

# Opinion/Commentary/Letters

## Building code protects crowds

**Editor:**  
This letter is in response to the Battalion article on Feb. 22, 1977, styled "Local Businesses Must Limit Crowds."

In the past months the Fire Marshal and Police Officers have observed places of business in the City which by any reasonable standard were overcrowded. They observed occasions when it was not possible to enter an establishment for the press of people at the doorway and for as far inside as could be seen. The potential consequences of any sort of panic or emergency under such conditions are obvious and prompted the initiation of a program by the Fire Department and Building Official's office to remedy the situation.

The method employed was to measure and evaluate all places in which it was known or suspected that large numbers of people would gather, to determine what capacities were allowed by the City's ordinances, and to notify the owners and managers thereof.

College Station adopted the Southern Standard Building Code in June of 1967. The Code provides, among other things, for the regulation of building capacities and required exits. The relevant provisions have not been substantially changed since the Code's adoption.

One of the expressed purposes of the Code is to secure the public safety, health and general welfare from fire and other hazards in the use and occupancy of buildings. The relevant provisions of the Code apply to every building in the City, whenever constructed.

The requirements of the Code are

based on the experience of many cities and agencies over the years. Unless the City of College Station has some direct experience to the contrary, we must assume that these requirements represent a reasonable safety standard.

The City's action in enforcing the Code is in no sense "anti-business" or "anti-development." The City has every reason to be concerned about the safety of its citizens and to insist on compliance with the Code and other ordinances.

—**Lorence L. Bravenec, Mayor,**  
**City of College Station**

## All students part of student life

**Editor:**  
"It is in my opinion that the Student Publications Board is violating University Rules and Regulations through its recognition of unrecognized organizations," McClure wrote. Who cares? I do! After all, I am a student and involved in some student organizations. A major one being Student Government.

Once again, it would seem that a wall of bureaucracy and bureaucrats are trying to become another wall in which students have to overcome. Students who help subsidize the Student Publications operations, who help make up student life and most of all, students who are students, are now being told by the Student Body President that they do not have the same rights as other students.

Let's face facts, many of the so-called recognized organizations pay for their space in the AggieLand either fully or partly with money allocated via student service fees or bookstore funds. The so-called unrecognized organizations will be paying for their spot with their own generated money.

Now, I am not supporting frater-

nities, sororities, or other groups like the GSSO on this issue. It is just that I believe that if a group of students who have formed an organization that has and for all purposes will continue to function as such, should be allowed to be placed in the yearbook, especially since they are paying for it out of their own pocket and not the student body's and are just as much a part of student life as anything else at Texas A&M.

I am not involved in any of the unrecognized organizations that might be affected by this new policy of the Student Publications Board. However, I do wish to clarify one thing: as Speaker of the Student Senate, I, like Mr. McClure, am expressing my own opinion and not writing on behalf of Student Government.

—**Lynn A. Gibson**

## Student drama needs coverage

**Editor:**  
Last week, the Aggie Players performed "Aesop's Fables" before very receptive audiences, and The Battalion failed to review it.

I am not griping at The Battalion staff, really, because you may not have had room or it may have possibly just slipped your mind. However, I feel it is a shame that a school paper would review a movie at a local theatre, and not review a production by fellow students. Granted, theatre does not go over like the movies do, but that is because most people think that student productions are slipshod or not appealing. This is very untrue. "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest" was well received, as was "Man of LaMancha," and the people I spoke to after both performances said that they enjoyed the liveliness and realism that a play projects.

In essence, I'm saying that theatre is alive and well at A&M, because of the diligent efforts of the Aggie Players casts and crews. All you, or anyone, need to do is go see a "Players" production and you will find an interesting world that you have missed.

—**Charlie Andrews '80**

## Over the wall

# Baylor alumnus gets new diploma

By **LYNN ROSSI**  
Battalion Staff

## ALUMNUS GETS NEW DIPLOMA

A 100-year-old alumnus of Baylor University who lost his original sheepskin diploma received a new one Feb. 9, 53 years after the date of his first graduation.

Charles E. Poe of Taylor went to Baylor in 1908. He graduated 16 years later. Poe, an ordained minister, supported his family by preaching while attending the university. When he graduated, he was a 48-year-old grandfather.

According to The Baylor Lariat, Poe's new diploma contains the signature of Samuel P. Brooks, then Baylor president, as well as the signatures of Pat Neff, president of the Board of Trustees and later president; S.R. Spencer, dean; and W.H. Jenkins, secretary of the Board of Trustees. The names were the same as on Poe's original diploma.

Registrar Gordon Wilson said that he sent Baylor's engraver a copy of the sheepskin diploma in order to reproduce Poe's diploma exactly. Sheepskin is no longer used

because it is expensive and may deteriorate.

**NEW GRADING SYSTEM SET**  
Southern Methodist University has approved a new plus-minus grading system.

The new system will give teachers the option of giving plus and minus grades. The plus and minus grades will not be computed into the student's grade point average, but will appear on the transcript.

The system will probably go into effect for the next fall semester, according to a report in The Daily Campus.

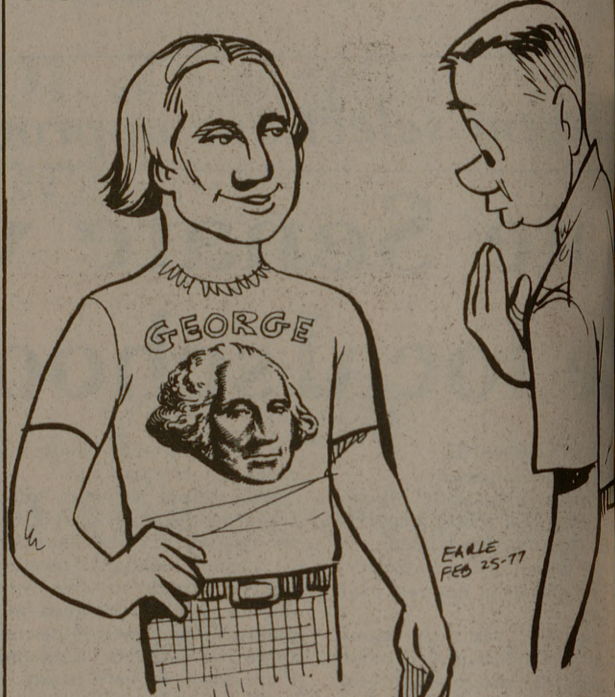
**MAN PHOTOCOPIES FACE**  
Stan Godwin, a lab supervisor and technician at East Texas State University, read an article in The Rolling Stone Magazine recently and decided to create the ultimate art piece. He closed his eyes and flattened his face on a photocopy machine to reproduce copies of his face.

In a report in The East Texan, Godwin said those who want to try his experiment should remember to keep the adjuster on "dark" at all times and keep their eyes closed to prevent blindness.

He described his experiment as "art-conceptual in essence, a type of self-portrait."

## Slouch

by **Jim Egan**



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	H - S	FEBRUARY 28	—	MARCH 4
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