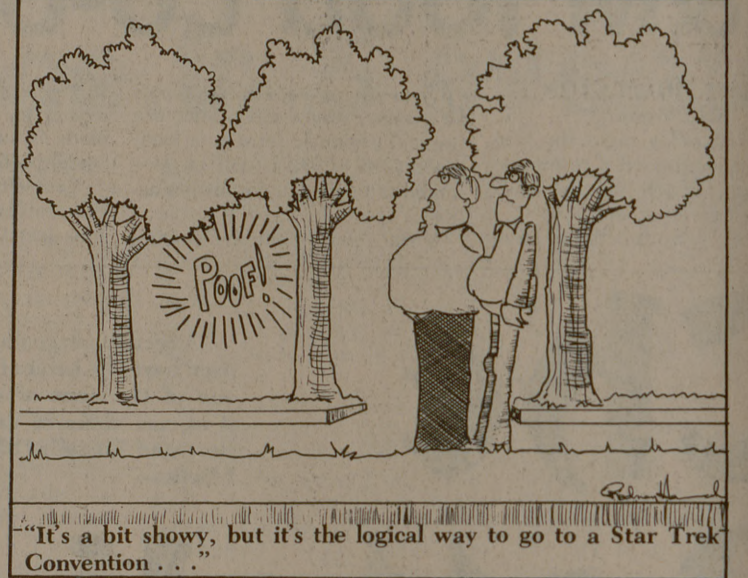
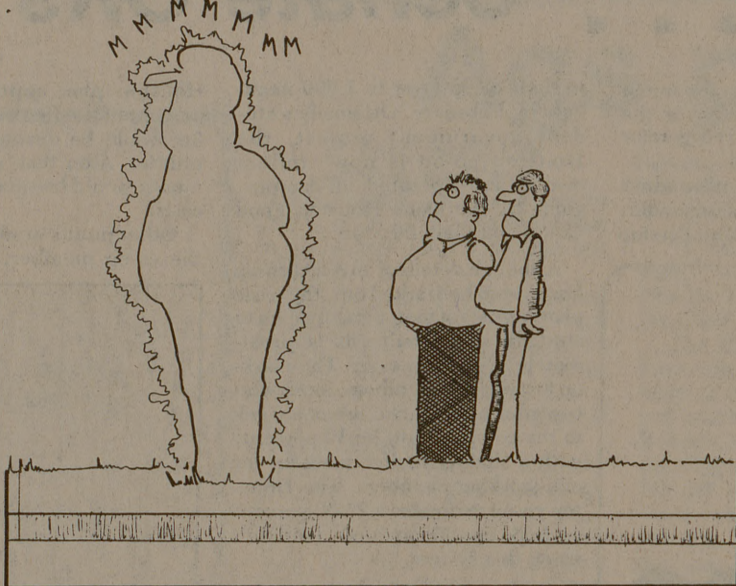


"Coasters was chosen as the Aggie delegate to the Star Trek Convention in New York, but I guess he didn't go."



"It's a bit showy, but it's the logical way to go to a Star Trek Convention..."

The economic reply

NSL proposals

No real solutions, just more problems

By MIKE PERRIN  
The National Student Lobby will be in Washington later this week to lobby for student interests. It's too bad that their lobbying stances are not solutions, but only extensions of the problems they seek to solve.



Seventeen issues will be lobbied, but eleven of them have something in common. They are:  
**Academic collective bargaining**, in which NSL wants students to keep themselves from being burned by agreements between faculty and staff to lower the quality of an education.

**Basic Educational Opportunity Grant program** — basically the NSL wants more money for this program which is supposed to help students. The same goes for **College work-study**, **Food Stamps** — NSL wants more "flexible" rules so more students are eligible. **Low tuition** — NSL wants it. **Affirmative action** — NSL wants remedial action in the area of discrimination. **Financial aid process** — the NSL wants more students directly involved in determining these allocations. **Student rights and confidential files** — the NSL wants some things changed, including the lifting of secrecy from data like date of birth and school classification. **Title IX** — NSL favors these regulations which prohibit discrimination in education.

**Veteran benefits for Vietnam era vets** — NSL wants education allowances and other privileges for these vets.

**Women's educational equity act** — NSL supports this affirmative action program for women.

Yet all of the NSL positions are stopgaps, not real solutions. A simple adjustment in the way schools are financed could solve all these problems. The idea is that the university would sign an agreement that each student could attend the school either free or at a nominal cost in return for a certain per cent of the student's income after he graduates. These rates would depend on the student's agreements with the university. For example, an engineering student might agree to pay the university 5 per cent of his income for 20 years, whereas an English major might need to pledge 10 per cent for 30 years. These agreements would pay for 100 per cent of the cost of college. There would be no more taxation of the general public to subsidize about 80 per cent of the costs of college. The student could choose to finance only the cost of his tuition if he wished. He could also finance his housing and food or anything else, depending on his pledge amount,

of course. The advantages to the plan: students who don't do well after graduation would pay little; yet the university would benefit greatly from successful graduates. This is why only a per cent is pledged, not a dollar amount. This means that colleges will want every grad to have the best possible job — it would mean more money for the university.

This plan would solve all eleven of the earlier problems mentioned in the following ways:

**Academic collective bargaining.** Since schools now would all have to pay for themselves without a public subsidy, then the faculty can't get concessions to the point that education suffers. If they do, the grads will suffer, and the university won't make money and will go out of business. This gives the professors a direct stake in keeping the quality of education high. There are now few incentives to provide a good education because the university gets so much of its funding from forced taxes.

How does this plan solve the remainder of the eleven programs? Some of the programs are pushing financial aid. Students would not need money to attend school with the payback plan since they are pledging future income, so all of the programs which deal with student expense go out the window.

The second issue here is that some groups may be discriminated against such that they are making less in the future than they should. The payback plan eliminates this problem, since it keys the success of a university to the success of its graduates. The universities will try hard to find women good-paying jobs, so they collect more on their percentages. The school which fails to do so will be tried by the harsh court of money, which decrees that those who run out of money run out of business. Good graduates will be the only means of survival for universities with the payback plan. This means every graduate will have to achieve his fullest potential for the university to benefit to its fullest potential.

The only other problem in this category is student rights. This question would not arise in a full-cost payback system, since the harassment would be replaced by a per cent of income pledged. Universities make people pay other ways than in money now, since they don't ask students to cover the cost of their education. This is why we see long lines, inefficiency, and rudeness — this is a hidden cost of the subsidized education. Without subsidies, no non-money costs slip in.

The other six lobbying areas for NSL are brief and I will discuss them only briefly:

**Discount Air Fares** — the NSL wants these. They do not perceive

the real problem is government regulation of air fares. With a free market in airlines, the cost of flying would be cut down much lower than it is today. The airlines could offer discounts if they wished to and if competition forced them into it. Right now, whether they want to or not, the airlines must go through the Civil Aeronautics Board to try this type of program. The idea should not be a cosmetic change, which is a temporary low air fare, but should be aimed at systemic change which guarantee low fares.

**Energy crisis** — NSL wants an emergency standby system for students to get gasoline and so on. But there is no energy crisis and things are moving back to normal without action from the government. If we wait long enough, the oil cartel will crumble. It is already weakening — look at the decline in U.S. buying and also the lowering of the original cartel price. NSL should insist that the government quit mucking in problems like this one, which are self-correcting.

**Equal rights amendment** — NSL favors it. To the extent that another bureaucracy will be created to force people to act in certain ways, forget it. Nothing constructive will be done — look at other programs, like desegregation of schools ordered 21 years ago by the Supreme Court. Two decades and billions of dollars later, about all we have really done is to inflame race hatred, disrupt school systems and create a series of jobs for parasitical social workers.

**Foreign student work permits** — NSL wants these eliminated "because there are not very many people involved." Work permits should be abolished for everyone. Their basic effect is to ensure a black market in these permits and to allow unscrupulous businessmen to take advantage of people without these permits by threatening to turn them in to authorities if they demand better wages or working conditions.

**Post card voter registration** — the NSL wants it because they claim that many states make it difficult for students to register to vote.

The use of this system would make it easy to create legions of fictitious voters to be pulled out at election time only. A good example occurred a few years ago in Texas when people with names on gravestones voted for a man for Senator who later became Vice-President, then President of the United States. (Hint: not Richard Nixon.)

In short, NSL only attacks the form of the problems, but rarely deals with their structure. In the aid programs, for example, they merely want more money, which means more taxes or government borrowing, which means less taxpayer income or more inflation,

both of which hurt the consumer and taxpayer. Just asking for more money is a naive and shortsighted method of dealing with these problems. I have suggested a structure whereby the entire problem is soled without more government spending, but instead is paid by the person receiving direct benefits from education and which also increases the quality of that education. I have also taken the bad effects of the other NSL positions and have shown how to solve the problems while avoiding the nestly side-effects.

So let's do ourselves a favor and hope NSL doesn't get things done the way they want them. It can only help you and me if they don't.

Listen Up

Three unknown Aggies Kind act represents TAMU well

Editor:  
I would like to tell you a story of four very grateful people who swear to always think highly of A&M here-to-fore.

Friday, March 28, we sailed out to a small island in Lake Somerville on a catamaran. About the time we got our tent up, the norther blew in and it turned into a really awful Easter weekend. And there we were all Friday night and half of Saturday — cold, grouchy and pessimistic about how we'd get off the island and over to dry land and a warm car. None of us felt confident to deal with the high, the rough, cold water and a small sailboat. And even if we had, it would have taken three trips — very cold, wet trips — to get all our gear to shore.

Early Saturday afternoon, three A&M guys in a sailboat realized our

plight and understood what we felt like, stranded on that abominable island. Certainly no one else even attempted to come help us (and there were motor-boats around). These three guys considerably rescued us.

They showed one of our members how to sail our boat and provided one of their own members as the navigator. They took all our gear on their own boat plus three of our party. We still got very cold and wet but we made it to the shore in one trip, confident that these men were well in control of the situation.

We were all too cold and hurried to exchange names, but I believe some or all of the mysterious three sailors are members of an A&M sailing club. I hope that our gratitude will reach them through this letter. What they did was incredibly kind

and thoughtful. It made me quickly appreciate people who help people. Their kindness will be forever remembered.

Donald H. Rothermel  
Leah Knelly Rothermel  
Janice Lee Veile  
Jonath MacBird

Visitors noted

Editor:  
Anyone who has eaten at the MSC cafeteria and snack bar on weekends has probably noticed the increasing number of visitors who have no right to eat there. I am referring to the "older generation" who has discovered that the MSC dining facilities are a good place to eat, where one can find generous helpings of food at very reasonable

prices. The only problem is that the prices are geared to meet the budget of the student. It is a place where students can go to relax and have a good meal at a very modest cost, without having to pay the comparatively higher prices in town. If these Sunday after-church goers continue to use the MSC dining facilities and tie up long waiting lines in the cafeteria, the MSC will inevitably have to raise food prices to balance the influx of these people.

I certainly have no objection to guests of the faculty, or student's relatives enjoying the economy of the facilities, but it really burns me up to see the whole dining area filled with people old enough to be my great-grandparents.

Lloyd G. Smith

NOTICE MAY AND SUMMER SENIORS WELCOME

PICK UP YOUR TICKET THIS WEEK FOR THE SENIOR INDUCTION BANQUET TO WELCOME YOU INTO THE ASSOCIATION OF FORMER STUDENTS

All Spring and Summer graduates of the Class of 1975 PICK UP YOUR COMPLIMENTARY TICKET. NO LATER THAN 5:00 p.m., Friday, APRIL 11, OR AS LONG AS THE TICKETS LAST

Present your ID card in person to the Receptionist at the Association of Former Students Office across from the Post Office in the MSC, and specify which evening you prefer to attend the Senior Induction Banquet at the Ramada Inn.

THE SENIOR INDUCTION BANQUETS ARE SET FOR

6:30-8:00 p.m., MONDAY, APRIL 14, 1975 AND TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 1975, IN THE BALLROOM OF THE RAMADA INN.

DRESS: COAT AND TIE

WINTER GRADUATES WILL HAVE THEIR BANQUET IN DECEMBER

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THINK BUFFALO  
COME TO THE MSC CAFETERIA WITH ALL YOUNG CHIEFS AND INDIAN PRINCESSES TO GREAT POW WOW. ORDER ROAST BUFFALO AND BE INITIATED IN THE ROYAL ORDER OF BUFFALO HUNTERS. THIS IS REAL BUFFALO... NO BULL. ALL WHO PASS THE TEST WILL BE PRESENTED WITH AN INDIAN HEADBAND.  
Because of the great interest of our customers to have a taste of the past we are going to serve Buffalo again this spring and summer. It is the opinion of many that the Indians had a good thing going with the Buffalo. There are many other tasty items on the menu this Sunday but no matter what you desire stamped to the MSC Cafeteria.  
"Quality First" EACH EVENING \$1.50 4:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.

The Battalion

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

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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; \$10.00 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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**PEANUTS**  
I SAW THAT!  
YOU MAILED A LOVE LETTER TO TRUFFLES, DIDN'T YOU? WELL, TRUFFLES DOESN'T LOVE YOU! SHE LOVES ME! DO YOU UNDERSTAND?  
BLEAH!  
THIS WILL TAKE CARE OF MY JOGGING FOR THE REST OF THE WEEK...