

Editorial

Vote, don't bitch

Those of you who bitch about the housing situation, the bars' closing times, the lack of bike paths, the police, etcetera, now have the chance to change the way things are.

Texas A&M students can exert a strong influence in local politics, especially in a city the size of College Station.

On April 3, College Station voters will elect five councilmen and a mayor. These are six of the seven positions on the law-making body of the city you live in.

If you think that your hometown is still your place of residence, think of how much money you spend here. Through sales taxes, utility rates and property taxes (through housing costs), you are providing much of the operating capital for local government. You should exercise your right to say how this money is spent.

Even those students registered elsewhere can change their registration to Brazos County simply by filling out a registration card.

The deadline for registering is Wednesday at 5 p.m.

Student Government has made it even simpler by setting up a table on the first floor of the Memorial Student Center to register voters. The table is open weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Registration to vote in Brazos County. Why not try it once? You might be surprised at what can happen.

Jerry Needham

Concession fund too high

Texas A&M University makes an exorbitant profit, \$80,000 a year, from campus vending machines. The money from every fifth candy bar (20 cents) and every fourth coke (25 cents) goes directly to the University concessions account.

Operation with such high commission is possible because the Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Bryan is contracted as the exclusive supplier, acting as a monopoly.

The profit cleared is several times what the president and his handful of vice presidents and directors can reasonably use in one year. Their expenditures totaled \$20,000 to \$30,000 annually in recent years. The administration appraises the students with a \$1 per person per dorm allocation, \$8,600 this year, benefiting only on-campus students.

This situation is handled differently at UT Austin. Their \$156,000 each year provides scholarships, tutoring, special programs, supplement housing and food services budgets.

A similar system should be applied at A&M.

University officials need money for official matters and it may as well come from vending machines. But, the current method is unjust to the students and faculty who patronize the machines.

The students at this or any other university do not have the power to take the account away from the administration. Besides, most students would not exercise the responsibility to manage such a task.

Fair solutions to the problem are:

1) Lower vending Machine prices so profits will meet University executives expenses without penalizing students.

Or:

2) Take the excess two-thirds of the profits and return it to programs for the students.

Ray Daniels

Bill Mauldin



"Thank God for a society where they respect their leaders."

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.

Address correspondence to Listen Up, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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Feiffer

SON, SCIENTISTS NOW CLAIM THAT BY THE TIME A CHILD REACHES THREE HE IS ALREADY FORMED FOR LIFE.



HAD THIS INFORMATION BEEN AVAILABLE TO ME EARLIER I WOULD HAVE SEEN A LOT MORE OF YOU.



BUT MY TIME WAS TAKEN UP WITH BUILDING A CAREER.



SO WHATEVER BECOMES OF YOU I WANT YOU TO KNOW IT'S YOUR MOTHER'S FAULT. I'M CLEAN.



DON'T LISTEN TO HIM, SON! I'M CLEAN TOO!



BLAME THE MAID.



Listen Up

Firecracker raid lights readers' fuses

Editor:
In the last year, I have been a witness to the abolishment of many of the old "unsatisfactory" and "obsolete" Corps traditions and their replacement with various new and innovative ideas and policies. Tuesday night, I once again witnessed new and innovative ideas put into action, as a majority of the rooms in the Corps were searched in an unorganized and haphazard method for who knows what—I wasn't told, and without authority and/or consent from room occupants—and in some cases without their presence.

I must say I am proud to be a member of an institution with an eye to the future—around 1984. Keep up the excellent police work gentlemen, and let's keep those innovative ideas coming.

Paul M. Sander '78
Semper ubi sub ubi. — Ed.

Commend

Editor:
I would like to commend the decision to make a search for the illegal fireworks in the Corps dorm area. Since the beginning of the semester, the use of firecrackers, bottle rockets, and other small explosives to make a loud noise and get a laugh seemed harmless. But it is not funny anymore. Homemade bombs have replaced these firecrackers, increasing the danger of a person being injured.

I feel it is more important to consider the health of innocent persons than to try and protect the privacy rights of those in possession of the illegal explosives. The judgment of individuals to act now on this problem will save added trouble if there were no action at all and serious injury was done.

There might have been another solution instead of a search, which was certain to bring cries of "invasion of privacy" and "unfair treatment." The entire situation could have been ignored and the problem might have gone away. But, doesn't it make better sense to remove the origin of the problem now and enforce the rules as they should be?

Joan Brumfield, '76
Errare humanum est. — Ed.

Isolation

Editor:
As regards one of the Thursday, Feb. 18 editorials: I fail to see why the students at Texas A&M should be involved in city politics in College Station. It has been pointed out that students shop in College Station and subsequently pay sales taxes, and that the campus makes use of city police and fire facilities. For those students that live off-campus and in the city proper, and/or those who plan to make permanent homes here, I think city involvement is valid.

But the campus itself is practically an independent community. It has

its own security, which seldom, if ever, makes use of city services. The campus is dependent on city firemen, but I doubt that many students are qualified to advise them as to their jobs.

The sales taxes paid by students hardly equal the various city taxes paid by permanent residents. And in the long run, I probably pay more taxes to Bryan or even Houston.

I can understand the concern of permanent residents over the mass involvement of a transient student population. Students are here for an average of four years, as opposed to a lifetime spent here by the permanent residents. And at every school vacation, when the students go "home", the vast majority go somewhere other than College Station. Thus I can also understand, even in those cases attached to the university, the lack of interest in the city.

Mary Hirsch '79
Italia non est insula. — Ed.

Parking

Editor:

For years now off-campus students have had the problem of parking near campus. Seeing as there is NO parking on campus the students turned to the local driveways, side streets and of course, the very large and close parking area the Circle Drive In. For years these spots have been free to parkers putting at least one bright spot in the students already over worked bank balance. Now for the mere price of \$5.00 a month one can park where was once free. To say this is outrageous would be one thing but you could add ridiculous, stupid, antagonistic and last but by far not the least—a costly annoyance. The "money hungry" people of this University and combined cities are really disgusting. So in this writing I am asking if it would be possible for those students who once used the Circle Drive In to now boycott it's parking area. Maybe, just

maybe, if these maggots of the community find that no one wants their service at "any price" they will wake up.

Marie Cowie '75
De Bello Gallico. — Ed.

Aggie Cinema International Film Series presents
SIDDHARTHA
A Novel by Hermann Hesse
A Film by Conrad Roth
Wednesday March 3
Rudder Theatre
8 p.m.
\$1 and TAMU ID

Aggie Cinema presents
a Bargain Matinee
Paint Your Wagon
starring
Clint Eastwood & Lee Marvin
Saturday, Feb. 27
2 p.m.
Rudder Theatre
\$.50 and TAMU ID

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