

Viewpoint

The Battalion
Texas A&M University

Friday
November 4, 1977

Letters to the editor

Canal becoming 'patriotic symbol'

Editor:
Is it an American canal in Panama or is it the Panama Canal? Before I continue, please correct me if I am wrong but I do not feel that international law respects "squatters rights."

Why write a letter about such an over-talked issue? Because it is no longer an issue, it is being exploited by being called a new patriotic symbol. The last patriotic symbol which I remember being exploited concerned keeping communists out of Vietnam. However, Panama is exploitation with a new twist, colonialism.

The United States paid for it and now rents a piece of land severing the country of Panama. Because it is colonialism it is in the best interest of the United States to transfer it back to the Panamanians.

By this, I do not mean all colonialism is bad. I would welcome any country wishing to colonize Uganda and Idi Amin. What I feel is that it is in the best interest of the U.S. to not abandon dutiful relations with Latin America.

For the self-made prophets of doom who speak of the evils of the treaty, I respect your views. For now, I will place my bet with the experts who have forwarded our best national interests in the treaty's formation.

—Stan Stanfield, '78

Marketing God

Editor:
I would like to voice my opinion concerning the distribution of Bibles on campus by The Gideons International Association. Giving away free Bibles may be a thoughtful gift for some, but when one cannot walk fifty yards without being implored to "accept our free gift" by a man sticking a small green book in your face, it's getting a little ridiculous.

I hope I am not being misinterpreted, because I do like to think of myself as a Christian. However, people advertising and pushing Jesus Christ like a newly developed product makes me a little sick. I think this approach to conversion turns people off more often than it turns them on.

The opportunity to accept God is available to everyone but people can't shove Him down your throat. Why should we be goaded into accepting something we don't necessarily want? Why does the administration condone these actions?

Although most students at Texas A&M may be Christians, religion is not a requirement, and I, as a student, do not appreciate wholesale marketing of it on campus.

—Ronnie Skala, '81

Give 'em a break

Editor:
Give the Ags a break! They deserve a lot more respect than they are getting from the Batt. Paul Arnett said Monday that "many feel that Arkansas will prove that A&M is living on borrowed time." It seems to me that a 6-1 record is pretty good for a team playing on "borrowed time."

Although A&M is not winning by scores of 77-0, they are still winning. A come from-behind 17-point victory is often more valuable to a team's morale than an easy 30 or 40 point win over a weak team. A&M's statistical performance this season is not as good as in the past two seasons, with one exception: 6-1, 4-0 in SWC play.

If it was not for some very poor officiating recently, A&M would have beaten Baylor, SMU and Rice by wider margins. Against Baylor, Tony Franklin's fourth quarter field goal was easily good, but the official was very out of position when he called it no good. Franklin as well as everyone in that end zone knew it was good.

There were many other questionable calls in the Baylor game, as well as numerous pass interference calls in the Rice and SMU games, that all went against the Ags. The point is the Aggies won all three games despite having two "opponents" (the officials and the opposing team) in all three games.

Mr. Arnett also said Monday that he feels Arkansas is capable of beating any team in the nation. Well so is Texas A&M, or any other team for that matter (ask Minnesota). A&M plays Arkansas in Kyle Field for the first time in three years, with a week off to get ready. A&M has only lost once in the past 19 games in Kyle Field. With the Ags coming off a 31-0 second half, and the wishbone working well, it seems that Arkansas is "living on borrowed time."

One more thing, in reference to the Cotton Bowl's desire to get a t.u.-Notre Dame rematch. I hope they are not too disappointed when t.u. goes to the Bluebonnet bowl, cause the Ags are going to the Cotton Bowl this time!

Beat the hell outta Arkansas!
—Frank Bruce '79

Editor's note: As Aggies, the sports writers would like to see A&M in cotton like anybody else. As journalists, the

sports writers don't patronize. As Howard Cosell so aptly puts it, "We just tell it like it is."

—Paul Arnett

Good concert wanted

Editor:
Being a junior and avid listener of rock-n-roll, I can rest no longer. I realize now that by the time I have completed my third year at A&M I will be able to say there has not been a "good" concert here. Before me lies the ruins of the Hues Corp., Capt. and Tennille, B. J. Thomas, Johnny Rodriguez and Mandril. Who?

Last Spring, Town Hall took a music survey. It seemed they were on the right track (excuse the pun). The idea was good, but too bad nothing came of it. The list of concerts this year looks just as bad, maybe worse.

In defense of Town Hall, an article appeared in the Batt recently. The chairman spoke of the trouble in scheduling fall concerts. I hear daily of groups such as Emerson, Lake and Palmer, J. Giels Band, Jethro Tull and Bob Marley (Who?) touring the land. Evidently Lynyrd Skynyrd had not heard of this rule or they would not have been traveling. You know the rest. Also in reference to the same article: Why do you need to know who will play months in advance and why does a concert have to be on a home football weekend? There are plenty of other activities before yell practice, believe me?

The final straw was this past weekend with Michael Murphy. I can enjoy an evening of quieter, gentler music, but must the Batt devote two articles to his show? Of course, he is nearly an honorary Ag since he has been here three times. Three times? Murphy has come to G. Rollie so often that he is calling Texas A&M "home." Finally, the statement, "Michael Murphy and Good Concerts-Nowhere else but A&M." You really believe that?

In closing, all that I can say is that I am

man teaching my son in school, or a lesbian, for that matter.

You may also argue that all the groups I have mentioned have mental or emotional problems. But so does a homosexual. For all you atheists, here is another Aggie who says that Jesus Christ is the driving force in his life, and my Bible says plainly that homosexuality is a sin. A sickness and an abnormality, no different from incest, having sex with animals, or any number of sexual perversions. Man was created to have sexual relationships with woman, and only woman. And anyone who believes differently has psychological and emotional problems and needs help desperately.

I am awfully proud to be one of many "narrow-minded, childish" Aggies who believe that gays are sick. And I thank my God that these perverts are a minority and always will be.

—Tom Copeland '81

Wage law foolish

Editor:
President Carter's recent move to raise the minimum wage from \$2.30 to \$2.65 represents a continuing high in governmental hypocrisy. Amidst all the claims of concern over unemployment and inflation, Pres. Carter is doing his best to fuel the fires of each.

Despite the "hopes" of some good benefits being derived from this increase the true results are clear, even to the most simple-minded. First of all, the increase will definitely mean a decrease in the number of actual jobs and potential job opportunities. When the price of labor is artificially pushed upward the number of jobs are going to go down, not up. And those people who lose their jobs are going to be the youth and especially the black and minority youth.

But what about the newly-derived benefits for those who are lucky enough to be

out of the fact that he is "gay." Furthermore, if there is nothing wrong with David, we cannot understand his big hang-up on sexual preference. The fact that he is more proud of being "gay" than being an "Aggie" only emphasizes this point. We heterosexuals certainly haven't tried to form an H.S.S.O. (Heterosexual Student Service Organization).

We personally feel that if you are more proud of being "gay" than being an "Aggie" that you should seriously consider transferring.

P.S. You might try t.u.
—Cindi Reynolds, '81
Scott Shafer, '80

Bus driver 'great'

Editor:
In recent times there have been many complaints about the shuttle bus service, in particular the drivers. As this is our third year at A&M we've seen drivers come and go. However, there is at the present a particular driver on the Doux Chene route who adds a spark of joy to our otherwise dreary existence. We now wait in breathless anticipation as the bus rounds the corner in the hope that we will spy his baby blues beneath the devil may care tilt of his greek beanie.

Who else would think to decorate the bus and himself (we presume he was masked) on Halloween and give us treats (bubble gum). No one else can entertain us with such natural wit. There have been few drivers to equal this great person. We salute you and say job well done.

—SIR, CJD, BSZ

More 'experts'

Editor:
I, like many of my friends, am sick and tired of reading the rude comments about the A&M football team made by such "experts" as Paul Arnett and company. I read the trash every week telling how lucky A&M was to win their game.

Let's face it, not every team plays great or even good every game. Look at the Dallas Cowboys for example: They are 7-0 up to this point. They are a great team. Yet, I have seen them display pitiful efforts in some of their games. There is no team that plays perfect ball for a full sixty minutes.

I would like everyone to think back about 5 to 6 years ago when A&M was lucky to win a game at all. The football program has improved many times over since Coach Emory Bellard came to A&M. He has the best win-loss record of any SWC coach over the past four years. Yet, there are many people such as Arnett who are not satisfied with this fact.

There are many who gripe because A&M does not win every game because A&M doesn't win by 50 points or more over teams such as Rice. Yes, it could be that the conference has improved over the past few years also! The competition is getting stronger. If you don't believe, take a look at the UPI and AP polls. Also, take a look at the conferences record over inter-sectional games.

Aggies are supposed to be proud of their school. So, why not stop all the stupid remarks and be glad we win games, no matter by how much. Try to support the team, not cut them down. Aggies are supposed to be optimistic. It is just like the old saying goes, "Put your heart in A&M, or get your ass out!"

—Bruce King '79

Not something to miss

Editor:
Tuesday night I attended Silver Taps and had a fantastic learning experience. The style in which they are conducted simply amazed me. And what is more is the fact that it really comes off good.

There is supposed to be complete silence during this ceremony. I am a talker, and this was very hard for me. The discipline I used by keeping my trap shut was amazing even to myself. More than my own will power was the air, filled with other quiet Aggies. I could practically feel the "Spirit of AGGIELAND, telling everyone to represent an Aggie faithfully."

As the Ross Volunteers marched on the cement only their footsteps could be heard. The precision which they exhibited showed many hours of practice. Their steps were about seven seconds apart for each foot. Between steps each of the Volunteers stood completely still. After the shooting of the rifles, the buglers began to play. The music they played could be heard for quite a distance. The buglers are anonymous. They seek no gratitude from their listeners.

But, to be able to look off of the balcony of the dome of the Academic Building and see so many people looking up at you is sure to give them a good feeling. I walked away in silence when the buglers stopped.

As the tradition reads, not a word should be spoken. When I got back to my apartment I exploded. I looked at my roommate who was formally asleep and said, "That is something you really can't afford to miss."

—Jeannette Allbritton, '81

Top of the News

Campus

Bowl queen applications

Applications for the 1978 Cotton Bowl representative from Texas A&M University are now available in the Student Activities Office, room 221, in the Memorial Student Center. Any interested female student who has completed one semester at Texas A&M and has at least a 2.25 GPA is invited to apply. The deadline for applications is 5 p.m., Nov. 11, in the Student Activities Office. The selected applicant will represent Texas A&M at the Cotton Bowl parade and post-season football game in Dallas to be held on New Year's Day. For more information, call 845-1134.

Freshman officers chosen

Freshmen voters chose two class officers in runoff elections Thursday. Jess Mason was elected vice president and Kay Whitcombe was elected social secretary.

State

Deregulation of oil prices urged

The Texas Energy Advisory Council, comprised of 10 top oil fieldholders, Thursday, in Austin, approved a resolution urging deregulation of crude oil prices to allow the marketplace to control production and consumption of domestic oil. The group urged the congressional negotiators to reject President Carter's plan to give a rebate preference to home heating oil users. "This preference is nothing more than an attempt to make Texas subsidize the fuel bill of New Englanders," the resolution said. It went on to say any national energy plan should strive to ease the burden of high energy costs on home owners and business.

Steak dinners offered as prizes

Jerome Chapman, state human resources department commissioner, said Thursday in Austin he would reprimand a regional official who offered employees steak dinners as prizes for adding the most persons on welfare rolls. House Speaker Bill Clayton said regional welfare officials offered the steak dinners because they apparently were fearful of staff cuts. Chapman said the regional official has not paid for any steak dinners and did not plan to buy the meal with state funds. He said he does not condone conducting contests among employees and the person who began the policy will receive an official reprimand.

Minister plans boycott of 'Soap'

A state district judge in San Antonio Thursday dismissed a lawsuit asking that the local ABC television affiliate be prohibited from broadcasting the series "Soap" in prime time. District Judge James McKay ruled his court had no jurisdiction to hear the suit filed by local Baptist minister, the Rev. Ed Human. Human, who has protested the show at several ABC affiliated stations across the country, said after the ruling he planned to launch a nationwide boycott of corporations sponsoring "Soap," which he contends is obscene and vulgar. He said it is "a patently offensive program that tends to undermine the parent-child relationship."

Guard says job too dangerous

Narciso Mendoza, 24, a guard who earlier this week foiled an escape attempt at the Bexar County Jail in San Antonio quit his job Thursday complaining of "unsafe conditions." Mendoza said a prisoner planned to strike him over the head with a 16-inch toilet brush and grab his keys so other "hard core" prisoners on the seventh floor could use a 60-foot ladder made from mattress covers to escape. "I could have been slugged over the head and beaten to death," Mendoza said. He complained there were not enough guards on duty at the jail and he was alone on the seventh floor until 11 p.m.

Lombardo in critical condition

Band leader Guy Lombardo Thursday was in "critical but stable" condition Thursday in a Houston hospital with lung, heart and kidney problems that have complicated his recovery from major arterial surgery five weeks ago. Lombardo, 75, had a weakened and ballooned section of a major blood vessel removed Sept. 23. The operation was declared a success and he was released from Methodist Hospital in "excellent" condition Oct. 18, but he was readmitted Oct. 27.

Nation

Abortion funds passed by Senate

The Senate Thursday approved federally funded abortions in the case of rape or incest or if the woman might die or suffer severe health damage. The vote was 59-29. The controversial legislation was sent immediately to the House where there was no assurance the newest Senate language would be acceptable. A quick House vote was expected. "If the House doesn't accept this language, then God save them," said Sen. Edward Brooke, R-Mass., who opposed any restrictions on federally funded abortions but voted in favor of the compromise to end the raging dispute.

Weather

Fair and mild today and tomorrow. High today mid-70s. Low tonight mid-50s.

The Battalion

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