

Flak flies from Reis column yesterday

Editor:
Tell me, Mr. Reis; where do you get off on this deity kick of yours? I don't recall electing you as my moral conscience, and yet day after day you seek to move me to hang my head over your column as you lay bare my two-per-center sins. If you have some divine right to sit in judgement over what you may consider my unAgginess, I believe I might just have to excommunicate myself from your sect.

It appears to me, Mr. Reis, that you shoulder an awful amount of responsibility when you so capriciously condemn whole masses of people for what you see as unAggie-like conduct. Reading yesterday's column, I was really amazed at the power of the press that a columnist wields. Imagine, Mr. Reis, if your words had the power to smite the gross offenders who passed up Convocation Day Monday, you would have had the entire campus almost entirely to yourself today.

Down to the brass tacks, Mr. Reis. Do you realize that in the short few weeks that you have written for the

Letters

Batt you have alienated just about every Aggie who ever trod upon these grounds? The thing that galls me most, though, is that you self-righteously play yourself up on the subtle side as about the only good Ag on campus. You didn't even give the members of the Corps a break when you implied that the only reason most of them were at Monday's events was because it was mandatory.

You speak a lot about apathy in your column and the sorry disposition most students seem to have about this school. From the product of your pen these past few weeks I fail to see much difference in your attitude of Aggies in general. And that's a real shame.

I think if you would soften your cynical gaze, you might find a lot of Aggies who care about just about everything.

You mentioned in your column yesterday that those who failed to go

to the Convocation are the ones who let the Centennial year go by unnoticed, not expressing what should happen. No one I have talked to can recall being summoned from the speakers platform to express their hopes and dreams for the future. And I dare say, I needn't have been sitting in G. Rollie White most of the day Monday to envision changes I'd like to see.

You said in an earlier column on spirit at A&M something I agree with entirely. You said, "There is no lecture about what constitutes an Aggie who knows and lives up to the true meaning of Spirit. They know who they are."

I know who I am. And I'll wager thousands of other Aggies know who they are, what their dreams and hopes are for the school, and what this place means to them — not in terms of what events they take in and how many, but by all they have lived at Texas A&M. Who are you to chastise the intangible?

— Jamie Aitken

ever, if he was being paid, then Mr. Sartain should rephrase his statement to read that they cannot afford to serve the students who pay for the postman's salaries.

Also, I was under the impression that postal rates were standardized. I have never noticed (in 3½ years) that the MSC postal rates or services were any less than at other stations. Perhaps Mr. Sartain could explain how the type of operation differs between the MSC and Northgate or Redmond Terrace, and where the prices of services differ to create the profit differences.

I feel sure that I am not the only post office boxholder who finds it impossible, in my case, or extremely inconvenient to get to the window between 11:00 and 1:00. If an adequate explanation can be offered I will cease my complaining, but until that time I will continue to complain and discourage anyone I can from patronizing that particular post office.

The \$14 annual rent for a box is, or should be, payment for a little more than merely holding a box. If the MSC station of the Postal Service cannot come up with that "little more" then perhaps those of us with boxes there should investigate the other post offices that do offer a "little more."

Kathy Allison, '77

new industry to the area. Coupled with the fluctuation of the peso, many cities in South Texas are suffering drastic economic repercussions. It appears to me that unemployed aliens' dependence on food stamps is a minor problem compared to the extensive social problems high unemployment creates.

In conclusion, I would like to offer that legislation be drafted by the State of Texas to insure the economic survival of cities located on the U.S.-Mexico border. The economic development and industrialization of these areas, historically plagued by high unemployment, affects all residents of the state of Texas directly and indirectly. It is time for effective, remedial measures to be taken and a sound plan developed for economic strategies that will benefit the residents of South Texas.

Rose Marie Harris
Houston

Further more...

THE EYES OF THE WORLD ARE UPON

GIVE ME YOUR

TIRED, YOUR

YOUR HUDDLED

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TO BREATHE FR

OUR NATION

IS SHAMED

Slouch by Jim Earle

HAPPY 100TH BIRTHDAY Texas A&M University

EARLE OCT 6-76

Editor's note:
Aitken is The Battalion's city editor.

Also, because of a typesetting error, the body of the column (down to "The old A&M College where the ags cared...") should have been set in quotation marks to reflect that Reis was quoting Sanford Russo.

Post Office should give more

Editor:
After reading the article "Long lines to continue at MSC Post Office" in the Tuesday (Sept. 28) issue of The Battalion I was filled with wonder. According to Stan Sartain and the article "Postal Service cannot afford to pay postal employees to work at the station more than two hours a day."

Last week, due to the inconvenient hours, I was unable to pick up a package too large for my box. I called at 3:30 and the phone was answered by one of the employees they cannot afford to pay for more than two hours a day. I find it hard to believe that he was not being paid for being there to answer the phone. He was kind enough to send my package (presumably that afternoon without pay) to the Northgate Post Office so that I could pick it up the next day at 1:30.

If, indeed, he was there without pay, then I cannot fault the man for being generous and helpful; how-

Editor's note: The manager of the Aggie Station Post Office says he does work from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m., but is only authorized to open the window from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Legislation needed

Editor:
While visiting College Station this past weekend I happened upon a copy of The Battalion, (Friday, Oct. 1), and was attracted by an article on the front page headlined "Illegal immigration into U.S. accelerates; hurts economy" by Steven Knowles.

Mr. Knowles refers to 1964 and the fact that 80,000 illegal immigrants were sent home. This figure is grossly underestimated since approximately 185,000 Mexican nationals were thrown out of work and returned to Mexico with the suspension of the "Bracero" program. This program had allowed migrant farm workers to enter the U.S. and perform seasonal agricultural labor. Unemployment in the U.S. and Mexico along the border was rampant.

In order to alleviate high unemployment and the impending socio-economic problems of cities from Brownsville to Tijuana, the Mexican government devised the "maquila" program. This program allowed U.S. manufacturers to establish plants within a Foreign Trade Zone in Mexico, and sub-assembled goods, chiefly electronic components, to be shipped into Mexico "in bond." The processed goods are then sent back to the U.S. and duty is assessed only on the value added to the product. (Item 807.00, U.S. Tariff Schedule).

As a result of the border industrialization program supported by the U.S. and Mexico, Mexican nationals on both sides of the border have another opportunity at employment. Their earnings affect fluctuations in the economy along the border. Payroll dollars generated in Mexico are transfused into the U.S. border communities and monies from retail sales taxes are a major source of revenue for most South Texas towns. Local economies depend on mutual cooperation in these "twin cities" and prosperity and problems are contiguous to both communities.

Presently, the "maquila" program is declining due to several reasons, i.e., inflationary wage rate in Mexico, and lack of a Border Industrialization Commission to assist existing plant owners and to attract

Rotten apples affect all

Editor:
When I enrolled at Texas A&M University last fall I was overwhelmed by the friendliness that was shown to me by other Aggies. It seemed as if we (AGS) were all one big family enjoying a "make yourself at home" atmosphere.

Well, as I entered school this fall, a few incidents occurred which made me stop and reexamine the closeness that we Ags share. How does having your books stolen, your hubcaps ripped off, and your bicycle lifted, strike you?

For beginners, I was in the MSC one day when I decided to have coffee with a friend. I set my backpack of books in one of the lockers beside the corridor. When I reached into my pocket, I realized that I didn't have a quarter with which to lock the locker, and consequently I didn't lock it.

When I returned to the locker in about 30 minutes, my backpack of books, containing the notes to all of my classes, was gone. It was quite evident to me that some people on campus didn't consider themselves a part of our "Aggie Family."

A good friend of mine became a member of our "Aggie Family" this year, entering school as a freshman. He was amazed at the togetherness that was exemplified on this campus. His trust was honored by someone stealing the hubcaps off of his truck.

Another friend of mine bought a new bicycle and the one time he failed to lock it, marked the last time he saw it.

I realize that those persons who committed the dishonest acts represent only a few bad Ags, among a bunch of good ones. But let's face facts, just as a few rotten potatoes can ruin an entire sack, a few rotten Ags can make all of us look bad.

Let's keep our eyes open and if we see that an Aggie's action distorts the beauty of our school, let's kindly remind him that his actions affect not only himself, but the whole "Aggie Family."

Kevin Basham, '79

College still challenges sun ten years later

By LINDA HOWARD
I've gone to college at 17 and again at 31, and let me tell you, some differences crop up in the intervening years.

First of all, there's my body. It's the same height as it was before, and about the same weight, but after two children, it's not as spry as it once was, and its center of gravity is a bit lower. This impedes my speed in getting to class. I used to be able to cover the campus in record time; now my quickest scurry could pass for an amble. My eyes are keener, though. They have to be able to search for parking places closer to the classroom.

Then there's this business of facing the day. I vaguely remember that for three consecutive years I was the 5:30 a.m. wake-up girl, rousing friends on the sleeping porch who had last-minute studying or an elaborate makeup ritual before their eight o'clocks. It was years before I realized that their first impulse the morning was to bludgeon my cheerfulness. Only their kindness saved me.

Now it is I who struggle with a by alarm clock, tasting the bitter of getting up before the children.

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that they have finally learned to sleep in. I battle daily for the nap at noon.

And studying — my habits were the best. Had I not been engaged to a serious student, I probably would have fidgeted, squirmed my gradepoint up and down to a low C. I was dying to know how I would do 10 years later. I was possibly more mature and determined more goal oriented.

Oh well. Some things change.

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Address correspondence to Letters to the Editor, The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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

Mail subscriptions are \$16.75 per semester; \$33.25 per school year; \$35.00 per full year. All subscriptions subject to 5% sales tax. Advertising rates furnished on request. Address: The Battalion, Room 217, Services Building, College Station, Texas 77843.

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