

SLOUCH Kiddie-cops not vigilantes



"I should have settled for my initials instead of a footprint!"

Readers' forum SCONA criticizes Batt

Now that the *Battalion* has exercised its right to publish that part of the news it deems fit to print, I would like to exercise my own prerogative to express some personal biases on the editorial page — a section which, in most newspapers, is the sole section reserved for that purpose.

I wish to point out some deficiencies in the *Battalion's* February 17 coverage of SCONA 21. The items to which I take exception are an index brief stating, "SCONA ended Saturday and leaders say SCONA brought little discussion," and a sentence in a page 5 article stating, "Three SCONA executive (sic) said the round tables had been quiet and not very anxious about discussion." Upon discussing the coverage with Sandy Russo, the reporter responsible for the article, I learned that no SCONA leaders actually said "SCONA 21 brought little discussion," but that the *Battalion* editors manufactured the statement themselves after reading her article. The fact is that each of nine round tables engaged in more than ten hours of discussion during the conference. No one I talked to, including Sandy Russo and the SCONA Executive Committee observed any periods of abnormal silence during the discussion. If the *Batt* editors want to interpret 90-plus hours of round table discussion as "little discussion," that is their privilege; I choose to interpret it differently. Sandy's explanation was that when she wrote "quiet" she did not mean "silent" but rather "not fiery" — a small but important factor in the reader's comprehension of the article. So much for clarification.

In deftly writing off \$20,000 and countless man-hours in barely 2 paragraphs of newscopy, Sandy neglected to include some important measures of the conference's success including smoothness of operation, quality of the speakers, comparison to other campus conferences, and, most significantly, response of the delegates.

An objective evaluation of the conference will not be available until the participants' evaluations are returned to us within a couple of weeks. In the meantime, my judgment is that the conference was a tremendous success in all areas. I close with the following quotes (Quotes, by the way, were noticeably lacking in the *Batt* article.) which back up my opinion and supplement the *Batt's* half of the story:

"This place is unreal! It's cultural shock coming to Texas and meeting so many nice people. Your conference is much better than SCUSA (Student Conference on U.S. Affairs at West Point) in most respects."

Mark Kimmitt
United States Military Academy

"I must admit — I was skeptical when I first accepted to be a round table cochairman. But, in addition to learning more about the subject matter of the conference, I gained a perspective of the views of you delegates, which I am sure will be incorporated into my own opinions and decisions."

Dr. Charles Hanrahand
Economic Research Service of the USDA

"I attended the conference throughout its entirety last week and found it to be an enriching experience. The lectures, round table discussions and various other aspects of the conference were well executed."

Alton Porter
President, Sam Houston State Student Association

Joe K. Carter
Chairman
SCONA 21

The Battalion

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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: Bob G. Rogers, Chairman; Dr. Gary Halter, Dr. John Hanna, Roger P. Miller, Dr. Clinton A. Phillips, Jeff Dunn, Tom Dawsey and Jerri Ward.
Director of Student Publications: Gail L. Cooper.

Editor:

This is per the *Batt*. "editorial" on Thursday. May I suggest that before you criticize something, that you know your facts.

• Vigilantes, we are not. Sure some unruly actions and idiotic moves by a few over enthusiastic Aggs occurred over the Baylor week. This cast a heavy shadow over the few dedicated conscientious few who spent many long cold nights during the week preceding and including bonfire. How much vandalism was shown for that week? None that I know of. Why? Because a few people spent their knowledge and dedication helping with the bonfire spirit. What thanks did we get? None except for those of us who knew there was no point on the campus.

However, we did get a lot of criticism about our work and a lot of people did a lot of bitching, but not many offered help late at night.

• The Campus Police did not form this organization! There was a group of individuals like myself who worked hard those cold wet nights who separately came up with a plan to organize ourselves. It was not the police who designed it. It is not for the police to utilize for things that you suggested.

It is a faculty/student organization in which the students have chosen their own form of control from people we feel have the knowledge and experience to teach us to help others. This help I speak of is something most C.B.s are proud and willing to do.

Personally I don't feel anyone who will be in the organization will bother with playing narc (I am sure they won't) or bother a couple in the back of their car.

Maybe you do not know anyone mature enough to make value judgments as to what is wrong — felony auto theft, and vandalizing state property, and what is not, but I do and most of my friends are of this caliber. Also, I could care less who gets stoned in their car — this is their business. I have been affected by Sully getting painted and having a radio stolen from my car. I am glad to see you have taken a stand on the subject but first I wish you would get some facts straight before you condemn something which bears strong potential of aiding the school.

I feel that were you to meet these people and see them in action, you might change your opinion on the issue. I would publicly like to invite you to observe our group at our next meeting (Feb. 23, 7:30, in Rudder Tower) and see how they feel about the organization.

Mark D. Snider

Parking — again

Editor:

I want to complain about improperly marked parking areas on campus. Several people I know have received tickets for illegal parking in these places.

These areas are the U.S.D.A. section of the parking lot beside the Davis-Gary Dorm and the parking spaces along the Parade Grounds on Old Main Drive.

The main U.S.D.A. section is marked (though its sign is usually hidden by tree branches), but there is an island of U.S.D.A., spaces in front of those marked spots, that is not properly marked to indicate U.S.D.A. parking only.

Parking spaces on the Old Main strip are reserved for staff parking, but there is no sign designating such.

Without the aid of a parking map people cannot possibly know if such areas are reserved. Signs should be posted to serve as a guide for campus parkers.

Jo Shankles, '79

P.E. grading

Editor:

I would like to comment on the P.E. department's method of grading. I think it's unfair to place natural athletes and those lacking physical coordination in the same class and grade them only on the basis of their performance, using the letter-grade system, without consideration of the effort or the improvement of the student.

For example, when I was taking tennis, there were both those who had been on their high school tennis teams and those who had never seen

Listen Up

Sex object

Editor:

I was appalled to discover the MSC banner advertising the all-night Centennial Fair. This is another example of the degrading use of women as sex objects in advertising. The banner relies on sexual appeals to attract people to A&M's Centennial Fair.

For those fortunate enough not to have seen it, the banner depicts a full-bodied, short-skirted, barefooted female illustrating the slogan, "Come spend the night with us." This seems to be the wrong approach to take for our Centennial Fair. It not only degrades women, but also degrades the institution it represents. Moreover, there is no logical connection between the advertisement and what is being advertised.

Women are gradually being accepted as equal at A&M and I feel this is a step backwards. This type of advertising does not represent the contributions that women have made and will continue to make at Texas A&M University.
Carol Kingsberry Housel '76

Thanks

Editor:

We, the Guatemalan students at Texas A&M thank all of the people, and especially the members of the Texas A&M Radio Club (W5AC), who were responsible for helping us contact our families during this time of tragedy.

We also appreciate the concern that all of our friends have expressed with regard to the safety of our loved ones.

We would like to appeal to our fellow Aggies for any contribution which will help our people in Guatemala. Please take donations to the first floor of the Memorial Student Center. We have a table set up across from the bookstore.

Sincerely,
Eduardo Castillo

Ed. Note: There are 10 Guatemalan students now enrolled at A&M.

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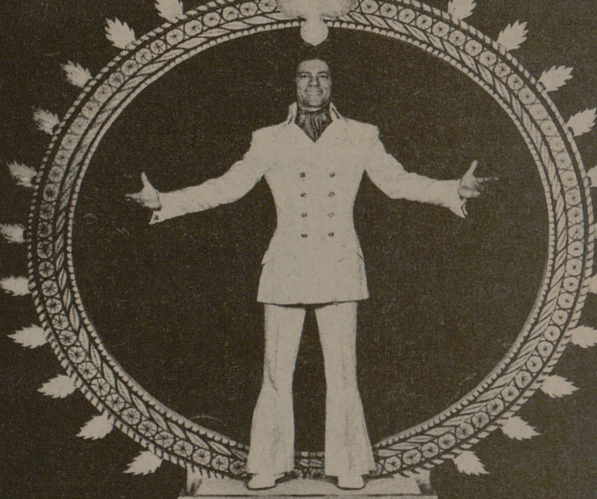
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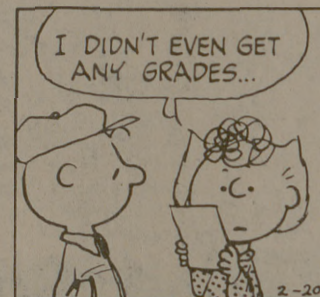
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