5, Disraeli once described a university as "a place of light, of liberty, and of learning." Light and learning, wisdom and scholarship, are found here, in increasing abundance. But the liberty is lacking, as you suggest in your comments.

It seems to me, further, that Texas A&M, with its strong emphasis on spirit and community, needs to recognize that any meaningful community — especially one devoted to enlightenment and learning — must have members who are free. Otherwise the sense of unity which results is only superficial, a product of forced action and controlled behavior. Uniformity is apparent in that kind of society, but unity is not.

When Texas A&M is great enough as a university to be truly free, then we shall be very great indeed.

Paul A. Parrish
Asst. Prof., English

Who paid?

Editor:
It is very confusing to me to hear all the different views on the subject, "Who Paid For the Memorial Student Center Lounge?" Frankly, I have yet to have a person convince me his opinion is the right one.

That brings me to my question. Just exactly who did pay for the MSC lounge? Was it our increased building use fees? Was it the Alumni Association? Just who was it? I think the answer will settle a portion of the complaining that appears in this column, as well as in conversation on campus.

Maybe this question will be answered by someone who can back his answer with facts. I hope the appropriate person reads this and responds. Thank you.

Chris Jochen

Cost breakdowns for the new University Center, as outlined by W. C. Freeman, executive vice-president for administration, appeared in the Nov. 14, 1974 and Jan. 30, 1975 editions of The Battalion.

The expense of the \$26.5 million complex is not broken down as to

separate areas. Thus it is not possible to determine exactly how much money was spent on the Student Lounge alone.

A diagram detailing the fees used for construction and furnishing of the center appears below.

The student chunk of the pie will be paid in allotments of \$465,000 annually through the year 2001 — Ed.

Board 'praised'

Editor:
We were highly entertained when we read about the new Board of Director's annex. We read how TAMU spent \$765,000 decking it out expertly in antique motif. A spark of joy shown within us as we sat in our dorm room in Law Hall with the handsome mustard yellow paint peeling off the walls and the ants crawling around our sink. Our bunkbeds made splendid creaking noises as we moved with restless joy and read about this great thing that TAMU now possesses.

We were extremely impressed by the \$4,000 busts of Roman senators and the \$2,000 statue of Kwan Yin. How appropriate for the board room! What would TAMU be without them?

But the most exciting news about this grandiose establishment was that it will be used at least five times a year. We hope it's not worn out too soon.

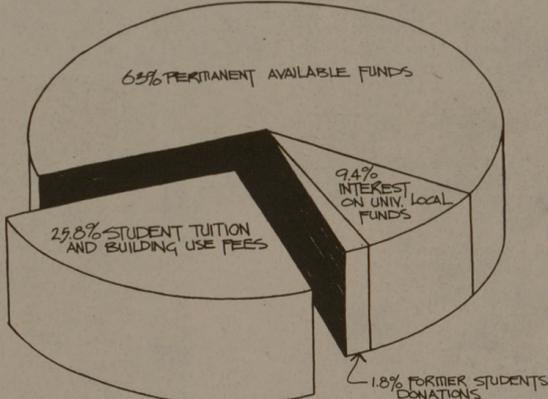
We are glad that the \$765,000 was not used on such trivialities as renovating 50-year-old dorms such as Law or Puryear. We would hate to see this money used for something as insignificant as new eating facilities for the dorm students. Heaven forbid!

We realize it is very important for the Board of Directors to be up to par with the "other universities and corporate headquarters" as quoted from Gen. A. R. Lueddecke.

TAMU continues to push ahead for the future with that great achievement so we would like to suggest some other improvements for the University. How about contracting a famous artist to draw a replica of Mount Rushmore on the new water tower, or maybe we could buy a gold-lined dog house for Reveille with running dog bones

We just want to commend the Board of Directors and say, "Keep up the good work."

Jim DeWitt
Tim Hale



Research by Jim Peters

TOTAL OF \$26.5 MILLION FOR UNIV. CENTER

25.8%	\$6.83 million	Student Tuition and Building Use Fees
63%	\$16.7 million	Permanent Available Funds (state monies)
9.4%	\$2.5 million	Interest of Univ. Local Funds
1.8%	\$470,000	Former Students' donations

Cloud 9 ... a bird's eye view

How they vote

Records of incumbents

By GERALD OLIVIER

Two of the candidates in this April's College Station City Council elections will be incumbents. This makes the job of discovering how they stand on the issues a little easier.

A quick look at the voting records will tell us how each member of the present council would like voters to think he stands.

To speed this process up, the following is a synopsis of how Larry Bravenec and Don Dale, the two incumbent candidates, have voted on several issues shaping up in the campaign.

Zoning seems to be the major issue, in particular, the Harry Seaback request for apartment zoning behind Dominik Drive.

Dale voted in favor of the Seaback request over the fierce opposition of Dominik homeowners. In the discussion preceding the vote, Dale reiterated his belief that an individ-

ual should be free to use his land as he pleases.

"If someone wanted to build apartments next door to me, I would not oppose it," he said.

Bravenec took the opposite stand. He sided with the residents and voted against the request. Bravenec cited citizen disapproval as his primary reason for his vote.

In a group of commercial zoning requests picked at random from those considered by the council this past year, the results were:

Dale voted for all 10 of the requests. He has consistently stated his position that developers are what make the city grow.

Bravenec voted for six of the requests selected. He has not held any consistent stand on zoning in general, but contends he considers each case on its particular merits.

In the area of apartment zoning, both men voted for all five of the requests chosen. The requests picked were not politically "hot" items. In general, a few vocal citizens can and do sway Bravenec's vote, but not Dale's.

Another big campaign issue will

be the status of principal streets in the city. A proposal submitted by the Texas Highway Department to the council called for the extension and widening of several streets.

Residents of the neighborhoods involved were vocal in their opposition of the extensions. Homeowners from Dominik, Munson, Glade and Timber streets convinced the council to delete their streets from the plan.

Dale and Bravenec voted with a unanimous council to include only roads designated as state highways in the improvement plans. Both councilmen showed their desire to avoid citizens' wrath on this issue.

In conclusion, Dale has shown a tendency to buckle only under severe citizen pressure (like the Munson Street screams). He has developed a more consistent pattern than Bravenec on zoning. He never challenges the developer's request.

Bravenec has been harder to predict. Almost any measure of citizen pressure will get his vote. When no pressure is evident, however, his votes are unpredictable.

The Battalion

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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.

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... and priorities bad on Batt

Editor:

No joke?

You guys have really outdone yourselves this time. To think that winning the Southwest Conference did not merit the lead story on March 11 (No choke, Page 1) is ridiculous. The reasoning behind your refusal to admit that a basketball game was indeed the happening on campus that weekend, was that it was sports.

Come on now, Greg, take a peek outside your isolated little bubble and peruse the University you pur-

port to serve. Your naive as-tounds me. Maybe sports is different than news, but winning the SWC is indeed news and the idea that very little of your readership is concerned with sports is Hogwash!

Name me an event the past year that has drawn over 5,000 people to TAMU. I can name you more than 12 and all are sports. In the championships of 1964 and 1969 the entire front page of the Batt was about the title game and the headlines were in maroon ink. And even the Eagle, that paper you claim to be so much better than, ran the game story as

the lead. Chalk one up for the Eagle.

You claim that doing such is just Public Relations. That is, you and your inbred cohorts, LaTonya and Mike Perrin and Rod Speer. But was it not you who turned over the paper to a staff of PR rats the two days prior to the game so that you might take a couple days off?

I think back with pain on the many times I defended the Batt. Yeah, I said, "Hell no, we're not muckrakers!" But I take that back now; that's all you and the Perrins

and Speer live for.

Hal Sports couldn't run the story, huh. Well, Moses, maybe you better read your lead story on Tuesday and Wednesday as well as stories given given priority on the front page and you'll see the sports but only muck.

Sorry, Greg, but you don't have an excuse this time. I regret wasted two years working at the Batt and claiming you for a friend. For in your haste, you have signed a championship basketball team, humiliated a University.

Tony Gallucci

Junior Promm III

Ticket sales

Bigger and better hassles devised

By ALAN KILLINGSWORTH

I heard an Aggie joke last football season when there was a possibility that A&M would win the Southwest Conference

which went something like this: If the Aggies were No. 1 in the conference they wouldn't know how many fingers to hold up during the chant.



Well, at the last basketball game, when the team proved that A&M could win in a major conference sport, I didn't see but one person holding up two fingers. I think he was trying to get the attention of the Coke boy. The only problem was that the Coke boy was holding up the "We're No. 1" sign.

If I never compliment anyone the rest of the year in my column, I have to congratulate the basketball team on winning the SWC. So ends the longest four-year losing streak in the four years I've been here. Thanks, I needed that!

So all eyes turn to football. Can it be done? Can the Aggies win the conference this year? Can they beat the hell out of Texas like I've heard them say for four years? Can we go to the Cotton Bowl (where??) Most important, can I get tickets?

It's funny as hell that more Aggies worry about getting tickets than they do about winning in football. The lines in front of G. Rollie White look more like bread lines. Freshmen are running through campus yelling, "I'm on the 10 yard line! I

made it!" By the end of senior day all the tickets to the out-of-town games are gone. Why don't they do something? They are. The Student Senate is thinking ahead.

A committee of the Senate has been looking into ways to end all the hassle which goes with acquiring a football ticket. With a little luck, we might see the change by next year. But then again, it might take the Senate that long to figure out what they've come up with.

I have several plans which would work and at the same time be just about the funniest thing you ever saw. But no one ever wants to have fun anymore. Well, I'll pour my little plans on you anyway.

An Easter egg hunt! Now don't start saying "Why didn't I think of that?" Hide the tickets all over campus and let the students find the

ones they want. Think of all the hiding places that we have. The construction, the University Center, the Quack Shack (nobody would ever look in there) and Sbsa (hide it under the chicken fried gristle). With all the students looking under things, there's no telling what little tidbits they might find. The Battalion has been doing it for more than a year and it's very interesting to see what comes out from under rocks. Be careful of mousetraps.

Another plan would be to crop all the tickets out of an airplane and let them float over the campus. Don't tell anybody when it's gonna be done, just get the Air Craps to do it anytime. But no bias, boys. Drop a few on the civilian side as well. It would all be a matter of who is in the

right place at the right time.

The last proposal I have is the "YOU'VE BEEN A GOOD BOY" plan. In this plan all the tickets are given to the Administration to divide among the students they fit. If someone on scho pro gets "A" on a test then the people's front give him a ticket. If the dent hasn't questioned any fees or creases, he gets a 50 yard line.

If the student has done well in CONSTRUCTION EXTRA GANZA, he receives a ticket to the mail. All the student has to do is a good boy. You have it made. You are guaranteed a ticket every week. But don't step out of line. One bad move and you're in the bleachers. That plan does have its drawbacks. The Battalion staff would watch the games from the end-zone.



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